

# DOORS OPEN

## Doors Open – Huron East

Celebrating the heritage of some sites in Seaforth, Brussels and their neighbourhoods



## *To make your visit more enjoyable*

Please note that some of our Doors Open sites may be drive-by or self-guided on the day you are touring. Get a list of Open sites and Drive-by sites for your visit day from the town hall in Seaforth or from the libraries in Brussels and Seaforth.

If you see a yellow RECTANGULAR Doors Open banner displayed at the entrance like the one at the town hall in Seaforth or at the libraries in Seaforth or Brussels, you are welcome to enter and explore.

Other sites displaying a yellow TRIANGULAR pennant or no insignia at all are for your information and pleasure, but only at a distance. Please do not disturb the occupants.

Some outdoor public sites such as cemeteries are open for viewing but are self-guided.

We have attempted to give you a taste of the wonderful heritage of our area using a sprinkling of sites to visit, view or explore. Each site is pre-viewed by a history of the town, village or hamlet of which it is a part.

We hope you enjoy and come back to visit often.



## *Message from the Mayor*

Welcome to the Huron East Doors Open guide, an expanded keeper version of the history of some of our notable sites and neighborhoods and the heritage of our 50 square mile area.

Remember when you had to memorize Drummond's poems in high school, when you learned about the Huron Tract and had to remember dates about John Galt and the Family Compact and the Canada Company, and the Finian Raids, and MacKenzie's Rebellion at Montgomery Inn, and the Black Donnellys?

Doors Open sites we have highlighted for you in Huron East, this biggest of the municipalities composing Huron County, bring all these memories to life.

We are proud of our heritage and entrepreneurial roots in agriculture and business and pleased to have this opportunity to share them with you.

Enjoy your visit and don't hesitate to say hello. You are sure to get a pleasant welcome.



*Joe Seili, Mayor*



# Message from the Huron East Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development office

Welcome to Huron East and its thriving rural, urban, agricultural and entrepreneurial spirit. We thank Dianne Smith, a researcher and writer in Egmondville, Dick Burgess of Burgess Photography, Seaforth, Heather Boa, a freelance writer in Clinton, Keith Boa a graphic artist in North York, and the many, many volunteers who contributed to the preparation of this brochure.

The over 600 businesses in this municipality of 9,600 in the heart of the most productive agricultural area in eastern Canada look forward to your shun-piking through our rural areas, towns and villages.

Our agricultural, manufacturing and service sectors scattered throughout the area include many thriving home-based businesses who have come to us escaping the rigours of traffic jams and blaring horns and cellular phones.

We have a history and a story to tell, but like many pioneers and rural folk, we take it as it comes. And we welcome you. Enjoy our easy pace, stay awhile and explore, walk our tours, enjoy our picnic areas, our elegant streetscape of Brussels, our designated historic streetscape of Main Street, Seaforth, our B&Bs, accommodations and eateries.

Check us out at [www.huroneast.com](http://www.huroneast.com) and see a copy of our Community Profile. You are in for a pleasant surprise. Our quality of life is way up there. This is a great place to visit, live, work, and play.

Call **519-527-0305** for more information.



## What is Doors Open?

The idea for Doors Open began in Glasgow, Scotland in 1990 and has now spread to over 47 countries worldwide. It is an opportunity to inform and educate local citizens and visitors of the importance of architectural, cultural, and natural heritage sites in their community. The visitor can go to any number of chosen sites in one weekend free of charge.

### Where does Doors Open Ontario fit?

The city of Toronto initiated Doors Open in Canada as its millennium project. In 2002 Toronto listed over 100 properties and hosted thousands of visitors. Also in 2002, the Ontario Heritage Foundation launched a province-wide program. 2005 marks the fourth year of the Ontario-wide celebration. Events take place from April to October. For more information go to the website [www.doorsopenontario.on.ca](http://www.doorsopenontario.on.ca).

### Why have your Doors Open?

- It builds civic pride in local architectural, cultural and natural heritage.
- It draws tourists to a local celebration of historical and living heritage.
- It generates economic and business activity at a community level.
- It fosters alliances and co-operation among a range of community partners.
- It creates a positive climate for growth and partnership in community tourism.
- It raises awareness of the importance of heritage for all types of tourism.

### What kinds of sites will be open?

Sites not normally open to the public as well as familiar sites regularly open to the public qualify. The idea is to offer a variety of architectural, cultural and natural heritage sites. The list can include commercial and industrial buildings, places of worship, museums, civic buildings, historical sites, lookouts, private galleries, heritage gardens, theatres, private homes, cemeteries, etc. The sites do not have to be old to qualify. Sites that contribute to the cultural fabric of a community may also be a part of Doors Open.





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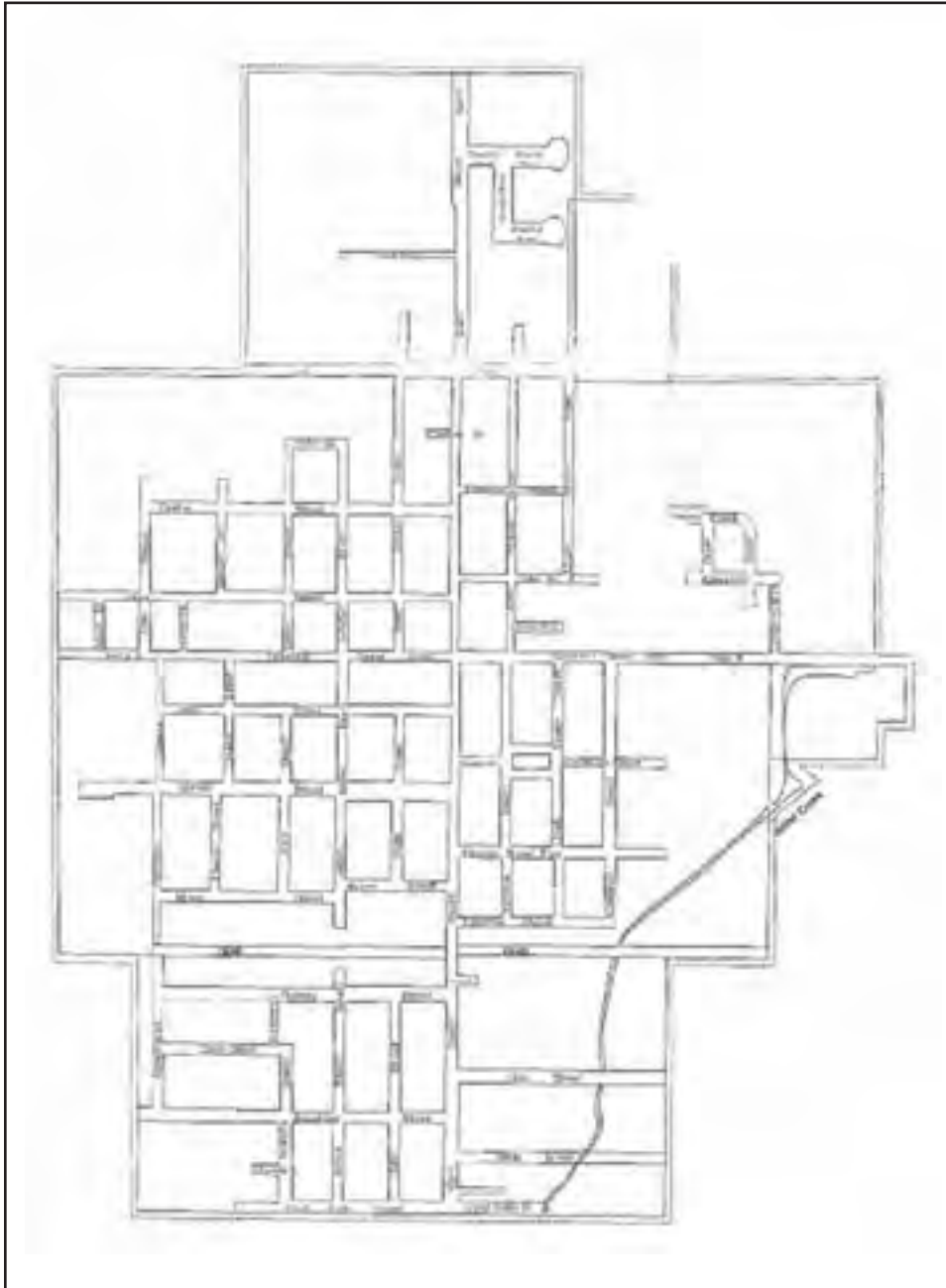
# *The Brussels townsite*



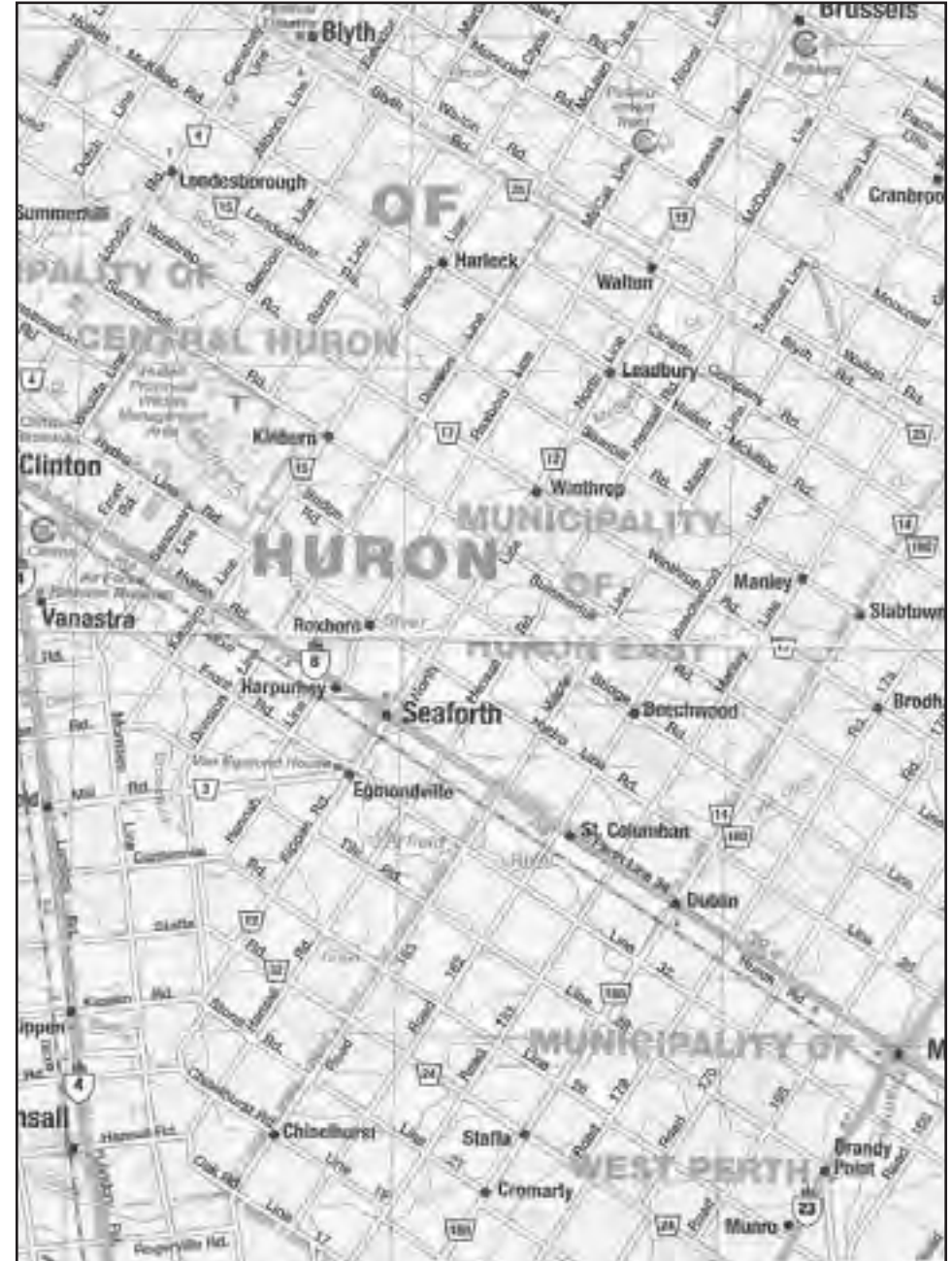
# *The Brussels neighbourhood*



# *The Seaforth townsite*



# *The Seaforth neighbourhood*





# *What is this area called Huron East?*

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The townships of Tuckersmith, McKillop and Grey now form the Municipality of Huron East. They were once part of two areas of land called the Huron Tract and the Queen's Bush. Tuckersmith and McKillop are just two of nine townships which were part of the million-acre block of land that was the Huron Tract. Four townships immediately to the north – Howick, Turnberry, Grey and Morris – were part of a large area of land stretching to Georgian Bay which became known as the Queen's Bush. The British Crown purchased the Huron Tract from the Chippewa First Nation in 1825, and in 1836 negotiated a treaty with the Ojibway and Saugeen First Nations for the Queen's Bush land.

The Canada Company, a land company formed in the United Kingdom, acquired its charter in 1826 and with it gained control of the Huron Tract lands. The first commissioner for the Canada Company was John Galt. From the beginning, Galt saw the Huron Tract as an agricultural settlement with the land owned by individual farmers. Settlers were attracted by the prospect of land. And, the land was and is one of the richest and best areas for farming in the country.

Settlement slowly took shape, first in those townships which were part of the Huron Tract. In 1833 there were about 685 people living here. By 1839 the number of settlers in the Huron Tract had risen to 4,804. The earliest township records, which indicate there was sufficient population there, are for Goderich and Tuckersmith and date to 1835. McKillop became a township in 1842 followed by Grey town-

ship in 1852. Lots were not for sale in Grey Township, however, until 1854.

At a time when prospective emigrants from the UK could choose Canada, the US, Australia or New Zealand, what drew them to Canada and the Huron Tract? The reasons for leaving one's homeland were complicated, but the main one was to gain access to land. The prospect of owning land and the possibility of bettering oneself financially were powerful inducements. Owning land changed a man's social and economic status and offered security and independence, all of which the average man found hard to come by in the United Kingdom and Europe. In Scotland in the 1830s, many people, whether they were tenant farmers, farmhands, or weavers, were displaced from their traditional means of employment. Little social mobility and a general lack of other employment in their homeland left many with few alternatives. In the 1840s, the famine in Ireland forced many people to leave. However, most emigrants likely came to Canada by themselves, paying their own costs out of often modest savings. Acquiring land was made easier in 1842 when the Canada Company began a leasehold system whereby settlers had ten years to pay for the land.

Emigrants relied on letters home from relatives already in Canada, as well as on the numerous guidebooks and pamphlets offering advice. Some guides were more reliable than others. The best were written by people who had actually lived in the area, like Major Samuel Strickland or Robert McDougall. For example, in his *The Emigrant's Guide* the North America published in 1841, McDougall tries to provide a practical background for Highland Scots. Prospective emigrants had to be wary of advertising propaganda

put about by immigration agents, land companies, and the Canadian government.

The largest group of settlers to Huron County were from Scotland, with the second largest group coming from other parts of Canada. The third largest group of settlers came from Ireland, followed by England, Wales, and the United States. There were also some German settlers.

In the 1860s Huron County began to emerge from its pioneer phase. One important factor was the railways, the first being the Buffalo and Lake Huron line completed in 1858. Railways gave direct access to domestic and export markets in the United States. Another change was the switch from oxen to machinery and horsepower. Various farm implements – light carriages, vehicles for transport, reapers and mowers, rakes, threshing and fanning mills, plows and harrows – were made locally. Every settlement had one or more carriage and wagon-making shops, many blacksmith shops, and many harness makers. The advent of the threshing machine and the steam engine brought more change.

The buildings reflect the changes that occurred from the early days of settlement and over the years as hamlets grew into villages or towns. The first crude log shanty was replaced as soon as possible by a more substantial log house. At a later date, the log house may have been covered by wood, brick or stone. If finances allowed, it may have been replaced by a frame, brick, or stone house. In 1841 log dwellings still accounted for 62% of the total housing but this number had dropped to 47% by 1861. Log churches were replaced by larger frame structures which in turn were replaced by larger and grander brick churches. Earlier frame stores were replaced by brick store blocks.



# Seaforth

The town of Seaforth was once an inferior tract of land called the Guide Board Swamp, a place people passed through on their way to somewhere else. At the “four corners” where the Huron Road intersected what was to be Main Street, a fingerboard on a post pointed the way and gave the mileage to Egmondville, Ainleyville and Goderich. The neighbouring hamlets of Egmondville and Harpurhey were growing and prospering. The prospect of a railway line drew the interest of land speculators to the area in the early 1850s. When the Buffalo, Brantford and Goderich Railroad whistled through in 1858, the future prospects of all three hamlets changed.

In the early 1840s, Andrew Steene was the first settler to the area, living in a log cabin at the corner of Huron Road and what would be the Main Street. A large part of the land south of here was owned by Anthony Van Egmond, his payment for work he had done for The Canada Company. However, after his death in 1841, the land was offered at a sheriff’s sale. Eventually, it came to be owned by Christopher Sparling. It was he who persuaded the Buffalo, Brantford & Goderich Railway (later the Buffalo & Lake Huron) to buy their right-of-way through his property.

Shortly after the railway right-of-way was purchased, three lawyers and land speculators from the east, Patton, Bernard and Le Froy, bought land from Christopher Sparling. They at once had the whole lot surveyed into a town plot and had it registered as Seaforth. They also cinched the deal for the location of a railway station in Seaforth, offering land and



Main Street looking south, June 1878.

agreeing to build the station at their cost. Soon after, businesses moved from Egmondville into Seaforth as they had begun to from Harpurhey. By the 1860s the town could boast of several retail businesses, a doctor, a blacksmith, a post office, several hotels, a wagonmaker, and a number of firms engaged in the building trades and in the buying and selling of grain.

The grain trade was very important to the prosperity of the town. Seaforth was a noted grain-buying centre, and the main outlet for the northern cereal crop, to a distance of 50 miles. At one time, firms were handling a million-dollars worth of wheat each season. Belden’s *1879 Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Huron, Ontario* noted that the amount of wheat handled at this point was estimated as greater (from first producers) than at any point in Ontario, Toronto being no exception.

With grain coming in by the thousands of bushels, the buyers needed flour mills and storehouses. These



Seaforth Milling Co. operated by Stewart Bros. John Stewart was one of several grain buyers who had produce going out and merchandise coming in daily by rail.

were built near the railway tracks. The Seaforth Roller Mill, better known as the “Red Mill,” was a 3-storey brick mill on the southeast corner of Huron and Jarvis streets. It burned some time in the 1890s. Another large flour mill was erected on Crombie’s mill property by William Shearson in 1868. It was a 4-storey brick building which changed ownership several times over the years, becoming Topnotch Feeds in 1953.



At the G.T.R. station during the Old Boys’ Reunion of 1914. Thompson Oatmeal Mills is in the background.





Coleman & Gouinlock Salt Works.

Another industry that spurred the growth of Seaforth was salt. Salt was discovered here in 1868. In a few years, three extensive salt works were built—Seaforth Salt Works (also called Coleman & Gouinlock Salt Works), Eclipse Salt Works and Merchant Salt Company. The pure salt brine was pumped to the surface and into tanks which held enough liquid for 48-hours boiling. The boiling was done in sheds called salt blocks. The resulting salt was packed in barrels, ready for shipment. The largest salt works, Seaforth Salt Works, with three salt blocks in operation by 1876, could produce 500 barrels of salt a day.

The salt business created a need for sawmills, cooperage shops and stave factories, and these were built near each salt works. In Coleman & Gouinlock's



The employees of The Robert Bell Engine & Thresher Co. Limited.

three salt blocks, sawmill and cooperage, 60 to 75 men were regularly employed.

Foundries played an important part in the early days. As early as 1863, there was a foundry on Main Street and, by 1866, Zapfe and McCallum were making farm implements here as well as doing regular foundry work. Coleman's Foundry & Machine Shop, built in the early 1870s near the Salt Works, was bought by Robert Bell and John Finlayson in 1899. In 1903, the Robert Bell Engine & Threshing Co. was formed. Threshing machines, both portable and traction, were made in large numbers here. The company also made high and low pressure boilers. In 1915 the company was given a contract to aid war munitions production during WWI.

Seaforth had a number of other factories and "works." In the early 1870s, W. Scott Robertson had a cheese factory at the end of north Main Street. By 1872, Benjamin Shantz had built the first flax mill at the corner of Coleman Street and Huron Road. Broadfoot & Box Furniture Factory employed 15 workmen by 1878 in their factory at Market and Jarvis streets (*see the related story*). In 1874, Pillman and Co. Carriage Factory was established near the south end of east Main Street, and employed about 10 men in the making of buggies and carriages. Just at the southern edge of Seaforth there was the A.G. Van Egmond Woolen Mills (*see the story about Egmondville*).

The first newspaper in Seaforth was *The Express*, started by C.H. Hull around 1860. By 1869, there was another paper, *The Seaforth Expositor*, owned and edited by a duo named Penton and Colborne who soon sold out to Luxton and Ross. (William F. Luxton went on to found *The Winnipeg Free Press* and George W. Ross became premier of Ontario.) When the brothers McLean, Alan and Murdo Y., bought the newspaper in December of 1870, they changed the name to *The Huron Expositor*. By 1876, there was a rival weekly, *The Seaforth Sun*. Its name was changed to *The Seaforth News* in 1904 and was published until 1962.

There were a number of early shops or businesses along Huron Road (Goderich Street). Sam Stark had his home and shoe shop here in the late 1840s. In the 1860s, Graham Williamson had a blacksmith shop and made plows. Edward Cash, a grain buyer and merchant, had moved his home and store, "The Ontario House," in from Harpurhey. Lumsden's drug store and Hickson's general store were also here along the southwest side of the street.



This building was erected in 1883 by John Dorsey on Goderich Street just east of Main. Robert and Frank Devereaux ran their carriage and blacksmith shop here until it was turned into a garage in 1929.



The Expositor Office on John St., before 1882. A McLean family member ran the newspaper until 1982.



The Royal Hotel at the southwest corner of Goderich and Main streets. Robert Carmichael built the first frame hotel here in 1860. A brick “Mansion House” replaced it in 1869.

On the east side, north of what was for many years – and is again – the Queen’s Hotel, James Bonthron had a dry goods and grocery store in the 1860s. Beside it was William Watson’s insurance office. Robert



The first hotel here was The Albert Edward or Downey House. Downey’s Hall was the location of some of the first church services. In 1877, The Queen’s Hotel opened, replacing The British Hotel which had burnt in the 1876 fire.

Tait had a saddler’s shop beside the present Orange Hall.

On January 1, 1875 Seaforth was incorporated as a town of about 2,060 people. Not long after, however, the town faced a threat common to all towns and villages of the time, fire. In September of 1876, fire ravaged much of the business district. But, within two years, the town was rebuilt with many of the fine brick blocks still in use today. See, for example, the stories on the Cardno Block, the Kidd Block, Box Furniture, Sills Home Hardware and Nifty Korners.

South of the hotel, Robert Carmichael built two frame stores in 1864, occupied at that time by Fred Veale and H.W. McCann. The stores burned in 1876, but it was not until 1895 that Carmichael replaced them with the red brick, two-storey building (A). At the time the photograph at right was taken, the stores were occupied by Fred Gale’s Meat Market and W.H. Willis Boots & Shoes. Today the building is occupied by The Sewing Centre and The Huron Expositor.



Jamieson’s “Golden Lion” dry-goods store, and the I.O.O.F. above, at 58 Main Street. Next door is Grieg & MacDonald clothiers. The photograph was taken c. 1900. Today the stores are occupied by Seaforth Automotive Parts and Dr. Feelgood’s.



A – This block shows superb craftsmanship in the frieze brickwork.



B – In about 1900, the stores were occupied by Richard-son & McInnis, butchers, and W.R. Counter, Jeweler.

In 1984 the downtown core was designat- ed a Heritage Conservation District. As well as the sites already noted, see the stories on: the Town Hall, Carnegie Public Library, the Post Office, the churches, Maplewood and Seaforth Manors, Dick House, Commercial Hotel, CIBC, Lorne Villa, Lavoie House, Scott House, Victoria Park, the Lawn Bowl- ing Greens, the Seaforth Golf & Country Club, and Vincent Farm Equipment.



# Town Hall

Location: 72 Main St. South, Seaforth, Ontario  
Year built: 1893-1894

Seaforth Town Hall, built in 1893-94, is a fine example of late 19th-century civic architecture. The style is a simple version of Romanesque Revival, commonly used for administration buildings. A key feature is the central tower projected out from the main part of the building. The front entrance, hidden beneath the gabled porch, has a tall round-arched opening. The round arch is echoed in the windows and window hoods, the original doorway opening to the fire hall, and in louvered windows at the top of the tower. Subtle detail was added to the red brick walls in the raised banding and decorative panels.

The building originally housed the fire hall on the main floor, town offices on the second floor, and an auditorium with stage on the third. The Mechanics' Institute also had a home in the Town Hall.

A *Huron Expositor* article written May 4, 1894 had this to say about the new Town Hall: "The building, not anything elaborate, is showy enough for a town of this size and it will be serviceable as if it cost three times the money. In fact, we are safe in saying the town has got good value for every dollar spent. The exterior of the building is very good, while the interior could not be better arranged for convenience and comfort, and it will supply the requirements of the town for a great many years to come. The rooms are large, airy and conveniently situated, and there is ample accommodation for every department of the town's municipal machinery." An earlier *Huron Expositor* article of March 2, 1894 remarked on the magnificent view to be had from the bell tower: "On a bright, clear day, Clinton can be seen with the naked eye, and the whole



Town Hall when newly built c. 1900.

surrounding country is spread out below one like a map."

The original Town Hall was in the Market building at the intersection of Market and Jarvis Streets. The Market House was a large two-storey frame structure built in 1866. It was used as town hall, fire hall, drill hall, council chamber, and market building with the town scales. To save money on rent, the town

clerk's office moved from Market House in February 1882. On August 23, 1891 the Market House burnt. Although arson was suspected and a \$300 reward offered, it was never claimed. The unique position of the Market House in the intersection of the two roads was lost when the road was changed soon after, closing the Market Square part of Jarvis Street.

In 1892, the citizens decided on a location for a new town hall, but heated debate continued over the type and cost of the building to build. A vote of the ratepayers taken in March 1893 decided for a three-storey over a two-storey hall. Young & Causey of Stratford won out over local bidders and was awarded the contract in April, at an estimated cost of \$8,250. The finished cost was closer to \$10,000.

