

CURRENT EVENTS

4-H Homemaking Club

In the spring of the year 1955, the "Green Thumbs" Garden club group was organized under the name of the 4-H club, and was sponsored by the Laskay Women's Institute Branch. Different Mothers, Mothers of the Club Girls have given their time and help to these girls.

Following the Garden project, the next one was "Cotton Accessories for the bedroom", taken during the winter months of 1955-56. The club name being changed to "Laskay Learners".

There were 5 members in the first group, three more joined the second group. These are all young teen-age girls.

The 4-H Pledge is "I pledge My head to clearer thinking,

My heart to greater loyalty,

My hands to larger service

My health to Better living, for my community and country.

4-H club work is now a large international movement with rural youth in 34 countries.

Jury Duty

The first woman Jurist called in our district was Mrs. Norman Etheridge of Laskay. Our president of Laskay Institute at the time, was called for Sept. 1955, but due to unforeseen circumstances, Mrs. Etheridge was not able to attend the assizes.

Warden

Local Resident chosen for Warden, 1956.

The York county warden- Mr. Marshall McMurchy lives on the Vaughan side of Vaughan & King road between Con. 6 and 7, but we consider him from Laskay as he and his parents and forefathers lived in this community and all have been church workers at Laskay or Strange. Marshall having gone to school one and a quarter miles south of townline road on 6th, followed by high school at Aurora and Agricultural college at Guelph. He has been an interested and enthusiastic worker for his Township for sometime, achieving reeveship by acclamation and is well versed in county affairs.

His wife, former Jean Ross of King Township is a member of Laskay Women's Institute.

KINGCRAFT

Kingcraft Guild was organized in King City District in October 1950 by Lady Flavelle who was founder and first President.

Membership began with 30 women engaged primarily in two crafts.

In five years membership has enlarged to over one hundred members and a larger scope of Handicrafts. Laskay district contributed many members when first organized in the smocking, leather-making and rugging and weaving groups.

The first sale of Handicrafts was held in June 1952 at Lady Flavelle's Home, 7th concession, King township. The second sale in 1954 October 6th was held at Maple community center. There were articles all produced by Kingcraft weavers, rug hooking group, smockers, leather workers, pottery and art groups.

The weavers had some 80 pieces of work, leather workers had 155 items, pottery workers had a display of 75 or more items.

Complementing the craft work is always the garden booth, treasured antiques, home baking and candy and afternoon tea.

Profits from these sales will be toward the erection of a Kingcraft building, in King City.

It was a happy experience for Kingcrafters to hold their first 1956 general meeting in their new building known as Kingcraft House. The official opening, Wed. May 23, 1956. The "king Rug" a pictorial scene of the Village made by the rugging group, is a wall tapestry. The handwoven curtains for the craft rooms were made on a large loom in the auditorium by the weavers.

KING AND VAUGHAN BEEF RING CELEBRATE 60TH YEAR - 1951

"I remember when the King and Vaughan Beef Ring started," says Billy McKay who is presently living at the home of Albert Richards, 5th concession, King.

"I ate meat from the first beef that was killed 60 years ago."

Billy will be one of the hundred guests who will celebrate the 60th birthday of the Beef Ring Association, with a party, to be held on Thursday night, December 6, in the Masonic Hall at King City. Although the party will feature a turkey supper served by the women of King Anglican Church, the talk will be of beef. For 60 summers families of King and Vaughan have shared in the Beef Ring.

The original minute book of the Society is still in use, and although it is tattered, the faded ink on the first pages records the birth of the Society.

On March 17, 1891, a small group of farmers in King and Vaughan held a meeting for the purpose of forming a beef association. A committee was formed to try and interest a sufficient number in this proposal. Two days later the Town-line Beef Association was born.

