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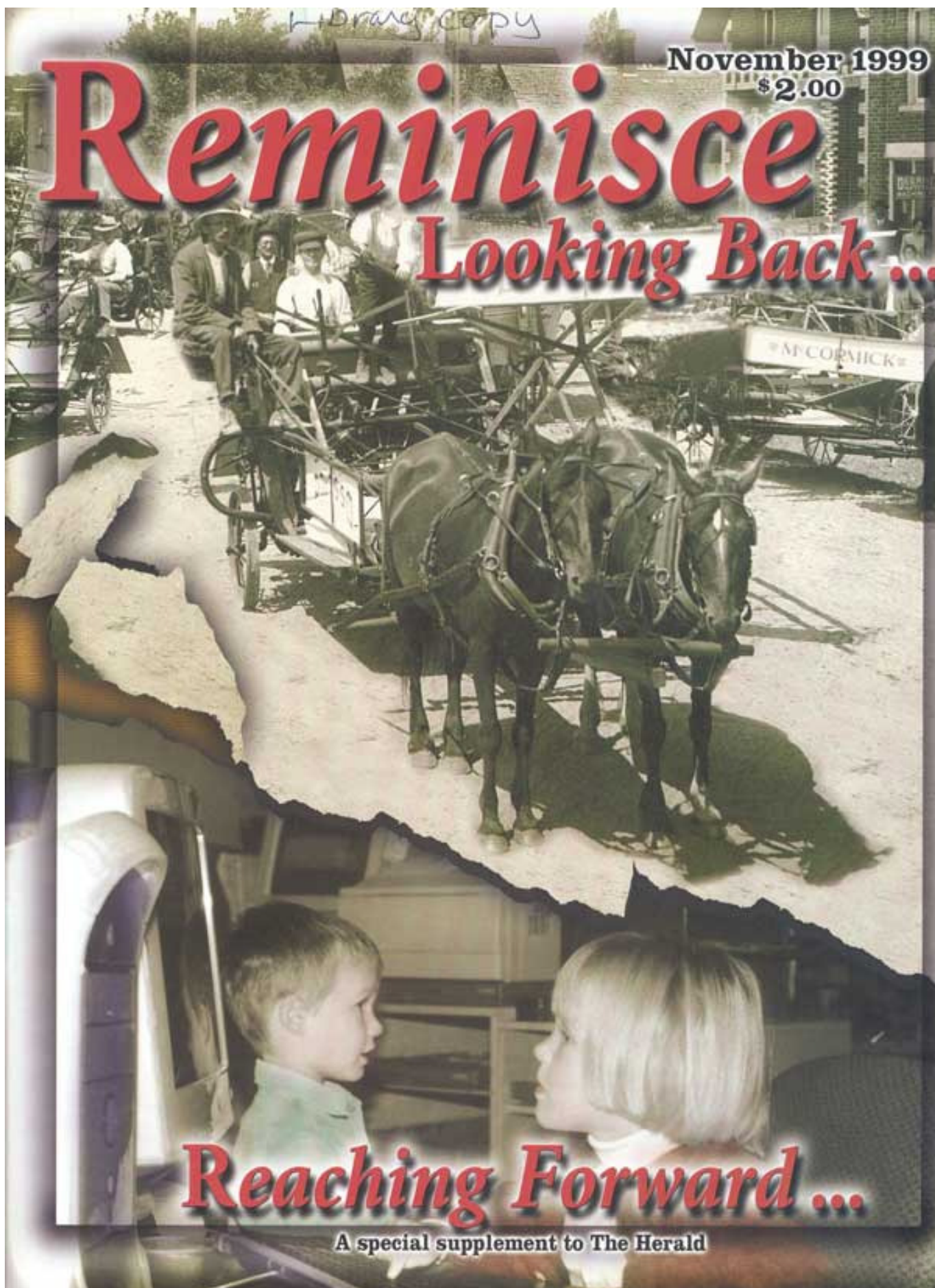
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November 1999

\$2.00

# Reminisce

## Looking Back ...



## Reaching Forward ...

A special supplement to The Herald





Roland Beattie



Mackenzie Beattie, Barney Gibson, Ron Beattie and Jack Powerman



Eleanor Valentine Beattie



Grandchildren



Ron and Mary Beattie



Ron, Mary and family



Home Place



R.K. Beattie farm

# The Beattie Family

In 1906, Roland Beattie settled in Alliston, Ontario with his wife, Charlotte Louise Mackenzie. They left the Livery Stable business in Wingham to take on the Lumber business. Their only child, a son, Mackenzie, was born this very same year.

1921 saw the purchase of 300 acres of land from John Tackaberry, which included the Pinery, which today, has the honor of being the oldest stand of virgin pine in Ontario. After protecting the natural state of the Pinery for over 75 years the Beattie family made a substantial donation to the Nature Conservancy of Canada to help them secure the property. It was one of the first projects for the Ontario Parks Legacy 2000 Program and is now known as the Beattie Pinery Provincial Nature Reserve.

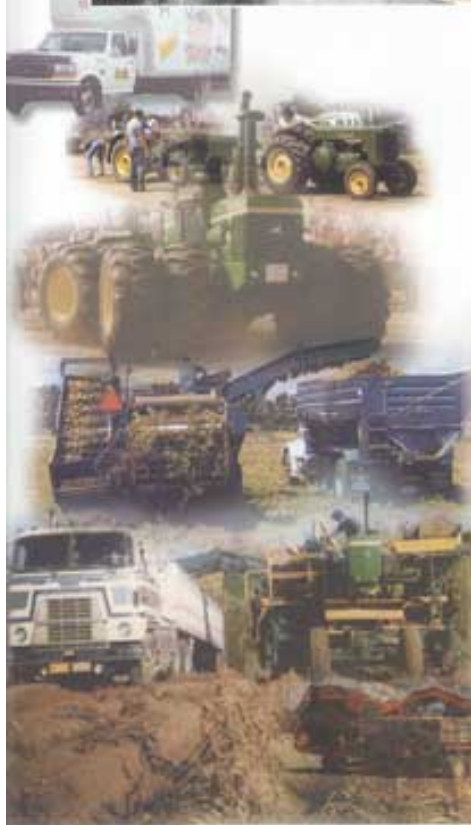
Roland Beattie passed on in 1926, leaving Charlotte to carry on the lumber business and teaching music lessons until she was laid to rest in 1934. At this point in time Mackenzie, otherwise known as Mac, took over the lumber business with his wife, Eleanor Valentine Hancey. Their only child, Ronald Kenneth Beattie, born in July 1933, was barely a year old. Eleanor ran the lumber yard and was a very active business woman in the community. Mac built a small subdivision in the early 60's which started Mackenzie Street, Hancey Crescent and Beattie Avenue. They sold the lumber business to Beaver Lumber in 1964. Eleanor became ill and passed on in August of 1970.

Mac also farmed 300 acres of grain and potatoes from the late 20's to 1946, when he switched to tobacco farming, which he continued until his death in 1975. He left an estate of over 700 acres to his grandchildren. Mac was able to find time to sit as reeve of Alliston for 6 years in the 40's. At this time County Council was the third largest governing body in Canada. During his term as Reeve he was involved in the Reforestation in Simcoe County, Board of Public Works and chaired

the refurbishing of Simcoe Manor. Mac was also an active member of the Alliston Fire Department for 15 years in the 40's and 50's. Mac and Eleanor bought the church from the United Methodist and donated it along with the chimneys to the Knox Presbyterian congregation. In 1974 Mac and Ron gave a donation to the town for the building of the Eleanor Valentine Beattie Pedestrian Bridge located near Stevenson Memorial Hospital.

1951 saw Ron's first crop of potatoes, which he grew on rented land. At 18 years old, Ron purchased his first farm, which is the farm he currently resides at. Ron married Mary Elizabeth McFarlane in March 1956. They have four children, Ken, Donna, John and Jane. Together R.K. and Mary worked very hard to establish a very successful farming business, known as R.K. Beattie Limited, raising a family of four and playing a very active role in the community. They grew tobacco until the early 70's when they switched to potatoes and grain. They built their first potato storages in 1965 and the latest addition was completed in 1998, which now has the capacity to store 320,000 cwt. of potatoes. The Beattie name is known throughout North America for R.K.'s expertise in growing good quality Chipping potatoes. In the 70's and 80's the potato crops were sold for export to several U.S. chip plants, such as Frito-Lay, Troyer Potato Chips and Bon Ton Chips to name a few and also to Canadian plants such as Hostess-FritoLay and Miss Vickie's. In 1989 R.K. became involved with a small chip plant named Strull Fry Snack Foods Inc., who have since 1994 become a major player in the potato chip industry having plants in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and P.E.I. R.K. plays a very active role at Strull Fry Snack Foods Inc. plant in Brampton where the Beattie's potatoes are shipped for Hammy Dumpty potato chips.

Ron sat on the Alliston Council from 1957 to 1965,







he was the youngest person to sit on Town Council. During his term in council he chaired the building of the Church Street bridge, paved the first streets since the original paving done by T.B. Loblaw in 1926, and sat on the Public Works committee. He sat on the Arena board in the 50's and in February 1954 he joined the Alliston Fire Department and has been a member ever since. He was chairman of the South Simcoe Potato Growers Assoc. for 5 years. In October 1968 R.K. along with his good friend and business partner, Don Applegate, ventured into the hotel business at the Nottawasaga Inn with Lou Bilfis until 1972. After the Knox Church burnt down in 1976, R.K. chaired the building of the new Knox Church in 1977 and helped with the new library in 1982. In 1976 Ron entered negotiations with Oetiker Inc. to rent factory facilities in which they purchased in 1979 and are still located at today. R.K. also had the opportunity to supply storage facilities to Baxter Travenol for approximately 15 years. Ron has become an Honorary Member of the New Tecumseth Chamber of Commerce in Alliston due to his donations for charitable functions such as the Alliston Potato Festival, Santa Claus Parade and Wonderland. R.K. Beattie limited has been a very proud sponsor to many youth organizations such as Minor Hockey, Minor Baseball, Hornets Jr. 'C' Club and the Girl Guides to mention a few.

While Ron was very busy, Mary was too. Along with being very active on the farm, running the tobacco crews and raising the four children she volunteered her time to the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, serving a time as President. Also being a Fireman's wife had its duties when there was a fire call serving lunch and running errands and doing service work in the community. Ron and Mary both were active members of the curling Club for years and enjoyed playing the game of bridge with friends. Mary lost a very

courageous battle with cancer in September 1986.

The eldest son, Ken, bought his farm in 1979 which was owned by his grandmother, Eleanor. He operates under Ken Beattie Limited growing potatoes and running a small snow removal and excavating business. Ken is in charge of the storage operations for the family business. Ken is the third generation to join the Alliston Fire Department in 1975. The Beattie family has been active in the Fire Department for over 85 years. Ken also sits on the Alliston Union Cemetery Board. He has three children, Michael, Mary Ann and Barry.

Donna married Randy Horan in 1978 and they have four children, Mark, Ashley, Sarah and Heather. Together they run Donray Sales and Leasing Limited, which leases equipment and is operated by Randy. Donna is the office manager presiding over all aspects of the Beattie family operations. She is currently sitting her second term as President of the New Tecumseth Minor Hockey Association. She has been involved in minor hockey since 1993.

John runs his company known as John Beattie Farms Limited, growing potatoes, corn and onions. He is in charge of the growing end of the crops and the farm operations. John and his wife Catherine have three children, Brittany, Tyler and Christie.

Jane, the youngest, is married to Chad Horan and has successfully completed her Goldsmith degree from Georgian College.

As we enter the new millennium, the fifth generation of the Beattie family enters the farming industry, with three grandsons working on the farm during summer vacation and after school. The Beattie family is very proud of their heritage and the roots that have been so strongly planted in this great community. Here's to the next 100 years.





# From the editor.....



couldn't have been more pleasantly surprised. There is a pride of family and land in this area which while probably not unique, is moving.

As ads, some including rare special family photos, were brought in the geniuses in composing (they help editorial also) worked their magic - often into the witching hour.

Every so often the publisher gets an idea which usually starts with "Why don't we...?"

These, of course, are all brilliant ideas. This time, publisher Joe Anderson and general manager Lesley Leighton conspired on an idea to mark the turn of the century in South Simcoe.

All the ingredients are here, they said. This is a community which is proud of its history, connected to its roots and dynamic in its growth.

The Herald team quickly picked up and embraced the concept. And you, the reader, now have the end result in your hand.

Some surprising things happened while putting this magazine together.

Advertising reps came into editorial (without their bullet-proof vests) to tell reporters stories about people - their customers. "Did you know...?" became the catch phrase while putting *Reminisce* together.

The focus from the beginning was people, their memories and their hopes for the future. And we

The Herald has its own history, of which we are also proud. As the oldest continuous business in Alliston, The Herald is keenly aware of its mandate while sensitive to the need to be competitive and current on technological and business trends.

This is the challenge facing business and individuals today. In one edition of the New York Sunday Times there is more information than a person would have read in a lifetime in the 1700s. That explosion of information coming at people from all directions only serves to strengthen the need to know about our past. There is a theory among academics that history is slowing and could in fact stop. We will leave that debate to the philosophers, but it is clear that free time, time to think, to play, is in short supply.

We present this magazine to you in the hope that you will take the time, whether your roots go back hundreds of years here or whether you just moved in last week, to take a look at what South Simcoe is all about.

**Catherine Haller**  
Editor

# Reminisce...

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**Catherine Haller** Editor

**Kelly Woolsey** Production Manager/Graphic Design

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## Editorial

**Sandy Potras**

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## Advertising sales

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**Linda May**

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## Production

**Jensler Kearns**

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The charge to purchase a copy will be \$2.00 with proceeds being donated to the local Food Bank.

The cover photograph of Emily and Nicholas Heffernan of Alliston was taken by Kathryn Mooij while the background shot came from The Herald archives and depicts farmers setting off for an equipment sale in Everett. Many thanks to the Simcoe Manor's Residents Council Book Committee for the use of "Sharing Memories of Yesteryear," the Alliston Historical Society and all the individuals who shared their stories and photos for this commemorative publication.

# A mother's wish

## Millennium: One mother's perspective.

by Mary Cicci, Alliston

As the year 2000 approaches, I try to imagine, as the mother of three children, what the new millennium might hold for my young family.

