

TOWNSHIP OF KING, 1957

Instructions to Builders --

A building permit shall be obtained from the Building Inspector by the owner or his authorized agent for the excavation, erection, alterations, reconstruction, removal or wrecking of, or repairs to any building or part of any building on any lot, part of lot or farm, also for septic tanks. No such work shall be commenced until a building permit has been obtained and "is prominently displayed at the sight".

Basic Building Restrictions --

Every lot must contain at least 15,000 square feet with 75 feet frontage, and must be surveyed and registered before a permit is used for any building.

Foundation wall shall rest upon footings of concrete six inches by eighteen inches and protected from front by at least four feet of earth.

Dwellings of one storey in height must contain at least 700 square feet of floor area, and at least one room containing not less than one hundred and forty square feet of floor area, and every habitable room therein shall contain at least one hundred square feet of floor space. Ceiling must be eight feet clear above floor.

The roofs of one-storey buildings shall have double pitched roofs, the rise of roofs to be at least one quarter the width of such buildings.

No person shall be permitted to dwell in cellar or garage.

Charles H. Ross,

Building Inspector.

In 1957, 263 Building Permits were issued, of which 124 were for houses. Estimated total cost of building represented by the permits came to \$1,847,425. Most of the houses erected were large ones of more than six rooms.



Gas-Line Deadline November 1st, 1958.

These pictures were taken from King Sideroad between 7 and 8th concessins of King Township, where the Trans-Canada Gas pipeline is laid, showing a few rods of the gas line from Alberta to Toronto.

Toronto consumers should be burning Alberta gas in their homes and factories on or before November 1st, 1958. 1956-57 saw the first 1300 miles of pipe laid. This year's task was to lay 853 miles of 30" pipe from Port Arthur to Maple, north of Toronto. Total cost of 1958 operation is estimated at \$765,000,000. A mile of pipe a day is slow progress now, in contrast with the easy two or three miles daily across the prairies. The pipeline is designed to deliver 780 cubic feet a day. The newly built Laskay bridge surely had its strength tested, as soon after it's completion, the constant pipe delivery on huge transportation trucks carrying 60' length, 30" pipe began to their allotted destination.



THE TELEPHONE

New residents in such little communities as King City do not always remember that some of the nicities and necessities of modern living are not the result of the migration of city folks to the country, but were installed because of the industry and planning of progressive farmers.

Such is the history of the telephone system in King City that will soon lose its identity as an old-fashioned service operated by friendly people who know their customers by name and voices. When King City exchange becomes Temple 3, on November 1, 1960, an automatically controlled dial system will be installed, with perhaps a quicker, but less friendly service.

The first telephone line in this part of Ontario began under the Bell system, from Yonge St. to King City, and was formally opened in 1886, with James C. Stokes its first manager. His switchboard was installed in the store on the north-west side of Springhill Rd., now a real estate office. There were just a few telephones then; the doctor, the stores and the small businesses being the customers.

There was another line at Laskay and Kinghorn, operated by the Bell to accomodate that busier part of the township, where flour and woollen mills, and the Davis Tannery with its 100 or more employees, were connected with the city.

Norman MacMurchy, 6th of King, remembers his mother's first telephone conversation when he accompanied her, as a small boy, to the store at Laskay.

In 1910 a few farmers decided that the telephone system should be extended to their homes, and they formed the King City Telephone Company, with Al Wells its manager. Shares were sold at \$20. each and farmers contributed sums up to \$200 for lines to be run up and down the concession roads to their farms. Some of these were Neil McMurchy on the 5th; Alex MacMurchy on the 6th; Fred Willis, Archie McCallum and Andrew McClure on the 8th of King. Of these, only Andrew McClure, in his 89th year, remains to tell of the early days.

The line was extended as far west as Nobleton, and Mrs. Mc.Clure was the first woman from the west side of the township to speak to friends in King City. Telephone numbers were recognized by their rings. "Our number was five longs and six shorts, and we were often confused with the neighbours who had six longs and five shorts," remembers Mrs. Alfred Gilham who was little Elizabeth McClure.