It has 16 members. The present membership is 29. Eleven of these are full shares, while 18 members have half shares. Thus it is called a 20share ring. The Beef-Ring starts each summer in the first week of June. Each member must furnish one two-year-old animal, fit for beef, during the season, in his proper turn. Thus for twenty consecutive weeks, every Monday night a beef is killed. Tuesday mornings it is cut up, each piece weighed, and hung on the hooks in the slaughter house. By 7 o'clock Tuesday morning, members of the Society begin to arrive to pick up the meat hung under their names.

The first president of the Society was Charles Nixon, the secretary-treasurer N.A. Malloy, and the first butcher, Wm. Walkington.

Wib Burns of Kinghorn is the present president, while Lorne Scott of Kinghorn is the secretary-treasurer and butcher. Fred Brown and Ewart Patton of King generally drop in at the slaughter house on Monday nights, to lend a hand and Kenneth Scott helps cut up the beef on Tuesday morning.

Although many men of King and Vaughan have held offices in the Beef-Ring, the butchers have been confined to three families, all of King - The Walkingtons (1891-1916), Andrew Cadden (1916-1935) back to the Walkington's until 1941, then to the Scotts.

KING AND VAUGHAN BEEF RING CELEBRATES 60th YEAR - cont'd.

The price of beef has certainly taken a jump since 1911, when it was 9¢ per pound. Currently beef is 40¢ per pound. Lucky is the farmer who draws a twenty pound steak the week he is threshing. But someone has to get the neck and if the beef has been a large one (the average this year was 530^{lbs}, the neck seems to be the largest part of it.

None of the society's original members appear on the membership of 1952, but the Hadwens and the McQuarries still carry on the family tradition.

The slaughter house, a 12x12 frame building was first on the farm of Wm. Walkington. In 1917 the Walkingtons sold it to the society for \$50.00, and it was moved to the other side of the road. In 1925 the insurance of \$3 per year was dropped and ten years later it burned to the ground. Undaunted the society appointed a building committee, and a new building was erected. In 1942 it was moved to the Scott farm on the fifth of King, where it now stands. The huge chart which hangs in the slaughter house is a weekly record of the weight of meat each member has received, and the weight of the beef killed.

The idea of the chart and the Beef Ring is that everything works out evenly when the long columns of figures have been added correctly. The members taking out more beef than they have put in, pay the difference at the annual meeting, at the rate of 40¢ per pound. If a member has put in a large beef, and over the summer he has got less than this weight of beef, he is paid at the same rate.

Over the years, whenever the members have held a supper or anniversary party, they have always had oysters or fowl, never roast beef.

Most farmers in Laskay district have been members at one time or another during this period.

This history was written by Mary Moore Scott.



Baby Band Picnic - taken at Mrs. Jesse Bryson's
June 1954



Four Oldest Members in Laskay W.M.S.
left - Mrs. W. Boys - Mrs. H. Ross - Mrs. J. Hunter - Mrs. F. Marshall