While I hope for the basic 'motherly' things - food, shelter, clothing and safety - I also hope that these comforts are never taken for granted, and that my children know and respect how truly fortunate they are. I hope they will appre-

ciate having the things they need, and will not be disappointed when they do not have all that they want. I hope they will be part of a society that will celebrate them for what is in their minds and in their hearts, and will not measure them by the color of their skin, or the person they choose to love, or the house in which they worship. I hope that education will

Mary Cicci with her children Kendra, 4, Conor, 6 and Aidan, 8.

be a lifelong possibility and pursuit, and that the lessons which have gone before serve them well in the future. I hope that personal responsibility, for themselves, their family, their community, will be their guiding light, and that they remember to accept themselves on their own terms first.

I hope they will be happy, because I believe it is possible; I hope they will be conscientious citizens, because I believe it is necessary. And I hope they will love and be loved throughout their lives, because I believe it is the most precious gift we can offer the future. ■

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(alliston) inc.**



**New Era...**

**Same Commitment  
for Half a Century!**

**the way  
it was...**



1952

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Tottenham Road  
435-6902



1999



# Hospital Founded on Community Spirit

**T**eresa Reich (Quail) remembers

Stevenson Memorial Hospital in the early days, when it was only four years old, back in 1932. She was interviewed for the Alliston Historical Society last summer.

"When I had my first baby in there (in 1932) there were just three of us in the hospital: my husband was in the public ward and I was in the women's ward and the baby in the nursery. It was very close to being closed. (The hospital was in danger of being closed down because there wasn't enough money to run it). Then I don't know what the turnaround was, maybe the war. T.P. Loblaw had left stocks. The interest from them was supposed to keep it going, but I don't know anything about the business of it (when the stock market crashed it may have limited the ability of the stocks to provide for the hospital).

"In those days you paid your own hospital bill. I gave the bills for my two sons' births to the museum. It was really something. I think it was fifteen dollars or something like that for the stay in the hospital." Stevenson Memorial Hospital was donated to the community by the late T.P. Loblaw, in memory of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. William Stevenson, pioneers and lifelong residents of the community. Mr.

F.K. Morrow of Toronto and several prominent citizens of Alliston also helped fund the building.

The first officers of Stevenson Memorial were John D. Cunningham, physician; John H. Mitchell, grain merchant; Charles R. Knight, banker; Robert Hipwell, druggist and Robert Scott, coal merchant, all from Alliston. The hospital superintendent was Miss M. McCormack, R.N. On June 28, 1964, after lengthy study, planning and effort, the Board of Governors opened the present modern hospital. This new 85-bed treatment unit was built and equipped at a cost of over one and a half million dollars and stands as one of the finest hospitals of its size in the province.

In June, 1968, full accreditation status was achieved through the Canadian Council on Hospital Accreditation. Our community hospital still retains this status due to the continuing efforts of the Board of Governors and the operating staff, those responsible for this certification. Stevenson Memorial



Hospital has weathered many storms in its history, including a financial crisis in the early 1990s, that saw bed closings and staff reductions. In a Herald news article dated July 4, 1990, then SMH chief of staff Dr. Nigel Gripper told 200 corporation members at their annual meeting "Not a day goes by (at SMH) without our financial limitations being discussed in every department. Fortunately our hospital has never been short of beds in the way that our neighboring hospitals have, but this situation may not last." Worries of a financial crisis began in 1985, as provincial cutbacks loomed. By December, 1985, the

Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation was incorporated to maintain a fundraising arm. By the year 1991, none of the news was good. The hospital was battling a one million dollar deficit, a 66 per cent occupancy rate and no indication of more funding from the provincial government. New equipment and repairs were needed, twenty-one beds were closed, and the equivalent of 16.3 full-time jobs were eliminated. Newton Lilly was the hospital administrator at the time.

By 1993, SMH came up with creative fundraising efforts, by enlisting the help of its loyal community. On the weekend of July 22-24, 1993, the hospital held a black-jack casino and charity golf tournament, garage sale, bake sale and auction at the Nottawasaga Inn. New Tecumseth Firefighters ran a miniature golf tournament and duck races on the Nottawasaga River. The Alliston Legion, ▶



**Babies and moms are in good care at Stevenson Memorial.**



Lions Club and Rotary Club also kicked in for the effort, organizing a "monster bingo" at the Alliston arena. Today, the community still bands together for its hospital, with regular fundraising events.

1995 marked an important event in SMH's history, with Minister of Health Jim Wilson announcing the expansion of dialysis services. By Christmas of 1995, the service was ready to treat 580 more patients. Members of the SMH Community Dialysis Advisory Committee included patients, family and representatives from service clubs, the Kidney Foundation, New Tecumseth, Regional Dialysis Centre, providers and doctors.

By October, 1998, The Herald ran the front-page headline, "An Early

Christmas comes to Stevenson: SMH happy recipient of long awaited funding from government." The provincial government announced emergency room funding of \$75 million over two years to reduce waiting times for patients. Stevenson's share included \$33,000 and six new interim long-term care beds. Good news came again in April, 1999 as the hospital was allocated \$343,000 to hire more nursing staff.

Today, under the administration of Ed Takacs, Stevenson Memorial Hospital employs 240 staff, 17 family physicians and has 49 beds. In recent years, the hospital added a palliative care unit and this past year completed a new ambulatory care facility with outpatient clinics. ■

**A new ambulatory care facility with outpatient clients is the latest renovation to be completed at Stevenson.**



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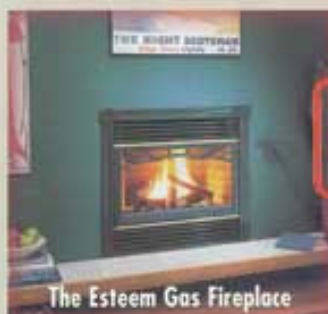
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construction of Burlington Skyway



Transporting irrigation pipe for  
Tobacco farms in Alliston area



Past • Present • Future

Back row: Leonard, Pat, Bing  
Front: Michael, Brian



First trailer purchased (used) in  
1952 for hauling livestock, tobacco  
and fertilizer.



Wooden Silo being moved from one farm to another.



Transporting tobacco to  
Tillamook in the early  
1950s.

**55 Tupper St. W., Alliston  
435-4342**



## New Building

- Fall of 1998
- 12,000 sq. ft.
- 50 employees



## History

- Pat delivered his first load of pigs to Toronto in a 1938 Chev (was he even licensed to drive?)
- Transported tobacco and live stock in the 1940s
- Farm products were delivered in the 1950s
- During the 1960s and 1970s Gibsons transported all finished product for Kellogg's Salada
- Since 1980 has grown to over 1,000 pieces of equipment and 450 employees covering Ontario, Quebec and 48 states.

### Purchased CNR Station



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S.M.H. and  
The New Tec  
Fire Dept.



1970



1986







*In honour of those who gave  
the supreme sacrifice for our freedom.*

### **Angus** **1914-1918**

H. West  
Frank Coulson  
M. Dick Worth  
G. Mis Cambell  
P. Rollins  
L. Willoughby  
**U.N. Forces:**  
B.K. Stringer  
C.B. Korejwo

### **Alliston** **1914-1918**

William Anderson  
Clarence Arthur  
Stanley Brooks  
Bernal Brown  
Roy Buchanan  
Albert Callander  
Lyman Chantler  
Gordon Dale  
Charles Davidson  
H. Dolman  
Albert Dungey  
W. Dunham  
Alfred Dunning  
Judson Ellis  
Audrey Ellison  
Dalton Ferris  
Stewart Foster  
A. Gordon  
William Henderson  
Frank Holt  
J. Irwin  
Wallace Kidd  
Hugh Lemon  
George Milne  
Wilfred Milne  
Robert Mowder  
John Morrison  
Wesley Mooney  
Mark Nelson  
Harry Nunn  
W. Nunn  
Nelson Paddison  
Alex Phillips  
William Preston  
N. Riley  
T. Ryan  
Ross Shephard  
Alfred Smith

Fred Steele  
Alfred Stoneham  
Ray Wallace  
Cecil Wilson

### **1939-1945**

John Alderson  
B.A. Anderson  
Arthur Adams  
Arthur Atkinson  
Clarke Bell  
Charles Burt  
John Burke  
Austin Cauthers  
Earl Cherry  
Delmar Dowling  
Ralph Gallagher  
David Hackett  
George Hoard  
D. Kennedy  
James King  
Jack Lemon  
Albert Michaelis  
T. Steward Mason  
Donald Moorby  
H. Parker  
W. Harry Peacock  
J. Lloyd Ruthven  
Donald Smalley  
B. Donald Smith  
A. Warman  
J.A. Willoughby

### **Beeton** **1914-1918**

Gersham Bateman  
Henry Chiccony  
Edgar Douglas  
Fred Fenn  
Oscar Haines  
Oscar Hammell  
Norman Henry  
Neil McCullough  
George M. Reynolds  
Albert Smart  
Arthur Smith  
John A. Wright

### **1939-1945**

Aubrey C. Coburn  
Ross Robinson  
A.A. Snedden

### **Cookstown** **1914-1918**

Elmer McMaster  
William R. Coleman  
William J. Moir  
William Fraser  
George Copeland  
Hilliard Rainey  
Clarence Chantler  
Alvin Arnold  
Clark Duff  
W.J. Perneigie  
J.N.O. Baker  
Wellington Dunham  
Walter Thomas  
William Burns  
James Sutherland  
Albert Prince  
Archie Smith  
Alf Griggs  
Frank Rankin  
H. Bassingthwaite  
Earl Neilly  
Gordon Nevils  
Alex Gooch  
Calvin Duff  
Ed Taggart  
Samuel Draper  
Lorne Corbett  
Esten Lowrie  
William Hill  
Harry Flay

### **1939-1945**

Fred Batters  
Douglas Dawson  
Gordon Dawson  
Robert Mumberson  
Clayton Philson  
Archie Ril

### **Tottenham** **1914-1918**

Lorne H. McCurdy  
Aubrey D. Ellison  
Norman D. Wilson  
Joseph J. Sharpe  
Ambrose Gunning  
Cyril Casserley  
Robert McKay  
James Turner  
David G. Martin  
Wilfred Stych  
William C. Pettit  
John Sydie  
Oscar Webb  
Charles McCabe  
James Jenkins  
Richard Pridham  
Thomas W. Donnan  
John Proctor  
Verner E. Train  
Mark B. Nelson  
Wilfred C. Walls  
Robert Carter  
Ralph L. Weaver  
Edward Douglas

### **1939-1945**

Wallace Roy  
William Keogh  
Joseph McGovern  
George Schwalm  
Ward Williamson  
Grant Jackson  
Ross Jackson  
Thomas Pierce  
Nicholas Prady  
Charles Hawke  
William Watson





# The Royal Canadian Legion

*in the New Millennium*

The Royal Canadian Legion grew out of a critical need to help an ill-prepared country meet the needs of its returning WWI veterans. World War II brought a large number of new members and demands. Many services were established for the men and women that would some day return home. To this day, the Legion maintains its objective as service to veterans and their families as its main purpose.

Although the Legion was founded to advance the causes of veterans, it's grass roots structure led naturally to community service. Now with over 500,000 members across Canada, the Legion is the largest community service organization in the country. The Alliston Legion branch is one of many striving to assist its community when and wherever possible. In the past century, Canada has been involved in

many wars and conflicts. It is with great optimism that we look forward to the new Millennium. The Royal Canadian Legion will continue to support its veterans and their dependents, the Peacekeeping missions of the military and Canada. The Legion will strive to remember those who have given the ultimate sacrifice through two Millennium projects: "The 2-Minute Wave of Silence" and the "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier." It will continue to work with our youth, helping them to "remember."

The Year 2000 will bring about many changes. The Royal Canadian Legion is prepared to continue its important work as it has for almost a century. In this world of fast paced living the Legion's work is more critical than ever, as volunteers dedicating their lives to assisting others. ■



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# Borden

*built in two months in 1916*

## Tented Cities: Then and Now

It was an incredible challenge back in the spring of 1916. Overcrowded conditions in Niagara finally had the government convinced that a new site was needed for new military recruits to complete their training.

The 17,000 acre site, known locally as 'the Plains' which was to become Canadian Forces Base Borden, was purchased and government plans indicated it should be up and running in less than two

months. With the help of Barrie and Collingwood Companies of the 157th Battalion, all was accomplished, including six miles of paved roadways,

streetlights, a two-million gallon-a-day water supply, a sewage system for 40,000 people and a bakery that could supply 25,000 loaves

each day.

The brand new 'tent city' became home to 40,000 men by July 8, 1916. A huge parade took place three days ▶



Last Wings Parade at Base Borden, 1945, at the end of the war. Students received their pilot's wings during this event.

## CARLINE

### MUFFLERS & Brakes!

1974- 1st Business in Cookstown. Owner, only employee & wife Rose as bookkeeper



In 1977 the volume of customers from the Alliston area encouraged Ed to move the business to 88 Dufferin Street in Alliston.



*Proud to be an active partner in the community for the past 25 years. Your neighbors Ed & Rose Bowen since 1974*



**Stan, Rob, & Ed**  
Their prime concern is customer Satisfaction



**Rose & Ed**  
at automotive Show



**Proud sponsors of many sports**  
Hockey, baseball, Soccer & the Demo Derby

**January 1985**  
Moved to their present location at 196 Victoria St.



**1998 Small Business Awards.**  
Long hours, hard work & excellent customer service brought recognition from the community they serve



**Potato Festival**

- COMPLETE EXHAUST (Walker)
- BRAKES (Wagner)
- TRAILER HITCHES (DrawTite)
- QUICK LUBE (Quaker State)
- TIRES
- RIDE CONTROL

**196 VICTORIA ST. EAST, ALLISTON • 435-4377**



## Air show has

# an honorable history

► later. It took a task force of 1800 men and over 100 teams of horses working 24-hour days four months to build Camp Borden's training school for Great Britain's Flying Corps in 1917. The first flights from Borden happened prior to its official June opening, on March 30, 1917.

In an interview for the Alliston Historical Society last summer, Frank Bellamy, 92, of Toronto, recalled the excitement in the skies when he was 10 years old: "I (remember) the first time that there

was a plane that flew over from Toronto to Camp Borden when they were starting to prepare the airfield up that way back in 1917 I guess it was. The teacher let the school out to see this airplane. You could hear it, you know, going over and that was a different (kind of) noise than we had ever heard before. That was one of the highlights."

By the end of the war, the new school had graduated 1,884 pilots. Throughout the years, Borden acted as the main training centre for the

Royal Canadian Air Force, the Canadian centre for intermediate training, and eventually focused on training ground crew technicians.

1999 saw the re-birth of a tented city at Camp Borden, this time for the Air Cadet Summer Training Centre. Barracks usually used to house cadets were temporarily cleared out so refugees from the warring country of Kosovo could take shelter.