The switchboard of the King City Telephone Company was transferred to the grocery store of Milt Winters, where Robert O'Reilly still operates a general business. One of the first operators was Mrs. Jim Burns who lives at Erindale, Ontario. Mrs. Winters was night operator. The yearly charge was light, being only \$12. for the privilege of repeating messages to local people--during the hours of 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. There was a charge of 25 cents on all calls between 6 and 9 p.m.

At the same time a private telephone company began operating from Maple, and it amalgamated with the private line at Woodbridge. After a few years the Vaughan-Woodbridge company bought the King City system, paying back their capital investment and dividends to the farmer investors.

This company operated successfully the business in King City that grew to 60 lines on one position in 1930, when Mrs. Bruce Hall came to relieve during the holidays. Then there were three girls employed on full time, and one on part time on the King City exchange, that has been moved to its present building on North Keele.

When the Bell Telephone Company bought the independent Vaughan, King and Woodbridge lines in January, 1951, there were seven operators employed on the busy local exchange, operating three positions. Now business has increased, with four positions crowding the office, which employs a staff of 12 operators.

"What will our girls do when the dial system is installed," the reporter asked Mrs. Hall this week.

"Some of the girls who stayed with us after they married, will keep house. Some have accepted transfers with the company, and some are undecided," said Mrs. Hall.

ICE STORM OF 1959

Those who remember back 60 years to 1900 reminisce that an ice storm, much like this one, hit this district. Then of course it was just a case of throwing another log on the fire, keeping the lamps trimmed, and bright, while you kept indoors. Today with all our "live electrically" conveniences, most of us were much harder hit and uncomfortable in our modern age. How helpless we feel without the magic power to flick a button and produce light. With the candles twinkling, we miss our T.V., Radio and worry about the furnace, 'frig. being off', but it was to the hydro crew our deepest thoughts go out, what a night to be out on the road, much less working with high tension wires covered with an inch of ice.

As we do the doctor or the police, we count on the hydro men to respond to emergency calls immediately and how important they are to keep the wheels rolling, the cows milked and the house warm. A storm of ice and frozen rain that changes the land to shimmering glass; it was so appalling to see the trees so weighted down, and brought these once majestic trees down to freakish sight.

In this area and many others hydro was disrupted from late Sunday afternoon, December 27th, 1959 till December 30th. The telephone service was out for ten days.

It is unlikely any of these hundreds of crew men, a great many crews came from North Bay, Sudbury, Ottawa, Bancroft, Oakville, Milton, St. Catharines, Coburg and Brockville, enjoyed their New Years' weekend--some were still on the job, others on call--while those who had free time just wanted to sleep.

We thank them for their untiring and valorous efforts in bringing order out of chaos in such short order.

The Smeltzer laneway at
time of the ice storm,
1959.



FAREWELL TO MR. CUMMINS. RETIRING MAILMAN.

Highlights of a dramatic past were recalled at Laskay Institute Hall on Friday evening, April 13, 1962, when 167 boxholders were given the opportunity to pay tribute to Ernest Cummins, who had given 38 years of continuous service on Rural Route 2, King City. From the horse and buggy days in 1924 when he started he graduated to the model T Ford and then to the more modern A. Many a time Mr. Cummins' cutter trail was the first makrs on many a sideroad before snowplow days.

It was a friendly gathering and described as a "Gathering of the Clan"; and the highlight of the evening was when the honored guest was presented with a leather wallet, containing \$455.00 in cash. This money will help finance a three month visit to his boyhood home in Hampshire, England. Mr. Cummins has not visited England since he came to Canada 49 years ago, 1913.

There were 17½ miles on the mail route in 1924 and at his retirement he covered 31½ miles daily. The salaries ranged from \$700.00 to \$2300.00. From 1924 to 1938 the mail was sorted at King P.O. and then carried in two locked bags to the rural P.O. Laskay and P.O. Strange; and then returning each outgoing mail in locked bags.

Mr. Cummins' two daughters and two sons and one grandson attended the occasion, one daughter sent her regrets. Local entertainment was provided, followed by refreshments.