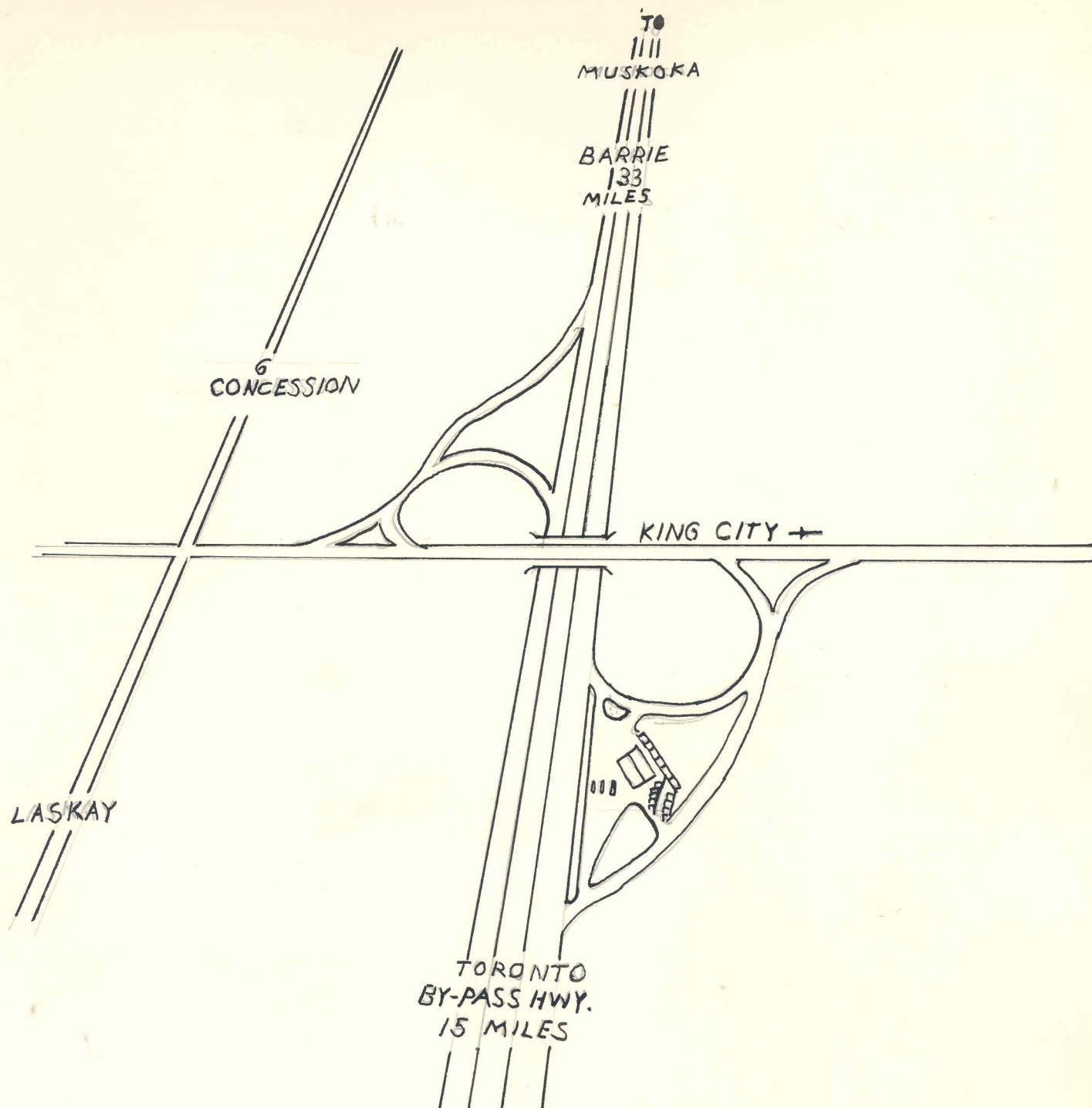
Members and friends at same picnic.



Beginning of Highway 400 in middle of lots 4 and 5 - About 1945.



Beginning of service station - 400 Highway & King City Sideread.



MINISTER OF HIGHWAYS TO OPEN NEW 400 ROAD SERVICE STATION - June, 1954.

The finest of its kind in Canada, the Shell Oil Company Service station, located on the Barrie highway at the King City interchange, is to be opened officially next week by Hon. George Doucette, Minister of Highways. It is the first of three such stations on Highway 400 between Toronto and Barrie. Built to conform with specifications of the Ontario Department of Highways, it was commenced on February 24th. It was designed by John B. Park Associates, Toronto.

The site is nearly four acres, with 825 foot frontage. It has a commanding view and the structure is a notable feature in King Township. The building which is 135 feet by 35 feet is composed of split granite field stone, with raked joint. This stone, according to the Carroll Construction Company, the contractors, was found, after some difficulty, on Mary Lake Farm to the north of the site.