The tent city, large enough to house 409 cadets and 142 staff, took one month

to construct. The miraculous mobile kitchen was a feat in itself - able to be set up and running in two hours, with the capacity to feed full course meals to 1000 people per day.

In recent years, Base Borden has been welcoming the general public to get to know them better, through an annual air show, recreational programs, the highly successful Terry Fox Run for cancer research, and many more events.



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# Nottawasaga Inn Resort...



Grand Opening -  
October 28, 1968

Hotel  
Front  
Desk



**NOTTAWASAGA INN**



Hotel Expansion - 1972



## Nottawasaga Inn History



Green Briar Award Winning Design 1985

Today's Nottawasaga Inn is situated on land purchased by Lou Biffis in 1959 and, from the very first, Lou dreamed of building a resort that would take advantage of the river location and the beautiful rolling hills of the Nottawasaga Valley.

In 1965, Lou spent many long hours draining the marshy area to form parkland then built a 120ft. long, 4ft. wide bridge supported by cables\* over the Nottawasaga River (\*Cable Bridge Enterprises Limited was selected as the name for the company that operates the Inn.) After the bridge was completed and named, a very good friend, impressed by what he had seen, bet Lou one bottle of Canadian Club whiskey that he couldn't obtain a liquor license in the former Township of Tecumseth, which had been dry since 1907.

Not one to easily lose a bet, Lou went to work on a petition for a liquor plebiscite. In six months, he had sufficient names to make the plebiscite valid. Within weeks, construction was under way and in 8 months, on October 28th, 1968, the Nottawasaga Inn opened to the public with forty guestrooms, a dining room, coffee shop and one banquet room.

Since then, Lou Biffis has continued to expand, refurbish and develop:

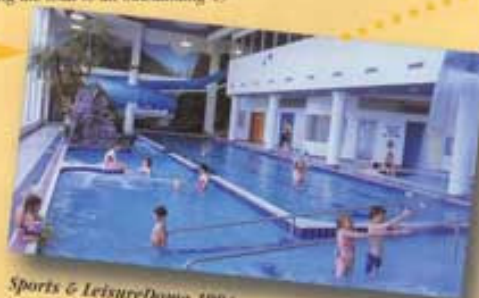
- the award-winning adult lifestyle community of Green Briar
- 18 holes of golf winding through Green Briar and the resort property
- another major expansion in 1987 which increased the number of guestrooms and suites to 164, new entry/reception atrium, added a fine dining restaurant, another lounge, more ballrooms, banquet and convention facilities now totaling 55 rooms!
- an additional 9 golf holes in 1992 bringing the course up to 27 holes
- the spectacular 70,000 sq. ft. Sports & LeisureDome in 1994 featuring a 25 metre tropical pool, 100 ft. waterslide, a 3,000 sq ft. health and fitness centre, indoor mini-golf theme part, 3 indoor tennis courts and much more
- Briar Hill adult lifestyle community with condominiums and leisure suites in 1997
- another 9 holes of golf in 1998 bringing the course up to a total of 36, now the only resort in Ontario with 2 regulation 18 hole courses
- 27 deluxe suites with added features and amenities in 1998
- Spring 1999 was the grand opening of Briar Hill's Palisades and 78 new guestrooms on the hotel - now 269 guests rooms
- Summer 2000 will offer another 9 challenging holes of golf, bringing the total to an outstanding 45



Original 18 Hole Golf Course - 1985



Major expansion - 56 bedrooms, 14  
meeting rooms & new front lobby 1987/88



Sports & LeisureDome 1994



# Thirty-two Years of Evolution. 1968~2000



27 New Deluxe Suites 1998



Palisades Grand Opening 1999

## Proud to be a part of New Tecumseth

- 1959 ..... Land purchased to produce first nursery grown sod in Ontario
- 1965 ..... Cable Bridge in valley built
- 1967 ..... Held Plebiscite and Liquor License acquired - area had been dry since 1907
- 1968 ..... October 28th, Nottawasaga Inn Grand Opening - 40 guestrooms, 1 coffee shop, 1 dining room, 3 meeting rooms & outdoor pool
- 1972 ..... Addition of 34 rooms plus meeting rooms 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9
- 1981 ..... Addition of 34 rooms - West Wing 4th Floor plus meeting room 10 and 2 racquetball courts
- 1984 ..... Construction began on the original 18 hole Golf Course - Opened in 1985
- 1985 ..... October 5th, Grand Opening of Green Briar
- 1987 ..... Addition of 56 bedrooms plus 14 meeting rooms - East Wing - Opened Spring 1988
- 1991 ..... Amber Glow Dining Room expansion and re-naming to Riverview Dining Room
- 1992 ..... Briar Hill Nine - bringing Golf Course to 27 holes

- 1994 ..... May - Grand Opening of Sports & LeisureDome
- 1994 ..... Winter - re-designed fitness centre and racquetball courts to create meeting rooms 10A, 10B and 2 amphitheatres
- 1995 ..... July - addition of Wedding Chapel
- 1997 ..... February - volunteer restoration of the historic Nicolston Dam
- 1997 ..... August 16th, Grand Opening of Briar Hill
- 1998 ..... June 1st, Nine hole addition to create Ridge 18, Grand Opening
- 1998 ..... July 17th, Opening of 27 New Deluxe Suites plus expansion to Starlite Lounge and Mahogany Dining Room
- 1999 ..... Spring - addition of 78 guest-rooms open - 1st Palisades high rise condominiums open - 68 suites - Wedding Garden opens (formerly outdoor mini-putt)
- 2000 ..... Summer - 9 new challenging holes of golf, bringing the total to an outstanding 45



9 New Holes of Golf Opening Summer 2000



Volunteer restoration of Nicolston Dam 1997



1110 Hwy. 89, Alliston Ont. L9R 1A0 705-435-5501 Website: [www.NottawasagaResort.com](http://www.NottawasagaResort.com)



# Cookstown

a small village with a big history

Just over 100 years ago, Cookstown was a 'shakedown' stop, a crossroad where wayfarers hitched their horses and carriages to tend to the necessities. In 1826 the village was known as Perry's Corners after the owner of a tavern on the Innisfil corner. It became Dixon's Corners and was named Cookstown in the 1847 when Thomas Cook originally of Leitrim, Ireland settled and divided his land grants under the name Cookes Town.

A town hall was built in 1867 to accommodate social gatherings and help quell drunken bouts by the local men who frequented the taverns. Activity increased in the village with a grist mill and other businesses. The Gazetteer of 1900 puts the population at 500 and lists a blacksmith, banker, tailor, shoemaker, grocer, jeweler physician and builder among its resi-

dents.

In 1905, Cookstown became a police village with three trustees. An article in The Beeton World newspaper of 1906, reported that five street lights (gas or oil) were added to 12 already erected in Cookstown.

By 1910 the population had grown to 600, it was also the year Cookstown went dry along with Beeton, Alliston and Tottenham. Trains which began running in 1870s were carrying passengers to the new Grand Trunk Railway station in Cookstown in 1913. Electricity came to Cookstown in 1917/18 and replaced oil and gas power but a report in March of 1922 said F.E. Robinson had installed an oil engine in the flour mill to replace the hydroelectric one, due to excessive rates.

In 1936 work began on a new highway from Toronto to Barrie. It was

called the 27 Highway.

In 1962, Cookstown was incorporated as a village with Ira Wilson as the first reeve.

It has since grown to a population of almost 1,500.

"It's like a global village here, we have people from Switzerland, Texas, England, Yugoslavia, all over," says long time resident and historian Joan McLean.

Cookstown was amalgamated with Innisfil in 1991.

"Cookstown's biggest struggle in the next century will be keeping up with the rest of the world while maintaining its unique history, heritage, small town friendly flavor," says Lynn Dollin Innisfil's ward 7 councillor.

"The people of the village will face any challenges head on and look forward to maintaining its small identity in an ever growing and changing world in the next Millennium."

Information from the files of Joan McLean.



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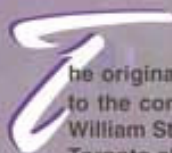
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**T.P. Loblaw**

## STEVENSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL 1928-1999



The original Stevenson Memorial Hospital was opened on **July 1, 1928**. It was donated to the community by the late T.P. Loblaw, in memory of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. William Stevenson, pioneers and lifelong residents of the community. Mr. F.K. Morrow of Toronto also generously contributed, as did several prominent citizens of the town. The original hospital had a total bed complement of 27.

In 1928, the SMH Auxiliary was formed. The Auxiliary disbanded between 1939-1945 during the war years to assist the Red Cross. In 1960, the Auxiliary was then reorganized. The main purpose of the Auxiliary is to render volunteer services to SMH and its patients, and to raise funds for the hospital.

On **June 28, 1964**, after lengthy planning and effort, the then Board of Governors opened the present modern hospital which had 85 beds and was built and equipped at a cost of over 1.5 million dollars, standing as one of the finest of its size in the Province.



In **June of 1968**, full accreditation status was achieved through the Canadian Council on Hospital Accreditation. Our community hospital still retains this status due to the continuing efforts of the Board of Directors, hospital and medical staff, and volunteers.

In **December 1985**, the Stevenson Memorial Hospital Foundation was incorporated. Through donations made to it, the Foundation provides funds for special projects and for the acquisition of medical equipment which maintains the essential services of the hospital.

In **1998**, the hospital's major accomplishment was the completion of the hospital's ambulatory care redevelopment project. This project continues to enhance the strong focus point in outpatient and ambulatory care services offered by Stevenson Memorial Hospital while providing 24 hour Emergency Room coverage and maintaining inpatient beds.

The **1990's**, ushered in a new era of restructuring facilities and services in response to a Provincial mandate to reform health care delivery platforms. This process has resulted in the reduction of beds to our present complement of 49, which includes 6 interim long term care beds.

In **1999**, a collaborative planning process was established between Stevenson Memorial Hospital and York County Hospital to enhance the delivery of health care to the communities served by the Network.



*Stevenson Memorial Hospital has provided over 70 years of high quality patient care to meet the needs of our community. We will continue to respond to and meet the many challenges that lie ahead in the next millennium.*

### Stevenson Memorial Hospital

*An enduring tradition of caring to our community!*

**Dwight Sharp**  
Chairman, Board of Directors

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**Edward Takacs**  
Executive Director





# Memories

## The quiet grows on you

### Small Town People Have Big Hearts

When I moved to Simcoe County in January of 1989, I thought I was coming from a small town - 45,000 people. It didn't take long to find out how wonderful it is to truly live in a small town. I remember the first night, not being able to sleep. It was too quiet. I remember going to the municipi-

pal office that spring to buy a dog licence. The lady not only knew my name, but which house we'd bought and when. Neighbors would stop to say hello or have a chat over the fence. They made me feel welcome. The true spirit of a small town shone through a few years later

when we had one of the worst winters I can remember. There was a blizzard, so much so that my husband was unable to make it home from work that night. My four-year-old son and I were alone in the house. It was -16C. The hydro was out and would be for 18 hours. We were sitting by the fireplace,

wrapped in blankets and eating hotdogs cooked in the fire. I had put the last log on the fire about a half-hour ago. The doorbell rang. There standing on my steps was my neighbor and his teenage son, covered in snow. I could barely recognize them under the layers of coats, hats, and scarves. In their arms was a new supply of firewood.

How they knew I would need it is beyond me. The phones were out. I couldn't leave my son alone in the house to go over and ask. The storm was too wild to take him out in it. Still there they were, shivering in the cold. Like Eskimo angels sent to rescue us. That simple act of caring I think personifies what it means to live in the many small towns that make up Simcoe County. *Debbie Ouellet, Loretto*

### Old ice box

The ice box - 70 years ago

The old-fashioned fridge known as the ice box was in two sections; the top section was where the ice was placed, the bottom was a separate section where food was stored. The ice was delivered from a

horse-drawn wagon. The delivery man had an axe to cut the ice to the desired size and tongs to carry it to the home. The ice had been cut by manual labor on frozen lakes or rivers and was taken by horse-drawn

sleighs to the ice house. Here it was covered with sawdust and stored until it was distributed to the consumer. There was much more work involved than there is today with the present method of refrigeration. *Joe Pickup*

# GIANT TIGER



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In 1961 Giant Tiger Stores Limited opened their first store in Ottawa. The business was started with a very simple idea - keep the cost of operation low and sell a large volume of merchandise at everyday low prices.

In 1968 another simple idea was incorporated into the Giant Tiger formula - franchising! Today most of our stores are franchised so that our valued customers will be better served because the owner is in the store. Giant Tiger franchise owners become members of the community, sharing community concerns and serving community needs. Such is the case of Don & Marlene Cotter who opened their first Giant Tiger Store at the Rainbow Mall in Angus 12 years ago. It has been so successful they have had to expand two times from the original 5,500 sq. ft. to the present 10,000 sq. ft.



Based on the success of the Angus store, the Cotters opened a second store in Alliston in 1995 to better serve their customers of New Tecumseth. They now have a combined staff of over 60 people.

Our goal is to be the community's store of choice. We look forward to achieving this by offering great value at everyday low prices.

We offer a large assortment of casual clothing and footwear for the entire family including many of the latest fashion items at the lowest possible prices. The identical quality and fashion items offered by major chain stores are sold at Giant Tiger, often at remarkably lower prices. In addition, everyday needs in groceries, confectionery, pet food, cleaning supplies, housewares, stationery, toys and health and beauty products are maintained in stock at all times. We are constantly improving to meet the needs of our customers. We have recently added a frozen food section.

Giant Tiger is a proud sponsor of minor sports, clubs & local organizations.

We accept Interac, Visa, Mastercard and family allowance cheques. We also want our customers to be satisfied with every purchase, so we offer refunds with no time limit, upon presentation of proof of purchase.

Giant Tiger is open until 9 p.m. every evening to better serve our customers, there are many shift workers & commuters in our area who appreciate this.



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# Somerville Nurseries Inc.

"In 1900, my grandfather Peter Thomson commenced his career as a lumberman by cutting the timber on his farm near Mildmay in Bruce County. Within three years he had traded his farm for the local sawmill. For the first half of this century his business prospered with the help of his family and at one time there were sawmills operating at Alliston, Kearney and north of Sault Ste. Marie and a planing mill at Creemore."

*John Somerville*

"Somerville Nurseries Inc. continues today as a family owned business that has been growing Christmas trees in Simcoe and Dufferin Counties since 1950.

It is a major grower of Christmas trees, large ornamental nursery stock and has hardwood woodlots and red pine plantations.

More recently coniferous and deciduous seedlings and transplants are being grown for landscape purposes, conservation and Christmas tree plantings.

With a loyal and satisfied customer base and a competent and experienced staff we know the future is bright for our company, our customers and our employees as we commence the new millennium."