A small building was added to the north end of the original building in 1955, the red brick extension between the Town Hall and the next store, to house the police station. In 1957, the fire hall was converted to the town Clerk's Office, Council Chambers and PUC office, and the front porch was removed. These renovations reportedly cost almost as much as the original building. The front porch, with wheelchair accessibility built in, was reconstructed in 1989. Further changes were made to the interior after Seaforth Town Hall became the hub of the amalgamated municipality of Huron East. The building now houses municipal office, Council Chambers, and the Seaforth & Area Museum.



Seaforth's firefighters assembled outside the Town Hall in 1914.



# Box Furniture

Location: 20 Main St. South, Seaforth, Ontario  
Year built: 1877

*S*ome to Box Furniture for many years now, this 2-storey yellow brick block was built in 1877 for William M. Robertson. In 1863, William M. Robertson and Co. were hardware merchants, with W.O. Reid as manager. They conducted business in a frame building on part of this site until moving to another location on Main Street. After the fire of 1876, Robertson bought the property and built “the finest warehouse in town,” a large 35’x126’ (11x38 m) block with basement and two flats or apartments. Later, it was here that Reid & Wilson’s “Sign of the Circular Saw” Hardware carried on business for many years.

Box Furniture has its roots in the early days of furniture manufacturing in Ontario. *Sutherland’s County of Huron Gazetteer and General Directory for 1869-70* notes: “Messrs. Broadfoot & Gray’s planing mill, door, sash and blind factory was established in 1863,

their buildings are frame, 55’x50’, two stories high, a fifteen horse power engine is used and twelve hands employed in the making of doors, sash, blinds, planing, etc., building material of all kinds can be here supplied.” Isabelle Campbell in her *Story of Seaforth* says that in 1866, the same year the Market House was built, John H. Broadfoot began a planing mill nearby, at the northeast corner of Market and Jarvis Streets. Adam Gray was a partner from 1869 to 1871. It was in 1876 that William T. Box joined the business. By 1878, they had a planing mill and a 2-storey factory. The first floor of the factory was filled with furniture of their own making while the upstairs was used for finishing, upholstery and a general workroom. The business employed 15 men. The business became Broadfoot & Box Furniture Factory as pictured in Belden’s *1879 Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Huron Ontario*.

1883 was a good year for Broadfoot & Box: in February the company received an order from Winnipeg



Etching from Belden’s 1879 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Huron* showing the Cabinet Shop & Furniture Store of Broadfoot & Box, Seaforth, Ont. And the Planing Mill Sash Door & Blind Factory of J.H. Broadfoot, Seaforth, Ont.

for over \$10,000 of doors, window sashes, and other manufactured building materials. A large white brick warehouse and finishing rooms were built in 1886 and the old warehouse was removed to a lot across the street. The business expanded again in 1887 to include a partner in Manitoba, W.F. Wilson.

The furniture manufacturing industry in Ontario underwent a period of consolidation. In 1901, the complete holdings of the Broadfoot & Box Company were purchased by the Canadian Furniture Manufacturers based in Woodstock.

On the existing building you can see that the decorative brickwork and window labels of the upper façade are the same design as that of neighbouring buildings to the north. The upper cornice with decorative brackets and the storefront cornice with dentils are part of the extensive restoration work done in 1990.

At one time a silent movie theatre, The Strand, was in part of the store. For many years now, Box Furniture has been owned and operated by Gary Bettles.



Reid & Wilson’s “Sign of the Circular Saw”.



Broadfoot & Box Furniture Co. Warerooms.

# Cardno Block

Location: 39 Main St. South, Seaforth, Ontario  
Year built: 1877

Cardno Block was built in 1877, at a time when Seaforth was at an economic peak, and soon after the fire of 1876 had destroyed much of Main Street. It is the largest block in the town built in an eclectic Second Empire style. Belden's 1879 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Huron Ontario* describes Cardno Block: "In it is located the celebrated Cardno Music Hall. The building is of white brick, two full storeys, besides basement and mansard; it is of very handsome design with brown stone trimmings, and slate-covered. The central part is surmounted by a beautiful tower of rectangular superficies, with truncated roof in two courses, in the upper one of which are circular openings for clock-dial, and the whole is crowned by wrought iron cresting resting on an ornate cornice, adding materially to the general effect. Mr. Cardno has placed, at great expense, a public clock in this tower, and a handsome or more conspicuous one is not to be seen in any city or town in the country. The works are from a celebrated Boston manufacturer, and cost about \$1,000, packed and ready for shipment; and the adjusting and other necessary works in connection with its erection cost an additional \$1,000. The whole structure cost over \$30,000 and is lighted throughout with gas manufactured on the premises."

Cardno Music Hall opened on December 15, 1877. The large main ballroom has a 23' (7.7 m) ceiling and a stage with a handpainted curtain. The central section of the curtain depicts a fisherman in a boat on a stream, a castle in the background. It is bordered by advertisements for local businesses. The curtain was painted by Will Clarke, a scenic artist from Clipper, New York.

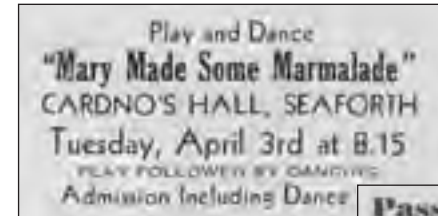


Cardno Block c. 1900.

There are also dressing rooms and a banquet hall. The long extended wooden benches that were used to seat the audience made set-up easy for a variety of functions.

Advertisements in the *Huron Expositor* announced entertainments such as a "grand dramatic comedy" or an "opera company" or a "vaudeville show" to take place at Cardno Music Hall.

Patriotic concerts were given during World War I, some led by Grace McFaul Mullen, a Seaforth native



Tickets for events held at Cardno Music Hall.

and singer who lived in the Lorne Villa. The Hall was a gathering place for events sponsored by local service groups and a forum from which politicians could address their platform for upcoming elections.

Alexander Cardno emigrated from Scotland in 1852, coming to Seaforth in 1862. He opened a bakery, the first in Seaforth. He was also a provisions dealer, a pork packer, and a grocery store owner, and he ran a clothing and tailoring business.

When first built, Cardno Block had five stores. Two housed Cardno's bakery and the grocery store. A.G. McDougall & Co., general merchants, Laidlaw & Fairley, grocers, and Hoffman Bros. had the other three stores.



Two of the men here are Mr. Fairley, centre, and Mr. Haxby, right. James C. Laidlaw moved his store from Harpurhey to Seaforth. He had his store in the Dickson Block in 1869, moving into the centre store of Cardno Block in 1877.

# Post Office

Location: 52 Main St. South, Seaforth, Ontario  
Year built: 1911-1913

Seaforth Post Office exhibits features of Romanesque Revival architecture: the square clock tower and the round-headed windows, echoed by the tower cornice. It was built on a standard plan designed by architects at the Department of Public Works. The standard plan was for a corner lot, but no suitable one was to be had in Seaforth, so the plan was modified placing the tower to the side of the front. The main section is a 2½-storey rectangle with mansard roof.

The Department of Public Works also used a standard plan for the layout and construction of its post office buildings. Most post offices built between 1897 and 1914 were constructed of brick on stone foundations with a wooden framing system, and lath and plaster walls. The floors and stairs were wood, except for the concrete basement floor and tile bathroom floor. The interior is unadorned, apart from the simple, moulded plaster cornice.

In the main post office area. The main floor was usually left as a large open space for the post office proper. All post office buildings had a caretaker's apartment located on the top floor.

Despite the restrictions posed by a standard design, individual buildings were tailored to their surroundings. Seaforth Post Office was not only adapted to the site and the scale of the buildings around it, but to the Second Empire design of the Cardno Block directly across the street, and the town hall further down Main Street. The Post Office has a balanced façade and a projecting central tower in keeping with the main features of these two buildings.

The Post Office was built during a time of economic prosperity. Seaforth was one among many



Note the rusticated stone foundation and the use of the white stone in the banding.

small southern Ontario towns to prosper from a national shift toward an economy base more on industry and manufacturing. Seaforth had many things to recommend it for the site of a new post office building. It was on a direct railway line between the two busy ports of Goderich and Buffalo. The transportation of goods was a main income source for the town, goods such as the products of its salt wells, woolen, flour and flax mills, sawmill, foundry and cabinet factory. It was an important market town and had been a postal station for many years. There were two telegraph offices and two daily newspapers. As an outpost of Goderich, Seaforth collected customs revenues as well as post office revenues.

Seaforth applied to the federal government for a post office and customs building in 1908. The gov-

ernment purchased the land on February 8, 1909 at a cost of \$4,000 and the contract to build was signed July 4, 1911. The building was completed in 1913.

The first post office in Seaforth was opened on December 1, 1859 with Alfred M. Patton as postmaster. There is no record of its location. From 1863 to 1869, the post office was in the James Dickson Block, the first brick store built in Seaforth at the corner of Main and St. John Streets. In late 1869 the post office was moved south on Main Street to the north store of the newly built Samuel Dickson Block where it was until 1913.

Since the 1860s, various stage routes were used to deliver mail. One of the earliest was a daily stage route from Seaforth to Wroxeter leaving Seaforth at 4 pm and arriving in Wroxeter at 10 pm; the return trip was made the next day. In the 1870s, if the postmaster could not deliver a letter due to an inadequate or illegible address, he would have a list of names published in the local newspaper.

Rural Route service – R.R. #1 Seaforth – was introduced in 1909. Horse-drawn vehicles were in use into the 1930s, weathering the elements to deliver mail on the rural routes.



The Post Office when it was located in the Samuel Dickson Block at 87 Main St. South, now home to L.J. LaPlante, Optometrist.



# St. Thomas Anglican Church

Location: 5 John Street, Seaforth, Ontario

Year built: 1863

**B**uilt in 1863, this frame and clapboard-sided building with tower and spire is a fine example of Carpenter's Gothic architecture. Carpenter's Gothic is a Canadian adaptation in wood of European stone architecture. In St. Thomas Anglican Church only the windows are Gothic, capped on the exterior with wooden mouldings that accentuate the Gothic design. Traces of Greek Revival detailing can be seen in the tower and beside the main door. The main entrance door mixes Greek Revival and Gothic details. The arched window above the door shows a simple version of the complex leading pattern known as switch line tracery, a pattern of intersecting curved lines seen in the windows of older Gothic churches.

The window mouldings rest on simple pilasters, which are Greek Revival in style. The narrower lancet window above the main door adds to the Gothic effect. The 50' (15 metre) tower is capped by an eight-sided belfry and spire. The tower also has brackets; the dentils under the brackets are repeated under the eaves of the main roof.

The nave or central section of the church, with tower and spire, was built in 1863. The chancel, the space reserved

for clergy and choir, was built in 1872. Two wings were added to the north and south sides in 1878 to provide more seating for a congregation that had grown to 121 people. The ceiling was also raised to its present height at this time. The church then had three front entrances, until 1923 when the two side ones were replaced by windows.

In the early days before a church building was erected, about 1859, Rev. Cresswell of Seaforth, Rev. James Carmichael of Clinton, and Rev. J.C. Des Barres used their influence to have services held every Sunday at Downey's Hall (now the Queen's Hotel) or Carmichael's Hotel (now Royal Apartments) in Sea-



The Old Church with side wings and three entrances c. 1878.



Building the Church in 1863.

Photo: Public Archives of Canada



Children of the Church School, c. 1900.

forth. They did so for three years. Services were held at Carmichael's Hotel in winter and in Thomas Adams' barn on Goderich Street West in the summer.

St. Thomas Anglican Church was the first permanent place of worship built in Seaforth. A newspaper article of March 17, 1877 notes: "The Church is actually a strange mixture of Gothic and Greek Architecture ... The inside of the Church was roughly finished and seating consisted of plain boards on blocks brought from Mr. Adams' bush. Much of the work was done by the men of the congregation, and the people were proud of their new Church, for at long last, their dream became a reality."

Reverend C.C. Johnston was appointed the permanent Rector of St. Thomas Anglican Church in 1864, staying until 1870.

In 1885, the congregation purchased, and moved, the old Methodist Episcopal Church building for use as a parish hall. A passageway was built between the two buildings in 1913.

The first memorial window was installed in 1890. Over the years, the plain windows have been replaced by stained glass memorial windows.

The Church School has long been an important part of the church for training the children in the Scriptures and in Anglican worship.

# Maplewood Manor

Location: 13 Church Street, Seaforth, Ontario

Year built: 1867

The façade of this retirement residence still reflects the school it once was. The original rectangular school building was built in 1867, a year before the founding of the village of Seaforth. The south wing was added in 1872 and the north wing in 1874, giving the building its symmetrical “T” plan. The balanced front façade is distinguished by the gabled front projection with its three-storey projecting bay. A strong vertical axis is evident beginning at the double doors with high transom, the Palladian window of the second storey, and the louvered attic opening and pedimented roof of the third. The centre section is flanked by two further recessed sections each equally proportioned.

The original six-over-six windows of the lower storey were replaced by modern ones. The 2nd-storey windows are all round-headed six-over-six windows characteristic of the Italianate style of architecture popular in Canada West during the 1835-1870 period.

The building is set on a coursed fieldstone foundation with Flemish bond, buff (or white) brick walls. The brick was made locally at the Sproat’s brickyard. At one time, the brick was painted barn red and ivy was planted to cover the walls and soften the colour.

The original 1867 school had two rooms. Archibald Dewar was the first principal.

There were over 200 pupils. A growing school population necessitated the later additions to the building. By 1872 there were five teachers on staff. And, by 1874, there were 592 children of school age, making it necessary to add the extra wing and hire two more teachers. Some time later, yet another addition made to the back of the building completed the eight-room school.

The town’s children of all ages were taught at Seaforth Public School until 1879 when a secondary school was opened. A Separate School was built in 1902.

Kindergarten was introduced in 1910 with Miss Sarabel McLean as the teacher. She was the daughter of Murdo Y. McLean, publisher of the *Huron Expositor* at the time.

Leonard McFaul was principal for 26 years from 1875 to 1901. Isabelle Campbell in *The Story of Seaforth* relates this story about him: “Leonard McFaul, the principal with the shining boots, laid a solid foun-



A view of the south side with the addition made in 1872. Note the central front door.

ation and gave unstintingly of his time for 26 years. For many years he walked in daily two and a half miles through the winter storms and summer rains from his home in McKillop. Despite this long walk, no pupil ever saw his principal with dusty boots. Just as his boots showed something of his nature and his thoroughness, so did these qualities extend into his school work.” Leonard McFaul was the original owner of Lorne Villa Mansion.

When a new Seaforth Public School was opened in 1953, the old school building was used for other purposes. It was sold to Seaforth Shoes Ltd. Later, it remained empty for a time before being purchased and converted to its present use as Maplewood Manor Retirement Residence. In 1985, Maplewood Manor was designated as a heritage building.

# Lorne Villa Mansion

Location: 90 Goderich St. West, Seaforth, Ontario

Year built: 1886-1890

Lorne Villa Mansion is an example of the “nameless vernacular” style of late Victorian architecture. The style was called vernacular because it differed from community to community depending on the creativity of the individual builder and it drew on design features from architectural styles popular at the time. The Lorne Villa Mansion was built between 1886 and 1890. The Villa illustrates many of the style’s basic design features: a two-storey semi-circular bay, two second-storey gable roofs with exposed woodwork, a large verandah, large brackets, and a gable roof over the front entrance.

The builder of Lorne Villa Mansion, Phillip Sparling, emphasized the structure of the two gable roofs on the upper storey rather than resorting to applied decoration. Each gable was treated individually. The one on the right is accentuated by the simple A-shaped truss while the larger gable houses a small balcony. The railing of the balcony has its centre two vertical posts that extend to the roof and two large brackets beneath. It illustrates the builder’s use of symmetry and balance on an overall asymmetrical form, characteristic of this style. A complex roofline was created by the three gable roofs of progressively greater height.

The main floor of the house originally had two large formal parlours, a library, dining room, and, in the back and in the basement, kitchens and work rooms. A wide grand staircase to the second floor led to at least three bedrooms and an indoor bathroom with running water – a luxury and rarity at the time. The attic was left unfinished.

Lorne Villa Mansion was named after the Mar-



The Villa with its coach house at right built in 1884.

quis of Lorne, Governor General of Canada from 1878 to 1883. The house was built for Leonard McFaul, who was the son of a United Empire Loyalist. In 1875, McFaul was the principal of the Seaforth Public School. See the story of Maplewood Manor, the former Seaforth Public School, for more about Leonard McFaul.

Edward McFaul, Leonard’s brother, ran an extensive dry goods business with nephew, John McTavish. The white brick building with red brick accents was built in 1872 by C.H. Cull. It was remodeled in 1881 and large plate-glass lights were placed in the front window, the first used in Seaforth. The photographs of McFaul’s dry goods store were taken c. 1900.

Leonard, and his wife, Grace Henderson, had two children, a son John and a daughter Grace. Grace McFaul Mullen performed for the 1918 Victory con-

cert at Cardno Music Hall. She and her husband, James Mullen, who was manager of the Bank of Commerce in Seaforth at the time, lived in the house after 1916 (*see the related story about the CIBC*).

John McFaul’s daughter, Mabel Grace Crouch, recalled fond memories of visits to her grandparent’s home as a child. In the early 1970s, Mabel and her husband, Stewart Crouch, converted the Villa into five apartments. Five more apartments were added by later owners. The Lorne Villa is now home to the Canadian Mental Health Association.





# Lavoie House

Location: 116 Goderich St. West, Seaforth, Ontario

Year built: c. 1875

**B**uilt in c. 1875, the Lavoie House is a fine example of Queen Anne Revival architecture. The corner tower is a hallmark of this style. Here there is a small, square tower tucked into an inside corner. The verandah wrapping around two or three sides of a house is another feature of the style. Other features to note in Lavoie House are the asymmetry of the design, the varied rooflines, the columned balcony built into the front gable, the variety of window placement and size, and the extensive use of wood. Numerous stained glass windows can be found throughout the house, including a portrait window of the Canadian poet, William Henry Drummond, visible from the side street. The origins of the portrait window remains a mystery.

Queen Anne Revival houses were often built for wealthy merchants. It is unclear who had the Lavoie House built, but it was perhaps the first owner of the property listed on Land Registry records, Alex Davidson. He came to Huron County, Canada from Ireland in 1872. He was the owner and proprietor of the Commercial Hotel by 1874 and was still the owner in 1895 when the hotel burned. He rebuilt the existing cement block Commercial Hotel, which was re-opened on October 21, 1895. Davidson does not appear to have lived long in the house, however, having sold the property in 1878.

Thomas Coventry bought the house in 1880. He sold it in 1885 to his brother, John, in trust for his wife, Annie, who owned it until it was sold again in 1902.

Henry Edge purchased the house in 1907. Henry is listed in the 1881 Census of Canada as a child of



Lavoie House has many features of the Queen Anne Revival style of late Victorian architecture.

12 resident in Seaforth, Huron Centre, Ontario, the son of William and Frances Edge. He was a builder himself and lived in the house for 19 years.

Henry Edge sold the house to Malcolm McKeller. McKeller was the longest resident of the house, living here until his death in 1974.

Malcolm or “Mack” McKeller was a familiar sight



on Main Street, first with his horse “Dobbin” and later with his bicycle, working as an Express Agent. He made his first appearance on February 15, 1908, and continued on the job until he retired October 16, 1965, just four months short of his 58th birthday. McKeller was in charge of the Seaforth Custom Office some time after 1935.

## Doth Then The World Go Thus?

Doth then the world go thus? doth all thus move?  
Is this the justice which on earth we find?  
Is this that firm decree which all doth bind?  
Are these your influences, Powers above?  
Those souls, which vice's moody mists most blind,  
Blind Fortune, blindly, most their friend doth prove;  
And they who thee, poor idol Virtue! love,  
Ply like a feather tossed by storm and wind.  
Ah! if a Providence doth sway  
this all,  
Why should best minds groan  
under most distress?  
Or why should pride humility  
make thrall,  
And injuries the innocent  
oppress?  
Heavens! hinder, stop this fate;  
or grant a time  
When good may have,  
as well as bad,  
their prime!



# Carnegie Public Library

Location: 108 Main St. South, Seaforth, Ontario

Year built: 1913

Seaforth's Carnegie Public Library was built in 1912-13 with \$10,000 grant money from the Carnegie Foundation. Although the exterior designs of Carnegie libraries were not dictated by condition of the grant, they do have common elements, primarily based on Beaux-Artes ideas of symmetry and design used for civic buildings like town halls, post offices and banks in Ontario from the 1880s. Most architects followed this classical style, which included an exposed basement, a centrally located main entrance, a classically-columned portico, and a symmetrical arrangement of windows.

John Finlayson was the architect-builder of Seaforth's Carnegie Public Library. He waived his fee so the town was able to purchase the lot at the corner of Main and George Streets. Harry (or Henry) Edge, who lived in what is now the Lavoie House, began work on the building in 1912.

James Bertram, who oversaw the Andrew Carnegie Foundation grants program, had a personal tie to Seaforth; his wife, Janet Ewing, was a native of Seaforth (Bertram and his wife are buried in the Maitlandbank Cemetery.)

Libraries in Ontario evolved in the 1850s from subscription or Mechanics' Institute libraries. Seaforth Mechanics' Institute and Library Association was incorporated in 1869, having moved to Seaforth from Harpurhey. It had a membership of 200. From 1878 on, the Mechanics' Institute provided books and a reading room with billiards and games at the back



The ivy-covered façade of Seaforth Carnegie Library.

of the reading room. Few small town libraries had permanent facilities at this time. The Free Libraries Act was passed in 1882. The Mechanics' Institute Library was renamed the Seaforth Public Library. In 1894, the library moved to a room in the newly completed Town Hall.

William F. Luxton, who was for a short time between 1869-70 the publisher of the *Seaforth Expositor*, was the librarian for the Mechanics' Institute and Library Association. William Moore followed Luxton as librarian and held office for many years. The next librarian, John Thompson, died at age 30 of typhoid. On September 17, 1907, his sister, Greta Thompson, who had assisted him, took his place. She continued in the job for the next 50 years.

Between 1901 and 1923, a total of 125 Carnegie libraries were built in Canada, 111 of them in Ontario. On April 1912, Seaforth received promise of a

grant from Carnegie Foundation.

In 1967, the Seaforth Public Library joined the Huron County Library which serves all municipalities in Huron County from 11 main branch libraries. Seaforth Public Library is a major reference centre popular with local history and genealogy researchers.

Renovations were made to the building in 1984, and again in 1995, modernizing it and adding wheelchair accessibility. Today, the library has a Community Access Program (CAP) providing free internet training and access, and a cybercamp for kids.



The library once had a tennis court on the side lawn. When this photograph was taken the Main Street was bricked.

# Kidd Block

Location: 15 Main St. South, Seaforth, Ontario  
Year built: 1878

In 1878, John Kidd replaced the store he had lost in the 1876 fire with a new 2½-storey yellow brick building. John Kidd carried on his hardware business in the new building. Before this, Arthur Veale had occupied the original store, and after him, George Dent had a general store at this location. By 1900, a hardware business was being operated here by S. Mullett and Jackson. Hildebrand Paint & Paper operated a home decorating and floral business here for many years. In recent years, Hildebrand Paint & Paper moved next door. The original Kidd building was taken over by Blooms n' Rooms and Tony Arts Financial.



The original 1878 hardware store Kidd's Hardware Depot.



S. Mullett & Jackson's Hardware in A Souvenir of Seaforth, c. 1900.

Some of the architectural details to note in the photograph of the original building are: the cornice with brackets beneath and finials at each corner; the slightly projected centre section with quatrefoil window and the extended roofline with iron-crested cap advertising *Kidd's Hardware Depot*; the four round-headed windows in the second storey and the window labels or hoods made of metal with a mock central keystone and label stops that appear to be in the form of a lion's head; and, the iron balcony.

# Nifty Korner

Location: 33 Main St. South, Seaforth, Ontario  
Year built: 1863

James Dickson, M.P., built the first brick store in Seaforth in 1863. The first occupant of the store was Dickson's son, Archibald. The Post Office was here between 1863 and 1869. In the photograph of Main Street likely taken in 1877, shown on page 7, you can see the sign for Waddell & Co., the business then at this location. By the early 1900s, the store was occupied by Peter Dill's Dry Goods & Grocery. Later, Charles Aberhart operated a drug store here. He was a brother of William Aberhart, the leader of the Alberta Social Credit Party in the 1930s. In more recent times, Bob & Betty's Variety was here for many years before its latest incarnation as Nifty Korner, a giftwares and electronics business run by Danica and Jim McNichol.

This 2-storey building is of yellow brick construction. The main floor has been renovated, but the heavy, protruding cornice with Italianate brackets and dentils is much the same. Note the wide band of decorative brickwork of the 2nd storey and the shape of the roofline. The detailed window labels and label stops, along with the sills, are made of concrete. A unique feature is the angled front entrance at the northeast corner.

In the early photograph you can see the doorway leading to the second floor. It is in the Canada West Classical Revival style with rectangular sidelights and transom.

Along the St. John Street side of the building you can see the doorway on the second floor which originally led to a balcony. Further west, on the first floor, is the entrance to offices occupied over the years by a number of local doctors and dentists.



Peter Dill's Dry Goods & Grocery as seen in Souvenir of Seaforth c.1900.



# Dick House

Location: 117 Main St. South, Seaforth, Ontario  
Year built: 1873

The brick hotel, now familiarly known as The Dick House, was built in 1873 by John Bowden. But, it was J.H. McCallum who opened for business later that year. As the owners changed so did the name of the hotel - McCallum's, Hawkshaw House and Kling's Hotel, and The Dick House. James Dick and his son, Arthur, were the last to do business there as a hotel. Lenna Dick, Arthur's wife, used the building as a boardinghouse. In 1986, the old hotel was renovated into apartments.

It is a handsome two-storey solid brick structure with a hipped roof. It was originally white brick, but appears to have been painted red when it was The Dick House. The slightly arched segmented labels above the doors and windows are accented in white. The six-bay building had three entrances, dividing it into two halves. Note the six-over-six sash windows in the above photograph.



The Hawkshaw House. An earlier photograph, in the 1900 *A Souvenir of Seaforth*, shows a sign for "Kling's Hotel" above the centre door. Frank Kling died in 1913 of typhoid – water from a next door well was blamed.



The white brick is now red. The striped awnings set off the upper storey. The lower storey windows are more recent.