NEW 400 ROAD SERVICE STATION (Continued)

New in service statkions, it features a large restaurant, capable of seating over 40 people. This room has laminated arch beams to the roof, with sound-proof ceiling inlays. The floor is pegged oak and the kitchen floor space is tiled.

Modern restaurant equipment is designed to give fast service. All outside walls of the building are solid stone and inside dark pine paint has contrasting effect.

The foyer, stock room and garage and wash room floors are polished cement painted light brick red. Rest room facilities are provided, including a furnished ladies' lounge. The building has modern lighting facilities, with direct and indirect lighting in the restaurant.

The three pump gasoline islands are fed by a remote pumping unit, 200 feet away, operated on a pressure system. This is new in Canada and the United States and the only one in Ontario. Gasoline capacity is 20,000 gallons. The driveway approaches are long, allowing motorists to enter safely and easily at comparatively high speeds. Parking space is ample. The whole area has a high powered flood lighting system visible from great distances.

The building itself has small ground flood light units that will illuminate the coloring of the stonework. Flower beds are ready for planting and the outside area is being landscaped for shrubs and flowers.

You are cordially invited to attend the

GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION

of

W. B. GREGG'S SHELL SERVICE STATION

Highway 400 at the King City Interchange

Beginning Friday, June 11th

NATURALISTS PRAISE KING PUPILS FOR DISPLAYS ON CONSERVATION

When 500 pupils in grades 4 to 8 of 18 elementary schools of King township will produce many displays of three-dimensional projects on methods of conservation, plus dozens of posters and scrapbooks, it proves their desire for the establishment of a "Wildlife Sanctuary in King Township". Such was shown at the pupil's display last Friday, June 1955.

Pupils of five schools read briefs to the township council, giving reasons for a sanctuary, suggestions for methods of setting it up and outlining its uses and ultimate benefit to the present and future generation of children and adults.

Reeve Elton Armstrong was inspired to tell them in a reply speech to children, teachers and parents: "Perhaps a year from now council will be able to assure you such a sanctuary will come about." He also said the late Aubrey Davis had made a conservation survey of the township in 1938, and his son is now chairman of the planning board which would be consulted on such matters. The non-competitive exhibit was held in the auditorium of Aurora and district high school on June 16. It was a tremendous achievement by the schools and an educational program sponsored by the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, to stimulate an interest in conservation. Through the leadership of inspectors Halman and J.F.Hodge, the various school principals and with the co-operation of the Federation of Naturalists and Ontario Department of Lands and Forests, the panorama spelled intensive study and research on the part of the children. Inspector Maynard Hallman was chairman of the gathering.

Mr. G. Marshall Bartman spoke on behalf of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. The schools taking part were Oak Ridges, King City, Strange, New Scotland, Pottageville, Snowball, S.S. 7, S.S. 17, Lloydtown, Linton, Eversley, Temperanceville, Kinghorn, S.S. 26 and S.S. 24 (Amsterdam). Books will be sent to these schools by the Federation.

To describe each school project individually would be impossible but the general theme was picturing a wildlife sanctuary in a multitude of variations. Several schools explained the projects to the audience. The briefs expressed definite opinions for the need of a sanctuary. A film, "The world at our Feet", was shown. The boys and girls were treated to ice cream by the Federation.

The program was televised. In the morning King City school was televised. The program was made from grades 7 and 8, among them pupils from Strange. Those who were fortunate in our community to be looking at T.V. on June 29th at 5.15 P.M. recognized many local faces from the Aurora scene and King City.

Section of Maple Tree Marks History Dates.

There are still grand old trees in King Township that have lived all the years between the two Queens Elizabeth. One/a maple, cut down to make room for new growth in the bush lot on Donald C. Gillies' farm, 6th Con., King. A slice of this tree was part of a study in conservation shown by the pupils of King City Public School at Aurora & District High School last week.