*Fred Somerville*

*Where Tradition  
Continues To  
Grow*



*Peter Thomson's  
Mill  
ca 1925*





# Memories

## Thirty students to a school was average

### School Days, School Days

When you live to be as old as I am, you live on memories, especially memories of school days. In those times there was no such thing as kindergarten. It depended on your age; you nearly always started after Easter holidays, and by the end of June you were well established and ready in September to work your way to Grade 8 and high school. Of course some (the clever ones) made the grades faster than others. The school I went to was S.S. No. 4 Adjala. There were almost always around 30 pupils. We nearly always had to walk through the fields. Anyone who lived near a road was lucky. The children who came from the south were called the Southerners, and the kids who

came from the north were called the Northerners. I lived with my grandparents on the 7th Line of Adjala, near Albert Watson, Fred Watson and the Keenans. There were representatives from all families. I would walk up to Watsons early, and Edith and Billie would be ready and away we would go to meet the bunch on the 6th Line. There was a place we went through, belonging to Bob McKenna, and he had a housekeeper (Miss Tracey) and you always had to be on your best behavior when greeting her. She had a lovely, single-rose bush, but we would never touch it, but would stand there admiring it, and out she would come and give us one each. In the spring when the snow would be melting, we had to go



Actors from a school play, Alliston Union, 1937: Rex Martindale, Don Asaph, Joyce Ellison, Anna Tracey, Mary Santora, Jean Rutherford, Helen Horan, George Alderson, Doug Dukelow.

around the road to the 9th Line because with the snow melting, the Bailey Creek was nearly up to the road. The frogs were croaking, making lots of noise, and of course we were throwing stones into the water and if I

didn't fall in. What a feeling! However, I scrambled out and started for home. My dress was made of heavy material and had absorbed a lot of water. Needless to say, it didn't feel cozy; water dripping on the ▶



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# Memories

## Having a road to walk on was a real treat

stockings and so on. Before we got too far on our way, I decided to take the dress off, and Billie and I wrung it out and it helped a little. In those days, you would have enough on to go to the North Pole. When we got to the Watsons, Billie's older sister rang my Grannie and told her what had happened, and that saved me from a spanking for fooling around. After a few years, my Uncle Harry Joyce bought a farm on the 6th Line, so my grandparents and I went to live with him. Such a treat to be able to walk down the road with my best friend, Kathleen Moran (and I am glad to say, we still are). We talk on the phone nearly every week. She lives in Alliston. For our last two years at school, we did the sweeping and dusting and lit the fire in the old furnace, which was in the back of the room. We got \$7 for the first year, and the



DOWNTOWN ALLISTON

next year we received \$12. We really had struck it rich. We had to go to the treasurer's or secretary's place to get our money at the end of the year. So many memories of those days. One time, another girl and I had a falling out about something and it was coming to blows. Of course, someone told the teacher and when the class was called in, we were called

up to the front of the whole class and he said we had to kiss each other. Well, we sure were not too anxious, but that was settled at once... he bumped our heads together and we had to kiss.

Another time that was exciting was when we saw a team of horses coming up the road with a wagon with a lot of people on it, and they were leading horses

behind. Soon the teacher told us they were Gypsies, and that they were on their way to Alliston. They parked there overnight and then moved on again. We were so scared of them, but they were harmless. That was their way of life. Well, I am soon going to sign off about my school days, but there is one more thing. I had an aunt who lived on the farm next to ours. We all knew she was a great cook, and when we (Kathleen and I) got near her place on our way home, we seemed to get very thirsty. We would go to the pump that was close to her house and make a noise, and the next thing, Aunt Mary would appear with something good to eat. My face burns now when I think of the nerve of us! ■

*Billie Sheehan,  
Alliston*



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Our business grew so rapidly that in March of 1995 we relocated to 4987 Dean Drive just west of Alliston. With this improved facility we expanded our tire and automotive services. Over the last few years we are pleased to have attracted first class Technicians, Sales and Service Personnel who help us deliver our promise of true value service and products.

Once again we are currently expanding (triple the size of our current building) to better serve our growing customer base. In the near future we will be announcing new tire and automotive services.





# What does the millennium mean to you?

**A** poll was conducted recently to ask people what first comes to mind when they think of the year 2,000. Out of 1,493 Canadians surveyed, one third said that the Y2K computer scare was the first thing that came to mind. Twenty five per cent replied that the year 2,000 was nothing special - just another year. Twelve per cent associated the year 2,000 with the millennium celebrations and 11 per cent associated it with "uncertainty, concern, and anxiety." Out of almost 1,500 people, only six mentioned that it was Christ's birthday. Yes, that's what the millennium really means - it has been 2,000 years since the birth of Christ! Did you realize that? How might that little piece of knowledge change your thinking and behaviour as we

approach the end of 1999 and take the big leap into a whole new era? For those people who are nervously stockpiling food and considering the purchase of a gas generator, I suggest a time of joyous celebration instead. It is, after all, the birthday of the Lord of lords and King of kings. If He is Lord over your future - it will all work out and you will have worried and fretted for nothing. Take a chance - let Him replace your nervous apprehension with joyous anticipation - a great adventure lies ahead! He is also the Prince of Peace; this is a fabulous opportunity for peaceful co-operation within the Family of Faith. Many churches across this land and around the world have begun to sense and feel a powerful spirit of unity bonding them together. Some of them will be worshipping jointly, and carolling together in the

hospitals, nursing homes and on street corners this Christmas. Hundreds will ring their church bells simultaneously at noon hour on January 1 as a common celebration. Thousands of denominations have joined together in one voice to petition for debt relief in third world nations. And how about you? Will it be a frenzy of fear - apathetic unconcern, or something positive and uplifting that will make this world a better, kinder place? Remember, we are not just ushering in a new year, century and millennium, we are honoring and welcoming the One who is peace and love, and who creates joy - Jesus Christ!

*Reverend Robert Graham*

## THE FUTURE...

...as seen by Grade 8 students at Father F.X. O'Reilly Roman Catholic School

"If all these potential problems (with '99 changing to '00 in the computer world) were caused by a short form, why didn't anyone think to call the year 2000 'Y2k'? *Cassie.*

"You'll just have to wait and see what's going to

happen." *Jeremy*

"Many wonderful things could happen. Maybe we'll find a cure for cancer or life on Mars." *Jenna*

"We'll probably have more technology and maybe even find a new

cure for those so-called incurable diseases." *Marketa*

"I think in the year 2000 nothing much will happen. In the year 2001 many things will happen: The sky will change color...we will find aliens in Nunavut...The

Mighty Ducks will win the Stanley Cup....we will fix the ozone layer....there will be 32 teams in the NHL....summer will be longer and winter will be shorter....people will realize that Pearl Jam rocks." *Kevin*

# Memories

## *She couldn't resist the Sailor*

This is the story of how my mother Gladys Beilby and my father Daniel King came to settle in West Essa and later, Alliston. It began in Buckinghamshire, England in 1920. My mother used to walk by the King house and Mrs. King would call to my mother Gladys. Mrs. King would say, "My son Danny is out at sea but he'll be home this weekend and I'd like you to meet him." Eventually they met and made a match. At that time Gladys was working as a nanny and Daniel was with the British (Royal) Navy. As Daniel's brother James

and his wife Maggie were living in Baxter, Dad came over to see if he'd like living in Canada. But when the Great War broke out he returned to England to fight with the Imperial Army. With the end of the war Daniel married Gladys, they had a son Daniel Jr. and the family of three came to Canada to start a new life. They had a good trip over and were never sea-sick. They had wanted to bring their furniture and things but were told there was no room for such things on the boat. However, when they got to the boat

**Remembered with honor: Trooper James King, 9th Regt., British Columbia Dragoons, R.C.A.C. who died at age 20 on Thursday, August 31, 1944.**

they discovered others with all their worldly possessions. So when they got to Canada they had nothing but their suitcases. The year was 1920. They first stayed with Daniel's other brother George and his wife Alice on Dufferin Street in Alliston.

Then they went to Baxter where brother and sister-in-law James and Maggie were still living. James worked at Camp Borden, walking across the fields to get to work. While they lived there Willie John Fletcher who owned the property

► 26

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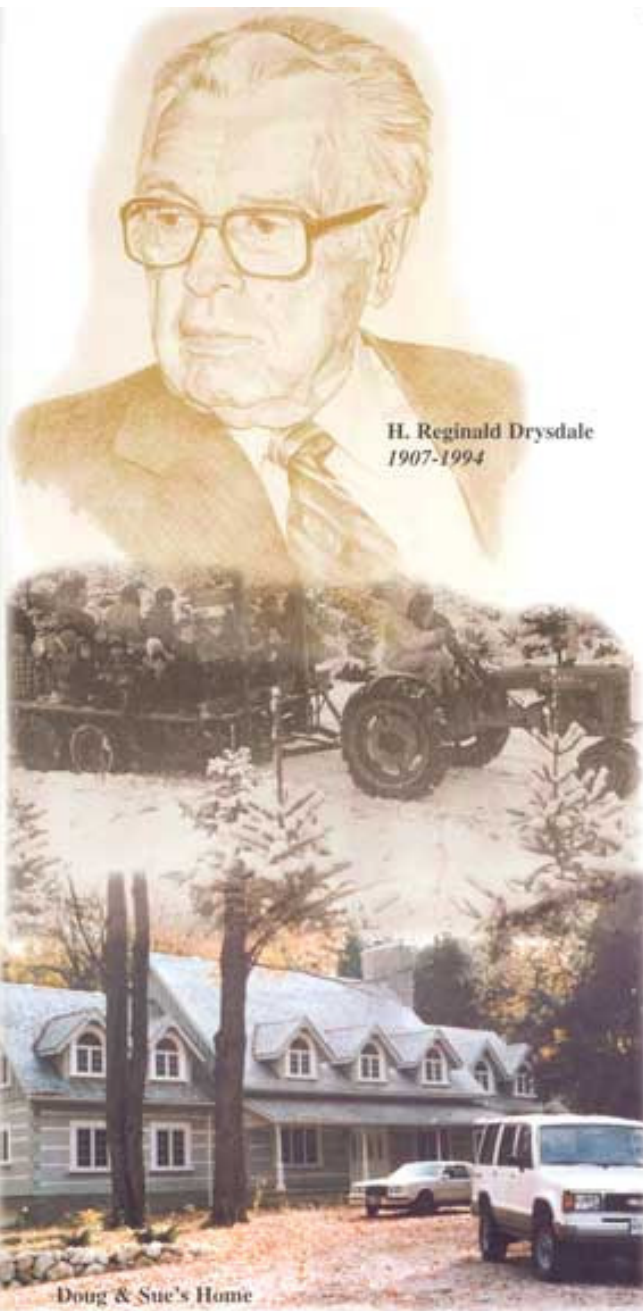
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## The Evergreen Store

The story of our Drysdale tree farm begins with Reg Drysdale who was born in Flos Township near Elmvalle in 1907. Orphaned at age 18 and with no brothers or sisters he was very much alone and on his own. He was successful in becoming a teacher and began his career in a one room school on the Base Line in Flos Township. He was very much interested in reforestation and was instrumental in encouraging a number of his students to plant seedlings which were becoming available from the new Department of Lands & Forests tree nursery in Midhurst. Reg planted two properties himself and diligently tended to their care. By the early 1940's wartime gasoline rationing had created a shortage of Christmas trees in Toronto and he became convinced that farmers could grow them as a crop on sandy land that was poorly suited to other forms of agriculture. He bought 50 acres of vacant land in the Hollows of West Gwillimbury back in 1945 and was exceedingly happy when later that same year 11 acres of that property was expropriated for the construction of the new highway 400. Our first inkling that the much talked about highway was to cross our property was when a bulldozer, without any notice or permission, came snorting up from the South clearing a line of sight for a survey crew.

Reg is recognized as the first person in Ontario to apply horticultural pruning practices to Scotch Pine trees to improve their shape for use as Christmas trees. He shared his knowledge freely and was a founding director of the Ontario Christmas Tree Growers Association in 1951. He received much acclaim for his pioneering efforts. He was made Director Emeritus by the Christmas Tree Growers Association when he stepped down as a director in 1986 after serving for 35 consecutive years. He was an early recipient of the "White Pine Award" from the Huronia Woodlot Owners Association and he had subsequently been inducted into both the Simcoe County and Ontario Agricultural Halls of Fame.

His son Doug Drysdale became interested in forestry through the family tree farm and after graduation from the University of Toronto in 1957 with a masters degree in Forest Economics he began a 33 year career with the Province of Ontario serving in the Department of Lands and Forests and later in the Ministry of Natural Resources. Doug rose steadily, through positions of responsibility and is particularly proud of the periods when he was in charge of Crown timber and provincial forestry research. He was a long time lecturer in forestry at the University of Guelph and was an early member of the University of Guelph's arboretum board. He was also an adjunct professor of Forest Economics at



the University of Toronto. He was a very active fundraiser in the Faculty of Forestry and was a president of the Ontario Forestry Association, a Director of the Canadian Institute of Forestry, and a president of the University of Toronto Forestry Alumni Association.

It was during the period 1957 to 1981 that the family tree business experienced some of its most significant growth. All of Doug's vacations for twenty five consecutive years were devoted to the tree farm and the land base grew from the original 39 acres to nearly 1000 acres with acquisition of farms in Whitchurch, Flos, Essa, & Sunnidale. Exports to the United States took the bulk of our production however beginning in the 1960's we were among the very first to encourage families to choose & cut their own trees. Our Ballantrae farm was for many years our main location but we opened up our Cookstown and Alliston farms as well. All of the Drysdale's family, Doug Jr. Donna, & Diane were involved in all farm activities from springtime planting to fall harvest. However, it was during the early summer pruning season when they recruited their school friends, that our work force expanded the most.

By 1981 Doug Jr. had graduated in Forestry also at the U of T and following a brief and very successful stint as a wholesale lumber trader for a Noranda subsidiary he joined the family business full time, much to his dad's relief. At this juncture the business expanded again to include the growing and harvesting of landscape trees. Doug Jr. has always been active in industry affairs. He has been a director of the Christmas Tree Farmer's Association of Ontario since 1986 when he took over from his grandfather and has served as President of both that Association and the Canadian Christmas Tree Growers Association. Doug Jr. married Sue in 1989 and it was

then that he built the beautiful log home near the main entrance to the farm on Simcoe Rd, 56 - made out of logs cut from trees which his grandfather grew on the original tree farm in Flos.