# Lawn Bowling Green

Location: 127 Main St. South, Seaforth, Ontario  
Year built: 1929

There has been a lawn bowling club in Seaforth since the late 1890s. The founder and first president of the club was James McMichael. He bought property on Victoria Street and donated it to the club in April of 1904. This site was used as a lawn bowling green until the club moved to its present location on Main Street in 1928.

The Main Street property north of the railway tracks was once railway land. It was landscaped first. The majestic elm tree near the clubhouse was saved from the axe when John Beattie cleared land in 1890 and survived a lightning strike in May 1930. The clubhouse was built in 1929. It is a single-storey frame structure with a high cottage-style roof and large front windows.



The Lawn Bowling Club had a green on Victoria Street, now a parking lot behind the Bethel Bible Church. The photograph above looks northeast toward Victoria Street. The photograph at right looks toward Crombie Street and the mill.

The first Ladies' Lawn Bowling Club was organized May 7, 1907 with 30 members paying a \$2 fee. However, by 1912 the club had disbanded. Interest was revived along with plans for new greens and 35 members formed a club again in 1929. They are still active today. Mrs. R.J. Sproat and her husband, Ross, were the first team captains in 1929. The District Four doubles championship was won in 1934.

# Northside United Church

Location: 54 Goderich St. South, Seaforth, Ontario  
Year built: 1877

The Wesleyan Methodist congregation began in 1856 as a small group of people meeting for worship at the home of James Sparling, a lay preacher in McKillop. The first sermon was preached by Rev. George H. Cornish here. In 1858-9, a church was built on Concession 2 McKillop, across from the Maitlandbank Cemetery. They were part of the Clinton circuit until becoming an independent charge in 1864.

A lot was purchased at the corner of Church and Goderich Streets in Seaforth and the first church built there in 1865. It was a frame building 36' x 50' (11 x 15 m) with a seating capacity of 300. Rev. William Hayhurst was the minister at the time.

By 1877 the congregation had grown and a larger church was needed. The frame church was torn down and the present brick church built in its place. An article in the December 25, 1877 *Huron Expositor* called the new church "without exception one of the most elegant structures in Western Ontario." There were four aisles originally; the pews were later rearranged with three aisles. Galleries go around the church and seat 400. The main audience room seats 600. To the rear of the pulpit is an organ with seats in front for the choir.

Note the patterned slate roof, the main gable outlined by decorative brickwork; the decorative tracery of the many stained glass, Gothic windows, in particular the large centre window flanked by two smaller ones, and, the buttressed walls.



An early postcard of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. The two spires were removed some time in the 1950s.

# Victoria Park

Location: Victoria St., off Gouinlock St, Seaforth, Ontario  
Year begun: 1875

Dr. W.C. Gouinlock donated the land for the park to the town of Seaforth in May of 1875. In exchange, Gouinlock asked that the town deepen part of Silver Creek so as to allow water off his property to drain into that stream. The first bandstands built here were located more toward the centre of the park where the War Memorial now stands. They were circular, open on all sides, the idea being that the audience would sit around it and the music would flow out.

The War Memorial was erected at the west end of the park after World War I. The names of 40 Seaforth area men who had fought and died in that war are inscribed along with those of the 20 men who died in WWII.



Band concerts were played every week throughout the summer, often on a Sunday evening. The bandstand was also used for political rallies and speeches, amateur programs, and 12th of July celebrations. For several years the Band & Legion Garden Party was held here; it was the forerunner of the Lions Carnival.

In 1924, Ernie Box and other band members were sent to Toronto to see the Canadian National Exhibition bandshell. The existing bandshell here in Seaforth was built with the same proportions and coved ceiling. The bandshell is made of tongue-and-groove clapboarding set horizontally on the sides and back. The front wall is a series of folding doors that open to reveal the stage. Painted on the gable end is a harp. The 33<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Band and the Seaforth Citizens Band played here.

# Commercial Hotel

Location: 84 Main St. South, Seaforth, Ontario  
Year built: 1895

The new Commercial Hotel opened its doors on October 21, 1895.

Only months before, the original brick hotel built by Thomas Knox in 1866 had burnt. Knox had a vault built into the north part of the hotel and in the fall of 1866 the first bank, The Royal Canadian, opened for business. Over the years, this end of the old and new hotel was used as a customs office, a telegraph/express office, and a barber shop.

In the late 1860s, Thomas Sharp had the hotel. He built a frame building at the back of the hotel called Sharp's Hall. By 1873, the Commercial Hotel was owned by Alexander Davidson who had come to Huron County from Ireland in 1872. He installed showers and baths for guests and boarders in Sharp's Hall in 1876. A billiard room was added to the hotel and opened in early 1877.

In 1874, an overnight stay with supper and breakfast included cost \$1, single meals were 25¢, farmers with two horses, hay and dinner, paid 35¢.



The original Commercial Hotel built by Thomas Knox in 1866. The photo was taken some time before 1893 when the barbershop at the left of the picture was torn down to make way for the town hall.



The Commercial Hotel as pictured in *A Souvenir of Seaforth* published in 1900. You can clearly see the horizontal bands linking the window arches and sills of each storey. Pilasters mark off four sections vertically across the facade. Note that there are four separate entrances. The hotel proprietor at the time was George E. Henderson.

# Seaforth Manor

Location: 100 James Street, Seaforth, Ontario  
Year built: 1883-84

D.

D. Wilson, Seaforth's Egg King, had this house designed by a Toronto architect in 1883. It was built by John Lyons at nearly twice the contracted price of \$6,200. It had 13 rooms, a huge basement, and three unfinished attic rooms. The interior woodwork was said to be as rich and polished as a "furniture finish."

In 1867, D.D. Wilson was operating his egg business out of his home on Goderich Street with a wagon and annual sales of 1,100 barrels of eggs, each containing 70 dozen. He moved, renamed his business the Huron Egg Emporium, and by 1878 was buying 9,000 barrels a year and had seven wagons traveling regularly through Huron County and into Perth, Bruce and Wellington Counties. He began shipping eggs to New York and the British Isles. By 1892, his business had grown to 20 wagons and 50 employees.

In 1927, brothers William and Matthew Scott left a bequest of \$40,000 to establish a hospital in Seaforth. The D.D. Wilson home was purchased, alterations made, and the Scott Memorial Hospital was officially opened in 1929. In 1947, the west wing was added. Scott Memorial Hospital served the town until a new hospital was built in 1964 on Goderich Street across from Lions Park. The old hospital was converted into a nursing home. The Seaforth Manor opened to receive patients in November of 1965.



The D.D. Wilson house as pictured in *Souvenir of Seaforth* c. 1900.





# Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce

Location: 44 Main St. South, Seaforth, Ontario

Year built: 1905

Simon Powell owned this lot and the one behind it backing onto Victoria Street. He had a hotel stable on the back lot and this was the only building here until the Canadian Bank of Commerce was relocated and the present building was erected in 1905.

The CIBC building is a good example of the Classical Revival style of architecture. It is a 2½-storey red brick building with white stone accents. There are large quoins of white stone at the corners. The foundation is of rusticated stone. There are four engaged columns supporting the entablature and pediment which are made of wood. The deep triangular pediment is outlined by dentils. The entablature, as you can see in the above right photograph, once displayed the bank's name. The doorway, up three steps from the sidewalk, has square stone projections topped by lights. The doorway is flanked by rectangular windows topped by concrete straight-moulded labels with imitation keystone. Above the doorway, and the sign above it, is a cornice between the two central columns and projecting beyond the columns. The cornice is supported by three brackets. There are three square windows on the second floor placed between the columns.

This impressive structure was built by Seaforth contractors. It cost slightly over \$10,000.

Long before The Canadian Bank of Commerce built the present bank, it opened a branch in Seaforth on December 19, 1878. The bank was then located in the Dominion Block just south of the Commercial Hotel.

The Dominion Block was built in 1874 by William Elliott and Alex Armitage. When it was completed



The Canadian Bank of Commerce dressed with striped awnings.



The CIBC as it is today. The name was changed in 1961.

later that year, what was then The Royal Canadian Bank, later the Canadian Bank of Commerce, moved into the north section of the three-store block. Joseph Brownell had a grocery store in the second part. Wil-

liam Elliott had a bookstore and telegraph office in the third section. This third part was used as a grocery store, the Salt Association office, and a liquor store, from the late 1870s until Russell H. Sproat opened his first flour and feed business here in 1909. For a number of years, he was in the grocery business with his brother, Ross J. Sproat. From then, until 1936, he had a shoe store here.

The Dominion Block is red brick with an arcaded second storey – the windows are separated by pilasters linked by raised arches. The curved arch is echoed by the lighter brick window labels. Note the floral decoration on the frieze, and the cornice brackets. As you can see in the photograph below, the storefront cornice was arched above the central doorway.



In this photograph of c. 1915 the Dominion Block housed Beattie's Fair grocery, John Rankin's insurance and bonds agency, and Russell Sproat's Seed & Feed, a flour and feed shop.



The Canadian Bank of Commerce in the Dominion Block at 94 Main St S.

# Sills Home Hardware

Location: 69 Main St. South, Seaforth, Ontario  
Year built: 1869

The Sills family has a long history of work in the hardware business. Daniel Lloyd Sills had a Grain, Drug and Hardware Store in Brucefield, where George A. Sills was born in 1854. At the age of 16, Geo. came to Seaforth and soon began clerking for Johnson Brothers Hardware. He stayed with them for 20 years before starting a hardware business with William Murdie in the early 1890s. When Murdie moved to Listowel seven years later, *Geo. A. Sills & Sons* was formed. George continued as a member of the business until his death in 1943.

Frank S. Sills entered the business in the late 1890s and was connected with the business for 66 years. Another son, Charles P. Sills, joined the business for seven years before leaving for university. He worked as postmaster in Seaforth from 1924-54 and also worked in the Seaforth Custom Office. A third son, Joe, worked a short time before becoming a professional hockey player. *Geo. A. Sills & Sons* had their store in the block immediately north of Cardno Block from the early 1890s until they bought their present store in 1921. They moved here in 1922.

The next Sills to enter the

business in 1934 was Frank's eldest son, D'Orlean, better known as Der. He eventually worked in partnership with his brother, Frank C.J. Sills. All of Frank Jr.'s children worked in the store at one time or another. Jim, his son and the current owner, is the fourth generation in the hardware trade.

The store building where *Geo. A. Sills & Sons* moved in 1922 was built for Thomas Kidd in 1869. It is distinguished by the arched 2nd-storey windows with decorative hoods made of moulded concrete, and by its near-original storefront. Inside, the ceiling is of patterned tin made in squares.

When Kidd first built the store, the north part was occupied by William Robertson & Co.'s "Sign of the



The interior of Geo. A. Sills & Sons Hardware c. 1910 when it was located at what is now 35 and 37 Main Street south. Pictured, from left, are Joe Sills, Frank Cluff, Lil Twist and Frank S. Sills.



Kidd's store block at the corner of Main and Market streets, occupied here in c.1900, by William Pickard who was in the dry goods business for over 25 years.



Circular Saw" hardware business. Kidd and James McMulkin had the south store. William Pickard & Co. had both stores, offering his customer's a dress goods department, a gents' furnishings department and a millinery department.

A small brick building was erected at the back of the store in 1872 for use as an implement wareroom. Later, it was used as a liquor store, a butcher shop, a private bank, a tailor's shop, and a laundry. Geo. A. Sills began using it as a storage space and it is now part of the Sills Home Hardware store.



# Seaforth Golf & Country Club

Location: R.R. #4, Seaforth, Ontario  
Year stone house was built: 1856

The first Seaforth Golf and Country Club was located on the Thomas Dobbs farm in McKillop Township. This early 9-hole course, with its sand greens and fairways trimmed by sheep, was a popular spot. A problem arose, however, when Mr. Dodds objected to the playing of golf on a Sunday. An offer to purchase was refused and so the Seaforth Golf Holding Corp. bought the Francis Case farm east of Seaforth on Highway 8. Case's Maple Grove had long been a popular picnic spot for townspeople. The rugged terrain here was ideal for a challenging 9-hole course and the house made an elegant clubhouse. The Seaforth Golf & Country Club thrived here for a decade until financial difficulties occasioned by WWII lead to the course's closure.

In the 1950s, Ken Doig and his brother, Rod, took up the sport. Plans were soon underway to build a course on the Doig family farm in Tuckermith Township bought by their great-grandfather, John Gemmell, from Van Egmond in 1847. By 1961, the first golfers wound their way over the sparsely grassed, stone-covered fairways and onto greens with tin cans for cups and broom handles for flagsticks. The course was run out of the farmhouse, built of stone from the farm in 1856. In 1967, a chalet-style clubhouse was built. Later, the course was expanded to 18 holes.



# Scott House

Location: 51 Goderich St West, Seaforth, Ontario  
Year built: c. 1865

Dr. James G. Scott was an early medical practitioner in Seaforth. He was born February 18, 1842 at Galt, Waterloo County, being a son of Frank Scott, and one of the pioneer residents of this county whose farm adjoined Seaforth on the west. He graduated from Victoria Medical College in Toronto in 1870, and in the same year graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons. He began practice in Bluevale before coming to Seaforth in 1874. He joined in partnership with Dr. Charles Mackay in 1891.

For many years Dr. Scott owned a farm in Harpurhey where he had a deer park, kept excellent livestock, and bred imported Shetland ponies and thoroughbred poultry. He took great interest in horticulture, keeping beautiful gardens, in his later years, at his home at 131 Goderich St. West, now a designated heritage property owned by Paul Carroll. The Scott estate at that time extended to the old fair grounds and the family kept a stable.



Dr. Scott had his offices next door, in the Harry Scott house pictured here. Four small rooms facing the street were used as the waiting room, an examination room, the surgery, and an office.

The house was given to Dr. Scott's son and daughter-in-law as a wedding present. It is now owned by Dr. Scott's grandson, Harry Scott, who is a former principal of Seaforth District High School.



# Vincent Farm Equipment

Location: 1 mile north of Seaforth, Ontario

Year begun: 1923

Vincent Farm Equipment was founded by Leslie C. Vincent in 1923. It is now operated by the third generation of the Vincent family. Les Vincent got started by buying parts from his employer, the local blacksmith in Ayr, Ontario, who didn't see a future in the farm equipment business. Les transported them by wheelbarrow, right up the Main Street of the village, to his business location. Marlin Vincent started the Seaforth branch of the business.

Vincent Farm Equipment is one of the oldest and largest Case IH dealers with five locations in south-western Ontario. In addition to offering a wide selection of quality farm, lawn and garden equipment, Vincent's are rated as top consumer product dealers for Bombardier SeaDoo, SkiDoo, Traxter ATV and Jet Boats. Their international export/import business has grown through a network of foreign customers developed over the years. Used tractors, equipment and spare parts are sold and shipped to the US and overseas. Vincent's provide pickup and delivery service or mobile on-site repairs when required. With five times the normal parts inventory, managed and linked by computer technology, fast parts availability and technical information is assured.

The farmer starting out in the early days of settlement had to acquire basic implements like hoes, hay forks, scythes and cutting hooks, scoop shovels, spades and flails. Some things he may have made himself or had made at the local blacksmith.

The McCormick reaper came into use in the county after 1840. The arrival of the railway gave farmers access to various markets both domestic and export. By the 1870s, every settlement had one or



"After We Sell, We Serve" is the motto on which Vincent Farm Equipment Ltd. has built its reputation.

more carriage-making shops where all types of farm vehicles were manufactured, many blacksmith shops and many harness makers.

Early farm machinery, and the new mobility offered by the railway, lightened some of the burden and isolation of farmers. Small farm machinery factories

were started by Daniel and Hart Massey at Newcastle in 1847 and Allanson and John Harris at Beamsville in 1857. In Seaforth, as early as 1863, Robert Watson and Peter Bawtenhimer had a foundry and, in 1866, Zapfe & McCallum were making agricultural implements here in addition to regular foundry work. Coleman's Foundry and Machine Shop was built in the early 1870s and Andrew Whitelaw had the Huron Foundry built in 1876. By 1878, James S. Runciman of Goderich was manufacturing plows, reapers and mowers. The Robert Bell Engine & Thresher Co. made large numbers of portable and traction threshing machines.



Robert Bell and John Finlayson bought Coleman's Foundry in 1899. The Robert Bell Engine & Thresher Co. was formed in 1903 and, in 1905, the first threshing separator was made. A threshing outfit and the foundry buildings are pictured in the photographs.

# Home & Hearth

Location: 86 Goderich St West, Seaforth, Ontario  
Year built: c. 1890

Samuel Scarlett purchased the property, Lot 17 in Block D of the Beattie & Stark Survey, on January 16, 1867 from James Beattie and Samuel Stark. In 1890 until 1895, the land remained in the Scarlett family, passing to John, Mary, and finally, Eleanor Scarlett. It was sold in 1895 to George Duncan who in turn sold to William Acheson in 1898. Minnie Victoria Greig acquired the property in 1907. She owned the property for the next 40 years. Dr. Edmund Malkus and his wife, Ruth, bought the house from Evelyn Clark in 1956. The home was purchased by Gerry and Marie Smith in 1998. They established the *Home & Hearth Bed & Breakfast* now operated by the home's current owners, Barb and Ivan Wolfe.

The house was built in the late 1800s and has large, sunny bay windows throughout. The main floor has the original ash staircase with oak hardwood floors.

There are four rooms on the second floor, two with large bay windows. Two rooms have a shared five-piece bath. The Bridal Suite has an ensuite three-piece bath with jacuzzi tub.

The house has a spacious dining room decorated in a combination of old and new with a Victorian flavour. It has a fireplace setting to dine beside. Breakfast may also be served outside on the terrace.



# Maitlandbank Cemetery

Location: Line 36 between Roxboro Line & North Line  
Year begun: 1874

The First Methodist Cemetery was opened on the same plot as the Wesleyan Methodist Church, on Concession 2 McKillop Township. A church was built here in 1859 (*see the related story about Northside United Church*). On December 4, 1874 a stock company was formed to buy ten acres on Concession 3 McKillop Township from Thomas E. Hays, for a new cemetery, across from the original one. Graves from the original cemetery were re-interred here. Trustees of the Wesleyan Methodist Church cared for the cemetery from 1875.

During the summer of 1876, a landscape gardener from London, S. Peters, was engaged to cut roads and make walks through the cemetery. The 1/2-mile road makes a complete circuit around the cemetery.

The first reported burial at Maitlandbank was of Robert Hays, brother to Thomas E. Hays, the original owner of the site. Mrs. John Shaw and R.P. Rogers were buried here in 1877. Other tombstones have earlier dates, having been transferred from other burial grounds. From 1876 to 1967 there were 3,300 recorded burials, 1,000 in the original cemetery. In 1876, lots sold for \$10; one lot had six graves. The cemetery was expanded in 1926 and again in 1953.



# St. James Roman Catholic Church & Cemetery

Cemetery Location: 43048 Hwy 8 between Kippen Rd and Hensall Rd

Year begun: 1874

Church Location: 22 Victoria Street, Seaforth, Ontario

Year built: 1869

Early settlers of the Roman Catholic faith gathered for their first religious services at St. Columban. The first Mass was said in Arthur McCann's tavern, and later, in Dennis Downey's home. As early as November 1835, Rev. Father J.B. Werrie, a German

priest from Waterloo, made missionary trips through to Goderich. From 1837 until 1842, Rev. Thomas Gibney of Guelph visited the mission periodically. Later, Rev. Peter Schneider made the journey on a white horse and was nicknamed "The Apostle of the Huron Tract."

In 1869 the spacious and dignified white-brick

St. James Church was built on Victoria Street, Seaforth, on a lot bought from T.T. Coleman. From 1870 to 1880, the parish was tended by Rev. Dean Murphy. The front addition to the Church was made in 1990.

Members of the parish of St. James Roman Catholic Church were buried in the St. Columban cemetery from 1880 to 1893. In August of that year, 1893, the Church bought 2¼ acres of land to the east of Seaforth from Edward Devereaux for \$600. The first to be interred here was John Duncan who died in 1893.





# Egmondville

The Canada Company built a dam and mill in 1832-33 at what was then simply called "The Mills" or Bayfield Mills. John Galt of The Canada Company called the place "Ross." The mill was the second one in the Huron Tract, the first being in Goderich. In 1835, the Canada Company had the Mill Road from Brucefield to Bayfield Mills surveyed, and the road from Bayfield Mills to the Wilmot Road was also opened, giving people access to two mills. In later years, the grist mill was operated by Constant and Leopold Van Egmond, sons of Anthony Van Egmond.

Few settlers came into Tuckersmith Township before 1835, but afterward there was a steady stream. Settlement had been slow because, as Anthony Van Egmond claimed, The Canada Company had fallen behind in its obligation to build roads and bridges, churches and schools. It was Constant Van Egmond, the eldest son, who officially founded Egmondville in 1845 and began building the hamlet.

He built a large brick house on his property in 1847 (*see the story of Van Egmond House*). The Van Egmonds had flour, grist and sawmills. In 1854, the youngest son, August G., started the Van Egmond Woolen Mills.

In the summer of 1852, Valentine Boehler established a pottery on lots 2 and 3 on the north side of Stanley Street, purchased from Van Egmond for £20. He formed a partnership with his son-in-law, Jacob Weber in 1873. Weber became sole owner in 1876. During the 1880s four or five hands were employed and a man was on the road distributing the wares.

East of Egmondville suitable brickmaking clay



The 3-storey brick Woolen Mills was built in 1866 by Leopold G. and William Van Egmond, sons of August G. Van Egmond. At the Seaforth Fair in 1890, they could show over 60 tweed patterns. In six days, on nine looms, 2575 yards of checked flannel could be produced.

was found. James Pickard had a brickyard, as did John Bowden in the 1870s. The Sproat brick and tile yard at Lot 6 Concession 4 Huron Road Survey produced more brick and was in business the longest. In 1892, William Kruse worked in Sproat's brickyard and later, he and Richard, his brother, owned a brick and tile yard.

Across from Constant Van Egmond's house there was one of two blacksmith shops in the village, owned by John Sproat. The business was purchased in 1854, by Robert Fulton, who had a wagon and carriage shop.

A brewery was started on the Mill Road some time before 1850 by George Weiland. Henry Colbert Sr. bought the brewery around 1850 and the Colbert family operated it until the Canada Temperance Act



Kruse Brick and Tile Works at Lot 10 Concession 3 Huron Road Survey.

came into force in 1913.

Egmondville Post Office was established in 1855 with Thomas L. Marks, postmaster. George and Henry Jackson operated a general store in Egmondville in 1854 and shared the postmaster duties from 1866 to 1919 (*see the story about the Egmondville Country Market*.)

1880s Egmondville had a gunsmith, cobbler, weavers, blacksmiths, a woolen mill, tanneries, several general stores, a cider mill, and at least five hotels, a brewery, ashery, pottery, sawmills, gristmills, brick and tile yard, cabinet makers and an undertaker, a German Lutheran as well as Presbyterian Church, a schoolhouse and post office.



A second blacksmith shop was opened in the 1860s by Thomas Hills. He made wagons, buggies and cutters. His son, George (right) sold to Alex Lilloco (left)

# Van Egmond House

Location: 80 Kippen Road, Egmondville, Ontario

Year built: c. 1847

The Van Egmond House, owned and operated by the Van Egmond Foundation, is an excellent example of a Georgian country-manor house dating to the mid-19th century. It was built by Constant Louis Van Egmond, son of Anthony Van Egmond who played a key role in opening the Huron Road to Goderich in the early 1830s. Constant Van Egmond founded the village of Egmondville in 1845.

The façade and side elevation show the symmetry characteristic of Georgian architecture. Note also the six-over-six windows, the large chimneys, the awning-profiled four columned verandah, and the decorative brickwork frieze of the façade. The door transom and sidelights are covered in the photograph. The slop brick used for the walls was made in the brickyard nearby.

Constant Van Egmond was a magistrate and, as there was no other jail in the village, he had the cellar windows of his house barred and used part of the cellar as a jail.

A dam and mill constructed by The Canada Company in 1832 was at the time to the east of the present village. In later years, the grist mill, flour mill and a distillery were operated by Constant Van Egmond. His brothers ran the other larger businesses of the village – Leopold ran the

sawmill, William was the proprietor of the American Hotel, and August ran the woolen mills. August, the youngest son, started in the manufacture of woolens in 1854. In 1866, he built a three-storey brick mill near to the boundary with Seaforth.

The Van Egmond family came to Upper Canada from Pennsylvania. The father, Anthony Van Egmond, was born in the Netherlands in 1775 and married Marie Susanne Dietz in 1808 in Mainz, Germany. He and his family immigrated to the United States in 1819. He failed to prosper there, and the prospect of fertile soil in Upper Canada, led the Van Egmond family to pack their bags again. Soon after arriving here in 1828, Anthony Van Egmond purchased 200 acres in Oxford East from The Canada Company. Van Egmond thus met and be-



Constant and his wife, Ann Johnson Van Egmond.

frinded John Galt, the representative for The Canada Company in Upper Canada.

The Huron Tract had been surveyed in 1827 and a Bridle Road cut out by the end of 1828. Four taverns were built at 20-mile intervals along the Huron Road, the one in Hullett Township near Clinton owned by Van Egmond. Anthony and Constant Van Egmond were contracted in 1830-1832 to widen a 45½-mile stretch of the Huron Road. They were paid 1/3 in currency, 2/3 in land credits. Thus, Anthony Van Egmond acquired 13,000 acres, becoming Huron's largest landholder.

Anthony Van Egmond's participation in the Mackenzie uprising of 1837 led to his imprisonment and death. After his death his land was sold to pay his debts. His sons, however, were able to keep enough of the land to enable them to carry out their father's plans for settlement.

In 1854, Constant Van Egmond deeded land to the Presbyterian Church in Egmondville for a church and burial ground. The Egmondville Cemetery is the resting place of Anthony Van Egmond and his descendants (*see the story of Egmondville Cemetery*).



# Egmondville United Church

Location: Kippen Road, Egmondville, Ontario  
Year built: 1879

The first minister in these parts was assigned in 1835 to the townships of Goderich, Stanley and Tuckersmith. The settlers of Stanley and Tuckersmith were “a praying people” and they had petitioned for a minister at the public meeting to organize municipal government in Tuckersmith Township: “We, the undernamed inhabitants of the Tp. of Stanley and Tuckersmith, on the London Road, Huron Tract, being desirous of having a preacher of the gospel from the Church of Scotland settled among us, hereby agree and bind ourselves to contribute to his support to the best of our abilities. Witness our hands this 5th January, 1835.”