Ross Gillies, great-grandson of the original Scottish emigrant farmer, Archibald Gillies who settled on his Crown Grant of 100 acres and has continued to be the home of his descendants, along with his school friends, Danny Buddin and Barry Wallace, have learned a great deal from this slice of Maple tree. With their teacher, Carson Bice, and other classmates, they counted the rings of growth and discovered that it was quite a tree in 1665 when Champlain sailed to Quebec.

At the display of conservation study, the rings on the tree were marked to show the time when Wolfe captured Quebec, when Brock fell at Queenston Heights, the Battle of Trafalgar and the beginning of the Great War. These were among the historical events and scientific discoveries studied by the pupils and marked on the tree trunk.

CONSERVATION

Land Judging Competitions are Here

1957.

Livestock judging used to be the rage in farm districts. Now, some farm groups are turning to their soil, giving it that same thorough inspection once saved for the cattle. They are finding out that each field on the farm has characteristics which make it unique.

In the fall of 1957, land judging competitions made their debut in Ontario. This competition in York County was sponsored by the Metropolitan Toronto conservation authority of York County. Seventeen young farmers were peering into pits to study the soil horizons, rubbing topsoil and subsoil in their hands to test the structure and texture, sizing up the topography of the fields, and filling out their score cards.

Soil scientists from the Ontario Agricultural College took the groups to several farms before the competition was held to coach contestants on how to identify the characteristics of various soils.

CONSERVATION

Land Judging Competitions are Here - 1957 (Continued)

Then when they went into the four fields of the Russell Hoover farm at King, they were prepared for judging. This competition was held on farm Lot 1, west part of Con. 6, about one mile from Laskay, where the ladies of Laskay Women's Institute catered the noon lunch to the group of men.

FIRE DESTROYS LANDMARK RESIDENCE IN KING TWP. - January - 1956.

Fire destroyed a landmark dwelling on the farm of G.G.Wanless, sixth concession of King, four miles northwest of King City, late Monday afternoon. Mrs. Winnifred Diceman, 28, the farm manager's wife was able to get her two youngest children, Margaret, 16 months and Steven, three months out of the house.

Her husband, John Diceman, 30, was at King City getting special milk for the baby when his wife telephoned Rigwood Supermarket to tell him the kitchen stove pipes were on fire. Carol, four was with her Father and Norman, 8, and Linda, 6 were at Strange school.

The fire had a head start before fireman arrived. When the truck tank was empty, fireman had to take the truck 70 rods to a nearby lake (Boys Lake) for more water.

When neighbours arrived on the scene they got some furniture and an odd piece of household equipment to a driving shed nearby. But the greater part of the family belongings was destroyed. Mr. Diceman had no insurance on his possessions. The family spent the night at the Ross Polliott farm house and were to stay there as long as they needed help, Mrs. Polliott stated.

The King City firemen stayed at the scene until 11 p.m. to safeguard the large barn and other buildings. The six-room house was made of logs covered with clapboard. It was built nearly 125 years ago by Isaac Boys and was used by three generations of the Boys family.

The last of the family to occupy the farm was Fred Boys of Oak Ridges. He modernized the house 10 years ago. It was sold five years ago to Larry McGuinness who sold it to Mr. Wanless. Total loss of dwelling and contents, including a deep freeze belonging to Mr. Wanless, was estimated at over \$15,000.

Communities help burned-out family.

Excavation will be started soon for a two storey modern dwelling to replace the above house. On Tuesday neighbors collected clothing for children and took in home baking and groceries to the Ross Polliott farm where Mrs. Diceman and children are staying.

Mrs. Wanless brought a carload of clothes she collected from her Toronto friends and a layette for Stephen, and other articles. The King City Lions club is supplying winter under clothing and emergency items for the children. A community shower for bedding and miscellaneous articles will be held by Laskay W.I. in the Laskay Hall, on Saturday night.

RADIO BROADCAST

On February 25th, 1958, Laskay Institute was honored by being on a local Radio Broadcast at Richmond Hill, C.J.R.H.