Responsible for the event were Deputy-Reeve Norman MacMurchy, Donald Barker and Ronald Fraser, all of 6th Concession, King.

LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE

The little red schoolhouse, a vestige of pioneer days in Ontario, is slowly vanishing. Since 1945 when there were over 5000 such schoolhouses in Ontario, they have been diminishing at the rate of about 100 a year, squeezed out by the swelling demand for bigger and better facilities.

As rural population grows, township school areas are formed and two or more school boards combine to build a new school on a new location or add to one already in existence. Bus services are inaugurated to carry children from distant points. Instead of taking lessons in one room in groups of 30 or more, children are separated according to age and grade into classrooms in new spacious buildings.

In January, 1965, school areas became compulsory in Ontario, and King Township elected a five man schoolboard. In September, 1965, children who maybe lived next door to the school were transported to another school. At Strange school grades 1, 2 and 3 are taught to children who come from New Scotland, Kinghorn and Strange areas. At Kinghorn school grades 4 to 8 are taught to children.

In September a new Senior public school will be opened in King City across from high school to serve abt 7 and 8 grades from King Township. Since 1965 the Strange school built in 1942 has been used as offices for King Township area school board.

CHANGES IN PROPERTY HOLDINGS 1960-66.

including Laskay and Strange on 6th concession.

East Side

Lot 1. Whatley Finch and family moved to King city in 1963, but still own original Smeltzer farm of whom Whatley is a descendant. The oldest son, Jim Finch and his wife Donald live in house and a neighbour Russell Hoover rents and works the farm. New house built on northwest corner of Lot 1 by John Karpuck; formerly Eric Elf owned the lot.

Lot 2. Wm. B. Gregg bought farm in 1964 from Smeltzer estate, house rented to Van Husen. Harold and Ada Deeks built house on corner lot, 1962, who formerly farmed on lot 2, rear con. 6.

Lot 3. Chas. Shields and family moved to Hamilton, return some weekends. Chas. Hately and wife Jean moved to Eaton Hall Farm in late 1965. Daughter Nora Jane and husband live in Laskay house.

On back street the Smith cottage was purchased by Bruce Cox. Len Chandler sold to Mag, 1963. John Taylor sold to Stephen Cserna, 1965.

W m. Ham, Jr. built garage and apartment dwelling on south half of Ham property.

West Side

Lot 3. 1965 Chas. Levack sold to Maxwell Bruce, Q.C.

Chas. Levack still in farm house.

Lot 4. Newton Bros. sold property to Maxwell Bruce Q.C. S.M. Raymond still lives in old house at front of property. Mr. Bruce built large house and horse barn in 1964.

L.J. Bennett sold house and lot to Maxwell Bruce 1966. Bennetts still in residence.

R.H. Franklin purchased the original Boys house from Payne.

A. Loucks opened the Shamrock Paint & Varnish Works in a newly erected building around 1961.

CHANGES IN PROPERTY HOLDINGS 1960-66 cont'd.

East Side

Lot 5 - Earle Lowe and family moved to Winnipeg, Manitoba, Xmas 1963 by R.C.A. Co. and returned Feb. 1966.

Ivan Boy (formerly of Denmark) and his wife Margaret (formerly of Scotland) were occupants in Lowe's absence.

Three homes built and owned by D. Halloway, J.A. Shipley and Donald Ough.

Aubrey Gordon, a former Laskay boy born on Lot 3, west side, con.6 and his wife Florence built a new home in 1962-63.

Corner house first owned by Ballantyne, sold to Hlarace K. Henry in 1965.

Lot 7. John Guimond bought the Murdock home, 1959 and in 1964-65 built a new red brick house to replace the old one. Robt. Murdock and family had lived there since 1925.

Walter Monkman sold farm to Mary J. Williams in 1965. Farm had been in Monkman name since 1914.

Allan Henderson, renting farm and H. Bloem and family formerly of Holland occupants of house.

Lot 8 - MacMurchy family sold original MacCallum farm to Mary J. Williams, 1964.