Rev. William Proudfoot and Rev. Christie of London travelled to Tuckersmith, arriving at the home of Anthony Van Egmond, 18 miles from Goderich, on January 27, 1835. They called on Robert Scott, John Govenlock and Mr. Dickson at Roxboro. The next day, 70 people gathered at the Van Egmond house for a service and two children were baptized. Constant Van Egmond brought some people to and from the service in two sleighs.

Rev. Proudfoot reported, favourably: “there could be a service at Van Egmond’s [at Ross, as Egmondville was then called] every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday morning, then on the London Road 5 miles away [at Brucefield] in the afternoon.” As a result of this report, Rev. Alexander McKenzie was settled in 1835 as pastor of the congregation in Goderich, Stanley and Tuckersmith Townships.



The church in Egmondville built on land donated by Constant Van Egmond for a church and burial ground.

It would appear that the parish was too large for effective work. In 1844, the people of Stanley and Tuckersmith decided to stand apart from Goderich. They issued a call to Rev. William Graham who arrived in January of 1845. Rev. Graham was a minister of the Free Church persuasion, as were most of the people of the district.

Seaforth was bush in those days and there were only two other Presbyterian ministers from Tuckersmith to Galt. Rev. Graham wrote: “there was greater zeal in journeying to Zion then than when roads got better and times more prosperous, many of them travelling seven, eight, and nine miles on foot. Others who lived at greater distance sometimes came in on Saturday and remained with friends over Sabbath ... Money was so scarce and articles of clothing so hard to obtain that many of the people walked barefoot to church, carrying their shoes and stockings over their shoulders until they got in sight of the tabernacle.”

In 1849, some of the members living nearest Brucefield formed their own congregation. About this time, Constant Van Egmond donated land for a church and burying ground. A small church was put up entirely by volunteer labour and materials. The church was opened on July 21, 1850.



Rev. William Graham  
Pastor 1845-1874.

The enlarged church of 1861 was described as “a plain but spacious edifice capable of accommodating an audience of 450-500 people. In 1862, there were 286 church members. This church was closed in 1879 and the brick church was built on the Kippen Road in Egmondville. A manse was built in 1882.

The Women’s Missionary Society was formed in 1888. The Egmondville Sabbath School was begun in the early 1830s and was conducted by pioneer settlers. The infant class was formed in 1875. The church had a Young People’s Society, a Mission Circle, Mission Band and a Choir.



The Church and manse, c. 1900.



# Egmondville United Cemetery

Location: Kippen Rd and Front Rd, Egmondville, Ontario  
Year built: c. 1849

Constant Van Egmond donated one acre of land to the Presbyterian congregation in Tuckersmith for use as a church and burial ground site. Sites for a church and manse had been offered since 1845, but it wasn't until 1849 that Van Egmond's offer of a site was accepted. The land was deeded to the trustees of the Egmondville Presbyterian Church on February 10, 1854 (in 1853, the congregation's name was changed from Tuckersmith to Egmondville).

As early as 1835, the parish of Goderich, Stanley and Tuckersmith Townships was organized. By 1844, Tuckersmith and Stanley had separated and extended a call to Rev. William Graham. There was no church building at the time. Services were held in a local schoolhouse, in barns and private homes, or, at times, in Leopold Van Egmond's sawmill.

A church was built on the south side of the present cemetery to the west of the Van Egmond house. It was built with donated lumber and volunteer labour.

The earliest date of death on a tombstone is 1846 indicating that the land was already used as a burying ground by this time, before it was formally donated. Another early burial was that of the oldest son of George Sproat in 1851. The Rev. William Graham is buried here alongside his daughter, the Tuckersmith poet, Hannah Isabel Graham. The Scott brothers, William and Matthew, who donated money to found Scott Memorial Hospital in Seaforth (*see the related story*) are also buried here.

Anthony Van Egmond, who died in 1838 and was buried on his home farm, was re-interred in the Egmondville Cemetery and lies surrounded by many of his descendants and fellow settlers. In 1963, the historical plaque commemorating Van Egmond was unveiled.

Egmondville Cemetery has expanded to twice its original size. In 1928, the Van Egmond estate donated money toward a Perpetual Care Fund.



# Egmondville Country Market

Location: 69 Kippen Road, Egmondville, Ontario  
Year built: 1855

George and Henry Jackson established a store in Egmondville in 1855, trading as G&H Jackson. The Abstract of Title for Lot 4 shows that they bought this property from Constant Van Egmond in 1862. Their partnership lasted until Henry's death in 1900; George continued until his death in 1919.

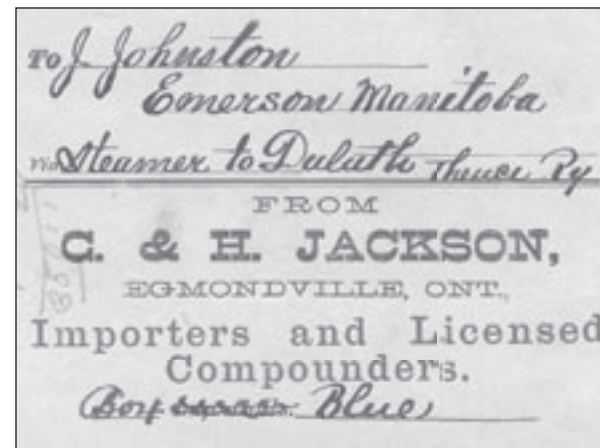
George was a qualified druggist and kept a drug section in the general store. The Jackson store was a sort of trading post for the rural community, and like many businesses of the time, accepted payment in eggs and butter and other produce. Apples were also taken and used to make wines and vinegars.

George and Henry shared duties as postmaster of Egmondville from 1866 to 1919. Thomas T. Jackson, George's son, was then appointed postmaster and held the job until 1961. Egmondville post office is the longest continuous-running post office in Huron County.

The Jacksons were also agents for the G.N.W. Telegraph. George played chess via telegraph, playing well enough to be invited to tournaments against American and European players that was covered in an issue of the *Illustrated London News*.

The Jackson brothers also operated a wholesale liquor business delivering barrels of whiskey and wine by team as far north as Owen Sound. They were in the tanning and leather business besides, turning out thousands of pairs of leather gloves. They employed local women to sew in their own homes. It was a profitable business into the late 1880s.

William J. Finnigan bought the store in the 1920s. He was followed by his son, Harold Finnigan, Clare Haney, Aubrey Eickmeyer and Alex Finnigan. Ray Hutchison operated Ray's Family Market from 1977. Tom and Dawn Papple have been in business as Egmondville Country Market since 1984.



# Castramont

Location: 42460 Front Rd. R.R. #4, Seaforth, Ontario

Year built: c. 1845

The name “Castramont” was given by James Dickson to his farm on Lot 15 Concession 2 Tuckersmith Township. His father purchased the land for him from The Canada Company, the price being 11s 3d per acre. James was a successful farmer and merchant. He was the first clerk of Tuckersmith, and later became Reeve. He served five years in the United Counties of Huron and Bruce Council, and was elected to pre-Confederation parliament in 1861. In 1866, he was appointed Registrar of Deeds for Huron, an appointment that lasted 29 years.

James Dickson was born May 2, 1816 in Roxburghshire, Scotland. He arrived in the Huron Tract in 1833 with his father, Archibald; his mother and other family members arrived in 1834. The family settled in McKillop Township on a farm they called “Gladswood” (*see the related story on the stone houses of Roxboro*).

When he was 21, James joined the volunteer militia sent to Sarnia to guard the frontier against Fenian raiders. His commanding officer was Dr. “Tiger” Dunlop. James was many years with the militia and retired with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

Castramont produced prize winning livestock and exceptional crops for many years. It

was regarded as a model farm, winning a gold medal in a farm competition.

James opened a store in Egmondville in 1851, moving it in 1863 to the fast-growing community to the north, Seaforth. He is credited with determining the route of the Grey Turnpike (now County Rd 12) from Egmondville north to Wroxeter. The Turnpike gave farmers in that area a means of transporting their grain to markets.

The house had 14 rooms and three fireplaces when James built it. The story is told of Jane, James’ wife, not being able to decide on the placement of the stairway in the front hallway – it was changed three times! The house has some of the characteristics of the Georgian-style: a symmetrical façade, hipped roof, and large end chimneys. As you can see in the Belden etching below, the house originally had a front verandah.



nally had a front verandah.

The farm remained in the Dickson family until 1913. It was then bought by W.L. Forrest of Goderich who was a dredging contractor. Castramont is now owned by Peter and Maureen Spittal.



Castramont, the farm of James Dickson, as seen in Belden’s 1879 *Historical Atlas*.

Old houses were  
scaffolding once  
and workmen whistling.

**T.E. Hulme**

# Harpurhey

**H**arpurhey was founded by Dr. William Chalk in 1843. Dr. Chalk came to Canada in 1834, directly to Tuckersmith Township, and settled on a 100-acre farm on Lot 16 Concession 1. His fond desire was to become a farmer. He named his farm Harpurhey, after a suburb of Manchester, England, where he had practiced as an apothecary. The settlement soon became known by that name as well.

Dr. Chalk had not wanted to practice medicine in Canada, but as the only doctor in the area at that time, he was soon enlisted to use his skills. He dispensed his own medicine, performed operations, and would go great distances to help people.

Dr. Chalk was appointed the first collector for Tuckersmith in 1835. He was a commissioner in 1836, a Justice of the Peace in the early 1840s, Warden of the Huron District from 1847 to 1854, and the first Reeve of Tuckersmith Township in 1850.

The townsite of Harpurhey was laid out on part of Dr. Chalk's farm property. Soon, surveys were also made of Lots 13, 14 and 15. Places of business and homes were built every year until there were five streets built with a tinsmith and harness shop, a flax mill and two pork packing plants, a carriage factory, cabinet maker, shoe shops, bookbinding shop, bottling works, a church, school, post office, a Mechanics' Institute, and three hotels; also, it had two practicing physicians.

The hotel operated by Thomas Knox also served as the meeting place for Division Court. The Anglicans held their first church services here from 1855 to 1859 with Rev. William Cresswell in the pulpit. Har-



Dr. Chalk's home, the first brick house in Tuckersmith township.

purhey Agricultural Society, established in 1845 and the oldest in Huron County, held fairs at Knox Hall.

By the 1840s, Harpurhey was a thriving community. Although it did not have as many industries as Egmondville did, Harpurhey had a prosperous business centre serving the settlers in Tuckersmith and McKillop Townships, as well as those passing by on the Huron Road. And, Dr. Chalk was lobbying for a railroad to locate one of its stations in Harpurhey.

Dr. Chalk played a major role in bringing the Buffalo, Brantford and Goderich Railway to the area. When it opened for business in 1858, Harpurhey was by far the largest of the three neighbouring communities of Harpurhey, Seaforth and Egmondville. The railway, however, was not convinced that any one of the three warranted a station. A flag station was built in Harpurhey, south of the railway tracks on Dr. Chalk's farm, and was in use for some time. When the founders of Seaforth donated a site for a permanent

station, and when Egmondville joined in, direct rail service was sidetracked from the flourishing village of Harpurhey

The post office moved into Seaforth in 1859. In the early 1860s, the Grey Township Improvement Turnpike Road was built in a straight line from Wroxeter to the Mill Road at Egmondville, bypassing Harpurhey as the railroad already had.

In its heyday in 1862, almost 500 people lived here. After 1863, merchants gradually began to move businesses and homes to Seaforth. Harpurhey declined so fast that it was not listed in the 1876-77 *Curries County of Huron Directory*.



This cairn, erected in 1928, commemorates the building of the Huron Road.



Daniel Grummett carried on the milk-delivery business started by his father-in-law, Joseph Brown. Brown had arrived in Harpurhey in time to help build the railroad. Grummett's Maple Leaf Dairy was the first in the area to pasteurize milk.





# Harpurhey Presbyterian Cemetery

Location: Front Road and Hanna Line, south of Hwy 21

Year begun: 1847

**H**arpurhey Presbyterian Cemetery is located on Lot 51 Concession 1 of Tuckersmith Township. The cemetery was established in 1847 at the same time that a church was built. In 1835, there was a membership of 13 in the Tuckersmith congregation at Harpurhey and the land had been set aside. In the interim, services were held in local homes and in Van Egmond's tavern on the Huron Road.

The church, 32'x48' (10x14.6 m) was built at a

cost of \$1,200. It served its congregation until 1879 when the Harpurhey members joined Seaforth members to form First Presbyterian Church in Seaforth. The church building was torn down in 1880.

Rev. Alexander McKenzie, who in 1835 accepted the pastorates of Goderich, Stanley and Tuckersmith Townships, was one of only two ministers to serve the Harpurhey congregation. The other minister was Rev. Matthew Barr who retired when the two congregations united.

Burials were made in the cemetery much earlier than 1847. There is a white marker for James Habkirk, the



Memorial cairn in honour of early settlers to Harpurhey.

two-year-old son of Janet and William Habkirk who died on September 30, 1839. Some of earliest settlers to Tuckersmith are buried here, including Robert Scott Sr. and Archibald Dickson (*see the story of Roxboro*). Harpurhey's founding father, Dr. William Chalk, lies here as do Rev. Matthew Barr, Rev. William Cresswell who was the first Anglican minister in the area, and Jonathan Carter who was a Justice of the Peace.



# Roxboro

Early emigrants to Roxboro came from Jedburg, Roxburghshire, Scotland in 1833. They were two father-and-son pairs, Robert Scott Sr. and Jr., and Archibald and James Dickson. The elder Scott took up 400 acres in the Roxboro area and Archibald Dickson claimed 300 acres to the north and east, on the opposite side of the Maitland River. In 1834, about 40 more people arrived – the families of the earlier arrivals including the John Govenlock family (husband of Robert Scott Sr.'s eldest daughter, Margaret), as well as friends, the Grieve, Henderson and Habkirk families.

*Musings*, a short history of the Scott and Dickson families of Roxboro, contains some letters written to family back in Scotland. They tell of the arduous journey to Canada that took over two months: “Our hardships and delay in coming up the river [St. Lawrence] cannot be well described, but there we were exposed to the burning sun through the day and dews so rank through the night that I could almost have wrung our outer clothes in the morning, together with thunder and rain and a boat without any edge to prevent the children from falling over.” They travelled by steamer from Brockville to Hamilton, then a three-days trip by wagon to the Roxboro area: “... we had no other covering at night save the shelter of an open barn or shed, so afraid were the people of cholera that they would not permit us to enter their houses in many places.” Children of both Archibald Dickson and John Govenlock died of cholera and were buried at Grosse Isle. John Govenlock also lost his wife to cholera three days after finally reaching their destination. Despite all this, the same writer also says: “... we have reason to be glad that we have taken the important step we have done in emigrating to this country, where persevering industry is sure to meet its reward.”



A cairn commemorates the founders of Roxboro.

A year later they are able to report that each family had places of their own and a crop to support their families. Robert Scott Sr., in a letter to his eldest son in Scotland written in August 1835, talks about his log cabin, the plentiful fish and game. He also notes that sons Robert and James, and son-in-law John Govenlock, “have been working on the Goderich road and they make about 5 shillings a day, but they were not very long at it, only three weeks.” One other immediate concern was that they were “without ordinance of God amongst us” and so Robert Scott Sr. and John Govenlock travelled to Galt to meet with

church elders. The first Presbyterian congregation was organized in Roxboro in 1835 with 13 members and two elders, Mr. Scott and Mr. Govenlock.

James Scott built a gristmill on the northeast corner of the intersection in 1843. It served a 50-mile radius, operating day and night. He sold the mill in 1860 to Alfred Brewer who built the brick house called Mill House.

At its most prosperous, Roxboro could boast between 20 and 30 homes. There were also two hotels. One hotel, Roxborough House, was operated by a Mrs. Jamieson and was located south of the Maitland Wells farm. The second hotel was owned and operated by Hugh Latimer. It was located near the mill. Robert Habkirk had the cabinet shop east of the mill and just past there was William Wilson's blacksmith shop where he also made ploughs. Farther east, Sam Hannah had a pump factory. The two general stores were run by William Watson and Robert Dickson. The school was on the hill near where the Cresswell Vault in Maitlandbank Cemetery is now. Roxboro was first in the township to have a post office.

In the early 1860s, the north road to Brussels was built from Seaforth, instead of from Harpurhey through Roxboro. The railroad had already bypassed Roxboro. Seaforth grew and outstripped its neighbours, Harpurhey and Roxboro and they became ghost towns. Today, all that remains of Roxboro are some of the houses.



Stone houses gradually replaced the first log homes. This picture was taken in 1897 at Bankhead farm, owned by Robert Scott Jr.

# Gladswood and Maitland Wells

Location: Roxboro, Ontario  
Years built: 1850, 1861

The stone or brick house replaced the settler's log house built when they first arrived and when clearing the land for farming was a primary concern. The stone houses pictured here were built some 16 to 28 years after their builders had settled in Roxboro in 1833 and 1834.

This stone house was built for Archibald Dickson on his farm, *Gladswood*, in 1850. It is now the home of Cam and Linda Doig and family. The centre gable with Palladian window is a later addition to the house as is the verandah.

In the photograph below are the nine children of John Dickson, son of Archibald Dickson who bought the property from The Canada Company in 1833. Also pictured are a son-in-law, a grand-daughter and her friend; taken at *Gladswood* c. 1907.

*Maitland Wells* was the name Robert Scott Sr. gave his farm, after the farm in Scotland. James Scott, a son, established himself on the eastern corner of the property where this house sits today. *Maitland Wells*, built in 1861, is now the home of Ken and Marina Scott and family.





# Kippen

**K**ippen was a crossroad corner, located where Hay, Stanley and Tuckersmith Townships converge and where the London Road (Hwy 4) and the Kippen Road (County Rd 12) intersect. It was referred to as “The Corner” and might have remained so had Robert Bell not succeeded in having a Post Office located here in 1855. He named it after his home in Kippen, Scotland. The first settlers into the Kippen area, between 1836-40, were Robert Bell, William Cooper, Robert Doig, James and John McLean, and their families. They were followed by James Anderson and William Blair a few years later.

The Canada Company built a flour and grist mill on Lot 13 Concession 1 LRS in 1837 and a road to it in 1838. Robert Bell ran the Kippen Mills, hiring Thomas Oke and Findlay Fraser as millers. Bell owned the mills by 1850. A sawmill was added some time in the 1840s.

The post office store was built in 1865 by Robert Mellis at the northeast corner of Kippen. A blacksmith by trade, Mellis arrived in Kippen in 1855 and built the blacksmith shop on the west side of the road in 1869. In 1873, he moved his home-store a little north and built a new store on the corner. John Balfour took over the business in 1900 and in 1906 replaced the old building.

Tom Mellis came to Kippen in 1862 as an orphan from England. He was adopted by Robert Mellis and learned the blacksmithing trade from him. He began working in the shop at an early age and bought it in 1879. The first carriage shop was established by William Edgar. In 1878, Edgar and Mellis were making



Main Street looking north: on the left are Shafer's Kippen Hotel, Mellis Blacksmith Shop, Carriage Shop, and the Methodist Church; on the right are the Post Office Store and some homes.



Henry Ricker's home and carriage shop. Thomas Mellis' blacksmith shop is at the far left.

Portland cutters and sleighs, and in 1881, were making carriages and wagons on a larger scale to keep up with demand. In 1885, the property was leased, and later purchased, by William Kyle. He made and sold 15 cutters in 1886 and in 1888 was advertising a stock of fine buggies of unsurpassed workmanship. Henry Ricker took over the business in 1894. He and Tom



A photograph of Shafer's Kippen Hotel taken some time in the 1880s or 1890s.

Mellis made wagons together, selling them for \$40.

In October of 1875, the Kippen Hotel was owned by Henry Shafer. He, his wife Margaret, and their daughter Annie, ran the hotel in the finest way possible. It was busy and well patronized, known for its good food. The building was painted white with green trimming. Before the railroad arrived, the hotel was a halfway house for farmers drawing grain to Seaforth. The hotel, later called Ocean House, was run by Shafer's grandson, Clifford Watson. Watson replaced second-floor bedrooms with a dance hall.

The London, Huron and Bruce Railway built its station at Kippen in 1875. Freight trains carried cattle and grain. Passenger trains took excursioners to camp meetings and holiday stops.



The train station in the late 1800s—the station agent and his family had living.

# St. Andrew's United Church

Location: 40046 Kippen Rd., Kippen, Ontario  
Year built: 1867

Presbyterians in the Kippen area in the early years held their services in the log schoolhouse near the site of the manse and west of the church. Until 1851, services were conducted by travelling missionaries, two of them being Rev. Thomas Whitehead and Rev. Proudfoot. In 1851, services were held on alternate Sundays by Rev. John Ross of Brucefield for those of the Established Church of Scotland. On the other Sundays, the Methodist minister conducted services.

In 1866, a missionary from Scotland, Rev. D. McDougall, was sent to organize an Established Church of Scotland in the community. A building site was offered by William Cooper, building materials were donated, and free labour given. On December 22, 1867 opening services were held in the brick church.

The church had very narrow, high and straight-backed pews. The choir sat on seats behind the pulpit which was located at the centre front. The church was heated by a wood stove just inside the door. There was a small anteroom.

Joseph S. Eakin, who had been a student missionary during the summer, was extended a call from St. Andrew's Church. He was ordained and inducted in August 1869.

In May of 1872, the members of Rev. Eakin's congregation intended to erect a brick manse. They had chosen the site alongside the church on the west side. The building was to be 20'x36' (6x11 m) and 1½ sto-



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, built in 1867, with the sheds on the lot to the east.

reys. Plans and specifications for the proposed building could be seen at the residence of Robert Bell, with tenders to be received by June 5, 1872. However, Rev. Eakin received a call from another parish and had relocated before plans could progress any further.

In 1873, a brick manse was built west of the church on land donated by Mr. Cooper. A *Huron Expositor* article of June 21, 1873 describes it as "a comfortable and handsome manse nearly completed." A kitchen addition and verandah were added by Rev. Hugh Cameron, the first minister to reside in the manse.

On January 26, 1887 a few friends called at the manse. Mr. Weismiller, on behalf of St. Andrews congregation, presented Rev. Acheson with a fur coat and gauntlets, a fine new cutter, robe and bells. Thus, he was admirably equipped for winter driving.

An outstanding event during Rev. Samuel Ache-



The Church and manse, c. 1900.

son's term was the introduction of the organ into the church. In such a staid congregation this called for the utmost in wise leadership and in due time the "kist of whistles" was installed. On December 20, 1895 Miss Crawford was engaged to play the organ and lead the choir.



# Tuckersmith Communications Co-operative

Location: 40023 Kippen Road, Kippen, Ontario

Year begun: 1909

The Tuckersmith Municipal Telephone System was established in 1909, and operated in Tuckersmith, Stanley, Usborne, Hullett, Hibbert, McKillop and Hay Townships. It was named so because the Tuckersmith Council assumed responsibility for its financing. Today, Tuckersmith Communications Co-operative is a leading provider of high speed and dial-up internet, and local and long-distance services.

There were a few early telephone systems in the area. Clinton had a telephone as early as 1879, when Glasgow, McPherson & Co. connected their office

with the express office, and in 1885, had a long-distance connection with London. Seaforth had its first telephone installed in 1884, with the Bell Telephone office located in the C.W. Papst Bookstore. A long-distance line from Stratford to Goderich, via Mitchell, Seaforth and Clinton, was constructed by Bell Telephone in 1884 and had 15 subscribers. The people of Brucefield petitioned for telephone service in 1899. In 1913 there were 649 telephones.

Until 1894 subscribers were not assigned numbers; a user simply asked the operator for connection to a specific party. In September 1939, a battery system replaced magnetos and eliminated the crank-style receiver. The dial system was introduced in 1964.



Telephone operators at the switchboard of the Bell Telephone Exchange in Seaforth's Cardno Block, 1913.





# Brucefield

Among the earliest settlements in the Huron Tract is Brucefield. Neil Ross came to the area in 1830, locating on Lot 34 Concession 1 Tuckersmith Township on the London Road. He was the first settler in the township. Soon after, in 1831, others arrived and settled on nearby lots: James Campbell, John McIntosh, Robert Hunter, William Hunter, William Bell, and Alexander McKenzie. In 1832, John Young settled on Lot 29, just south of the village site. Settlement of the area continued and a townsite was laid out in 1857.

In 1830, the London Road was chopped out, but not logged. Settlers could earn money toward the purchase of their land by clearing the roadway.

The first storekeeper in Brucefield was Samuel McCowan. He is credited with naming the village in honour of Major Bruce of Scotland, a brother-in-law of Lord Elgin and his aide-de-camp when he was Governor General of Canada.

Another early settler was James Stewart who took up land near the village in 1832. Peter McMillan is said to have been the earliest settler in Brucefield proper, also arriving in 1832. He built a store on the northwest corner of the main intersection in Stanley Township. In 1851, the post office was opened in this store with Donald McMillan as postmaster.

Other store owners in 1854 were Daniel Sills, William Scott and David Campbell. As well as operating a store, Daniel Sills bought grain from local farmers and took it to Bayfield. William Scott, in partnership with David Campbell until 1857, had a general store where they sold groceries, dry goods, boots and shoes, and whiskey. In 1857, Scott bought out Campbell's share and continued as Scott & Co. He also bought grass seed and hides from area farmers.

By 1863, Brucefield was a lively place with a church, school, two hotels, four stores, three shoe shops, a wagon and carriage shop, three blacksmith shops, three tailor shops, three carpenter shops, a harness shop and a window-blind shop. Sawmills, a cheese factory and a butcher shop came later. The railroad came through in 1875, with the first train ar-



Brucefield in 1911 – on the left is the J.K. Cornish home with the library and Scott's store in the background. On the right are the wagon shop flanked by two general stores.



Interior of William Scott & Co.'s general store, c. 1870.



The Post Office in the McIntosh building.

(From the Collection of the Huron County Museum & Historic Goal)

iving from London on October 27, 1875. Brucefield became an important station and the village could soon boast of a population of 200.

Brucefield was well known for its doctors. Dr. John Birtch was practicing here in 1863, and two others, Drs. Munroe and Swan, were established in the village at an early date.

Brucefield had an Agricultural Society as early as 1857. In 1875, Brucefield hosted the Annual Spring Show of the South Huron Agricultural Society for the exhibition and sale of stock. In 1883, the village had a Seed Show reported to be "second to none."