During the Fall of 1957, and through 1958, ten minutes is allowed the Women's Institutes of York County, every Tuesday on the Farm and Home Show.

Mrs. Norman Etheridge, second-vice President of York Centre District and Mrs. Pearson Smeltzer, Historical Research Convener for Laskay were interviewed on compiling our History Book.

MY HOME IS MY CASTLE

Sometimes, when tired, I fret and stew
There seems too much for me to do.
The kitchen floor needs swept and scrubbed
The clothes and children, all need tubbed.
There seems to be excessive noise
From hungry little girls and boys
I think, if I could get away,
I'd have the grandest holiday.

We've all felt this way, more or less
When home affairs were in a mess.
But what's our first thought when we roam?
"If only I were safe at home!"
Within the wall of our abode
We find life's treasures, safely stowed.
Family, fun, joy-we can't explain--
Faith, love and comfort, when in pain.

This poem was written and ready by Mrs. Mary Moore Scott in August, 1955, as an explanation of the motto - "My home is my castle".

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Flock to buy Relics at Farm auction sale.

Over 300 people were attracted to Lot 10, west side of 7th Concession, King township in October, 1956. People came intrigued by the great number of relics, others came to see old implements and equipment along side modern machinery being sold, at an auction sale, the property of Brydon Ross, who had lived on that farm about eighty years. His wife, being taken suddenly by death just previously, also lent a wave of sympathy to see the old homestead broken up and up for sale.

Some antique pieces were destined for museums in Dalzail and Simcoe Parks, while others would feature private homes and garden folklore. Coveted pieces like the "old sidehill plow" sold at \$5.00, a buggy for \$7.00 and an ancient cutter brought \$8.00. A spool bedstead sold for \$3.25, a daisy churn .70¢, handhooked rugs for \$2.75 and \$2.25.

Home preserved fruit sold at .50 and .60¢ mostly in 2 qt. jars.

Mr. Ross saved the rocker he won at a plowing match when he was 18.

Many prized relics were distributed among relatives.

A gramophone with horn and records sold for \$2.00, stone jars sold like hotcakes.

Many a relic was found in the "farm jewellery".

Laskay United Church W.M.S. had a refreshment booth and cleared \$40.00.

KING CITY CLERGYMAN HEADS NEW PRESBYTERY

The United church charge of King City, Laskay, Teston and all of the King community are honored in the selection of Rev. Martin M. Jenkinson B.A., B.D., of King City as chairman of the newly formed York Presbytery of the United Church of Canada. 1956

In the ministry for a quarter century and incumbent of the King charge for the past 11 years, Mr. Jenkinson was surprised when his appointment was revealed at a meeting in St. Andrew's church, Markham, on January 8.

The formation of the York Presbytery is the outcome of the extensive growth of the Toronto area which made the former three district presbyteries "unwieldy". The new unit takes in charges in York County north of Steele's Ave. to Lake Simcoe, excluding Thornhill. It includes five charges in Ontario county and many churches in Toronto Centre and Toronto East Presbyteries. There are 69 members in the new Presbytery.

In November the congregations made a practical gesture of their admiration for Mr. and Mrs. Jenkinson in presenting them with a series of household appliances at a special gathering. Mrs. Jenkinson is not only her husband's helpmate in all his work but plays an active part in the church life of their congregations.



PROGRAMME

Official Opening

of

the new

*Township of King
Administration Building*

by

J. D. MILLAR, C.E.

Deputy-Minister of Public Works
of the Province of Ontario



Township of King

Saturday, September 14th, 1957



KING TOWNSHIP OFFICIALLY OPENS ITS NEW ADMINISTRATION BUILDING



"The official opening of the new municipal building of King Township is a history-making occasion and from the bottom of my heart I welcome all who are present to help celebrate this important day", were the opening remarks of Reeve William Hodgson, on Saturday afternoon, September 14, 1957.

The traditional ribbon was officially cut by J.D.Millar, C.E., deputy-minister of provincial public works, and a friend of King township for the past 20 years.