Lot 9. George Forester sold to Eric Reilly in 1963, retired to Nobleton, killed accidentally at work, Dec. 1964.

Ken O'Brien and family rent the farm and occupy half the house.

West Side

Lot 5. Original O'Brien 18 acres subdivided.

First house built, sold to F.P. Gill

Second house now owned by D. Finnegan.

Two more lots sold.

Original O'Brien home, latterly owned by Barratt sold to C.D. Whitten, 1965.

Lot 6. Donald Hutchinson bought of Mrs. J. Smith, 1962, sold to John Manson, 1966.

D. Hutchinson was former owner of King City Hardware, now moved to Tilbury, southwestern Ontario.

Lot 7. Alfred Gillham sold to D.C. Henderson - 1965, Jas. Hurlbut now resident.

Lot 9. Norman MacMurchy sold farm to Stan Kerr. Son Douglas Kerr and family live on farm.

Norman and Pearch MacMurchy built new home on northwest corner of farm in 1961.

Lots not mentioned remain the same. Compiled by Adella Smeltzer, April 1966.

1967 - HIGHLIGHTS - ADELLA SMELTZER.

Canada's Centennial year got off to a fine start on Jan. 1, 1967. All across Canada great excitement and chivalry dominated right through until December 31. In the nation's capital, the Prime Minister lit the Centennial flame which was to burn throughout the year 1967, but so many requests have been made to keep the gas jet burning, it will be kept burning as an eternal flame.

The greatest celebration of all was the more than successful Expo 67, "Man and his world", created on a man-made island in the St. Lawrence River. Fifty million people attended the site when fifty nations participated.

People travelled to Montreal in many unique ways but the most outstanding trip was the voyageurs by canoe from Peace River District to Expo in 104 days at an average of over 30 miles a day.

Many of the older public school children in our area were privileged to attend expo as well as many grown ups, including nine members from Laskay W.I., Marjorie MacMurchy having participated in the singing group of York Choralers.

Mention should be made of Bobby Gimby and his trumpet who led children in all parts of Canada in his marching song "Ca-na-da" and made his final exit at the closing exercises in Ottawa, Dec. 31, 1967.

The highlight Of Manitoba's celebration was that they had the honour to hold the Pan American games in Winnipeg in Centennial Year.

Canada lost two loved and respected Governor-Generals; In 1967 the Acting Governor-General George Vanier and a past and first native born Governor-General, Vincent Massey.

Major Lex MacKenzie, a veteran and well-known, well respected M.P.P. and local historian retired from Parliament in 1967.

In Centennial year 20,000 irate farmers demanded a better deal for Agriculture and invaded Ottawa by tractor. It was the largest gathering by far of any type on Parliament Hill. Marching eight abreast the column took more than an hour to enter the vast grass covered square. Ottawa was host to some 60 dignitaries from other countries, including members of the Royal Family, most of whom visited Expo. Prince Philip made three official visits in '67 to Canada.

The confederation train and caravan journeyed across Canada to tell the Canadian story with the aid of life size models, sound effects, lightning artifacts and photography.

It was an interesting fact that a women helped plan and keep Centennial year colourful in none other than the Secretary of State, Judy LaMarsh. For this district the most talked about and certainly the most enjoyed social event which so many local people attended was the Centennial Chicken barbecue held in King City Park, June 30th. Many local organizations worked on this project, the new addition to the park. Over 2000 people (more than the entire population of

the village) attended and consumed a ton of chicken.

When the heavy rain came after the dancing started, you either had to jam into the park barn, your car or go home. Many stayed and braved the elements to watch the midnight fireworks and heard the church bells ring in Canada's birthday.

The Laskay Women Institute held a Centennial Ball in Laskay Hall in September; several former residents came to this re-union dance and many who didn't, wished they had; a friendly and socialble time was enjoyed by all.

Nobleton village sponsored a mile long parade and Dominion Day Celebration. The original Baldwin farm in Lot 3, Laskay was in the news highlights twice this year, first in Feb. and March when cameras began filming a colour Movie, "The Fox", first written in book form by D.H. Lawrence. Starring in the movie are Anne Heywood, Sandy Dennis and Keir Dulles. In July the Aurora Banner published the history of the Baldwin family and mills at Aurora; they told of the family origin and first mills at Laskay on Lot 3.