In addition to a full time job as a teacher in York Region, Donna handled all the financial affairs and was instrumental in setting up the Evergreen Christmas Store in 1994. At Christmas time every member of the family is pressed into service, spouses included. Sue has taken over responsibility in the Evergreen Christmas Store and it continues to grow. We now host corporate events at the farm each weekend & have used our store building for wedding receptions and as headquarters for our garden centre in the off season. Drysdale's staff has grown to nearly 20 year round jobs & they're especially grateful to Jim Huntley, Brian & Sharon Lloyd, Jane Fraser, and many other highly dedicated full & part time staff. The fourth generation is already involved as helpers for Santa or as models for their Christmas advertising.



Doug Jr. & Family

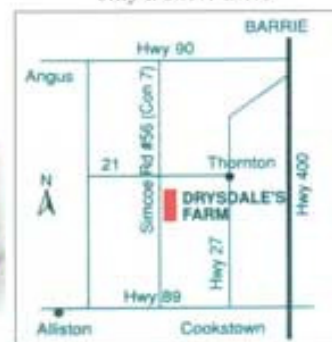


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## Memories

# Homestead started with an acre

across the fields boarded with them when he came to cut wood.

After my dad worked on the railroad for a short time he bought an acre of land in West Essa where the family then settled in 1921. It was there they had their second child, Winnifred. At that time there was a store run by Mrs. Rowe. My mother used to take Mrs. Rowe into town. She'd hitch up the horse and buggy and away they'd go to Alliston for supplies.

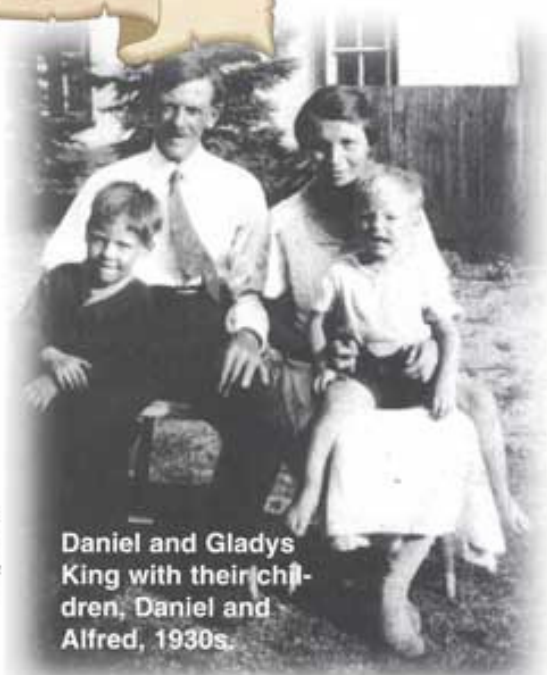
Dad and Mom always were good gardeners. Dad grew a lot of cabbages and had a beautiful crop but was unable to sell them. They also raised chickens at West Essa. Mom got the chickens ready to sell one year. She killed them, but not knowing how a butcher sold chickens she cleaned them and took the legs and heads off and then found she couldn't sell them. In 1923 chickens were sold with the feet, heads and insides intact. No one want-

ed to buy a headless, footless, gutless chicken. She had to bring them home and

can them herself.

Dad was always ill from his

war ailments. He often had migraine headaches brought on by the shrapnel in his ▶



Daniel and Gladys King with their children, Daniel and Alfred, 1930s.

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## Memories

### Stevenson's first patient

head. The mustard gas he was exposed to in the war affected his lungs. Dr. Walker would come out quite a bit to see how Dad was doing. But eventually the house calls would stop and Dr. Walker told Dad he'd have to move into town so he wouldn't have to keep coming out to West Essa. He helped Dad get a job at the Bank of Montreal in Alliston. Then Dad got other jobs in town. He sometimes worked as a night watchman, cut lawns at Dr. Cunningham's and Dr. Fleming's and also looked

after the Anglican church. In those days there were no oil furnaces. Coal furnaces were used to heat the large buildings like banks and offices and some homes. My dad had to "bank" the furnace at night to burn off the coal fumes. Then early in the morning before the Bank of Montreal manager and staff arrived he'd sift the ashes and get the furnace going again so it'd be nice and warm when everyone arrived for work. My father also helped build Stevenson Memorial Hospital in 1927-28. During

construction the building caved in and my father ended up with a broken pelvis. He was laid up for many months. Mom carried on with some of his jobs besides nursing Dad, and she was also caring for their growing family, by this time six children. Mom had a

remedy for everything - mustard packs to the chest for colds, ginger for any ailment, and the lemonade was always steeping on the coal stove in the living room. On August 2, 1930 my father saw a young girl struggling for her life in the Boyne River. He jumped in ► 30



## Bern's Flowers

In the 70's Bernice and Joe O'Flynn started Bern's Flowers at 119 Victoria St. West. When Bernice and Joe commissioned the sign painter to paint the sign it was supposed to read Bernice's Flowers, which was Bernice's nick name. An error was made and the sign arrived reading Bern's Flowers and the name has remained Bern's Flowers ever since.

After a few years the business was sold to a young couple, Matthew and Doreen Evans. They moved the business to its present day location at 122 Victoria St. West, as well as adding an addition to the east side and a second story.

This present day location has some historical significance, as it was the property where the first white child in Alliston was born. This house is pictured in upper left hand corner.

In 1986 Margaret and Leo Kleiss, purchased the business from the Evans. Together with their two children Karen and Martin, they have made Alliston their home. Over the past 14 years Bern's Flowers has grown with Alliston and surrounding area. Having started with only one part time employee Bern's now employs six full time and four part time employees and remains an active participant within the community.

The success and growth of Bern's Flowers since its inception has been the caring people of Alliston and area, who love to say it with flowers.

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1997 - In June, Honda produces its one millionth vehicle



1998 - On September 30th, ceremony is held at Plant 2 to celebrate the line-off of the new 1999 model Odyssey mini-van and the opening of Plant 2

*History's Past, Present & Future*



4 Door Honda Civic

Honda Odyssey





# Memories

## Sleigh Rides down Creamery Hill and Swimming in the Boyne

and saved the life of Geraldine Milligan. He later received a Parchment Certificate for Bravery for rescuing a drowning girl. Mom and Dad raised 11 children. Their third child Pearl was born in Alliston in a house next to Mullins store and two doctors attended, as one didn't know the other was going to be there. Eventually there were James,

Henry, Donald, Margaret, David, Alfred, John and Thomas. Everyone from Donald onward was born in the hospital my father had helped to build. My sister Winnifred worked for Lawyer McLean and Pearl worked for Mr. Grothier the bank manager. Margaret worked in the Royal Bank in Tottenham. Four

sons were in the armed forces. James was killed in 1944 in Italy. It was August 31, 1944. He was 20 years old and a trooper with the RCAC British Columbia Dragoons. As children, there were sleigh rides down the Creamery Hill, running after the farmers' sleighs in winter and finally

catching a ride to the edge of town. I remember swimming in the Boyne River before the dam went out. There was a wire cage for the kids to start out swimming but after a while there was a hole at one end and some would swim out the other side. One of my recollections is going across the swinging bridge at Church Street to get a quart of buttermilk from the Misses O'Hara. It was a lovely home with a veranda and the O'Hara sisters would usually be sitting there. Although we moved a lot, I have fond recollections of our times in Alliston. ■

*Winnifred Horan, Pearl Sheenathy, Margaret E. Thomas as told to Janet E. M. Thomas.*

## Recognize Anyone?

Smiling students of Alliston Public School back in the 1930s.

Photos submitted by Joe McCarroll and Shirley True, Alliston.





**Bob and Peggy celebrating 49 years of marriage June 17, 1999**

On June 17, 1950, Margaret Ellen King, (Peggy) formerly of Alliston and Robert Alexander Thomson (Bob) formerly of King township, were united in marriage at the Tottenham United Church by Reverend James Dorrian, a former minister of Alliston. It was a sunny but windy day as there had been a terrific storm the night before. We began our marriage on Lot 8, Conc. 4 Tecumseth Twp., formerly owned by the Tegart family from about 1841 to sometime in the 1930s, when Bob's father bought it. The house had been used as a granary, but with the family's help it soon became quite presentable. On our farm we had chickens, as Bob had an egg route in the city. Bob's dad told us we could have some of his cows, and with the help of Ed Hocquard, several cattle were brought to our barn, and we started to raise beef cattle. In different years, we had pigs, turkeys and also geese. Bob did most of the farming as

I still worked at the Royal Bank in Tottenham, until our first child, Robin Ellen, was born in 1954. In 1956 we had another girl, Janet Elizabeth May, and in 1960 our last child, Joan Elise, was born. All of our girls were a great help to us. They were in the 4H Club, and were also good students. It seems so funny that the only farms I had ever been on were the Lynch's on the 14th, south of Alliston, and John McKenzie's on the old Broken Front. At the Lynch's, we were allowed to collect the eggs at the barn, then Mrs. Lynch would make us a wonderful

dinner with eggs and tea biscuits. Being a former school teacher, Mrs. Lynch played piano and we all sang. What lovely Sunday afternoons we had. One of our favorite songs was *Rose of Trallee*. At John McKenzie's we picked potatoes, hoed and sometimes cooked the meals. My brothers also worked on farms from time to time, but I am the only one in our family of 11 to marry a farmer. In May of 1962 the old Tegart house was destroyed. There was a 100-year-old poplar tree which had been felled by lightning. We decided that morning we would get rid of it by

burning it. We had actually planned on going to the city that day, and I was putting the wash on the line when I looked up and saw wisps of smoke coming off the roof. We tried to get the hose but it was all tangled up, so I phoned the fire department. It took quite a while to put the fire out, because the house had sawdust insulation and the fire kept smouldering. Bob soon had another house built with the help of our neighbors. Later, he decided he would buy a small farm in Meaford, and retire there, but he couldn't leave his beloved farm at Lot 8, Conc. 4, Tecumseth.

Our eldest daughter, Robin, is living in Australia. She has two children, Bree and Zenon. Janet lives and works in Toronto at the CBC. Joan, who lives in Alberta, has four children, Adjala, Duke, Maggie and Maxwell. We have had a fulfilling, active life and will celebrate our fiftieth year of marriage June 17, 2000. ■

*Margaret Thomson,  
Tecumseth*



**Bob and his eldest daughter, Robin, riding tractors on the farm November, 1955.**



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# Family Dentistry

Dr. Armstrong • Dr. Kula • Dr. Parekh

## Dr. Bill Armstrong



I was born and raised in Kirkland Lake. Upon graduating from University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry in 1973, I set up practice at 10 Wellington St. W., Alliston. It was a small town back then, but has since grown into a thriving bigger town with the same small town caring and giving attitudes.

Thanks to the tutelage of both Drs. Hudgins and Bryant I became quite busy which resulted in the building of my present location at 36 Wellington St. West. In 1987 Dr. Kula joined with me and has become both a partner and a friend. Both Joel and I are now pleased that Dr. Azim Parekh joined our practice in October 1998.

I have been very fortunate to be part of this growing community for the past 26 years. I've been involved with hockey, the youth group at St. John's church, local politics in Toronto and currently I am active with the Alliston Rotary Club.

Over the past 26 years, many advances have occurred in dentistry. Our strong focus on continuing education has allowed us to grow & offer our patients the most modern technology available. In 1973 and prior, most white teeth occurred on dentures while today people can have their teeth whitened in the office in 45 to 60 minutes with a laser. Amalgam or gold were the fillings of choice in back teeth; today we have white fillings, ceramic and porcelain fillings along with many other aesthetic restorations. Why, a computer can now take an image of a prepared tooth and a milling machine can have the finished product ready in less than one hour. I have seen many advances in preven-

tative dentistry, but it still comes down to proper brushing and flossing daily to prevent decay and gum disease. I have seen the advancement of computers throughout the office and the use of intraoral cameras that help to show the patient what we see in the mouth...only they see it magnified on a TV screen. We are seeing better diagnostic tools with computer digital xrays and better and stronger filling materials. Orthodontic treatment now uses small brackets that cement onto the front of the tooth rather than the full bands I used in 1973. This makes the treatment far more comfortable for the patients. And of course, when it comes to patient comfort, most injections or freezing now should be virtually painless with the use of better anaesthetic both local and topical and improved technique.

I have also seen a major decrease in the amount of decay present in teeth especially children. The use of fluoride at its recommended dosage has been a tremendous bonus. It was not uncommon in the 1970's to have to treat a number of children in the hospital where they would be put to sleep to do the extensive work needed. Although it still happens today, the numbers have drastically reduced. People are keeping their teeth for a lifetime and dentistry will continue to meet the challenge of the future.

On a personal note, I met my wife Rhonda right here in Alliston and we now live in Adjala-Toronto with our two sons Aaron and Daniel. Aaron and Daniel both attend Banting Memorial High School in grades 11 and 9 respectively. Rhonda is a full time mother as well as

keeping me organized and on track.

We know our practice will continue to strive for excellence and will continue to grow because of the trust you, our patients, have placed in us. Our motto at the office is "Kind Dentistry for a Lifetime of Smiles".

Before closing, we would like to recognize and acknowledge the tremendous team of co-workers present at our office. We know that without them, we wouldn't be as organized, efficient and successful.

So, to all of you, our team wishes you a wonderful and exciting new millennium and in closing, we would personally like to say to all our patients both old and new - **Thank You!**



## Dr. Joel Kula

Graduate of the University of Western Ontario 1987  
My wife Myra and I have been blessed with two children (Arielle, 5 and Gavin, 1). Watching them grow and develop emphasizes to me the importance of choosing a healthy lifestyle.



Our current home  
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## Dr. Parekh

Graduate of the University of Western Ontario 1996  
Enjoys being a part time clinical instructor at University of Western, Ontario since 1996.



# Barn raising marks Alliston's 100th birthday

**L**ike so many small towns, much of Alliston's architectural history was lost to fire, and some of the remainder was simply torn down.

The opera house, which used to occupy the lands where the town's municipal office now sits, was a spectacular building but in need of repair.

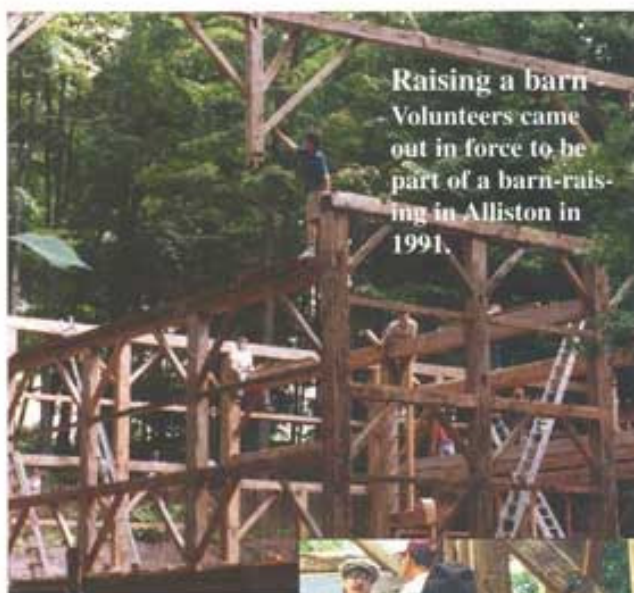
In the early 70's the new building had replaced the old and what was once the site of a large old brick building, complete with bell tower, was replaced by a 'modern' but architecturally insignificant 'block' building. When it came time to celebrate Alliston's Centennial in

1991, the committee decided to mark it by erecting an old barn in Riverdale Park.