It was a proud occasion for building contractor, C.V.Morrow, Colgan and the young architect, Irving Beigon, Toronto, when they delivered the key of the building to the reeve.

The reeve introduced his councillors, the four former reeves and the chairman, L.B. Goodfellow, an ex-reeve of King and warden of York county in 1949.

Seats of honor were given to ex-reeves Arthur McCutcheon, Norman MacMurchy, L.B. Goodfellow and to Mrs. Elton Armstrong who took her husband's place because of his current illness.

Ex-councillors William Kehoe and Russel Snider, York county Warden, R.J. Tayler and former County wardens, Jack Rye, Ralph Corner and Marshall MacMurchy as well as Bruce Davis and Aubrey Dean of King township planning board were present.

Norman MacMurchy, whose forebears were early settlers in King township drew on his vast knowledge of township history to tell of the early days and how administration has changed and advanced since King township was first surveyed in 1800.

He spoke of the fine pine forests on the Ridges of King, the best in

KING TOWNSHIP OFFICIALLY OPENS ITS NEW ADMINISTRATION BUILDING Cont'd.

Ontario. It seems too bad, he said that in slightly over 100 years, "there isn't one old pine tree left in King township, probably not in the whole of York County". He told how the King pines were cut for ship masts and how the earliest settlers cut and rolled the pines down hill, burning them in order to clear the land. He remembered the last mast was taken from Loves bush on the 7th of King, lot 12, brought down through Herb Reiss's farm to the sideroad and hauled to King station with six teams of horses. He was a small boy when this took place.

Major A.A.Mackenzie, MPP introduced J.D.Millar. He too had fond boyhood memories of King township when he was a lad on his father's farm at Woodbridge. Mr. Millar said he firmly believes that "all public servants should be brought up on a farm." The art of farming is the oldest and most demanding craft in the world, he said. Once its rudiments are mastered all other skills come easily.

He spoke highly of the township's elected and permanent officials. Not only your township but the province, he said is richer by the advice and guidance of Harold Rose, your efficient clerk-treasurer and tax collector. "Any man who can collect taxes and still be popular is in truth endowed with the wisdom of Solomon," said Mr. Millar.

Mr. Millar said the new municipal building has historic value, because it is erected on a site not far from the place where the illiterate but adventurous Entienne Brule, the French explorer had travelled and where Governor Simcoe had travelled in his search for a feasible overland route from the new capital of York to the inland waters of the Great Lakes. Could I make the suggestion that on or near the grounds of this site, a suitable memorial be erected to the memory of Brule and his illustrious successor, John Graves Simcoe, he added.

DEDICATION CEREMONY

Before the cutting of the ribbon, the new building was dedicated by Rev. Dr. Abbott of Schomberg.

The unveiling of the blue and silver plaque by C.A.Cathers, MP a King township farmer was a special feature. "Many of you were born in King township but I chose this township for my home," said Mr. Cathers. "I am proud," he said, "to represent this municipality in the House of Commons and am looking forward to the time when the Queen opens parliament.

In accepting the key of the King township building, Reeve Hodgson on behalf of council recognized the support given in promoting the project.

KING TOWNSHIP OFFICIALLY OPENS ITS NEW ADMINISTRATION BUILDING Cont'd

DEDICATION CEREMONY

"It will do a good job for years to come," he said. The reeve said over 50 individual gifts from taxpayers and others had beautified and enhanced the building on opening day. Baskets of flowers from everywhere and permanent gifts were marks of goodwill and friendship.

The building was now open for inspection, for the signing of the guest book, and then downstairs where light refreshments were served to everyone by the ladies of Laskay Women's Institute.

The first council meeting was held in the new township municipal building on Tuesday, August 6th, 1957. There was a good deal of township business on hand but almost overlooked while topics of accessories for the new building were discussed.

Charles Black of Laskay was engaged as caretaker on a contract basis.



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