# Dixon's Hotel

Location: Brucefield, Ontario  
Year built: c. 1860, 1897

A tavern or hotel was one of the first buildings in a settlement, accommodating travellers passing through or looking to stay. It was more than a place to lodge or get a drink. The hotel often doubled as the community hall where public meetings, church services, court sessions, township-council sessions, and entertainments were held. Travelling salesmen could display their wares, and doctors, dentists, and photographers met and served their public from the local hotel.

The early hotels were usually known by their proprietor's name: Bossenberry, Cook, Dixon, Fach, Jones, Kaiser, Little, McDonald, McFarlane, Morrow, Murray, Rattenbury, Strong, Walker and Wilson. Since hotels also changed hands frequently, it is hard to say how many there were in operation at one time. It seems that Brucefield did not have more than two hotels at once.

Another hotel, the American Hotel on the southwest corner at the intersection, was purchased by Philip Murray in 1902. Unfortunately, he accidentally shot himself only two weeks later. His wife and father-in-law carried on, but bad luck seemed to plague the family – the hotel was destroyed by fire in 1903.



James Dixon's Hotel c. 1885. The hotel burnt in 1896.  
(From the Collection of the Huron County Museum & Historic Goal)



William Dixon rebuilt in 1897.  
(From the Collection of the Huron County Museum & Historic Goal)

# Brucefield United Church

Location: 10 London Rd., Brucefield, Ontario  
Years built: 1877, 1908, 1972

It was in 1849, as Rev. William Graham of Egmondville recorded in his diary, that some members of his church living nearer to Brucefield decided to sever their connection with Egmondville and form their own congregation. Shortly after this, Rev. John Ross was called to be the minister. He continued as minister until 1875 when a portion of the congregation declined to enter Union with the Presbyterian Church in Canada, remaining as the "Free Church." The portion of the congregation who entered union became known as the Brucefield Union Church in 1876.

The then existing church property remained with the Free Church. In February 1876, contracts were let to build the Presbyterian church and it opened in November of that year. A manse was built in 1877. Rev. T. G. Thompson was inducted as the first minister on February 21, 1877.

The congregation soon had a Sunday School for the children. In 1888 the Women's Foreign Missionary Auxiliary had 30 members. There was also a Women's Home Missionary Society and a prayer group.

Instead of renovating the existing church, the decision was taken to build a new church. Using some of the brick from the old church, the new church was built in 1908. Fire destroyed this church in 1970, but it was soon replaced by the present church in 1972.



Brucefield Presbyterian Church 1877.



Brucefield Church built in 1908, burned 1970.

# Ross Free Presbyterian Cemetery

Location: 74836 Hwy 4 south of Brucefield, Ontario

Year begun: 1847

**R**oss Free Presbyterian cemetery is located on Lot 27 Concession 1 Tuckersmith Township, south of Brucefield. In 1847, William Robertson was granted Lot 27 by the Canada Company. That same year, he granted a portion of the lot to James Gordon, Neil Ross and George Walker, trustees of the Presbyterian Church of Hay, Stanley and Tuckersmith Townships.

Although the cemetery was opened earlier, the first known burials were in 1852, e.g., Eliza, the first wife of Rev. John Ross, and Don McLaren. James McDonald died at age 102 in 1857 and was buried here.

The log manse of the Free Church was just south of this graveyard. Rev. Ross served as minister of the Free Church when it remained separate from Presbyterian Union in 1875 until his death in 1887. He lived with his family in this log house and later, in 1879, in the brick cottage that replaced it.



The Free Church property was sold in 1895. A few remaining members carried on worship in Hart's Hall, Baird's Hall, and later, in George Forrest's home. The services were conducted by members. They petitioned and were granted status as a mission in 1902 until about 1912.



The large red headstone marks the final resting place of Rev. John Ross and his two wives.





# Vanastra

*A* Radar Air School was established near Clinton in 1941. The high bluffs overlooking Lake Huron, ten miles away, was thought to be the perfect place to simulate the coastal conditions in Britain. The objective of radar was to intercept German aircraft before they reached the coast of England. British radar training facilities were always under threat of German bombing, so an alternative training site was necessary. The site chosen was Lot 46 Concession 1 in Tuckersmith Township.

The site went from farmland to start-up of training in only fourteen weeks. Roads and over 40 buildings were built. The school was ready so quickly that the first group of RCAF trainees had not yet completed their University of Toronto course, and so the first students were American Forces personnel. By the end of the war, over 5,000 Canadian airmen and 750 officers, as well as some 2,000 Americans, were trained in radar technology at Clinton. An August 1945 *Time* magazine article said: "The United States students, most of them university men, thought so highly of the school that it later became the model for U.S training centers ... [it is] the most modern electronics training centre on the continent"

It was Robert Watson-Watt who, in 1935, demonstrated a system using radio waves to detect aircraft within an eight-mile range. He felt confident it could be extended to a 100-mile range. The British Air Council funded Watson-Watt's development of Radio Direction and Ranging, or radar, and the system's capabilities grew rapidly. Radar could detect the range, direction and approximate height of aircraft approaching over water. Radar stations were built along the south shore of England, beginning a 24-hour watch that continued, without stop, for six years.

The base was like a village in itself. There were



An early photograph of the radar dome.

217 housing units, a fire station, a school, a hospital, a theatre, two churches, and facilities for ice skating, curling, swimming and bowling. When it first opened, the base was known as Royal Air Force (RAF #31 Clinton) Radio School. In 1943, the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF Clinton) took over and the school was renamed #5 Radio School.

It was decided in late 1945 that Clinton would remain as a RCAF Regular Force station. It became RCAF Station Clinton with No. 1 Radar and Communications School as a tenant. Other schools were located there later: School of Food Services (1945-67), School of Instructional Technique (1962-71), and the Guided Missile School (1958-early 1960s). The base was closed in September of 1971.

John VanGassell bought the property and began selling homes for \$6,000 to \$12,000. A contest was held to find a new name for the former air base and new town. Mrs. Margaret Rudd, a resident of Clinton, submitted the winning name Vanastra. She derived the name from "Van" for VanGassell and "Astra" from the Latin motto of the RCAF.



Martin Steel, a business in one of the original buildings.



Lions Club's Vanastra Apartments.



The Huronview Apartments Retirement Home.



Plant Paradise above; below, Kate's Station restaurant



# Dublin

The “Police Village” of Dublin became such on July 1, 1878. The settlement was originally called Carronbrook, after the beautiful little brook which flowed past the place. Belden’s *1879 Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Huron* states that a Police Village is “something very rare in Ontario, if indeed there is another.” Its organization was similar to that of an unincorporated village. The assessments, levies, etc., of taxes were conducted by the township officers, but the proportionate share belonging to the village was administered by three annually elected “Trustees.” For all other purposes, the village belonged to the township. The first trustees elected by Dublin were Joseph Kidd, Thomas King, and Alexander Ross.

A Mr. Fox was the first to settle in the area. The Canada Company gave him 200 acres to build and keep a log tavern. Soon after, before 1840, Robert Donkin took over the tavern and he gave the settlement its first name. U.C. Lee kept the first store and the first post office.

By 1879, Dublin had a salt business run by Joseph Kidd & Sons, the largest outside of Goderich, getting brine from Seaforth area. There were four general stores, a merchant tailor, a drug store, wagon and blacksmith shops, a school with two teachers, an Episcopalian Church, two telegraph offices, and five hotels. The village was a station on the Buffalo-Lake Huron branch of the Grand Trunk Railway.

Dublin was part of the “Irish Settlement,” the first settlement to any extent in McKillop Township. It began at the southeast corner of the township and extended westward to St. Columban and Beechwood.



Merv’s Patios Shewan’s Ornaments.



The first tavern in the township, the Huron Hotel, was here, now the site of the Dublin General Store.

# St. Columban Roman Catholic Church

Location: 44084 Line 34, St. Columban, Ontario

Year built: 1910

The first church and school built in McKillop Township were those at Irishtown between Seaforth and Dublin on the north side of the Huron Road. Rev. J.L. Wiriath was the first missionary priest in the area in 1833. From 1837 to 1842, Rev. Thomas Gibney of Guelph visited the mission periodically and preached in settler’s homes.

The first church was a log building erected in about 1858. An imposing white brick structure was built in 1879 on the same site. It was described as being in the French Renaissance style of architecture with a 75’ spire. It was considered one of the handsomest church edifices in the province, but, unfortunately, was destroyed in 1909 by a fire caused by lightning.

A third church was built here, the present red brick church, in 1910-11. James S. Russell of Stratford was the architect. The new church was dedicated on May 25, 1911. When this church was built, the village was no longer called Irishtown. The name was changed to St. Columban some time in the 1880s, when a post office was established.

The parish of St. Columban Roman Catholic Church has struggled for the past eight years to keep its church open. The cost of repairs to the church is prohibitive. The church is slated for closure in June 2005.



The Church and Presbytery as shown in Belden’s *1879 Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Huron*.

# Winthrop

The small village of Winthrop is at the crossroads of the North Line (County Rd 12) and the Winthrop Road (County Rd 17) in McKillop Township. The site was first settled in 1834 by the Govenlock family. John Govenlock built a steam-powered sawmill in 1873 and a grist and flour mill next to his sawmill the next year. Also in 1874, Andrew Govenlock announced plans to build a grist mill at Winthrop, to be called Victoria Mill. In 1875, Andrew Govenlock opened a general store at his mills.

A post office named Winthrop was opened in March, 1868. Before that, the community was called by a name variously spelled Ballabay, Balliebay, Bailey Bay or Bella Bay. Alex Murchie was the first postmaster. The post office closed in 1915.

By 1879, in addition to the Govenlock mills, Winthrop had a store, a hotel, a Dominion telegraph office, a Presbyterian church, a school (S.S. #10), a tavern, two blacksmiths, a brickyard, and a cheese factory.

In 1873, John Morrison started the Winthrop Cheese and Butter Factory, hiring an experienced cheesemaker, William Hill. Cheese made by Hill and Morrison won first prize at the Central Fair in Guelph in 1875. In 1880, 9¢ a gallon was paid for milk, cheese sold for 11¢/lb, butter for 25¢/lb.



From Belden's 1879 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Huron*, this picture shows, from the left, barns and tenement houses, Andrew Govenlock's residence (background), the flour mills, the sawmill, the store, the blacksmith shop with R. Pethick as blacksmith, and John R. Govenlock's residence.

# Cavan Church

Location: Winthrop, Ontario  
Year built: 1907

Residents of Winthrop petitioned the Presbytery of Huron in 1875 for the organization of a congregation in the area. The request was granted and Rev. T. G. Thompson, pastor at Duff's Church in Walton, was instructed to form a congregation. For a time, services were conducted in Andrew Govenlock's home, until the first frame church was opened in December of 1875. Professor Cavan of Knox College, after whom the church was named, conducted the service.

The present brick church was built in 1907, the cornerstone being laid and dedication made in 1908. Rev. David Carswell was the minister at the time. The congregation supplied the brick, gravel, sand, seating and glass bringing the total cost of the building to almost \$6,000.

In 1875, Andrew Govenlock was the first Sunday School superintendent. He served in this capacity for 25 years. Thomas Dodds followed him and served for 45 years.

A Women's Association was formed in 1900 with Mrs. Musgrave as president. This group later joined with the Women's Mission Society. The Young People's Organization was formed in 1905. A Mission Band was started in 1931.

The first musical instrument was a tuning fork. An organ was installed in 1895 with Nellie Henderson as the first organist.

Several memorials have been placed in the church over the years. The Baptismal Font, collection plates, and a plaque were all donated.





# General Store

Location: Winthrop, Ontario  
Year built: c. 1955

The Wee Store in Winthrop has served the community for well over 100 years – not the same store building, but virtually the same location. Alex Murchie, the original owner, came to Canada with his wife and two small children in 1858. He built a house a few miles north of Seaforth at a corner of the North Gravel Road (North Line), called Ballabay or Bailey Bay. Several years later, he started carrying merchandise to trade with an increasing number of families in the area. A post office was opened here in 1868 and named Winthrop.

When Murchie died, his wife continued in business and had the post office fitted with boxes for the mail. Mrs. Murchie died in 1913. The store was bought by John Montgomery who operated it until 1951.

The store was next sold to Austin Dolmage. He took the original house-store down and built another store in its place, further back from the road. He sold to Stanley M. Gillies. Lloyd McCluskie took over the business in 1958. He built a large addition and made other improvements.



The Winthrop store as it looks today.

# Leadbury & Manley

A few miles north of Winthrop at the Hullett-McKillop Roads was a hamlet called Leadbury. Charles Davis owned all the businesses in the community including the store and hotel. A native of Leadbury, England, he named the settlement after his original home. It was also known as Davis' Corners. A petition was made in 1874 for a post office at Davis' Corners. It was considered a great convenience on the mail route between Seaforth and Brussels. Leadbury became a post office on June 1, 1877 with Davis as the first postmaster. The post office closed in 1913.

Records show there was a log school on the present site as early as 1863. In 1876, the lot was surveyed, a well was dug, and the lot fenced. Samuel Hannah was paid \$80 for the land and the deed was registered with Holmstead and McCaughey of Seaforth. In 1907, the original school building was sold to Thomas Archibald who remodeled it into a home. The existing brick schoolhouse, S.S. #7, was built by Luxton Hill of Blyth.

S.S. #8 at Manley was built on the southeast corner of Lot 6 Concession 10 of



McKillop Township. The land was granted by the Canada Company in 1864. A log schoolhouse was erected and Patrick O'Sullivan was the first teacher into 1866. In 1879, land was purchased at the northeast corner of Lot 5 Concession 10 McKillop Township. A new school was built, so that it would be more centrally located within the school section. This new school opened in 1881 with Miss Margaret Moylan, teacher.

Manley was a post office located near the intersection of Concession Road 10-11 and Sideroad 5 in McKillop Township. The post office was open from May 1909 to 1913. It was likely named for the school section.

# Walton

John Hewitt named the village Walton after his native village in Buckinghamshire, England. Hewitt had sailed for Canada in 1843, settling first in York County for four years. Land Registry records show that Hewitt purchased Lot 1 Concession 18 Grey Township in 1856. He had his corner section surveyed into townsite lots in 1862. A post office was opened that same year and also named Walton. In the 1850s, however, many settlers had come to this area which was then called Biggar's Corners after the local tavern owner, George Biggar.

Kenneth McLeod operated a public house in Walton called the Rob Roy House, but it had disappeared by the time taverns were licensed in the 1850s – or perhaps was then known under another name. In 1854 Nesbit Biggar bought Lot 1 Hewitt Survey, which indicates that those who had kept a hotel before this date did not own the land. From that date to 1880 there were many names associated with the hotel either as bartenders or tenants. In February 1857, George Biggar applied for a tavern license for the Biggar Hotel. It was also known at one time as the Exchange Hotel, the Victoria Hotel and the Royal Hotel. During the 1880s, many oyster suppers were served at what was then the Royal Hotel operated by William Biernes. Opposite this hotel was a tavern called the Walton Hotel, owned in 1862 by John Swallow. Travellers to the area were provided board, bed and bar at these two hotels.

The old Biggar Hotel was converted to apartments in the 1920s. The three Driscoll sisters, Margaret, Susan, and Ida, operated a dressmaking shop in the hotel. A barbershop in the same building was oper-



Concession 17 Walton.

ated by Peter McTaggart and a Dr. Robinson had an office and rooms here for a time. In 1928, J.S. Lawrence Cummings bought the building and converted it into a garage while living upstairs. In 1930, he tore down the large brick building that had for so long served as a hotel and erected a new steel garage.

The first log schoolhouse was built in 1860 and residents could attend Methodist, United Presbyterian or Presbyterian Church. St George's Anglican Church arrived in 1880.

Mary A. and William Henry Humphries bought Lots 4 and 5 in 1885. He set up a blacksmith shop on Lot 5, but eventually moved it northeastward and built a store on the site, a 2-



storey brick building.

Almost everything necessary in those days could be purchased over its counters while hanging outside just as you came in were boots, halters, strings of bells, etc. The inside walls were lined with calicoes, soft cashmere, Paisley shawls, sewing notions and thread, cake tobacco, dishes, crockery, molasses, raw sugar, pewter mugs, rock candy and gum, bins of flour, medicines and liniments.

Walton had many of the usual trades of the time: wagon and carriage makers, blacksmiths, harness, and cooperage shops; livery stables; flax, grist, saw and chopping mills; a brickyard and a cheese factory; a number of shoemakers, weavers, dressmakers, tailors and milliners; and, a medical as well as a veterinary doctor.



Walton's growth was spurred by the arrival of the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1907. The station was built by Harry Edge of Seaforth and had a waiting room, office and living quarters.

# Walton Inn

Location: 83001 Brussels Line, Walton, Ontario  
Year built: 1862

The Walton Hotel, as it was first known, was one of two hotels in Walton in the late 1800s. Walton Hotel was ideally situated at the corner of two main roads, now the Blyth Road and the Brussels Line. The first proprietor of the hotel in 1862 was John Swallow. Charles Sage, who came from England in 1855, took over in 1868. Sage ran the hotel with the able help of his wife and daughters who waited tables, tended bar, and even provided entertainment playing musical glasses.

The Hotel is a frame building; the brick was added at a later date, around 1900. The *Huron Expositor* of October 22, 1895 advertised an Auction Sale at the Hotel and gave this description: two storey, 50'x34' (14x10 m), seven rooms downstairs and seven rooms upstairs, two wells, a 60'x40' (18x12 m) stable holds 30 horses, 50'x16' (15x5 m) open shed, another stable with five double stalls, two acres of land.

Commercial travelers to Walton arrived by a horsedrawn vehicle, or later by train, and stopped at Walton Hotel for food and lodging. Traveling salesmen, with large trunks of dry goods and samples, could display their wares in rooms provided; sometimes it took two or three days. Bankers, school teachers, and sawmill workers were long-term boarders at the hotel. A hostler was employed and a large barn stabled horses.

The hotel was renamed the Walton Inn and was purchased by Graeme Craig in 1997.



# Walton General Store

Location: 83004 Brussels Line, Walton, Ontario  
Year built: 1900

This two-storey white brick building was built by the AOUW, the Ancient Order of United Workmen No. 305. The AOUW in Walton was organized by George Patterson who was district master. They met twice a month when first begun in 1888, in the Orange Hall. By 1897, plans were under way to build their own hall and they bought part of Lot 2 from George McKim for \$75. Although the building was built in 1900, their grand opening with 200 guests treated to an oyster supper, was not held until 1904.

The AOUW used the second floor of the building and rented the ground-floor space to various organizations. The building acted as a kind of town hall for a time. Dances, banquets, a medicine show, travelling groups presenting plays, Christmas concerts, bazaars, political meetings, Red Cross activities, Women's Institute meetings and box socials were all held here.

In 1906 the Sovereign Bank leased the lower space and installed a vault. At that time, the Sovereign Bank was the 6th largest bank in Canada and this was the 5th branch to be opened.

A Jewellery Store operated by Dennis Blake occupied the south part of the lower floor sometime before 1911. A barbershop was also there at some point. In 1934, Douglas Ennis opened a general store in the lower floor space. By 1938, Mr. Ennis had purchased the property and had converted the upper storey into an apartment where he and his family lived. The building has continued use as a general store since then.



The Sholdice Livery in front of the Sovereign Bank.



# Walton Community Hall

Location: Blyth Road, Walton, Ontario  
Year built: 1873

The new Connexion Methodist congregation in the Walton area built their church in 1873 at the corner of the North Line (County Rd 12) and the 14<sup>th</sup> Concession of McKillop, between Leadbury and Walton. Since about 1870, they had been holding services in a school house in Leadbury. The church was built by Mr. Leatherland of Seaforth for a cost of \$2,000. In 1874, the Walton church became the head of the circuit.

The congregation bought ½ an acre of land – the southeast part of Lot 1 Concession 18 in Grey Township – in 1884, and made plans to move the church there. However, they did not do so until 1904, 20 years later.

When the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches united in 1925, the New Connexion Methodist congregation joined with Duff's Presbyterian Church to form Duff's United Church. The building was sold to the Loyal Orange Lodge.

By the 1930s, members of the community were on the lookout for a suitable building to act as a community hall. The old church building was bought in 1938 for \$50 and moved to its present location. It has served admirably as a community hall since that time.



New Connexion Methodist Church and Manse when it was located on the southeast part of Lot 1 Concession 18 Grey Township.



The Community Hall as it is today.

# Walton Public School

Location: Walton, Ontario  
Year built: 1907

The first school in the Walton area was a log schoolhouse built on the southeast corner of Lot 5 Concession 15. A second school, a frame 9, Morris Township, near where the red brick schoolhouse still stands. The two-storey red brick schoolhouse was built in 1907, replacing the frame building. The school was known as U.S.S. No. 11.

The two-storey schoolhouse was well lighted by windows that could be raised and lowered by ropes. It had hardwood floors, a full basement with furnace, slate blackboards, a bell and a flag pole. C.S. White was the first teacher here, receiving a salary of \$400 a year.



The schoolhouse is now home to Nuffield Tractors Sales & Service.



The cupola is still in place atop the little red brick schoolhouse.



Teacher M.E. Cluff and her students, 1910. In 1910, the school had a junior classroom in the basement. Two teachers, as well as a caretaker, were employed.

# Walton Venture Centre

Location: 42659 Walton Rd, Walton, Ontario

Year built: 1961



The Walton Venture Centre has three tenants: Walton Little School, Barmy Tech, and Huron Perth Cattlefeed Co-op Inc. of Dublin. **Walton Little School** replaced the red brick schoolhouse that had served local school children since 1874, U.S.S. No. 11. The new school was built on the northwest corner of Lot 1 Concession 18 on six acres purchased from Ernest Stevens. To build the brick school with four classrooms on this property, \$84,000 was raised by a 20-year debenture. In 1962, the school was ready for occupancy. The old red brick schoolhouse was sold and is now home to Nuffield Tractors. In 1969, the school was changed to a Primary School for Kindergarten to Grade 3 students only. In 2001 it was converted to a privately owned Literacy Centre for children aged 18 months to 6 years.

**Barmy Tech**, the second tenant, is a Canadian Company. They make Cotton Barmy Bags and other fabric accessories. The bags can be personalized with town crests for use as “Blue Bag” shopping bags. Or, the bags make great additions to a company’s incentive program and useful promotional items at conventions and trade shows. Students in dorms or apartment residents will find the laundry bag handy. The duffle bag can be used as a camping or a beach bag. The lunch bag is an alternative to a tote bag, handy for younger children at Sunday or Nursery school.



# Brussels

Brussels was originally called Ainleyville, named after one of the first settlers, William Ainley, who laid out a town site on the Maitland River in 1855. The official name of the Post Office was Dingle, named after Ireland's Dingle Peninsula, perhaps. When the Southern Extension of the Great Western Railway line opened in December of 1872, the station at the north edge of town was named Brussels. Only days later, when the village was officially incorporated, its name was also changed to Brussels. The Post Office followed suit soon after.

By 1880, the village had a population of 1000. In its heyday, the village had mills of every sort – planing, gristing, flouring, saw – powered by water and steam. The last of these, the Logan Mill, located on the site of an earlier mill complex owned and operated by Vanstone & Sons, closed in 1967. The town's millpond is a reminder of an industry that once flourished here.

In 1878, the Brussels Steam Fire Engine & Agricultural Works was established with J.D. Ronald as its proprietor. It made steam fire engines, the celebrated "Vibrator" pattern of separator sold across Canada and around the world, and castings for agricultural implements such as reapers and mowers. The business employed 40 to 50 men.

Brussels also had a steam carding mill, a corset factory, a furniture factory, blacksmiths, carriage shops, pump factories, a tannery, a steam flax mill, merchant tailor establishments, milliners, boot and



Main Street Brussels c. 1920.

shoe makers, and dressmaking establishments. Of the many stores recorded in 1879 were six general stores, five groceries, two hardware stores, four tin and stove stores, four boot and shoe stores, two drug stores, two confectionaries, as well as several butchers and bakers. There were no fewer than five hotels, the grandest of which was the Queen's Hotel on Main Street. The village was served by two lawyers, three doctors and one dentist.

The newspaper, *The Post*, printed its first issue in July 1, 1873. The paper was run by the McGillicuddy brothers, Thomas and Daniel. After a struggle to establish itself, it became the longest-running newspaper in Brussels history.

An early inhabitant of the area, grain dealer John Leckie, played an important part in the railway line

coming to the village. He also led the library board in the process of securing a grant to build a Carnegie Public Library. Leckie was the first Reeve of Brussels and served in this role for many years. In 1877, he became the first Brussels Reeve to be Warden of Huron County.

Although it has a Belgian name, the village's population was largely Scots and Irish. The population in 1871 was 344. Within a decade, the village grew to about 1800 people. Over the years though, the population has settled at about 900.

Between 1860 and 1875, the business section of the village was leveled by fire more than once. Many of the brick buildings built afterward still stand today, most notably Graham, Holmes, Fletcher, Little Bros., and Ament Blocks.

The first school was built in 1864. Another report indicates that a public school was built in 1872 with an addition made five years later. A new school was built in 1895 to house both the elementary and continuation students. The annual salary for a teacher in 1887 was \$250. There were five teachers in 1888: Miss Sayers, Miss Hambly, Miss Richardson, Miss Anne Abraham, and Miss Taylor.



A parade on Turnberry Street, Brussels, early 1900s.





The Queen's Hotel was a centrepiece on the main street. Belden described its "two projecting wings ... a handsome piazza of equal height with the main building, the centre topped by a lofty and highly ornamental rectangular tower." It was torn down in 1986.

In 1863, Ainleyville had two hotels, The British Hotel, owned by Simon Powell, and The North American Hotel, owned by William Armstrong. And



The Central Hotel was located on the east side of Turnberry Street where the Liquor Store is now. The building was also once used as Cunningham's Garage.

there was The Dingle Saloon, owned by John Graham. Belden reported five hotels in 1879. He mentions in particular The Queen's Hotel and Tecumseh House. At one time, there was also The Revere House just south of the railway tracks to the west of Turnberry Street and The Central Hotel on the east side of the main street.

The earliest electrical power in the village was provided by a steam-powered generating plant located on the southern bank of the Maitland River on Turnberry Street. The date of its start isn't clear, but in the September 27, 1889 edition of *The Brussels Post*, its editor requested that council invest a little money for street lights. Brussels council voted in December to have six street lamps installed. The business had been in operation for some time when the Thuell Bros., Robert John and James, purchased it in about 1900.

The steam generator created electrical power for carbon-arc street lamps, and a small number of homes. The plant usually ran from dusk until midnight – after that the village was in darkness until sunrise. Robert Thuell's son recalled his father turning the plant on Wednesday afternoons for those customers who wanted to do their ironing with electric irons.