Laskay United Church for the first time in it's history acquired a morning service after many years of an afternoon hour of worship, and were sorry to lose their beloved paster of 22 years, Rev. M. Jenkinson to another charge.

Three new houses have been erected in the Laskay area this year as well as an addition to the old Forge, some beams from the West barn on W. Finch's farm were used in the "Old Forge" addition. They have been carefully finished and are in the open ceiling.

Two well-known local couples have celebrated 50 year wedding anniversaries in 1967, Sirr Ellsworth and Lady Flavelle and Mr. and Mrs. James Baxter, both of the 7th con session.

The Ontario Junior Farmers had a centennial project which gave the owners of centennial farms a plaque to be placed at their gateway. Three of these awards were displayed by Mr. and Mrs. Donald Gillies, Lot 15, King, Mrs. and Mrs. Ross Folliett, Lot 11, King, Mr. and Mrs. James Finch, Lot 1.

Sheila Dennett, a Laskay student topped the Ontario Scholar group in Centennial year at King City Secondary school.

Some local travellers in 67, Don Barker, by air, (accompanied by a group of men from Woodbridge when they spent 10 days in January in Ecuador, S.A. Mr. and Mrs. N. MacMurchy had a two weeks vacation in Bermuda and Antigua. Mr. and Mrs. Harold Dooks motored to the east coast accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. F. Campbell. Two historical happenings took place in the ridges of King and Hacketts Lake. Colonel and Mrs. J.T.K. Strathy, Lot 13, con. 6, were host and hostess to Royalty, Her Royal Highness, Princess Alexandra and her husband, Hon. Angus Ogilvy, while the Princess (whom the Colonel had known for some time) was visiting in Canada and making a cross-country tour, in which she and her husband were widely acclaimed as

jolly good fellows.

Secondly in July a group of senior boys from Richibucto camp at Kettleby hiked the eight miles to the old Carrying place, the portage from Humber to Holland River, with the use of modern topographic maps and compasses, the tribe headed north from Kelly Lake near the 7th concession. In the first one-quarter mile they climbed over 100 feet, one fine example of the mountains. Much was learned about the history, geography and geology of the region.

The Humane Society held a country home tour which included the old Stone Church at Strange, the McClelland and Strathy houses on lots 12-13 and lots 2-3 seventh concession.

Local history was made at Lloydtown school, a century old S.S. #15, when it re-opened its doors to the eager youngsters of the 20th century. The school was created for the teaching of natural science, history and geography. Hundreds of King Township school children came through the year to see many items of historical interest and learn their history and how they were used. At the opening of this township area school Board centennial Project, even the weather duplicated a 19th century condition when snow banks were a hindrance to the ladies attending in 1867 styles with the long skirts.

Another Centennial display worth mention was the nine day antique display shown at Vanderf in Whitechurch township, when an estimated 2000 people visited the antique show "Through the Years."

Some of our members were guests of Schomburg and Nobleton Institutes when they had antique displays. At a Centennial closing party at Ottawa where more than 5000 people braved the elements on a cold wintry night, the Governor-General, Roland Michener, described the Centennial Celebrations as a "Watershed in Canadian History". Like the explorer of old Canada was crossing a great height of land dividing the past from the future, "Having paused in 1967, Canada is now refreshed and ready to resume its journey. To-morrow is a day of new departure, a moment of choice and destiny."

1968 - Laskay students attending University or other schools were.

Ian, Mary and Sheila Dennett - Kitchener-Waterloo University.

Beverley Hunter, Wellington College, Guelph; Janet Stubbs - York University-Toronto. Lars Elf, Royal Roads College, B.C.; Beth Cairns, nurse-in-training, St. Joseph's Hospital, Toronto; Kirsten Elf, nurse-in-training at Wellesley Hospital, Toronto.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE
LASKAY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
CENTENNIAL BALL
AND
RE-UNION

ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1967 at 8.30 P.M.