The barn itself came from Bond Head and had been built in the 1850s.

Rudy Wiederer was commissioned to actually move and rebuild the barn in its present location and it became a labor of love for Wiederer. The barn had belonged to Robert Keffer who donated it to Alliston for its special year.

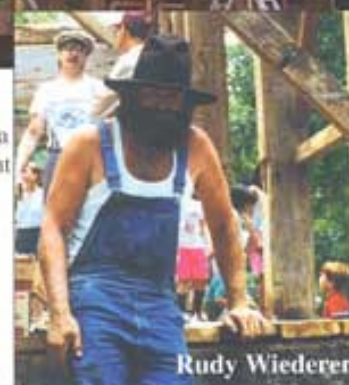
Constructed of white pine, Ontario's tree, taking it apart and reconstructing it became a mammoth task. Each piece had to be numbered and labelled as it was taken apart so that it could be put back together correctly.



**Raising a barn**  
Volunteers came out in force to be part of a barn-raising in Alliston in 1991.

With Wiederer, who died suddenly and unexpectedly a few years after the barn went up, overseeing the project, volunteers came out for the 'barn-raising.'

Originally intended as an extension of sorts of the Simcoe Pioneer Museum, which is next to the barn, it



**Rudy Wiederer**

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# Town rebuilt after great fire

quickly became apparent that vandalism would be a problem.

Boards were damaged as vandals broke in. The barn stands where Wiederer and his volunteers placed it and somewhere in that barn

Wiederer carved his initials and hid a copy of The Alliston Herald which featured a story on the barn moving.

Although not all the plans for the museum and barn came to fruition many have. Judy Gibbs, who was chair of the Centennial Committee, had a vision for the area. She wanted the museum building modernized so that it could safely house artifacts - this has

happened. She saw people in pioneer costume helping celebrate special occasions - this too has happened.

Gibbs wanted the museum and barn to become places where people could go and see pioneer life - "living history" was how she described it.

This too has happened with the museum offering a host of programs and being very active in preserving and promoting local history. In 1990, when Gibbs and her committee were formulating plans they seemed very ambitious. But some dreams do come true. ■



Former landmark - Alliston's opera house has long gone. The site where it once stood is now home to the municipal offices.

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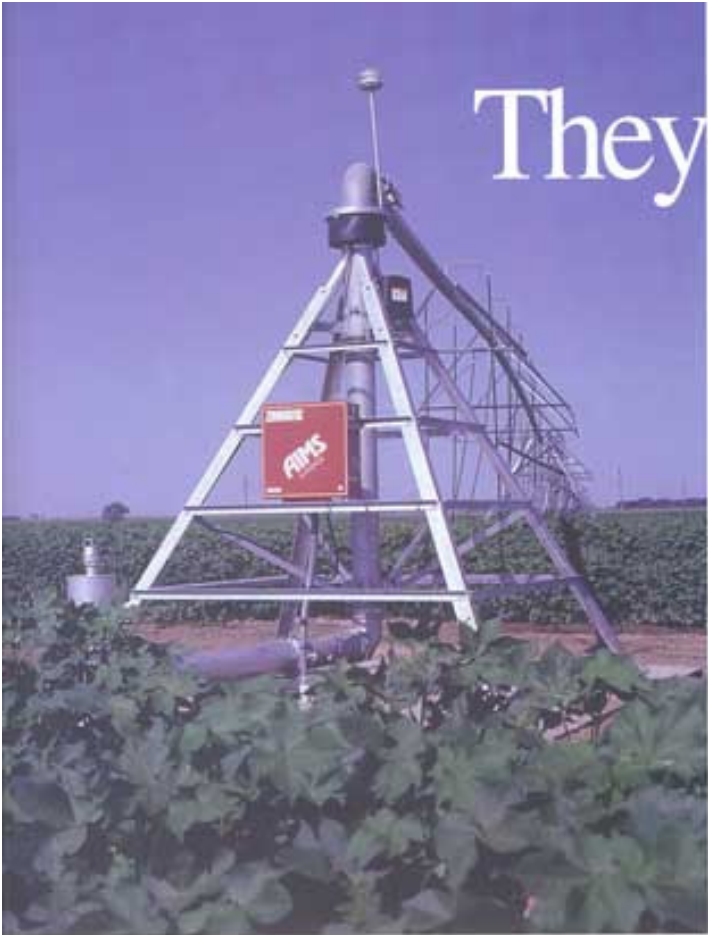
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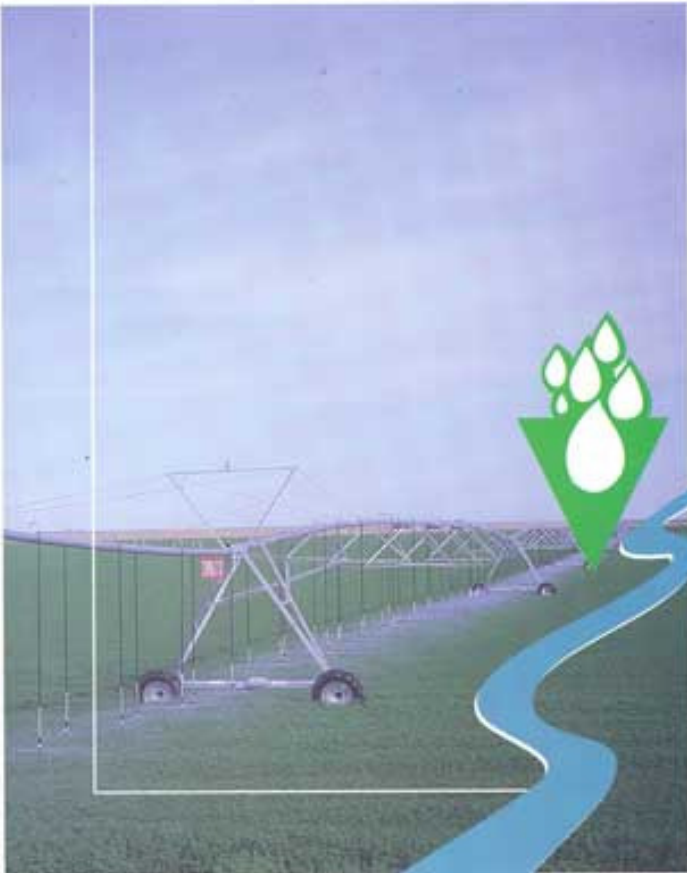
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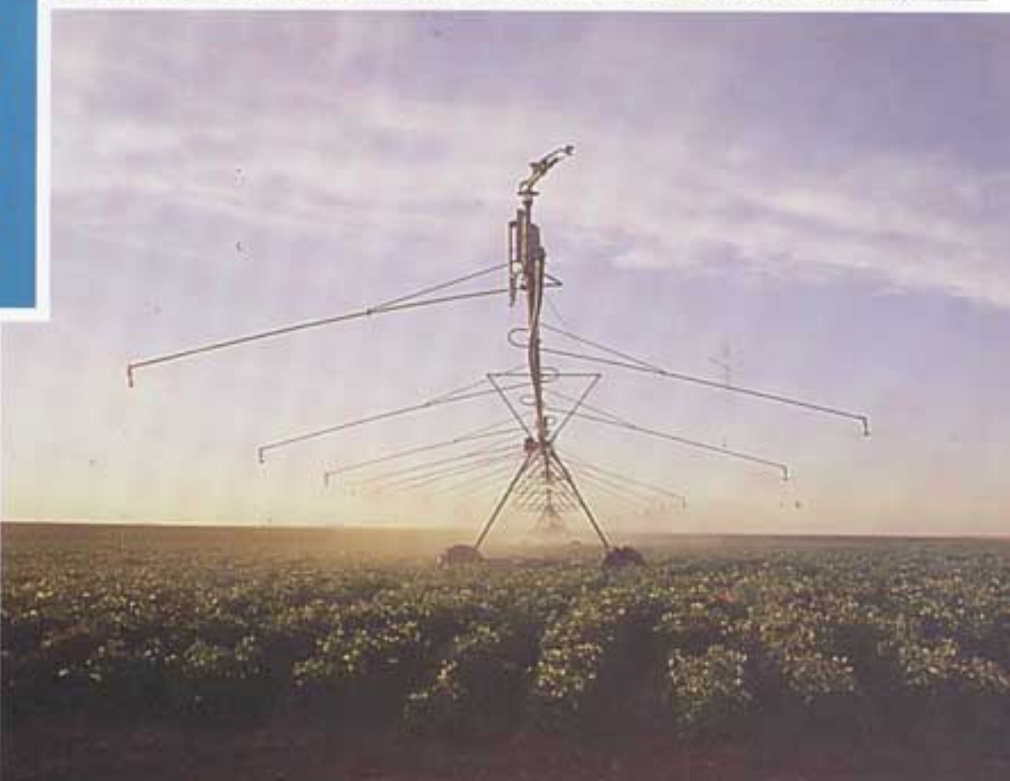
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# Memories

## Famine brought Romans to Adjala

### RALPH RONAN'S STORY

The Ronan family is from Wexford, Ireland. The family emigrated during the Potato Famine. Patrick Ronan, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Ronan, married Annie and had 10 children; six sons and four daughters. For three generations, the last three children born in the family were sons.

My grandfather, Patrick Ronan, played an intricate part in Simcoe Manor's history. Patrick Ronan and Thomas Hammell lobbied for Simcoe Manor to be built in Beeton. Otherwise, it would have been built in the north end of Orillia. Patrick thought that there were many people in the area, such as the poor, who needed a place to live. Simcoe Manor could provide these people with a home. Simcoe Manor opened as a

House of Industry in 1898, with its grand opening in 1899. Patrick Ronan was also the Warden of Simcoe County and Reeve of Adjala for 16 years. He was well respected in the community and thought of as a very fair person.

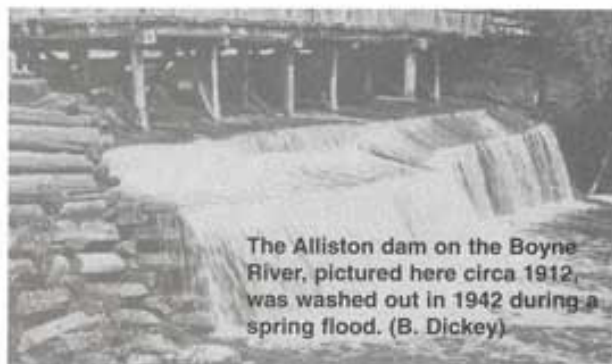
I was born on Sun., June 4, 1933, to Matthew and Cecilia Ronan. I was born at home in the front parlor. I was doing well until December 1933, when I took a cold spell, an illness called, 'gland fever.' Dr. James Campbell looked after me and said that I was either a miracle for surviving the illness or the strongest child in the world. At three years of age, I was sent to Sick Children's Hospital where a child specialist said I was a 'hopeless' case. I was brought home and have enjoyed each day of my life despite my

physical condition. In 1948, I attended my first summer camp (Ontario Society for Crippled Children), one that I attended for the next 15 years where I met many wonderful people. Every year they would send me an application form and I would be accepted, however the spring of 1966 I was not accepted. I was

very disappointed but life is full of disappointments.

My brother Bert and sister Agnes had looked after me for 23 years after father died. On Mon., May 1, 1989, I became a resident at Simcoe Manor. I'm very settled here and think this is the best home ever.

*Ralph Ronan*



The Alliston dam on the Boyne River, pictured here circa 1912, was washed out in 1942 during a spring flood. (B. Dickey)



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**B**aseball was a popular sport early in the 20th century around Simcoe, especially in Essa, Ivy,

Cookstown, Utopia and Elm Grove all had strong teams, with many brothers playing as pitcher and catcher battery mates. John Craig, in his book, *Simcoe County - The Recent Past*, points to Utopia's Bell brothers and Ivy's Jennett boys.

Cookstown's key players were "Dewey" Hopper and Otto "Pat" Arnold. Elm Grove's best included Edgar "Buldy" Whiteside and Harry Dundas.

But it was a player by the name of Bill Banting from Ivy, who became the star of baseball in Essa in 1906, with his sensational drop-ball that apparently dipped up to two feet on its way to the batter. There were five Banting brothers on the Ivy team.

Over in Beeton, star players included Earl Barrett, Jack Dale, "Bing" Speck, "Metz" Hill and D.W. Watson.

A fine point early in Alliston's sports history was 1903, when the local team won the South Simcoe Lacrosse League championship. The 11-man field lacrosse team included Joe McMinn, Fred Hurst, Fred Morrow, T.J. Gallagher, Bill Williams, Jack Armstrong, Jim Goddard, Frank

Evans, Danny Nolan, Robert Scott, W. Stephenson, W.G. Fisher, Herb Murphy, Bob Armstrong, Len Edmonds, Wilfred McRae, Dennis Bergin and George English. The team's canine mascot was "Spot" Donnelly. Throughout the years, the team won juvenile and intermediate

championships, playing two 30-minute periods without substitutions, and no padding or protection.

The possible world premiere of ice lacrosse took place at the Alliston arena in March, 1953. Game stars were Liam Whelan, Bill Gray, Shorty Bray, Collie Whelan, Tommy Briggs and

Murray Saint in goal. Only five penalties were handed down during the game, all to Alliston players.

Lacrosse was one of the most popular spectator sports in the area and Alliston was known as a real lacrosse hotbed. One report listed 800 fans in the Alliston arena for a match.

Today, the Alliston Hornets Jr. C hockey team draws the crowds as do countless numbers of minor house and rep teams. Soccer is also now a huge part of sports activity in the area. Alliston's annual soccer tournament draws dozens of teams from all over Ontario each summer.

Baseball, softball and slo-pitch are still very much part of the sports scene with every diamond and field in use everyday throughout the summer.

The Alliston Nikolettes Gymnastics Club, named after Nick Yankoff, are also making news on the sports scene. Yankoff coached gymnastics at Banting for many years taking the boys team to unprecedented record breaking heights. His gymnasts broke record after record for many years.