In the 1880s, the Brussels Salt Works was a thriving industry. The Smith Furniture Factory, operated by Thomas and Oliver Smith in the late 1880s, employed 30 men during the peak summer season, 14 year round. R. Leatherdale Furniture manufactured 25 bedroom suites a week in 1888. Also operating in the late 1880s were the New Queen's Shoeing and Carriage Shops, and the East Huron Carriage



Workers at the Thuell Bros. electric lighting plant.

Works. Mrs. William Ballantyne and son opened an Egg Emporium in April of 1888, George Love & Co. began an implement business and James Broadfoot's Economy Restaurant served meals, any hour of the day or evening, for 20¢.



A large employer in 1900 was the flax mill. The mill was located on the Maitland River just below the dam.



# Public Library

Location: 402 Turnberry St. South, Brussels, Ontario  
Year built: 1910

Brussels has the distinction of being one of the smaller communities to have a Carnegie library. Andrew Carnegie was a Scot who made his fortune in American steel. When he sold his company in 1901, he turned to charitable works, among them the funding of library buildings around the world. Between 1901 and 1915, 111 Ontario communities had received library grants out of a total of 125 given in eight provinces of Canada. Huron County communities had received five, Brussels being one of them.

The idea of a public library for Brussels was introduced in 1906 by the Reeve, John Leckie. A grant of \$7,000 was received. After some initial controversy over the choice of a site, a lot at the corner of Turnberry and Mill Streets was purchased for \$375. The plans of a Stratford architect, Mr. Ireland, were accepted May 26, 1909 and by December 30<sup>th</sup> the building was complete enough to house a meeting of the library board. Brussels Public Library was opened on January 14, 1910.

Library service in Brussels has its origins, as do many libraries in Ontario, with the Mechanics' Institute libraries of the mid-1850s. The Mechanics' Institute Library and Reading Room in Brussels was incorporated in 1874. It was a subscription library that in 1880 cost \$1.00 a year. A financial report for that year shows there were 28 subscribers and 572 volumes.

After the passage of the Free Libraries Act in 1882



*The Brussels Post* of December 8, 1910 boasted: "Brussels possesses the neatest and most modern library in five counties." Today, the library is still an important part of the community.

many municipalities across Ontario provided public, but not always free, library services. However, not many libraries actually had a permanent building to call home. The Carnegie grant program gave communities the chance to apply for monies to build a library, provided they contributed an annual sum of 10% of the grant received toward support of the library, as well as a piece of land on which to build. James Bertram, Carnegie's private secretary, ran the grant program and it was he who dealt with the voluminous correspondence from the various library boards.

The design of the libraries was not dictated by the Carnegie grant program, but many common elements appear, for example, an exposed basement, a centrally located main entrance, classically columned porticos and a symmetrical arrangement of windows. Brussels Public Library is one of only six in Ontario

to have a corner entrance, a feature deemed extravagant by the frugal Mr. Bertram.

The Brussels Public Library has become a fixture in the community. Over the years it has provided space for activities other than library services. The Red Cross made its home in the basement during WWII. In addition to library service there were, and are, story-time programs and a community room used for a variety of public functions.

It is now a Level 2 Branch of the Huron County Library system providing Internet access and an automated circulation service.

Unfortunately, Brussels Public Library is in peril. Current library standards require full accessibility; in this case, an elevator is needed. Also required is a minimum of 2,500 square feet of display space, 1,000 square feet more than the library has available now. So today, the municipal council is struggling with the financial quandary posed by these standards.



The classically columned portico of Brussels Public Library.

# Fire Hall

Location: 51 CN Road,  
Brussels, Ontario

Fire destroyed the Brussels downtown core two or three times between 1860 and 1875, according to Belden's 1879 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Huron Ontario*: "On two or three several occasions within almost a few years, the major part of the business portion of the village has melted to ashes before the fire-fiend; and the spirit and enterprise which have met these disasters by fresh and greater efforts, have given Brussels a place among the villages of the Province which many envy and might possess with pride."

The threat of fire was a common problem. Fire-fighting equipment was inefficient and buildings less fire-proofed than today. The rapid spread of a fire was especially a concern before towns started building their commercial blocks in brick.

Before steam-powered pumps came into use, pumping engines were powered by the firefighters' muscle. A large team of fire-fighters was needed as those working the pumper had to be spelled off every few minutes. Firefighting was less efficient with this system because only a moderate water pressure could be achieved and very little water volume.

Volunteer fire brigades had an engine or pumper company and a hook and ladder company. In 1875, a town of 1,000 might have as many as 60 firefighters. The Hook and Ladder company got its name from the work they did, placing ladders to attack the fire or for rescue, and using large hooks and ropes to



Prior to World War I, steam-powered upright pumps were used to battle blazes. In winter, they were equipped with runners to get them through deep snow.

pull down nearby structures.

Horse-drawn steam-driven pumps were in widespread use by the late 1800s. Steamers could provide larger volumes of water under considerable pressure, unlike the earlier pumping engines. With the advent of gasoline-powered motorized vehicles around 1910, the old horse-drawn apparatus was eventually retired.

The Brussels volunteer fire brigade was housed in the Town Hall, which was once located at Turnberry and Mill Streets. It was here from 1875 and on into the 1960s. However, there was no municipal water system in Brussels until 1947. Before this time water was supplied by underground cisterns in various locations throughout the village. By the late 1920s there were a few watermains and hydrants,

and a pumphouse by the river. In later years, fire protection was one reason cited in support of a municipal water system.

In 1878, the Brussels Steam Fire Engine & Agricultural Works, owned by John D. Ronald, was enticed by a loan of \$20,000 from the village to relocate in Brussels. They made steam fire engines, and castings for agricultural implements such as reapers and mowers. The fire engines were sold throughout the country. As early as the 1880s, the company shipped their engines west. A February 1888 report in *The Post* noted that Winnipeg had four fire engines, one being a Brussels Steam Fire Engine. Since it was the only one in working order, and urgent order was put in for a second. Smaller towns across Ontario, like Warton and Forest, bought smaller units. The town of Port Perry, Ontario, purchased a steam fire engine in 1884: "Following a most successful demonstration of the Brussels Steam Fire Engine in Port Perry, council voted to purchase the fire engine the next day. It is superior for its rush of water, which draws 300 to 400 gallons a minute."

As noted in the 1879 *Atlas of the County of Huron*, the Brussels Steam Fire Engine & Agricultural Works was "conveniently located on the corner of two of the principal streets, near both railway station and river." The Works had a 3-storey main building plus two wings housing an office, paint shop, pattern room, iron working and woodworking shops, blacksmith shop and foundry. They employed 40 to 50 hands. Every part of the engine was produced on site except for the suction hose which came from Cleveland, the boiler domes from Paterson, N.J., the headlamps and hand lanterns from New York, and the copper boiler tubes from England. Prices ranged from \$3,000 to \$4,500 for an engine alone including suction hose.

Brussels Fire Department was formed in 1903. The town bell was used to summon firefighters. In 1995, a new fire hall was built.



# Melville Presbyterian Church

Location: 55 Dunedin Drive, Brussels, Ontario

Year built: c. 1915

Built between 1914 and 1915, this magnificent structure is dominated by a 65-foot (20 m) tower. The cornerstone was laid May 25, 1914 on the site of the first brick church building at the southeast corner of William and Princess Streets, which was then torn down to make way for the new, larger church. The new church, of modern architecture, was built of red pressed brick. It was originally heated by steam and lighted by electricity. It has a slate roof, stained glass windows and circular pews. Although the building is a 64'x93' (19.5x28 m) rectangle, the interior layout of the nave is on the bias, with the pulpit in the northwest corner.

In 1854, Brussels was known as Ainleyville Mission. As did other congregations during the early years of settlement, Presbyterians met for worship in private homes or outdoors, served in the summer months by itinerant ministers. At the time, there were two Presbyterian congregations, Knox, after the founder of Scottish Presbyterianism, John Knox,

and Melville, after Andrew Melville, a successor to Knox.

The Knox Presbyterians built the first church in Ainleyville in 1856-57, a wooden structure at the corner of John and Ellen Streets. Their first minister was Rev. W.C. Young, who arrived in 1861 and served until 1865.

The Melville Presbyterians bought an acre of land from Thomas Halliday in 1857. Their first wooden church was built on this site at the corner of Queen and Turnberry Streets. The first minister at Melville Presbyterian Church was the Rev. D. Ferguson who served from 1865 to 1879. Rev. Ferguson conducted services in both Gaelic and English for congregations



An early postcard of the church.



The Church while under construction in 1914.

in nearby Cranbrook and Walton, as well as Ainleyville.

The first brick church of Melville Presbyterian was opened in 1872 on the site of the existing building. Thomas Ainley, a son of the village's founder, made the brick.

In 1895, the two Presbyterian congregations united. Worship was held in this new brick church until March 15, 1914.

In the early years of churches, when the congregations sang they were unaccompanied by piano or pipe organ. According to Presbyterian custom, a Precentor would conduct the congregation in the singing. This changed when a new pipe organ was installed in the new church building of 1914-15. A later choir member remembers: "... the organ still remained behind the choir. It had no motor, but it did have a fan, and it required a volunteer each Sunday to pump air into the bellows. ... Attached to the side of the organ was an old pump handle with two pieces of metal fixed to 'I don't know what' and with the crash of these pieces of metal and the pump handle, one could sing off key and never be noticed."

# Logan's Mill

Location: 61 Orchard Lane, Brussels, Ontario

Year begun: 1859

Brothers William and James Vanstone built a wooden dam and mill on this site in 1859. William Vanstone was described in the Belden 1879 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Huron Ontario* as: "one of the most conspicuous gentlemen in commercial and social circles to be met with in that section of the country." William and three brothers came to Canada with their paternal grandfather in 1843 and settled near Goderich. William and James moved to Brussels in 1859 when William was 26.

John and Francis Fishleigh and Thomas Babb, all merchants in Mitchell, and Donald McInnes, a Hamilton merchant, controlled mill properties and flooding rights at various times, but none built a mill. William Vanstone, a miller first in Egmondville, bought the properties on which the mills were located in 1862 from McInnes and Babb. Richard Vanstone of Egmondville was a partner until 1863 when he sold to James Vanstone of Ainsleyville.

In October of 1871, just three months after William Vanstone had bought out his brother James' interest in the mill, it was destroyed by fire. The neighbouring small sawmill was also burnt. William rebuilt



William Vanstone as pictured in Belden's 1879 *Atlas of Huron*.



The Mill owned by William Vanstone & Sons as depicted in the 1879 Belden *Atlas of the County of Huron*.

the sawmill immediately, but reconstruction of the grist mill waited another two years. By 1879, Vanstone worked in partnership with his son.

Vanstone also owned a hotel, the Tecumseh House, one of five hotels in The hotel stood at the northeast corner of Market and Turnberry Streets.

The mills were struck by fire again in 1911. John Logan built the Logan Mill in 1914-15. He built a new cement grist mill and put a cement cap on the dam. He installed a Ruston Diesel engine for auxiliary power whenever the river was too high or too low to operate the turbines.

The mill continued in operation until 1967 when it was no longer profitable due to its small size and aging equipment. It was sold to the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority in 1972. Owners of the surrounding lands donated their flood-zone property or



A postcard of the Vanstone Mill and dam before the fire of 1911. By this point it was powered by steam.

agreed to ongoing easements. In 1974, two large water turbines were removed. One was donated to the Huron County Museum in Goderich and the other to the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority to be displayed at the mill site.

By 1986, a new dam had been constructed across the Maitland River. The pond was dredged, a man-made island created, and erosion-control structures built along the river. The 16-hectare millpond creates a picturesque setting for the Logan Mill as well as a welcoming spot for a picnic.

Current plans are to convert the mill building's shell into an arts and cultural centre. An architect has been engaged to develop a proposal.



One of the water turbines used to power the mill.

# Graham Block

Location: 503 Turnberry St. South, Brussels, Ontario  
Year built: 1877

The Graham Block was built in 1877 by Dr. Graham who bought 100 acres at the south edge of Brussels, since then known as the Graham Survey. The Graham Block had three main-floor stores. Dr. Graham had his office above what for 56 years was the Brussels 5¢-\$1.00 Store on the corner. Staircase scribblings indicate a dentist and a milliner once occupied shops on the second floor. The third floor was an elegant lodge and meeting room used by the Western Star Lodge (the Oddfellows).

Fire destroyed the business section two or three times between 1860 and 1875. New, and more fire-proof, brick buildings were erected. The Graham Block was one of five commercial blocks in Brussels in 1879. The others were the Holmes Block, Little Bros. Block, Fletcher Block, and Ament Block.

In the 1920s, the stores were occupied by Fred Hunter's Dry Goods, Fox's Drug Store and Moore's 5¢-\$1.00 Store. The building was used by the Post Office in 1934-35 while a new Post Office was being built. In 1935, two school teachers, Elizabeth and Christena Dickson, decided the town needed a 5¢-\$1.00 Store, something most towns had at the time. They rented until they were able to buy the property in 1947.

In 1949, the other two stores were bought by the occupants, Stewart Lowe's Grocery and William Mitchell's Barbershop.

In the late 1940s, two rooms on the second floor were renovated into an apartment. The occupant, Kate Menzies, paid \$3.30 a month rent. The rest of the second floor was used for storage. But, as mentioned, there was once a millinery shop and a dentist's office here.

The building was heated with a wood and coal furnace in the basement. A large iron grate box with a wooden top stood in the centre of the store on the ground floor. People would gather round the grate for warmth and a chat.

The Brussels 5¢-\$1.00 Store kept a large stock of ladies' and children's clothing as well as men's work clothes. The store also stocked dry goods such as broadcloth, print, linens, and sewing needs. Dishes and gift-wares were also sold.

The Graham Block has some features of the



Turnberry Street looking north c.1900 – note the Graham Block at the right of the photograph.



The Graham Block as it looks today.

Gothic Revival style of architecture, mainly in the detailing of the windows. Note the slightly pointed arch of the window hoods which is emphasized by the decorative brickwork below the upper cornice. The brickwork pilasters mark off the three store sections while the window hoods and upper brickwork form horizontal lines uniting the three sections. The Gothic arch is also an element of the storefront cornice. Note the decorative carving and the latticework above the storefront windows of the 5¢-\$1.00 Store on the corner. Above the upper cornice, at the centre of the block, is a semi-circular plaque with the date the building was constructed.



# Oldfield Hardware Store

Location: 440 Turnberry St. South, Brussels, Ontario

Year built: 1910

In 1948, Max Oldfield, an Air Force wireless mechanic, purchased this elegant 1910 building and hardware business from William Gillespie. Gillespie ran the hardware business for many years, since about 1900. One feature of the store was the pot-bellied stove around which customers would gather for a visit. The marks from “the chopping of the wood” for the stove are all that remain. The original Wilton and Gillespie storefront sign hangs in the store.

When Max Oldfield started in the hardware business in 1946, his store was in the old Royal Bank building across the road. He bought the first section of his present store, the red brick section, in 1948 from William Gillespie. He says he chose the hardware business because his work as a wireless mechanic spurred an interest in mechanics.

When Oldfield began, he had no more than \$5,000 in stock and only about 1,000 square feet of store space. In 1955, the front of the Gillespie section of the hardware store was renovated and a complete new storefront was installed. In 1964, Oldfield expanded the business and purchased the store next door from C&G Krauter Plumbing. The store grew again in 1979 with the purchase of the neighbouring building which had housed J&K Shoes and Jeans.

At one time, travelling salesmen from one firm or another would visit the store. Orders for merchandise would be handled by them. When long-distance telephone service arrived, orders were made over the



Note the decorative brickwork in red and white.

phone and could take anywhere from 20 to 25 minutes. Now, orders for merchandise are computerized.

Over the years the product lines on offer changed as well as the means of doing business. From the basic hardware-store stock offered in the early days, the business grew to include modern electrical appliances. In 1964, the hardware line was expanded to include such things as televisions and radios. At this time, the store became part of the Pro Hardware Group, and later Tru-Value. One advantage in belonging to such a group is to be a part of a buying group. About 90% of the goods are now purchased this way. Radio Shack was added in 1980. Today, computer equipment is for sale alongside the hardware basics that have been the mainstay of the business for years.

A natural addition for Mr. Oldfield to make was a television repair service. He was kept busy with television sales during the day and spent many eve-



Wilton & Gillespie were in the hardware business in the early 1900s.

nings repairing them.

The base of the hardware business has always been the area's farmers and related businesses as well as local industry. The store also sells fishing and hunting licenses and has a locksmith business. A Sears catalogue outlet is yet another service offered.



The original Oldfield Hardware Store.

# Leckie-Hoy House

Location: 62 Dunedin Drive, Brussels, Ontario

Year built: c. 1877

The Leckie-Hoy House is a fine example of Queen Anne Revival design. It was built for John A. Leckie, the first Reeve of Brussels, who purchased the land in 1876. The house remains largely unchanged since it was built. Some of the features of the Queen Anne Revival style of architecture to note in this house are the tower, the verandah, the fan-shaped corner brackets, and the variety of windows – a Palladian window in the front gable, the semi-circular window in the centre gable and the large circular window.

It is unclear exactly when the house was built. It may have been built for Leckie as early as 1877 or as late as 1910. The house is triple-brick construction. Limestone used in the foundation was quarried from the Maitland River which flows behind the house. The house is adorned with stained glass windows and solid oak woodwork throughout. The tower added to the stature of the house.

The cottage located beside the house was once a part of the property. It had a tennis court.

The house was bought by Dr. Donald S. McRae in 1946 and became known locally as the “McRae House.” The family lived in the home until 1985.

The current owners of the house are Charles Hoy and Alison Wainwright.

John A. Leckie was born in Lanark County in 1835. At age 19, he moved with his family to Grey Township. In 1856, he built a store in Cranbrook (*see the story about Cranbrook*). Leckie then moved to



A beautiful Queen Anne Revival home.

Ainleyville where he embarked on the grain and produce trade. In 1861, John Leckie established the first grain and produce dealership in the village, providing the means to market the region’s early wheat crops by team to the Lake Huron and Buffalo Railway station at Seaforth. Belden notes, in the 1879 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Huron, Ontario*, that Leckie was also a real estate agent and the manager of the Brussels agency of the Exchange Bank of Canada.

Leckie was commissioned a Justice of the Peace in

1862. He was elected the Reeve of Grey Township from 1865 to 1873.

During his tenure as Reeve, he worked hard to persuade the Wellington, Grey & Bruce division of the Great Western Railway to build a line through Ainleyville in 1872. When a line was built and the station was named Brussels, the village name and post office were also officially changed with its incorporation in 1873. Leckie was elected the first Reeve that same year and served in this capacity for many years. In 1875, he was elected the Warden of Huron County.

In 1906, Leckie introduced the idea of a Carnegie library for the village. He served as a member of the library board and was involved with the negotiations between the board and Carnegie’s secretary, James Bertram for the \$6,500 grant to build a library. (*See the story about the Carnegie Public Library*.)



# The Citizen

Location: 541 Turnberry St. South, Brussels, Ontario

Date original newspaper began: 1873

The Citizen is a weekly newspaper published by North Huron Publishing, a community-owned company. North Huron Publishing was formed in 1985 after the two local newspapers, *The Brussels Post* and *The Blyth Standard*, ceased publication as independent newspapers. This building, located in the commercial core, is now a base for the editorial and sales staff.

The longest-running newspaper in Brussels was *The Brussels Post*. The first issue was printed July 10, 1873. The newspaper was begun by the McGillicuddy brothers, Thomas and Daniel. Belden's 1879 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Huron, Ontario* describes the Post as "a live, local paper, spicily edited, well printed, ably managed, and Reform in politics." The author notes that the newspaper struggled to survive in the early years, "but the energy, perseverance and ability of the McGillicuddy Brothers ... gradually worked the paper into good running shape." The business was moved in 1877 to a new office built specially for the purpose.

The newspaper changed hands a number of times over the years. The McGillicuddy Brothers sold in 1880 to William H. Kerr. The newspaper remained in the Kerr family until the death in 1932 of John L. Kerr, William's son.

Roy Kennedy, the son of the editor of *The Stratford Beacon Herald*, A.R. Kennedy, bought the newspaper in 1933. Kennedy ran the business with his wife, Evelyn, for the next 40 years. It was sold for a third time in 1973 to McLean Bros. Publishing, publisher of *The Huron Expositor* in Seaforth. *The Brussels Post* ended its long run as an independent newspaper in 1982 when McLean Bros. sold its papers to Goderich Signal Star Publishing.



Etching of The Post newspaper building as seen in Belden's 1879 *Historical Atlas of Huron County*.

# Brussels Rail Station

Location: 212 Turnberry St. North, Brussels, Ontario

Year built: 1873

Passengers and freight came and went by train from Brussels after the Southern Extension of the Wellington, Grey and Bruce railroad was opened July 1, 1873. The WG&B company won out against the Grand Trunk company for the right to build a line through to Southampton. Before this main line was finished, however, the branch line called the Southern Extension was built. It was largely paid for by the municipalities through which it ran, hence the nickname the "Subscribers' Route." The first Reeve of Brussels, John A. Leckie, was closely involved with the railway projects. The Southern Extension ran from Palmerston, through Listowel, into Elma Township at Newry Station, then west to Brussels and north to Wingham and Kincardine.

Brussels once had four daily trains. The daily mail arrived by train on the WG&B line running east and west, and by stage north and south. In 1887, a six-hour Sunday School and picnic excursion to Goderich cost 70¢ return fare from Brussels, with children 12 and under riding for 35¢.

A small baggage room was added to the west of the station platform that same year, saving the baggage man the task of carrying heavy trunks up the stairs to the freight house.

Passenger service to Brussels came to an end in 1970. The station was dismantled and part of it was moved to its present location in 1975. It was used by the Brussels Lawn Bowling Club and now is the Optimist Club clubhouse.



Orange Day festivities at the train station c. 1913.



# Brussels United Cemetery

Location: 84227 Brussels Line, Brussels, Ontario  
Year begun: c. 1861

The land on which Brussels United Cemetery was built was an unofficial burial ground as early as 1861. It was originally called the New Connexion Burial Ground and was cared for by New Connexion Methodist Church prior to 1865. The property consists of the north half of Lot 30 Concession 7 Morris Township. It was purchased from Robert Burgess in 1865. Additional land was bought from Margaret Burgess in 1875. Union of the two local Methodist Churches in 1884 put the cemetery under the care of the Methodist Church. The later union of churches in 1925 put it in the care of the United Church.

The area to the northwest of the old stone mausoleum is the oldest section of the cemetery. Note the type of stone used as grave markers here. Some of the markers lay flat.



A postcard of the Methodist Church in Brussels.

Walk through the cemetery and you will find grave markers bearing the names of many of the early citizens who played a role in shaping the village of Brussels. William Ainley, the founder of Ainleyville (renamed Brussels), John Leckie, the first Reeve, and William Vanstone, the operator of a flour and grist mill, are only a few examples.

In the late 1800s, a plot with five grave spaces sold for \$8. While an individual grave cost \$1.50. Gravesites were taken care of by the families of those buried. In the 1940s, the board of trustees offered a perpetual care service.

# St. John's Masonic Lodge

Location: Turnberry St., Brussels, Ontario  
Year begun: 1872

St. John's Lodge No. 284 of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons received its Charter from the Grand Lodge of Canada on July 11, 1872. Among the few old documents still in the possession of the Lodge is a receipt issued that same day for \$30 in payment for the Charter. The original charter members were seven men who were members of the Forest Lodge in Wroxeter, but lived nearer to, or in, Ainleyville. W.J.R. Holmes, who was a local physician and surgeon, was appointed by Grand Lodge as the first Worshipful Master of St. John's Lodge.

The first meetings of the Lodge were held above a store owned by Mr. Dolson which stood where the municipal building now stands. It was next to where the present Lodge building, opened in 1886, is now. On April 17, 1878, a fire destroyed the Lodge room; most of the furniture and records were lost. The Lodge took up new rooms in the Holmes Block in 1879. Some time later, they moved across the street to 495 Turnberry St., where rooms were renovated and new furniture bought in 1884. Most of this furniture is still used by the Lodge today.

St. John's Masonic Lodge flourished, growing to a membership of 55 by 1878. In 1920, 19 new members were inducted, this being a record for any year. Records show that in 1932, 355 men had joined the Lodge over the years since its inception in 1872. The membership in 1932 stood at 124. However, Masonic Lodges across the province have seen a decline in membership over the years. Today, the membership of St. John's Masonic Lodge No. 284 stands at 48.



The Masonic Lodge Chapel on Orchard Lane was built in 1991 by St. John's Masonic Lodge.

# Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce

Location: 36 King Street, Brussels, Ontario  
Year built: 1938

The Standard Bank of Canada was located at the end of the block on the east side of Turnberry Street. The Standard Bank amalgamated with The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in the 1930s. The bank moved to the corner of Turnberry and Thomas Streets where the Bank of Nova Scotia was originally. The former Standard Bank building in turn housed a dairy bar, a jewellery store, and a used furniture store.

In 1986, a new EMA grocery store opened on the corner of King and Turnberry streets on the site of the former Queen's Hotel. In 1993, the building was expanded and joined by a common lobby to the new branch location of the CIBC complete with a 24-hour instant-teller banking machine.



The interior of the bank showing the decorative, and protective, cast-iron tellers' cages.



Employees posed outside The Standard Bank of Canada in 1905.

# Brussels Livestock

Location: R.R. #3, Brussels, Ontario  
Year begun: 1958

The largest livestock auction in Ontario, Brussels Livestock was started in the spring of 1958 by two local men, Jack Bryans and Hugh Pearson. They purchased a parcel of land, Lot 3 Concession 10 of Grey Township in Huron County. With a few renovations to the existing barn a Community Livestock Auction was started. Sales were held once a week. As the years passed and the business thrived several additions were made to accommodate the increased volume of cattle.

In 1970 the business was sold to Bruce McCall, Leonard Bauman, Aden Bauman, Urias Weber and Robert Mader. The name was changed to Brussels Stockyards. Ross McCall bought into the business and managed it along with Bruce. The McCalls soon bought out their silent partners and continued to expand and increase the business.

Klaus Henschel purchased the business in 1987, ran it for a year, then sold to Gordon Brindley. Brindley continued in business until 1990 at which time Leonard Gamble, operator of Gamble & Rogers Ltd. of Toronto, purchased the business.

Len Gamble brought with him 38 years of knowledge and experience in the business. He made several additions to the building and increased the volume of sales many times. There are now three sales each week: Len has widened the area from which people ship to Brussels Livestock; many customers ship from P.E.I., New Brunswick, Quebec and all parts of Ontario. Brussels Livestock now employs 31 people.



The green barns of Brussels Livestock dominate the local landscape.



A sale in progress.

# Brussels Royal Canadian Legion

Location: Turnberry St., Brussels, Ontario

Year begun: 1931

**B**russels Legion Branch 218 was organized on August 31, 1931, receiving its Charter in November of that year. It is one of the many Branches of the Royal Canadian Legion in Huron County. The Royal Canadian Legion evolved out of The Canadian Legion of the British Empire Services League begun in 1926. It is a support organization for war veterans and their families. Most Branches have a Ladies Auxiliary.

Initially, meetings of the Brussels Legion were held in member's homes, in the American Hotel, or in the Town Hall. In 1946, the Legion purchased a main street building where meetings were held until a new building was erected in 1964 on the original site of the Town Hall.

The Ladies Auxiliary to Brussels Legion Branch 218 was formed in 1946 with 21 members. Their regular meetings were held the first Thursday of the month. The Ladies Auxiliary has been active in charitable fundraising for many years. They assist the Branch financially as well as in its service activities.

The Brussels Legion Pipe Band formed in 1952 with 12 veterans of WWII. They took pipe and drum lessons and each member bought his own instrument and kilt. The band took part in parades throughout the area and began Band Tattoos, inviting other pipe bands to play in Brussels on an exchange basis. Robbie Burns dances and Ceilidhs were held annually. Eventually the band came to include non-veterans.



The Town Hall was built in 1872, the village's founding year.



# Armstrong Aerodrome

Location: Lot 2, Newry Road, Brussels, Ontario

Year built: 1878

**A**rmstrong Aerodrome Farm has been in the Armstrong family since it was purchased by them in 1892. The present owner, James Armstrong, has had a keen interest in airplanes since childhood. During his college years, he took flying lessons and owned a Tiger Moth airplane. James built the first runway in Grey Township on his farm at Lot 12, Concession 9 in 1953. He spent seven years building his first aircraft and since then has been building and flying home-built airplanes for his own pleasure.

John Vincent, the original owner of Lot 2, bought it from the Crown in 1860. The farm was purchased by David Dobson in 1876 and the bank barn was built in 1878.

A close look at the barn reveals much about the ingenuity and labour involved in its construction. The huge squared beams are lined with the marks of the hewer's axe. The mortise-and-tenon joints are fastened with wood pegs, or trunnels, that are stronger than iron. Wood batten strips were added to the wood siding boards where they butt against one another, to better keep out the snow, wind and rain. The foundation of the barn is made of local stone.



Armstrong Aerodrome is now a private airstrip where hang gliders can await favourable winds in the pilot's haven in the old barn.





# Duncan McIntosh House

Location: 660 Elizabeth Street, Brussels, Ontario  
Year built: c. 1875

The Duncan McIntosh House is in the tradition of the Italianate style of architecture. Features typical of this style, shown in the 1879 etching below, are the hip roof with inset end chimneys, the balanced façade with 3 bays (sections with openings), a centre door lit by transom and sidelights, and round-headed or round-arched windows.

Brussels had a carding mill as early as 1861, operated by John Kay. Duncan McIntosh is listed in Belden's 1879 *Atlas* as the owner of Brussels Woolen Mill. According to the Patrons' Directory in the *Atlas*, McIntosh came to Huron County in 1870.

The business was purchased in March 1888 by J.D. Ronald, the owner of the Brussels Steam Fire Engine & Agricultural Works. He bought from Mrs. George Howe, paying \$20 above the claims held. Within months the business was resold to Howe & Hermiston and new machinery was installed.



Brussels Woolen Mills and the residence of Duncan McIntosh as shown in Belden's 1879 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Huron, Ontario*.

The Brussels Woolen Mill was located at the southwest corner of Elizabeth and Catherine Streets. The house was south of the mill.

The house is double brick. Interior wood trim is butternut on the main floor and pine on the upper floor. There is detailed trim in the hall, dining room, living room and den.

George Samis, the last manager of the Standard Bank, once lived here. The home is now owned by Mark and Bonnie Gropp. They installed new heating, plumbing and wiring and have restored many of the rooms.

# Kerr Apartments/Ross House

Location: 700 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ontario  
Year built: 1861

The old brick house that forms the centre of the Kerr Apartments has a long and varied history. In its early days, it was an impressive private home worthy of inclusion in Belden's 1879 *Historical Atlas for the County of Huron*. It was known locally as "Ross House." In the late 1950s, it was turned into a convalescent home, and soon after in 1961, a nursing home operated by Callander Nursing Homes. In 1993, it was transformed into apartments.

The house is very similar in style to the Duncan McIntosh house. It has the same Italianate features: the symmetrical façade with three bays and central entrance, the hip roof with two inset end chimneys, and the round-headed windows. The Ross House is distinguished by its verandah along two sides of the house.

The exact year when the house was built is not known. Ownership of the property has been traced back to Thomas Halliday who owned it in 1861. Thomas Halliday was one of the first, along with William Ainley, to settle in 1853 in what was to be Ainleyville.

David Ross is named by Belden's *Atlas* as the resident of the house in 1879. There is a David Ross listed in the Patrons' Directory as a Merchant Tailor born in Scotland who arrived in Huron County in 1857.

The house was converted into a nursing home in 1961. Wings on the north and south sides were added. The Callander Nursing Home served the community for many years until Huronlea was opened in 1993.



The original David Ross house as pictured in Belden's 1879 *Atlas*.

# St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Church

Location: Brussels, Ontario

Year built: original building 1876, new building 1993

The earliest settlers in Huron County of the Roman Catholic faith were ministered to by missionary priests. In the mid-1830s, Rev. John Louis Wiriath visited scattered settlements from Berlin (now Kitchener) as far west as Goderich. In about 1849, Father Peter Schneider was the first resident priest in the Huron Tract. Irishtown (St. Columban) was the centre for the Catholic church in the region at that time. Father Schneider preached in settler's homes until 1858 when a little log church was built where the present church now stands in St. Columban.

Between the years 1849 and 1857, a great number of Irish Catholic immigrants came to Canada, many settling in the Huron Tract. After that time then, there were enough Roman Catholic parishioners in the various villages and towns to support a church building. Father James Murphy, the pastor appointed to Irishtown in 1864, oversaw the construction of churches in Brussels, Seaforth, Clinton, Blyth and Wingham.

A deed for 1½ acres of land on which the original St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Church was built is dated July 20, 1876. St. Ambrose was for many years a mission of Wingham. In 1911, for example, Rev. J.J. Blair would travel from Wingham to Brussels by train every second Sunday to care for local parishioners.

Throughout the years the church remained strong and, in 1993, a growing congregation decided to replace the old church with a new and larger building. The old church was dismantled and in its place the present 8,000-square-foot building was erected.



Extensive renovations were made to the original 1876 church in the 1950s. A kitchen and parish hall were added in the 1960s.

# St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Cemetery

Location: Brussels Line (County Rd 12), between Cranbrook Rd and St. Michael's Rd, 1 mile south of Brussels • Year built: 1914

The land on which St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Cemetery lies – Lot 1, Concession 12 of Grey Township – was inherited in April 1863 by Abraham Burgess, the son of John Burgess. By 1914, the land was owned by Isabella Rands. She sold the north half of the property to St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Church on February 20, 1915. Before this time, parishioners in Brussels buried their dead in either the Blyth or Seaforth Roman Catholic cemeteries, or in local Protestant cemeteries.

The first burial here was Anna Christine Cooper, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Cooper, who died October 31, 1915. Some graves were moved from the Blyth cemetery to Brussels at this time; for example, Edward Armstrong, Mary Neville Gaynor, and Mr. Strath were reinterred here.



Robert Dark was the first caretaker. Relatives of the deceased paid him to dig the grave. From 1937 into the 1950s, an annual collection from parishioners paid his salary.

In 1964, the cemetery was landscaped and the large cross was erected. That same year, a cemetery board was appointed by Rev. Mooney. The chapel was built in the late 1960s. A new fence was built in 1979, and a new cross in 1981.

St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Church is a member of the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese of London, Ontario.

# St. John's Anglican Church

Location: Brussels, Ontario  
Year built: 1948-9

The parish of St. John's was born the summer of 1860, though missionaries had been conducting services at the Orange Hall before this time. John Wilton Kerr is credited with founding the church. He was an active lay leader and a prime mover in getting a church building built. He is said to have conducted Anglican services "according to the prayer book pattern."

Lot 109 was donated by John Manning as a church site. A little frame church soon appeared on the corner of Turnberry and Catherine Streets in 1864.

The first ordained minister was Rev. A.J. Lindsay who arrived in 1872. His tenure was brief – he died within months of his arrival. Bishop Isaac Hellmuth then appointed Rev. H. Cooper.

By 1875, the congregation had grown. Plans were begun for a new, larger church. The Italianate-style building, with its paired, round-arched windows and squared corner tower, was officially opened in August of 1876.



The first St. John's Anglican Church was built in 1875. All but the bell tower was, unfortunately, destroyed by fire in 1947.

Rev. E.J. Robinson replaced Rev. Cooper in 1877. It would seem

his stay was not a happy one; an exchange was negotiated with Rev. F. Ryan of Exeter in October 1878. With Rev. Ryan's arrival, several families who had left returned and rented pews.

Within a year of the 1947 fire that destroyed the first brick church, rebuilding plans were underway. The new building was rededicated July 10, 1949. Collection plates, carved of wood salvaged from a pew, were given to the church by Thomas Gamage. The Church was consecrated on July 8, 1962.

# Brussels Mennonite Fellowship

Location: 250 Princess St., Brussels, Ontario  
Year built: 1875

Brussels Mennonite Fellowship is composed of an older Brussels home renovated for church use and with recent additions. The land on which it sits, Village Lots 232 and 233, and Park Lot T, has seen different uses over the years. Thomas, Henry and James Smith built a planing and sawmill here in 1868. Thomas sold the mill to James Bennett. It is uncertain exactly when the house was built, but by 1875, Bennett was living in a house on this parcel of land. The property, with house, changed hands a number of times between 1887 and 1906 when it was sold to Peter Stewart for \$1,650. The Brussels Mennonite Fellowship acquired the property for \$30,000 from the Stewart Estate in 1981.

A bee was held on June 1, 1981 to renovate the house, and with the help of Mennonites from all around, the building was converted into a Church. The first worship service was held in what had been the dining room-kitchen;



the bedrooms now served as Sunday School classrooms. The renovations were completed at a cost of about \$15,000 plus many hours of volunteer labour. Brussels Mennonite Fellowship officially opened March 7, 1982.

The Chapel addition was made to the renovated house in the summer of 1984 with the help of many volunteers. A gymnasium, the pastor's study, and a new kitchen were added three years later, once again the work of dedicated volunteers. The upstairs Sunday School classrooms were also renovated at this time.

A youth group and a women's group were formed in 1983. A Meals On Wheels program was also started that same year.

All are welcome at weekly worship.



# Ament House

Location: 201 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ontario

Year built: c. 1890

**A**ment house is a three-bay Italianate style house with a projecting centre bay. It has a hip roof, round-arched windows with segmental arches, and a wide decorative cornice and paired brackets. The verandah is the outstanding feature of the house with its detailed woodwork – turned posts, brackets, the tooth-edged circles and fretwork or cutouts. The red brick is accented at the corners and around the windows by buff-coloured brick.

Philip Ament bought 25 acres of mill property, and the house, in 1893 from the Smith brothers. Before this, he and his brother, John, operated a sawmill north of where the Creamery used to be at the corner of Ann and Queen Streets. This sawmill burnt in 1892 or 1893.

The Smith brothers had bought the property north of the railway tracks in 1886 from William Ainley who had in his turn purchased it from John Ament. The owner of the property listed on the map of Brussels in Belden's 1879 *Atlas* is "Ament." The Smiths built and operated a large mill, shipping rough lumber and trim to Toronto which was in a building boom. However, an economic downturn in the 1890s reverberated down the line from builders to suppliers, and the Smith brothers went into receivership in 1892.

The house was likely built some time between 1886 and 1890. Philip Ament added to it after he bought it in 1893. The house was used as a showcase for the trim produced by the mills. Prospective customers were invited inside to see the different trim in each room.

John Ament left the mill business soon after 1893.



He owned the American Hotel for a time before moving to London.

Philip Ament and his sons operated the planing and sawmills. Philip purchased timber lots from local farmers, and also bought and sold farms with timber lots, to keep the mills supplied. Logs were cut in the early winter and hauled into the mill yard using heavy horses. In the planing mill they dried wood in a large kiln. This wood was used to produce the fancy trims for windows, doors, and verandahs. As well as the saw and planing mills, they had a cooper shop where barrels were made. In one corner of the planing mill butter moulds were also made. The Ament children and their friends, with their smaller hands, were paid 5¢ per 100 to put the screws in the butter moulds.

An addition to the sawmill, after the cooperage was discontinued, was the stave factory where curved slats for barrels were made. The staves were shipped in bundles, made-up into barrels elsewhere. In the lower corner of the planing mill the heading, or barrel tops, were made, usually in July and August. The

boards had to be kiln-dried first. The three younger Ament sons, Earl, Scott and Harry, did the turning and the job of separating the heads from the waste material. Waste material was sold as kindling.

The mill burned in 1905 and was replaced by a cement building. The business was carried on by two of the sons, Bill and Scott Ament, after their father retired. They went into partnership with the Whites from Wroxeter, making children's wagons, sleighs, and wheelbarrows. By this time, local sources of timber had been depleted. Shipping logs in to Brussels was too costly and the mill was soon closed. In its heyday, the Ament mills and related industries provided much of the employment in the area.



Philip Ament.



Six of Philip and Matilda Ament's eight children, standing in front of the family home, c. 1900.

# McNeil's Autobody

Locations: 14 Orchard Drive, Brussels, Ontario  
199 Turnberry Street, Brussels, Ontario

In 1946, Jim C. McNeil purchased the Ament Mill building. The original mill was owned by the Smith Brothers, producing rough lumber for the Toronto market. John and Philip Ament bought the mill on the south side in 1893. In 1903 or 1904, the mill burned, leaving only the south wall (the original bricks are still there). It was immediately replaced in 1904 by a cement building added to the brick wall that remained.

When Jim McNeil bought the property he started a Shell Service Station. Jim had served as an aircraft mechanic for the Royal Canadian Air Force. The McNeils served the community for over 35 years, providing gasoline, oil changes and repairs. From 1947 to 1970, Austin, Rambler and Nash automobiles were sold here.



Jim McNeil retired in the early 1970s and leased the property to the Dominion Chain Company for seven years. The factory employed 10 people manufacturing cables, chain link ends, and control cables and ends shipped to Massey-Ferguson dealers.

Jim's son, Don McNeil, now owns the building where he stores his collectibles. He also operates McNeil's Autobody on Orchard Drive, marked by the 1926 Model T atop the pole. Here he restores antique and classic cars and specializes in collision and refinishing work.



# Dunedin Manor

Location: 54 Dunedin Drive, Brussels, Ontario  
Year built: 1887

Dunedin Manor was built in 1887 for Dr. W.J.R. Holmes, modeled after and named for Dunedin Castle in Scotland. Dr. Holmes also had his offices here. Lots 4 and 5 on which the house stands were purchased from James Evans whose deed was recorded in 1863 and signed by John Galt. The home and offices served two other local doctors after Dr. Holmes – Dr. Tom McRae and Dr. Charles Myers. Dr. Myers bought the house Dec. 1, 1939, but McRae took up residence there, until his death in 1942, while Dr. Myers was serving overseas. On his return in 1946, Dr. Myers and his wife operated a maternity boardinghouse in the manor for the next ten years.

At one time, Dunedin was known as one of the five great Victorian estates in southwestern Ontario. It boasted rich gardens, fountains, stables, and a tennis court.

Inside the sixteen-room mansion are large and spacious rooms with high ceilings and the original plaster mouldings. There are numerous stained glass windows and carved tigerwood and cherry woodwork. The original pine floors are well preserved as is the original staircase.

Since 1961 when Dr. Myers left Brussels, the home has been used as apartments and Bed & Breakfast ventures. Currently, Dunedin Manor is vacant and for sale.



# Smith Block & Flatiron Building

Location: Turnberry St., Brussels, Ontario  
Year built: 1889

The two-storey Smith Block was built in 1889 by a Mr. Smith. It exhibits the simple decorative brickwork in buff and red brick seen in other blocks along main street. Note the banding below the eave with the “sawtooth” sections in red brick and the stepped lower edge. The bands of red brick and the redbricks forming the window arches accent the windows. The symmetrical façade is emphasized by the slightly projected centre bay topped by a small triangular pediment under which is the date stone.

The Smith Block is part of the west side of Turnberry Street between Sports Drive and Thomas. To the north, is what used to be The American Hotel, operated in the 1890s by John Ament, brother and one-time partner of Philip Ament (*see the story about Ament House*). The building now stands vacant.

The Flatiron building fits neatly on its corner lot. The building has an Italianate style with its sets of Palladian windows, some with stained glass sections and accented by the dichromatic brickwork. Also of note is the decorative brickwork of the frieze on the Turnberry Street façade and the corbelling of the Sports Drive facade.



# Cowboy Loft Brussels Agri Service

Location: Newry Rd east of Brussels, Ontario  
Year begun: 1992

The Cowboy Loft became part of Brussels Agri Services in 2004. The Cowboy Loft is a unique Western tack shop designed on a Western theme. It offers jeans in an array of sizes, brands and styles, saddlebag loads of shirts, belts and buckles, boots, and a wide selection of hats. Along with fashion jewellery, framed prints, greeting cards and giftware, you will find a large selection of Montana Silversmith specialties as well as Cowgirl and Briar Patch candles. Cowboy Loft carries an extensive line of equine supplies including feed, supplements, grooming supplies and cactus ropes. Along with a great variety of Western tack, you will find what you need for you and your horses.



**Brussels Agri Services** started operation in 1992 and was acquired by Tim and Donna Prior in 1997. Brussels Agri Services offers a large selection of farm implements, animal health supplies, western tack and horse supplies. They also sell a full line of Gallagher Electric Fencing and will design, install, pound posts and set water lines. Corland Seed is the seed of choice for Brussels Agri Services, specializing in hay and pasture mixes. Wagons, feeders and scales are available ready-made or can be made to order.



# J.L. McCutcheon Motors Ltd.

Location: 625 Turnberry St. S, Brussels, Ontario  
Year built: 1952

*M*cCutcheon Motors was first established in the 1930s by Harry McCutcheon. He started a repair service on his farm on Concession 6 Morris Township. During the days he farmed and in evenings repaired cars. In 1934, he was appointed a Canadian Tire dealer and for five years operated this business as well as the farm. McCutcheon drove to Toronto to buy cars which he then resold in the Brussels area. He later moved the business to the old woolen mill property in Brussels which had already been converted to a garage by W.A. Lowery. McCutcheon eventually bought the building. He continued in business until his death in 1946.

In 1949, George McCutcheon bought Riverside Motors, the business he was a partner in since 1946. In 1950, they had a direct franchise with General Motors of Canada as a Chev-Olds dealer in Brussels area.



The present building occupied by J.L. McCutcheon Motors Ltd. was built in 1952 (still with the name Riverside Motors until 1958). The former Massey-Ferguson building was bought in 1967 from Elmer Somers and is now the new truck lot.

John L. McCutcheon became president of the business in 1970. In 1976, the sales and service operation was sold to a new company registered as J.L. McCutcheon Motors Ltd. The dealership expanded to the west side of Turnberry Street in 1979 with the purchase of the land previously occupied by the Bridge Motors building. This shop was used for autobody and used car conditioning work. In 1988, the former East Huron Produce property was bought for use as a used car lot.

The property was sold and shares transferred in 1988 from John L. McCutcheon to Robert Richmond, president, and John Exel, vice-president. In 2004, the Auto Body Shop was sold to Charles Wick and is now operating as Brussels Auto Collision and Restoration.

# MacRae-Trollope House

Location: 770 Turnberry St., Brussels, Ontario  
Year built: c. 1890

*J*ohn MacRae moved to this house after his wife's death in 1893. He was a Town Councillor noted for his objection to a sidewalk building project. The Ontario cottage-style house has a hipped roof and matching bay windows connected by a columned verandah. Note the beautiful decorative woodwork.

The house was purchased in 1992 by Eric Ross and Deb Trollope. When they bought the house, there were two large spruce trees out front. One was dead, the roots had been cut when water and sewer lines were installed. The owners decided to have something carved from the tree. At the Plowing Match they met Peter Mogensson demonstrating his chainsaw carving and hired him to do a carving.

The tree was cut down to 13 feet from its final height of 110 feet. The resulting wood was used to side the back of the house and to make a harvest table for their kitchen. The bear and her two cubs emerged from the tree stump.

It took two days to complete the carving. Look for two more carvings around the village – a turtle and a beaver.



The house when owned by John MacRae, c. 1900.



# The Old Mill House

Location: 758 Sports Drive, Brussels, Ontario

Year built: 1856

This grand old house was built in 1856 by William Vanstone. He also built the grist mill and sawmill next door to it (*see the story about Logan's Mill*). In later years, Vanstone's son, James, inherited the home. In 1907, William Kerr bought the home for the sum of \$1,800. Kerr was the editor of the *The Brussels Post*.

In about 1937, Thomas Miller purchased the property. After his death, his wife Maudie stayed on here for the rest of her life. Their son, Thomas, took over the estate and put the house up for sale.

Bruce McCall bought the property in 1973. He wanted to build a new house on the lot so he offered the old house to anyone willing to move it. It was sold for \$1 to Cecil Machan, a house mover and in 1978, he moved it about three blocks south onto what was James Street.

The house was bought in 1987 by Douglas and Deborah Trollope (*see the story of the MacRae-Trollope*

*House*). They set about restoring "the old mill house" to its former beauty.



The Old Mill House is typical of the "Ontario farmhouse" style – 1½ storeys with a central gable. Note the bargeboard detail and the kingpins.



The Vanstone "Old Mill" house as it looked when restored and as it is today.



# Jamestown

The first building to mark the location of Jamestown was an inn at the juncture of the Maitland River and the Seaforth-to-Wroxeter road (now the Brussels Line, Cty Rd 12). Thomas J. Moorehouse, the first inhabitant of Jamestown, built the frame tavern. The inn burnt in 1864.

Jamestown apparently got its name from a young news correspondent for *The Huron Expositor* from 1855 to 1860 named James Aitchison. There were several other men in the neighbourhood by the same name – James Lynn, James Strachan, James Simpson, James Forrest and James Moses.

A post office was established in 1875 in the Jamestown store with James Lynn as postmaster. J.J. Vincent followed him and Mr. Johnston was postmaster in 1899. The mail was carried by stage from Seaforth to Wroxeter. Later the stage delivered express, parcels and passengers from the railway station at Brussels.

Before the end of the 19th century, Jamestown had three hotels, a shoe shop, a general store, a wagon shop, a blacksmith, and a harnessmaker. The blacksmith shop across the road from the general store was a busy hive of industry. The first blacksmith shop was established by James Lynn in 1877, followed by J.W. Jones in 1882. It was destroyed by fire in 1882 and rebuilt the same year. Jones was succeeded by John Forrest in 1893 and George Eckmier in 1895. Mr. Eckmier was kept busy in 1904 cutting down buggy and wagon wheels and rimming them.



An early postcard titled "Scene at Jamestown."

The general store was also a meeting place for members of the community. Robert Armstrong was a local merchant in business before 1871 and owned land north of the river. In 1872, C.B. Armstrong, who was likely the builder of the Jamestown Store, sold it to Ed Snell. Mr. Snell suffered a reversal of fortunes and, in 1893, was forced to go out of business. The store was then run by John J. Vincent in 1893 and Robert A. Johnston in 1895. He sold to Walter Innes in 1900. In 1905, Duncan MacDonald and brothers William and Fraser took over. Allen McKercher and son were in business here in 1928.

At the general store you could buy harness and leather boots and shoes, red herring in a barrel, butter in crocks, and gingersnaps in large boxes or barrels. The counter was at the back of the store. In the

centre stood the large box stove around which people gathered for a visit while waiting for the mail to be sorted. For those unable to get to the store regularly, J. Innes and William MacDonald hawked merchandise from their peddling wagon to farmers in the surrounding countryside.

The sawmill was on the bend of the river east of the Jamestown corner. It was built in about 1872 and operated by a Mr. McQueen. It seems that this sawmill did not last many years; in 1875, the people of Jamestown advertised free land to anyone who would come and build a sawmill here. Someone did take them up on the offer as they did have one again by 1877. In 1882, a news relates that three teams of horses worked all night to haul logs to this mill.

In 1901, the people of Jamestown purchased the old Congregational Church from Salem in Turnberry Township. From then until 1910, Victoria Hall was used for church services, dances and meetings. The hall was destroyed by fire in 1910, but by 1911, they had erected a new red brick Victoria Hall.

All that remains of Jamestown now is a commemorative stone marking the spot where the general store once stood.



Davidson's Well Drillers at Bernice Payn's home in 1909. The farm at Lot 4 Concession 2 was owned by Thomas Moorehouse in 1890.



# Molesworth

John Mitchell settled with his family on Lot 53 Concession 1 of Grey Township, near the river. The main road (Hwy 86) had not yet been surveyed in 1852 when Molesworth was established at the east end of Grey Township on Lots 51 to 54 of Concession 1 Grey Township and neighbouring Wallace Township, Perth County. Mitchell held pre-exemption rights to all this property. He believed the road would come through along the river, so he built his store on Lot 52. He sold “the basics” to other settlers coming into the area. The store also held the post office for a few years. Mitchell was also a Justice of the Peace.

A dam was built on the river, a tributary of the Maitland River. A sawmill was soon built to serve the area residents.

Soon, other homes and businesses sprang up along



Molesworth looking east – from left to right are the hotel, the shoemaker’s shop, William Spence’s brick house, and Mitchell’s store.

the north part of Lots 51 and 52, and on the other side of the road in Wallace Township. *The Province of Ontario Gazetteer & Directory* of 1869 listed these names: Rev. J.W. Bell, Presbyterian Church; Thomas France, hotel keeper; John J. Gardner, blacksmith; N.M. Livingston, postmaster and general merchant; Samuel Loughheed, shoemaker; John Mitchell, sawmill proprietor; Rev. W.W. Smith, Congregational Church minister. The Molesworth Cheese and Butter Company was begun in the early 1870s.