Yankoff went on to start a recreational gymnastics program in the area, coaching small children.

## Alliston brought ice lacrosse to the world



Top row: Ron Shacklady (11), Delmer Bates (rf), Alvin McDonald (p), John Graham (outfield), Russell Murphy (outfield), Cliff Synott (1b), Robert Walker (c), Harry Sawyer (2b), Harold Cauthers (3b). Bottom row: Elwood Greer (cf), James Cauthers (p & ss), Wm. Bates (sec-treas.), Reg. Greer (c & manager), Emerson Greer (outfield), Ernie Synott (3b).

Photo by Smith Studio

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**S**cott started his apprenticeship in May 1974 at **SCOTT'S SERVICE CENTRE** with Vic Scott and received his Class A licence in 1979.

He stayed on at Scott's until 1985 when he worked out of the area.

June 1988 returned to Alliston area to set up his own garage leasing the two bays at LB Petroleum, Hwy. 89 East.

After two years Scott's business has out grown this location so he moved into a unit at 82 Dufferin St. S. next to Baxter Lab. This unit was able to accommodate 6 vehicles.

Scott hired a second licensed mechanic, Dave Londry, who had also apprenticed at Scott's Service Centre and

had worked with Scott for several years. Scott also supported the Co-op programme through Banting Memorial High School. Through this programme Scott hired an apprentice who has since acquired his licence.

In 1996 Scott made the decision to purchase a piece of property and build his own garage which is their present location at 114 Dufferin St. S. They completed construction in March of 1997.

They now employ 4 full time licenced technicians, 1 apprentice, 2 part-time office staff.

**SCOTT'S AUTO REPAIRS**



# Drunk drivers

*have been a problem for many years*

## Drinking & Driving

### A problem back in 1913

The night before my third birthday, my parents and I were hit by a drunk driver.

It was a pleasant evening, June 7, the year was 1913.

We were returning from a visit at my grandparents in Bond Head. This happened on the 8th Line of Tecumseth, just west of Hwy. 27. To this day, I can hear the pounding hooves of the galloping horses coming toward us. There was enough moonlight so I could see a man standing in his buggy whipping his horses to a galloping frenzy. The next thing I felt was the impact of one horrendous crash as his buggy ran into ours, tipping it over.

When my father stood up and gath-

**Have a safe trip -  
Even horse drawn  
buggies had to  
watch out for  
other drivers  
years ago.**

ered his wits, he realized that my mother was trapped under the buggy with me still in her arms. The reach of the buggy (the main cross frame) was resting on my mother's head. The only thing that saved her from being crushed was the wire frame hat that she wore which was fashionable in those days. Even so, mother was

badly bruised. The drunken driver stopped long enough to say, "Get the Mrs. out," and galloped away. As a result of the accident, the horse was permanently blinded and my mother suffered the rest of her life from the effects of the crash. The next day, my father

searched for that man. In his search he found out that the man who ran into us went to a hotel every Saturday and drove home drunk. Sad to say, drinking and driving is not new, but still devastating. ■

Muriel Reynolds,  
Simcoe Manor Residents' Council President

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6 Rooms were  
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additional 13  
rooms were  
added

An expansion of  
42 rooms was  
seen in 1985

The new  
recreation  
centre came to  
be in 1986

1987 saw the  
edition of a new  
dining room

The Nelson  
Conference  
Centre was  
completed in  
1997

In 1999, 11 new  
rooms are being  
completed.





# A Glimpse at our Past



South Simcoe has changed in ways its founders never could have imagined. Alliston's founders the Fletchers (upper left) started the ball rolling in Alliston in the 1800s which continued with the clearing of forests for farmland over the next several decades. Improvements have come in all walks of life, some local, others global. There has been new infrastructure, such as the 1961 Nicolston dam bridge on Hwy. 89 (upper right). Then there was the old swinging bridge on the north side of the Boyne River on Church St. which was replaced by a car bridge in the 1940s (right). Diabetics the world around can thank Sir Frederick Banting and Charles Best for co-discovering insulin (lower left). Alliston has also seen its share of parties like the centennial which was celebrated in 1947 (below).







The closer South Simcoe got to the end of the century, the faster the changes came, including a new water tower. However, in some cases, the more things changed, the more they remained the same. That was the case with the South Simcoe Railway, which is now the area's largest tourist attraction. People come from all over to see the piece of engineering that has lasted for the last century. However, not all the history has been pleasant, as was the case with the tornado that slammed Tottenham in 1985. And, of course, no history of the area is complete without mention of the area's largest employer, Honda. Here the first ever car rolls off the assembly line.







In the spring of 1949 Van and Ann Vander Zaag emigrated to Canada from Holland just a few weeks after their wedding. That same spring Harry, Van's brother, also emigrated.

Van and Ann started working for Jim McCague (Lodestar Farms). Harry worked near Trenton and Chatham.

After three years Van and Harry put their savings together and were able to buy a 100 acre farm on the Base Borden Road. This was a mixed farm, and the first year they planted 7 acres of potatoes by hand. When the crop was in there was no money left, so that summer they also worked at Base Borden to keep food on the table.

After five years they could buy a neighbour's farm and in 1957 Harry and Bernice made that their home.

Through the years Van and Harry farmed well and were able to

## The Vander Zaags... 50 years of farming

expand, and in 1985 it was time that Van and Harry split up, as their children also became involved in farming. Later more changes were necessary as sons started farming on their own. Ann and Van have two sons and three daughters plus fifteen grandchildren.

Their sons Peter and John are both potato growers. John and Theo,

with their three children live on "the farm where it all began" after Van and Ann moved to town. Van passed away in 1996.

Peter and Carla with their six children live just one farm north of John. They started farming in 1990.

Peter and Carla had worked previously mostly overseas in Rwanda and the Philippines where Peter worked for C.I.P., the International Potato Institute.



*Harvesting by hand*







Harry and Bernice have four sons, all married. Three of them are potato growers.

Peter and Kate live with their six children on the Base Borden Road and farm in

Essa. Raymond and Jayne and their three children live near Ottawa where Raymond works for the Canadian International Development Agency. Since 1991, Homer and Janette with their three children

#### *Early mechanization*

are living on the home farm. In 1997 a farm near Shelburne was purchased where David and Colleen and their three sons now live.



## HJ Vander Zaag Farms Ltd.



*Harry, David and Homer and staff*

**HJV**  
FARM EQUIPMENT LTD

Homer and David together own and operate H.J. Vander Zaag Farms Ltd. and HJV Farm Equipment Ltd. The equipment dealership was bought from Mr. Clarence Leach in 1991. An additional store was opened in Innerkip in 1999.

Potato farming is big business now, and all the Vander Zaags are very busy. But they also all realize that it is not only hard work that got them where they are now. The Lord blessed all of them with good health, good land, and a great country to

live in. When Ann, Harry and Bernice look back, they realize how much has changed since the first 7 acres were planted, more acreage, bigger and more complicated machinery, more storages, irrigation. What will the future hold? No one knows. But thinking of their many grandchildren, all healthy and well, they say the future looks bright.





# Making a difference today

People who have made a lasting impression

by CATHERINE HALLER  
Herald Editor

For the past 15 years I have had the privilege of meeting some truly outstanding people throughout South Simcoe. Many have left lasting impressions on me. Following are brief accounts of some of these people.

Virginia DiLauro is a rather pushy American born woman who with her husband Patrick, made Tottenham home. In the early 80s she decided that Tottenham could be part of the recycling movement. On her own, and in winter, she decided to start a recycling centre. Any money raised would be put back into promoting recycling and paying for the actual program. DiLauro started South Simcoe's first recycling program. She did

it on her own though she was quickly joined by volunteers, and she did it without any support from Tottenham council except the donation of some space in the village to locate the depot. Recycling is now a county government project, with a huge budget, full-time paid staff and provincial and national support. In South Simcoe it started with one woman.

More trees. That was the edict from Simcoe County Council in 1971. The county was working on a plan for all of Simcoe and among its recommendations was the planting of thousands of trees. Shauneen Mackay didn't need a county study to tell her more trees were needed. Instead of writing reports about it, she grabbed a shovel, scrounged up some trees and



Shauneen Mackay

recruited volunteers by the dozen and started planting. Soon dubbed the Tree Lady of New Tecumseth, Mackay can be credited with planting thousands of trees. In addition to planting trees, she lobbied council and managed to get some money out of them and more importantly a tree policy. While that policy has been broken on occasion it has also helped protect many trees and keep politicians conscious of the need for trees. Mackay led the fight in Beeton to protect a stand of trees threatened by a new development's need for hydro. Some trees were lost but some were saved. And that's the way it's been for Mackay for over a decade - as she plants, others cut. But the gift she and her volunteers leave the next generation is incalculable.

Bob Wales didn't drive but that didn't stop him from getting around all over South Simcoe. The Toronto man's passion was history - collecting it, documenting it and protecting it. He was without doubt an eccentric - as befits a historian, but he was also a pragmatist. He knew that not everyone shared his love but also knew that by and large, people don't like to just throw out "old things." So he collected them.

His legacy is one of record. Wales died a few years ago and is now part of the history he loved. His collection has been passed on to others who love history and who believe before we can move forward with integrity we must know where we've been.

Apathy was Allan Anderson's enemy. He loathed it. He wasn't fond of Tories either for that matter, but he could respect them, while he simply had no tolerance for people who didn't care and wouldn't "get involved."

At a service for Anderson when he died his daughters told of how their father would throw books and comics out of the train window at them as they watched his train pass through Simcoe as he took another journey somewhere.

Anderson owned thousands of books, he collected them and hoarded them in his Tottenham home. He was a very literate man and with his wife Betty Anderson founded the New Tecumseth Arts Council. That New Tecumseth should have an arts council was an amazing feat. The council set about promoting theatre, music, art and of course Anderson's love - literature.

He leaves a literary contest held each year in his name for young writers. While the memory of this colorful character, who seemed to wear wellington boots year round, may fade, the writing contest will keep the part of him that mattered most to him alive and well.

Behind the counter at the Royal Bank in Cookstown is one of the best smiles in the county. It belongs to Donna Jebb who is proof that as you give so shall you receive. Jebb is a force behind the Tecumseth West Gwillimbury Historical Society, the Womens' Institute and the local Four-H club. She is also a face that just keeps appearing wherever volunteers are needed. She comes by her community spirit and remarkably civic

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# Making a difference today



**Shirley Gibson**

mindfulness honestly. She's the daughter of Shirley Gibson of Alliston. Shirley Gibson has given so much in so many ways, and always in a quiet unassuming manner. Alliston would quite likely not have a junior C hockey club or an arena for them to play in if it weren't for Gibson and her fundraising efforts. She was also the driving force behind the Alliston Historical Society even persuading Town council to spend a little money on a memorial garden at the west end of Alliston where the



**Freda White**

railway line used to be. While her contributions to the community are all over Alliston, perhaps her greatest gift is the children she and her husband have raised who will continue to practice the generous volunteerism they learned from their parents.

With broken legs, Freda White literally crawled from her house calling to her husband for help. She had managed to get out to take care of her animals - almost all foster dogs White was taking care of for the

Alliston and District Humane Society - but slipped on the way back in. Nothing would stop her from taking care of animals. She is passionate about it and when her house was destroyed by fire two years ago, White's biggest loss was some of her animals. She has been a tireless volunteer with the ADHS and now with her health even more fragile because of damage to her lungs from the fire, she is slowly rebuilding her life - while still caring for animals.

Each year Alliston, Beeton, Cookstown and Tottenham put on community fairs of some sort. Alliston has the Potato Festival, Cookstown and Beeton agricultural fairs and Tottenham has Community Week and the Bluegrass Festival.

Each year hundreds of people work to make these events happen. Over the years it has become apparent that the same

names and faces keep coming back for more. It is always encouraging to see new faces but somewhat discouraging that without the solid corps, these events would not happen. We are not going to select any particular individuals here - there are simply too many and besides some of the hardest working volunteers are pretty good at keeping a low profile. Cookstown and Beeton share a very long history of fall fairs while Alliston's Potato Festival is still a baby at 26 years. For all these years people have come forward to offer time and effort. It is truly amazing that while major events in Toronto squawk for money from the taxpayers, volunteers (some of whom are remarkably resourceful) in South Simcoe just get the job done.

It takes a tremendous amount of work done by a lot of people to make things like these happen.

In the arena of citizen activists many may feel that some ▶

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**F**rom her beginnings as a film editor at CKVR she was trained as a cameraman, then news reporter for CKCO. She expanded the natural flair she had already displayed in the media and worked as a soundman, makeup artist, floor director, and casting consultant in Canadian television programs. Pulling all this experience together, she landed a job as Commercial Producer for Silver Eagle Records out of Palm Springs.

**S**he has been whisked from Maui to New York City; filming from army helicopters and television towers, while shooting for news, corporate clients or commercial production.

**Y**vonne Teeter of STMVP has seen many changes in the way communications has been delivered to her customers over the years. In order to meet her ever-expanding clients' needs Yvonne has invested in the future. From a solid background that started with shooting and editing B&W film at CKVR, she has experienced many changes while working as a news reporter, editor, producer/director & cameraman (now videographer).

**T**en years ago hardly anyone had heard about the Internet. Today it is an ever increasing basic business tool. We are currently seeing the convergence of two major technologies - the TV and the NET.

**W**hat's all this got to do with video production? This convergence is creating a whole new form of commu-

nication and Steingard-Taylor-Made Video has acquired the 'next generation' digital production tools enabling an 'end to end' digital production process that includes image acquisition, non-linear editing, interactive CD-ROM (DVD) creation and video stream encoding for the WEB.

**W**hat does that mean to you? Higher quality, more creativity and new, effective channels for marketing, training, education and personal uses - a whole new set of opportunities for companies and individuals that have the insight, creativity and vision to lead - not follow. At STMVP they offer vast communication and multimedia production experience to help create your next video, interactive CD or WEB page complete with streaming video content.

**C**overage of local events from skating carnivals, dance recitals, school plays and graduations, to weddings, anniversaries, retirements and even memorial services is making her company and creative staff a household name.

**S**teingard Taylor Made Video Productions offers full service production from on location shooting to in-house editing at their country studio. They also provide overseas conversions, standard duplication, and free quotes - a value that is tailored for personal or business and corporate video projects.

**S**imply the best in the area. Yvonne's creativity, skill and imagination have allowed her company to flourish doing what she loves.