The first blacksmith shop, run by Allen McLean, was on Lot 50. There were two others: in the early 1890s, J. Meikeljohn’s shop was east of the hotel and, in the 1910s, John Sangster had one on the Wallace side.

The community was served by various tradespeople. Arch Ashton, James Elliott and C. Brinker were all tailors working in the 1890s. The Murray sisters were dressmakers prior to 1890. James Wright had a



Molesworth looking west – the hotel, school (USS#4) and the general store are on the left.



Allan McLean’s blacksmith shop, c. 1880. This blacksmith shop burnt in the late 1880s.

shoe shop in about 1895, and in 1899, Wesley Heath came from Ethel every Friday to cut hair and shave.

The Mitchells had an apiary in 1883. In 1894, Charles Mitchell built a bee house on Lot 52 and by the late 1890s was known as the “bee king.” He had 125 colonies located in the home yard. In 1917, Nelson, with the help of his wife, took over the apiary.

The first school was built by Wes Dobson on part of Lot 52 purchased from John Mitchell, just west of the present store. U.S.S. #4 served students until 1949.

In the 1850s, the Congregationalists were the first to have a settled minister. In 1863, the Presbyterians attained status as a congregation.



The Mitchell house and apiary.

# Molesworth Convenience

Location: Molesworth, Ontario

Year built: c. 1890

*A*lex M. Patterson built a store on the Grey Township side of road in the 1890s. Other known store keepers were Michael McKee in 1898, William Murray in 1901, and Robert Mitchell in 1906. Both Allen and Edward Mitchell were in the store business at this time.

In 1906, the post office was again moved into the Mitchell's store. The post office was located where the proprietor's political affiliation was the same as the party in power at the time. The post office stayed here until it was replaced by rural mail delivery. Samuel Loughheed continued to collect the mail at Listowel and deliver it to the mail boxes along the country concessions until about 1915.

In 1924, Hugh Spence and Russell Grainger co-owned the store. By the 1940s, Victor Adair was the proprietor. Along with his son, Jack, he had an egg-grading plant in back of the store. In April 1949, the store and egg-grading plant was lost to fire. The store was rebuilt with living quarters above.

The Molesworth

Store has had other owners over the years, but has remained a general store. Ron and Colleen Stewart have operated Molesworth Convenience since 2000.



Molesworth Store with Sam Loughheed, the mail carrier in front, Mabel Mitchell Campbell and her mother, Maria Mitchell standing in the doorway.



# Ethel

The post office was created here in April 1863, what had been known as Carter's Mills, Carter's Corners, or simply, Carter's, was renamed Ethel. Jonathon Carter in 1862 had established a sawmill on the main branch of the Maitland River at the intersection of Concession Road 7-8 Grey Township and County Road 19. He was appointed the first postmaster of Ethel in 1863. It was not until 1873, when the Grey, Bruce & Wellington Railway came through about one kilometre to the south and named their station Ethel, that the name finally stuck.

In 1860, Lots 22, 23 and 24 Concession 8 Grey Township were purchased from the Crown by Jacob Storm, Alex Hutchinson, and Robert Ross. Jonathon Carter had acquired Lots 22 to 24 of Concession 7, north and south of the river, in 1862. People used the Mill Road between Lots 22 and 23 and it became the main thoroughfare for Ethel. By the mid-1870s, Carter had sold to Milne who also had a grist mill built in 1877, more east and north of the river.

Various surveys were made laying out village lots – the Storm Survey in the 1860s, the Dunbar Survey in 1874, the Fisher Survey in 1877 and the Cober Survey in 1896.

James Spence, a Scot, came from the Paris area to Ethel in 1867-1868. He built a general store at the corner of Main and Mill streets. William, his son, had a pottery in about 1870 on lot 10 next door on Main Street. William got the clay from a lot near Brussels, drawing it by horse and wagon back to Ethel in large chunks. Flower pots, milkpans, fruit jars, crocks of all sizes, dash churns, and many other household articles



Main Street West.



Ethel from the East.

were made. Wares were also taken to Seaforth and the railway for distribution.

William Simpson obtained the land in 1885 and in 1887 built the Simpson Block, with room for two or three stores. A grocery was carried on in one part, while the other housed the Krauter & Ritchie hardware store with a tinware department employing a



William Spence and his sister, Laura, kept store in several places in the village.

fulltime tinsmith. S.S. Cole rebuilt this block in 1906 after the original burnt.

Another store block at the corner of King and Main called the Corner Block, was rebuilt in 1909 with four stores and apartments. In 1881, Robert McAllister, a doctor, built a general store, and later, a dry-goods store. Miss Lowery ran a millinery store here in 1894. Over the store Misses Patterson and King opened a dress and mantle store.

In the 1890s Ethel had a butcher shop, blacksmith, general store, dry-goods store, millinery store, dress and mantle shop, and a jewellery store.



The Simpson Block c. 1907 – John McDonald had a dry-goods store and William H. Love, who bought the block in 1907, had an undertaking/furniture business.



# Ethel Community Centre

Location: Ethel, Ontario  
Year built: 1892

The township of Grey had this Township Hall built in 1892. The Township purchased 1/5<sup>th</sup> of an acre from Lawrence Dobson, to the immediate west of the Methodist Church. All municipal meetings were held in this building until 1925 at which time council bought the former bank. The Hall then became Ethel Community Centre.

The Township Hall had already been used as a community centre, rented to various groups for concerts, meetings, fundraising activities, etc. A 1917 concert to raise money for the building fund of the Methodist Church included elocutionist Miss Muxworthy, soloist Miss Hammond of Atwood, instrumentalist Miss McNeil, the Brussels Orchestra, a dialogue entitled "Making Jelly for the Minister," and drills. Tickets sold for 25¢ for adults, 15¢ for children.

The Methodist Church building next door was moved to a new location in 1917. The Township built a public works garage where the church had been. When a new garage was built at another location in 1975, the former public works garage became the Grey Fire Department building.



The date stone reads: Grey Tp. Hall 1892. Note the raised decorative brickwork of the gable end and the pilasters marking the corners and bays.

# Royal Hotel of Ethel

Location: Ethel, Ontario  
Year built: 1890

The first Ethel Hotel was built on this site in 1872 by William Patton. He operated the hotel until 1875 when he sold to Elizabeth Lamb. It had two other owners over the next 15 years. In 1890, fire destroyed the frame building. That same year a two-storey brick hotel was built.

The hotel had a large horse shed on the west side and a livery stable on the east side. Horses and rigs for hire were kept in the east stable. Abraham Sanders kept an express dray, or stage, bringing passengers and freight to and from the Ethel train station at Tindell. Jim McLennan was the last to run the express stage.

The business of the Royal Hotel was affected by the call for temperance. Many complaints were heard in the villages about the Crooks Act not being enforced. William T. Spence opened a grocery store in the west part of the hotel. It also had a barber-shop at one time.



The Royal Hotel was in business under a number of different owners from 1890 to 1912. It became a residence in 1912.



The Ethel Hotel as it is today, a private residence.

# Brubacher's Restaurant & Bakery

Location: Ethel, Ontario

Year built: 1906

The site where Brubacher's Restaurant & Bakery stands was once part of John Cober's farm. Cober came to Grey Township in 1872 and established a steam sawmill and carriage factory west of John Street. He made wagons, carriages, buggies, sleighs and cutters, becoming known for his Cober cart. By 1893, he had moved premises to Lot 1, 34 Cober Survey, east of Reserve Street where he did custom planing, matching and moulding, and made a "common-sense" clothes dryer. In 1901, he left Ethel for work at the J.D. Ronald foundry in Brussels.

The building changed hands a couple of times before it was purchased by George Krauter in 1906. Krauter built a store from salvaged materials from the dismantled wagon and carriage factory. He operated a hardware and tinware business here, and moved the broom factory he had in Cranbrook into the upper floor. George moved to Brussels in 1912 and the business went to his brother, John, who leased to Charles Cleaver. George returned to take up the hardware business again in 1917.

David Dunbar bought the property in 1923. He and his sons, Lloyd and George, operated a grocery store and post office here for many years.

The buildings were torn down in 1972. The aroma of fresh bread and wholesome cooking now draws visitors and hungry folk from miles around to Mervin and Adeline Brubacher's Restaurant & Bakery.



The George Krauter hardware and tinware store plus broom factory, c. 1906.



The original store building with additions – a grocery was here for many years, from 1923 to 1958, beginning with the Dunbar Store.

# St. Matthew Presbyterian Church

Location: Ethel, Ontario

Year built: 1875

The church Trustees bought land for a church in 1870 for \$37.50. Until the church was built, services were held in homes and the school. The church was built in 1875 for \$700. It had benches in the northeast corner facing west where the choir sat, and a stove in the southwest corner. Joint services were held with the Methodist congregation until they were able to build their church in 1877. The Ethel church was a two-point charge with Cranbrook served by Rev. McRae.

A precentor directed the music until an organ was installed in 1912 and an organist was hired. The church had 104 members in 1921.

Extensive renovations were carried out in 1927. The original building was maintained, but it was given a brick coat veneer and a tower-like front entrance was added. The church was raised and a basement was added. A choir loft was added to the north end, steps and a gallery to the south. Stained glass windows were installed. All the work was completed for \$5,300.

The church remained a two-point charge until 1965, when a re-alignment took place and it was associated with Atwood. Mennonites began using the church in the 1960s for their services. Joint services were begun with Ethel United Church in 1981.



The first Presbyterian Church as seen in an early colour postcard. This structure was used as the main body of the renovated church seen in the photograph below.



# Mount Pleasant Cemetery

Location: Mount Pleasant and Brandon Rd., Ethel, Ontario

Year begun: 1911

The Ethel Cemetery Board purchased three acres in 1911 from the southwest side of the farm, Lot 21 Concession 6 Grey Township, first owned by John Raynard. On September 11, 1911, the first burial took place in what was called Mount Pleasant Cemetery, that of Gordon McKee. The original trustees of the cemetery were Harvey Dobson, N.H. Love, A.H. MacDonald, and Andrew McKee.

The cemetery board did not at first hire a permanent caretaker. Men were hired as needed to tend the cemetery and dig graves. They were paid \$5 to dig a grave. The first steady caretaker and grave-digger was Ralph Rowland who was hired in 1927 and continued in the work into the 1980s.

Improvements were made to the cemetery over the years. A chapel was built by W.H. Love in the 1940s.

In 1980, Thelma Vodden and her brother, Lloyd Michel, donated the cemetery gates.



William Love with his horsedrawn hearse. It was the first hearse to enter Mount Pleasant Cemetery for the burial of Gordon McKee in September of 1911.





# Cranbrook

Cranbrook was first known as “The Plot” – the government had purposely set aside 500 acres along the Maitland River for a townsite. It was surveyed into town and park lots in 1855. The official name was The Town Plot for Grey Township. William Tanner owned an adjacent piece of land and had it surveyed as a townsite in 1857, calling it Tannersville. The entire community was served by a post office called Grey that opened in 1854. The name of both the town and post office was changed to Cranbrook in September of 1878, named after a town in Kent, England.

The first settler to “The Plot” was James Tuck. He built a hotel called the Montreal House, the first tavern in Grey Township in 1854. Council meetings were held here.

It was known by locals as Tuck’s Hotel despite changes in ownership. Tuck also operated a store adjoined to the hotel.

One of the oldest buildings in the village was a log store built by John Leckie in the fall of 1855, west of the hotel. Leckie ran the store for a few years before selling to Thomas Leadbeater and moving to Brussels. When the building burnt in 1895 it was owned by Alexander McNair who was the postmaster and township treasurer.

Hiram White had a portable sawmill on Lot 18 Concession 11 in 1859. A sawmill was also operated on the south side of the river on Park Lot 6 from 1875-85. In 1887-88, a flax mill was built here. By



The oldest known picture of Cranbrook c. 1887. The blacksmith shop owned by Williams and Mitchell is on the left. Mitchell’s Wagon and Carriage Shop in Tannersville is on the right. The wagons and buggies, were displayed on the second floor, hence the need for a ramp.

the end of 1889, under new ownership, the mill regularly employed 15 men and hired 40 men, women and boys at harvest time to pull flax. *The Brussels Post* reported in June 1897: “Cameron Bros. shipped 24 tons of dressed flax to Barbour Bros. of Paterson, New Jersey, who own a mammoth spinning factory.”

A limeworks was begun in 1876 by the McNichols. The lime kiln was operated by Valentine Gramm in the 1880s. Limestone was readily available in the area. First-class lime was 13¢ per bushel and No. 1 lime for plastering was 15¢ per bushel.

The Bakers also ran a lime kiln north of Gramm’s limeworks, where they quarried stone. Large quantities of stone were removed for building material. The



The remains of Valentine Gramm’s lime kiln.

Bakers also ran a brickyard producing orange-red brick.

An 1885 item in *The Brussels Post* noted: At present there are in the village four churches, two hotels, three blacksmith shops, one carriage shop, one pump shop, one shoe shop, two stores, a sawmill, lime kiln, post office, a school ... and a cider mill.



Jacob Long ran the Union Hotel (foreground right) in 1889 when it built to replace the original Gambrinus Inn William Dame had erected in 1872. The Hall behind it was opened in 1876 and had a store in the lower floor. The building across the road was also a store.



# Knox Presbyterian Church

Location: Cranbrook, Ontario  
Year built: 1865

The history of the congregation dates to 1855 when the government was petitioned to grant the present site. Before a church building was built, services were held in the school. There was no regular organization until 1865 when Rev. John Ferguson was inducted into the pastoral charge of Brussels, Cranbrook and Walton. Services were held in Cranbrook once every two weeks.

The first church was built in 1865 by gentlemen in the district who furnished the timber and hauled it to the site. John Hunter was the contractor.

The first trustees of Knox Presbyterian Church were William McInnes, Robert Leckie, Peter Sinclair, William McKay, Alexander McNair, Donald McNeill and James McNair. They were among those who helped build the church.

Rev. D.B. McRae was inducted in 1876 and ministered to the congregation for the next 36 years. Alice Forrest served as church organist from 1920 to 1955 when she was followed by Mrs. Stuart McNair.

The present manse was built in the summer of 1876. The church was moved to the north of the lot in 1888 and placed on a stone foundation. The exterior of the church was veneered with white brick.



The Church now looks much as it did when this photograph was taken c. 1900.



Five of the coloured glass windows are memorial windows dedicated in 1963.

# Knox Presbyterian Cemetery

Location: Cranbrook Rd and McNabb Line, Cranbrook, Ontario  
Year built: 1855

James McNair walked from Cranbrook to Goderich in 1855 to purchase the land for the graveyard and church. The initial plan and book for the cemetery were completed in 1873 by Alex McNair. The cemetery is located behind Knox Presbyterian Church.

The headstones reveal some of the history of the village. A large number of infant deaths in the 1870s is evidence of the impact of diphtheria in Cranbrook at the time.

The diversity of the village's population is shown by inscriptions in Gaelic, German and English. The older stones note the person's place of birth, for example, southern Germany, Argyleshire in Scotland, England, Ireland and Nova Scotia.

Burials were made here before 1855. The oldest plot, sold to William McKay, dates to 1858.



Headstones with Gaelic inscriptions lie next to the grave of Neil McNair, a native of Scotland.



The marker above is inscribed in German and marks the resting place of Katharina, Wilhelm and Edward Zimmer.



A unique headstone resembling a tree stump marks the grave of Margret Akin Gardner who died in 1869.

# MDL Doors

Location: 42918-B, Cranbrook Ontario

Year built: 1983

*D*oor manufacturer MDL Doors was started by Mervin Lichty in 1983. At that time, the business was run by Mervin and his wife, Tillie. Located on a farm near Brussels, the business sells pre-hung steel door systems. The door systems are sold based on quick delivery, superior quality and customer satisfaction. MDL Doors has grown steadily over the years.

After 1983, the barn was demolished and replaced by an automated assembly line for single doors and a specialty shop for large or custom-order doors. Additions over the years provide ample warehouse space

to house the many styles and sizes required to give customers the selection they require. MDL Doors offers a wide range of pre-hung, steel, insulated doors: single doors, terrace doors, double doors, or a front entrance system with sidelights and/or a transom.

A major strength of MDL Doors is its qualified staff. The production staff ensure a superior quality product and the support staff are able to provide customer service. This combination of staff and a philosophy of continuous improvement make an unbeatable MDL Doors team.

The farm, Lot 4 Concession 11 Grey Township, was purchased from the Crown in 1868 by Phillip Botz (or Botts). There was a home on the property in 1879.





# Beechwood

**B**eechwood was a hamlet located at the intersection of Concessions 4 and 5 and the sideroad between Lots 10 and 11 in McKillop Township. A post office was established at Beechwood in June 1877. It was likely located in a house. John Reedy was the first postmaster. This post office served the Irish Settlement in the Dublin-St. Columban area. Belden's 1879 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Huron* describes Beechwood as a post office "pure and simple," but there may have been a store and some other trades people here in the early days.

Beechwood Store was owned and operated by George K. Holland, acting as grocery, hardware and soft goods store, and post office. Beechwood was assigned as the postal address. The store wagon had a daily route to local farms, giving busy housewives the chance to choose from a selection of staples or to place an order for delivery next time. When George died in 1924, the business passed to his daughter, Mary, and her husband, Jim Carlin.

The store business declined with changes in the rural community and the advent of rural route mail service. Joe Carroll bought it c. 1960. He was related to the police officer who was a thorn in the side of Lucan's "Black" Donnellys.



The Beechwood Store appears on an 1879 map, but its date of construction is unknown. It was purchased, and refurbished over the past 30 years, by Robert Tetu, who also established and operates Beechwood Pottery at 44004 Bridge Rd., R.R. #5 Seaforth.



# Zion United Cemetery

Location: County Rd 17 between County Rd 14 & Manley Line  
Year begun: 1889

**T**he Emanuel Church, on Lot 34 Concession 8 in Logan Township, Perth County, was burned in 1887. The congregation moved location, to Lot 2 Concession 8 of McKillop Township. In 1889, a new church was built, Zion Evangelical United Brethren Church. The cemetery was established adjacent to this church.

The earliest deaths recorded on tombstones are of Christopher Amstain on February 22, 1873; Antonia Schwandt on August 22, 1885; and Louisa Eggert, November 14, 1887. These graves were likely moved when the new cemetery was established. The congregation's German heritage is evident on the tombstones with German inscriptions. The cemetery was enlarged and improved in the 1960s and is still in use.

The original church was established in the area in 1870 and a parsonage was built in 1876. Each family contributed \$25, with the balance raised by notes. In 1882, the yearly cost of operating the church was 66¢ per family. Every family was to supply a ½-cord of wood sawn in 2½-foot lengths.

At various times throughout its history, the church was associated with Fullarton, Colborne, Rostock, Listowel and Sebringville charges. Zion Church was closed in 1971 and its members joined Cavan United Church in Winthrop.



# Henfryn

The first settler to Grey Township was a squatter by the name of Beauchamp. He built the first sawmill at Henfryn. E.C.K. Davies, a Welshman, purchased the land, Lots 34 and 35 Concession 9 and the south part of Lots 34 and 35 Concession 8, from Charles Burrows in 1872.

With the opening of the Wellington, Grey and Bruce Railway in 1873, Davies made plans to develop his property. He registered a plan in 1877 calling it Henfryn, which in Welsh means "old hill." Davies sold his farm, the village and park lots, and the hotel at auction in 1876.

Henfryn was known for its production of red and white brick. Later, it was found that the clay was more suitable for tile. Many homes in the area were built with Henfryn brick.

In 1878, Robert Baker bought the store. He had a boot and shoe business here as well as the general store. The store had a tailor's shop in it for a number of years, operated by William Fraser. Many dressmakers, all of whom were paid 35¢ a day, were employed in the store.

Henfryn gained stature by way of the railroad passing through it. A train station was built in 1876. It had the only hennerly in Huron County, built in 1876 by Mr. Buns and Mr. Fox. Henfryn also boasted a pail factory, a broom factory and a cider chopping mill.

St. Alban's Anglican Church was built in 1883 with Henfryn brick and pine sawn at the Davies mill. A Methodist Church was built in 1881.



St. Alban's Anglican Church, when it was closed in 1964.



The Henfryn store.

# Moncrieff

The hamlet was named for Moncrieff, Scotland when the first settlers arrived in the 1860s. It is located on Lots 30 and 31 Concession 16 Grey Township. The first settlers to the area were Luke Speiran and the McNaughts. Some local people were known to have carried two pails of butter to Mitchell or Seaforth, returning with a hundred-weight of flour. Some women knit socks in exchange for food and clothing.

A post office was established in 1874. The mail was brought from Cranbrook every two weeks to the post office in a local home. In 1899, the post office moved into the Moncrieff Store. Daily mail service did not start until 1909 and the post office closed in 1919.

The Bethel Methodist Church opened in 1893. Before this time, the people worshipped in the school or held prayer meetings in their homes. Those of the Presbyterian faith travelled to Cranbrook until, in 1902, the Methodist Church was bought and renamed Bethel Presbyterian.

Lewis McDonald was the first owner of the sawmill property, Lot 29 Concession 16.



This store was built in 1897 by Mrs. Lucas, a widow with two small girls. The upstairs hall was used for dances. The post office was also here in 1899. A branch of the Huron County Library was housed in the new general store in 1947.



Knox Presbyterian Church was built in 1911, replacing the original church. It is now a residence.

in 1888. In 1890, he put a grinder in the mill to chop grain. There was a boarding house by the sawmill, run by James Noble.

In the spring of 1872, the first log school was completed. The first teacher there was a Mr. Graham. A new white brick school was built in 1893. It had 60 pupils and the teacher was paid a salary of \$275 a year. A third school building was built in 1924, on the same site. It served as a school until 1965 when it was purchased by the community for use as a hall.

Robert Munn had a blacksmith shop in 1905, between the store and the church.

Mr. Armstrong, Leander Gole and Henry Feltz followed him as blacksmith.

A chopping mill was built by Joseph Riehl in 1915. F.A. Harrison bought it in 1918 and installed the first one-cylinder engine of its kind in Canada. It was displayed at the CNE in Toronto before being delivered to the mill at Moncrieff in the 1920s. The family continued milling until 1980.



Querengesser Sawmill – the team hauled logs up the ramp and a “dolly” took the logs endways, placing them beside the saw carriage; logs were rolled onto the carriage by a canter using a cant hook. Lumber came off at the other end where it was piled by tailers.



# Architectural Terms

**Bargeboard (Vergeboard):** The ornamental boards, often fretted or decoratively carved, attached under the gable or verge of Gothic Revival buildings. Also called “gingerbread.”

**Bay:** A window, door, or other opening, comprising one division of a façade. Also, a projection, as in a bay window.

**Beltcourse:** A decorative horizontal band of brickwork beneath the eave and/or between the first and second storey.

**Blind Arcade:** A line of arches projecting from a solid wall.

**Bracket:** Any overhanging member projecting from a wall, to support a weight, generally formed with scrolls.

**Clapboard:** Horizontal wood cladding of overlapping boards.

**Common Bond:** Five rows of stretchers (the long side of the brick), one row of headers (the short end of the brick) repeated through-out. *See also Flemish Bond.*

**Corbel:** A masonry projection on the courses of a wall, each course projecting slightly beyond the next below it; intended to carry weight of the cornice, it is often decorative.

**Cornice:** Horizontal moulded projection at the intersection of the exterior wall and the roof.

**Coursing:** A continuous horizontal row of brick or stone in a wall.

**Cresting:** Ornamental finish along the top of a roof or wall.

**Dentil:** A small, tooth-like square block, used in a row as a decorative feature in a cornice.

**Dichromatic brickwork:** Brickwork laid in two colours.

**Entablature:** The horizontal component that lies directly above a column or a wall.

**Finial:** Ornament or crowning detail at the apex of a gable, pinnacle, spires, etc. Also called a kingpin.

**Flemish Bond:** Brickwork that consists of alternating headers and stretchers in every course, so arranged that the headers and stretchers in every other course appear in vertical lines.

**Frieze:** A wide horizontal band at the top of an exterior wall.

**Gable:** The triangular upper portion of a wall, between the enclosing lines of a sloping roof.

**Headings:** The area immediately over a window or door.

**Keystone:** The central wedge-shaped stone of a masonry arch.

**Label:** A rectangular moulding to throw off the rain above a window or door.

**Lintel:** The horizontal member supporting the wall above a door or window.

**Mansard Roof:** It has a double slope, the upper nearly flat, the lower steep and often curved.



**Palladian Window:** A window in three parts, the centre section larger and arched at the head, the smaller sections on either side having squared heads.

**Pediment:** The triangular area above a portico or window or door.

**Pilaster:** An ornamental half column projecting slightly from a wall.

**Quatrefoil:** A four-lobed ornament.

**Quoins:** The accentuated members of a corner, often formed of stone, but also fashioned of brick, appearing to bond the corners of a building.

**Rustication:** Masonry made up of very large blocks with deep joints and decorated with rough or bold finishes.

**Sidelight:** A window beside a door, forming part of the door unit.

**Transom:** A window above a door, forming part of the door unit.

**Vousoir:** A brick or wedge-shaped stone forming one of the units of an arch. The central vousoir is the keystone.

**Verandah:** An open portico, gallery, balcony, usually roofed, along the outside of a building.

## STYLES

**Carpenter's Gothic:** (c. 1840-1900) A Canadian adaptation of the Gothic style using wood instead of stone. Carpenter's Gothic is usually white with black or blue trim.

**Classic Revival Style:** (c. 1830-1900) A temple-like façade suggested by a pediment and columns, elegant and urbane masonry.

**Georgian Style:** (c. 1784-1860) Sturdy and secure, usually 2½ storeys, well proportioned houses with medium-pitched gable or hipped roofs, the chimneys usually inset, balanced façade with 3-5-7 bays, centre door, rectangular openings, and sometimes a Palladian window is used as a decorative motif.

**Gothic Revival Style:** (c. 1840-1900) Features include the pointed-arch window, gables, finials, and the decorative wooden bargeboard or ornate gingerbread gable trim

**Italianate Style:** (c. 1840-1885) Features include asymmetrical shape, two storey structure, protruding bay windows, round-headed windows set in pairs, and prominent, ornate brackets.

**Queen Anne Revival Style:** (c. 1870-1910) Very popular in Canada in the late 19th century among the prosperous middle-class. Characterized by towers, complex rooflines, varied materials. Emphasis is on the eclectic use of contrasting building materials and colours, architectural features, and windows. A prominent feature is the fish scale or wood shingling which appears on the top storey of residential buildings.

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