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# Making a difference today

people only got involved because something threatened their way of life. While this may be true to a degree, there are some activists who because of the way they operated and the solutions they offered took on a greater cause which benefited, or could benefit, the entire community. Among these people are Ray Hunt who organized Preserve Our Rural Tecumseth in response to a proposal for a private garbage dump in Tecumseth. He not only organized what was the largest public meeting to date in this area he proceeded to do a lot of work. Hunt, who has since moved across Hwy. 9 out of New Tecumseth, was a solution finder. He put his money, time and energy where his mouth is. He worked on the official plan, the



Fighting for Farmland

strategic plan for New Tecumseth and attended virtually all of the South Simcoe Waste Management Committee meetings becoming a formidable force.

Iain Mackay allied with Hunt, was elected to Tecumseth council, and then later as a citizen continued his efforts to get the Town to stick to its own strategic plan and bylaws.

Bonnie DenHaan and Mary Munnoch have, reluctantly, become experts on waste management since the proposal for a dump on prime farmland in Adjala became a real threat. While DenHaan's farm is threatened directly by this proposal she and Munnoch have educated area councils to the point where it is now accepted that putting garbage in the ground is not an acceptable solution. They never took the NIMBY approach, they did their homework, tons of it, and came to conclusion that dumps shouldn't go anywhere. Grace Dunn was a different type of activist. She arrived in Alliston and set about providing support services for people with emotional and mental health needs. At first she was vilified - nobody had drinking problems in this area. By ►

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# Making a difference today

the time she was finished this very charming woman with the help of people like Mary McGill had established a mental health centre and laid the groundwork for organizations like Contact, the neighborhood information centre.

A lot of people worked to get My Sisters Place, a shelter for abused women and their children in Alliston none harder than Eileen Gray. While she was never around when the newspaper photographers arrived and never stood for any bows, without her efforts the shelter would have taken a lot longer to get in place. She also insisted that it be comfortable and homey - a place where women and children in trauma could stay and start to heal.

All the good teachers - perhaps an anecdote here will explain. Banting's teachers, like their colleagues across the province were on strike and on the picket line. One teacher was carrying a sign calling for curriculum definition. Mary McBride, a Latin teacher, commented that curriculum was spelled correctly. She then went on to explain to the reporter that curriculum means "the small race... which is what learning is really all about..." The reporter responded "You can't help yourself can you? You just can't stop teaching."

McBride, tears in her eyes, said she is a teacher and all she wanted was the best for her students and to get back to teaching them.

It has been our experience at The Herald that McBride is typical rather than the exception and she, like her colleagues truly know that *discendo veritas* is indeed the only hope.

It was the accident that gives nightmares. A young woman and her two little daughters hit by a train on the Beeton road. Firefighters from Beeton struggled to lend dignity to the scene while an OPP officer sat in a cruiser with the driver of the train. An arm around his shoulder the shaken officer did his best to comfort a man who had



**Rod Bradfield**

seen horror no one should ever have to deal with.

It was not just another day for the volunteer firefighters, it was one of their worst ever. But it was their job to deal with it. And deal with it they did. As they do so often. And we thank them and know that their high standards, equipment paid for through community fundraising efforts will stand in good stead in the coming years.

Volunteers range from candy strippers to linesmen, from people who work tirelessly for causes like social services, recreation for children, programs for the learning and or physically disabled, special events, the arts and all the things that make a community a good place to live. Their number is legion and it is our wish that their legacy will be one of example and that volunteerism will continue to flourish throughout South Simcoe through all the centuries.

One of three proposals for a Centennial project as Alliston marked its 100th birthday in 1991 was the beautification of the Boyne River.

It was voted down but that didn't stop volunteers from going ahead.

Led by Rod Bradfield and the Steelheaders, work on the Boyne and surrounding rivers has been on-going for several years and the results have the Nottawasaga Valley

Conservation Authority very excited.

In addition to aesthetic improvements, water quality has improved to the point where marine life is much healthier than it was even 10 years ago.

On many weekends throughout

property.

It's had a snowball effect and the end result is that while the beautification project may not have received the official nod from the centennial committee it has taken a river that was in danger to one that is much healthier.



**Volunteers bring the community together**

the summer Bradfield and the Steelheaders helped by individuals and groups ranging from the Lions club to scout groups, have been out clearing away debris and pulling garbage from the river.

The NVCA, which has also been a partner in this project, is most impressed at the effect the work effort has had on adjacent property owners.

As volunteers clear a section of the river, private property owners have moved to clean up the part that runs through their

Before this project even started students from Banting Memorial High School, led by science teacher Andy Owens, had 'adopted' areas of rivers and creeks and worked at cleaning them.

In addition to learning about ecology and aquatic science, the students and Owens started a trend - one which will leave a legacy that states there were those who cared in the 20th century and hopes that there will be those in the 21st who will follow the lead. ■

## It all started with a butcher's shop



Grace and Donald Applegate

**D**onald and Grace Applegate bought Boyes Butcher Shop in 1949 and ran it until 1953, before moving east on Victoria Street, Alliston, to the McMulkin Dry Goods store. It was here that Alliston's first IGA was opened. The IGA operated for four years, and by 1957 it was too small. Donald bought the foundry, tore it down, and built the first part of the present IGA. A few years later,

The McMulkin's store became Alliston's first IGA in 1953.



around 1961, the Applegates bought the Dutch store, demolished it and expanded the IGA. The family then purchased Dodd's Cleaners in 1970, as well as the blacksmith shop, allowing for further expansion of both store and parking lot.

The Applegate family sold the IGA to the Hoey's in 1976. Marie Armstrong and Bill Cumberland started with the Applegate IGA in 1953 and they are still employed at the Alliston IGA today. The Applegates also ran many other

businesses in Alliston, including Riverview Dairy and Restaurant (1935-44), Dairy Farm and Milk Wagon (1935-48), Acme Taxi (1948-49), Charleis Funeral Parlor (now Thomas) and a partnership with Nottawasaga Inn (1968-1972).

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**In 1962** four mothers of handicapped children met in Harry Ridges' barbershop to talk about the need for a school for their children. Subsequent meetings were held in Margaret Leach's home. The school opened in 1963 in the basement of Knox Presbyterian Church.

The need was so great that in 1965 the school was relocated to the S.S. #5 Public School in Adjala and named the Willa Ireland School.

In 1970, the Victoria Nursery opened in St. John's United Church whose purpose was to provide services to young children. In 1971, the Alliston and District Association for the Mentally Retarded (A D A M R) became an official



Charter Member of the Ontario Association for Community Living. (OACL). In 1973, the Alliston and District Training and Employment Centre (ADTEC) was opened in the Burns Public School. This provided a workshop location for Adult Day Programs.

In 1978, the Association rented a storefront known as "Boutec"; this provided retail experience and a space to sell the handiwork of the participants. The first residence, Cumberland House, was opened on Queen Street in Alliston. In 1981, the Town and surrounding municipalities donated a parcel of land at the present location (125 Dufferin Street South, Alliston) for a workshop and two portables for the Children's Program.

*To advocate that persons with developmental disabilities live in a state of dignity, have equal opportunity to maximize individual potential for personal growth and to participate in all elements of living in the community.*

In 1989, the Alliston and District Association for the Mentally retarded changed its name to the Community Living Association for South Simcoe (CLASS) to better reflect the movement from providing segregated services to that of community involvement.

In June 1989, the Victoria Nursery closed and children were integrated into day cares and nurseries.

From this humble beginning, CLASS has now grown to serve all South Simcoe, having residential and day programs in Bradford and Cookstown, various day programs in Alliston, 10 residential homes and providing support to people in their own apartments.

There have been many remarkable milestones, all made possible by the hard work and dedication of many board members, volunteers, staff and citizens, past and present.

In 1962, the goal was to provide services in the community. In 1999, the goal is to ensure services remain and that persons with developmental handicaps are 'integrated and interconnected' in the life of their community.



# CLASS

COMMUNITY LIVING  
ASSOCIATION  
FOR SOUTH  
SIMCOE

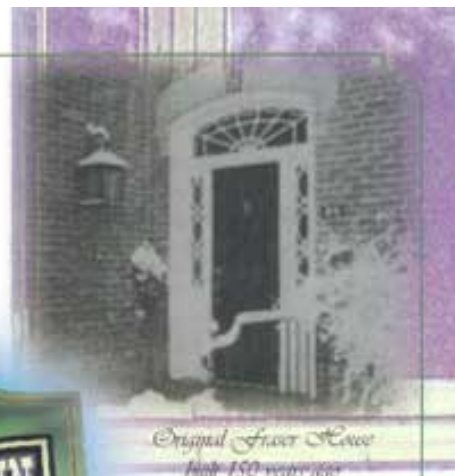


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# McCague's contribution to dairy farming still firmly in place

John Joseph Edward McCague was born February 15, 1899 at Victoria Square in York County. He graduated from Ontario Agricultural College in 1922 and that same year opened the first agricultural representative's office in Alliston. He introduced pure bred livestock and certified seed potatoes to the district, making a great and lasting improvement in the agricultural economy.

In 1928, Jack (as he was known) McCague terminated a successful career as an agricultural representative to become manager of Stevenson Farms, Alliston, which was owned by T.B. Loblaw of the Loblaw foodstore chain. At Stevenson, McCague proceeded to develop outstanding herds of Holsteins, Shorthorns, Yorkshires and silver foxes.

Five years later he purchased a portion of the property, changed the name to Glenafton Farms, and, during the next 25 years, developed one of the most famous Holstein herds in North America. Animals produced on Glenafton Farms, on the 2nd of Essa (Scotch Line), were sold to all parts of the world, and Jack McCague was named a Master Breeder. McCague held many public offices including chairman, Canadian National Livestock Records; president, Canadian Swine Breeders' Association; president, Dairy Farmers of Canada. He served as director,

Canadian National Exhibition and was the first farmer to become a director of a chartered bank when he was named to that position by the Toronto-Dominion Bank.

Characteristically, he played a prominent role in formulating the policies of all organizations with which he was associated. McCague was active in many local community organizations and was named to the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame. He played a big part in the planning and building of the original Stevenson Memorial Hospital and served many terms on the hospital board. He was also chairman of the Banting Memorial High School board during its construction.

Jack, who died two days before his 60th birthday on February

13, 1959, lived with his wife Mae in Alliston. Their five children are George, Brian and Janet (Brayford), who still live in the Alliston area. Joanne (Clayton) lives in Toronto and Katharine (Gilroy) lives in Collingwood. Mae McCague continued to live in Alliston after Jack died, until her death in 1998. ■



## South Simcoe leads way in potato production

*Excerpt from The Alliston Herald, November, 1943*

### The Champion Potato Growers

Now it can be told. Herbert Dunn won the 500 Bushel Club Competition in South Simcoe, producing 516 bushels of Chippewa potatoes on an acre of

land. Oscar Whiteside came second with 512 bushels of Sebagoes per acre, and Nichol Wilson was third with 507 bushels of Chippewa.

Moreover, there were four growers who produced between 400 and 500 bushels to the acre. Thompson Banting was close to the target with 491 bushels per

acre. George Drennan came next with 444 bushels, Warren Mackenzie followed with 433 bushels, and W.H.C. Ruthven with 407. George Wilkinson was just under the 400 mark with 385 1/2 bushels per acre.

These figures, recorded by the judges at lifting time, were kept a state secret and made public at a

special banquet for the growers held in Alliston on the evening of Nov. 3. When the yields were announced they sounded like a fairy tale, for the average production over all Ontario in 1942 was 97 bushels to the acre.

Today, the average is 350 cwt., to the acre for South Simcoe. ■



# FIRE has taken its toll

**B**y the time the new year of 1900 was joyously ushered in, citizens of the towns and villages across Simcoe county had dealt with devastating fires. On May 8, 1891, Alliston was almost completely wiped off the map by a raging fire that broke out in the stables of the Queen's Hotel. Thirty acres were destroyed. Then on October 19, 1892, Beeton's Main Street was set ablaze after a fire started at 1 a.m. in a building owned by A.N. Hipwell.

Similar to the Alliston fire, strong winds didn't help the situation, and by the morning, the town's entire business section had been wiped out. Tottenham lost about 80 buildings in an 1895 fire, and three years later, the schoolhouse burned down. In every case, families helped families. Those who were left homeless were given shelter by neighboring farmers, and were aided through the kind donations brought forth through relief committees.

That gregarious nature is still alive and well in South Simcoe. After a fire devastated the home of a Beeton family back in April, 1999, volunteer firefighters and members of the community poured forth with donations and support. And while the fire brigades of old worked tenaciously to control these fires, technology was limited, as was water supply. In 1999, the latest technology to hit New Tecumseth's fire departments is a thermal imaging system.



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1959 *Walter Davidson arrives from England ...*



1965

*Upon arrival in Canada with only \$15 in his pocket, Walter began working a farm job that dealt primarily with cattle and grain, but eventually moved on to growing potatoes on some 50 acres of land.*



1972

1980

*with only \$15 in his pocket, few could have predicted the enormous success that would eventually become*

## W.D. Potato Limited



1990

*Walter's Company, W.D. Potato Limited, now owns 150 acres for growing potatoes, deals with approximately 70 Growers and purchases over 5,000 acres or approx. 150 million lbs. of potatoes. This is complimented by a modern 53 bin storage facility capable of storing 650,000 cwt. of potatoes from September through June.*

1999

*Today, the organization also includes a staff of some 50 people including five full-time mechanics supported by a new five bay, state-of-the-art maintenance facility to service a fleet of 30 trucks and 65 trailers.*

*Among those involved are Walter's wife Linda, their daughter Kim, and son Paul, each of whom play an integral part in the day-to-day operations of this multi-faceted Business.*

2000

W.D. - Into The New Millennium



# KLOOSTERMAN

## EQUIPMENT LTD



Grimme Plant in Germany

Back in 1979, not many farmers around Everett had seen a potato harvester quite like the one their new neighbors, Willy and Jake Kloosterman, had delivered to them from Grimme Equipment in Germany.

It wasn't long before Jake, who had immigrated to Canada in July, 1979, began teaching his curious neighbors about the Grimme equipment he used back in Holland. As their interest grew, area farmers started requesting Grimme machinery from Jake. By 1982, Kloosterman Farm Equipment was born, with Jake importing his line from Grimme.

As Kloosterman grew, Jake and his supplier, Franz Grimme, became good friends. When Jake became ill Franz was there to lend a hand whenever needed. Jake Kloosterman passed away July 26, 1999, at the age of 50. The company is now owned by Grimme Landmaschinenfabrik, but retains the Kloosterman name.

The Kloosterman's are proud to be included amongst the area families that have made a significant impact on Simcoe County's farming community, and look forward to continuing their role of providing exceptional farm equipment for their customers in the 21st Century.

Member of Grimme Group

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