IN LASKAY INSTITUTE HALL

MUSIC PROVIDED BY FERGUS LAWSON'S ORCHESTRA

CENTENNIAL COSTUME OPTIONAL - SPECIAL PRIZES

ADMISSION - \$1.50 PER PERSON - LUNCH PROVIDED.

Mrs. A. MacMurchy

MRS. T. WALKER

President L.W.I.

SECRETARY.

THE FOX

The hamlet of Laskay made history in the beginning of Centennial year when a one and a half million dollar movie based on D.H. Lawrence's movie, "The Fox" was filmed on the original Baldwin farm, now the Charles Shields Estate. The farm tenant is Scott Smeltzer, a third descendant of John Smeltzer an early pioneer of Laskay district.

The Rayan production is being directed by Mark Rydell and stars Ann Heywood, Sandy Dennis and Keir Dullea. With the exception of the head cameraman and a few technicians, the crew is Canadian and the Fox is filmed in color. The American Movie Co. chose Canada for this production because of lower costs and because snow was needed. Snow and below zero weather on some of the coldest nights of the winter was a real challenge to the actors working outside under big klieg lights until one, two and three o'clock in the morning.

Throughout the picture, a marauding fox, which has been stealing the farm's chickens has been hunted. Finally, one night in the forest, Miss Heywood comes upon it and was unable to shoot. It has become for her the symbol of masculinity. The fox's place is taken, in her mind, by the sailor; Trained foxes were shipped in from California and a local veterinarian, Dr. C. Heder assisted on Fox days.

Prior to movie taking days, much preparation took place. Insul brick siding was removed from the farm house, and replaced with old tongue and groove for authenticity. A closed in verandah was added to the south of the house and a porch at the back door entrance. The T.V. aerial was removed. The roadway bridge was re-inforced for heavy traffic. Rail fences were erected on each side of laneway and farmyard. A dead elm tree, was uprooted from a field and placed in dooryard, which in the film was cut down by the two farm women, when the tree shifted and fell on the one and killed her.

A windmill was transported to the scene and erected. Some farm animals, hens and ducks were moved in. Miles of electric cable were used and power was generated on the spot. Trailers were set up for an office and make-up rooms.

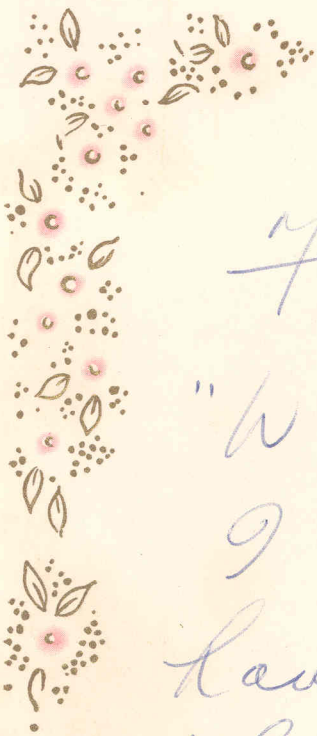
The cast were brought in by bus from Toronto daily. Outside catering for noon or supper meals was partaken of in Laskay Women's Institute Hall, which also served a second purpose, a place to get warm.

Mrs. Ross Morgan next door to the Hall, came to the rescue of the star actor and actress one day, when she was called up to dry out their clothes in her clothes dryer, when they had been drenched from forced rain, on a cold winter day.

The farm house and driveway finally got back to normal about the

end of May. The lane was impassable in the spring, but has now received a good gravel covering.

The film was first shown in Toronto in May 1968.



To the Laskey
"Woman's Institute,"
I wish I could
have had the
pleasure of
meeting you all!

Sincerely good
wishes and good
luck in all you
do!
Anne Heywood
1967

SCENES TAKEN AT THE FILMING OF THE FOX



THE BRUCE TRAIL

Colour and Time — how do you equate them? Nature does, and in the grand manner — the brightening greens of spring, the warming yellows of summer — the ripening reds of fall — and nowhere more grandly than along the Bruce Trail!

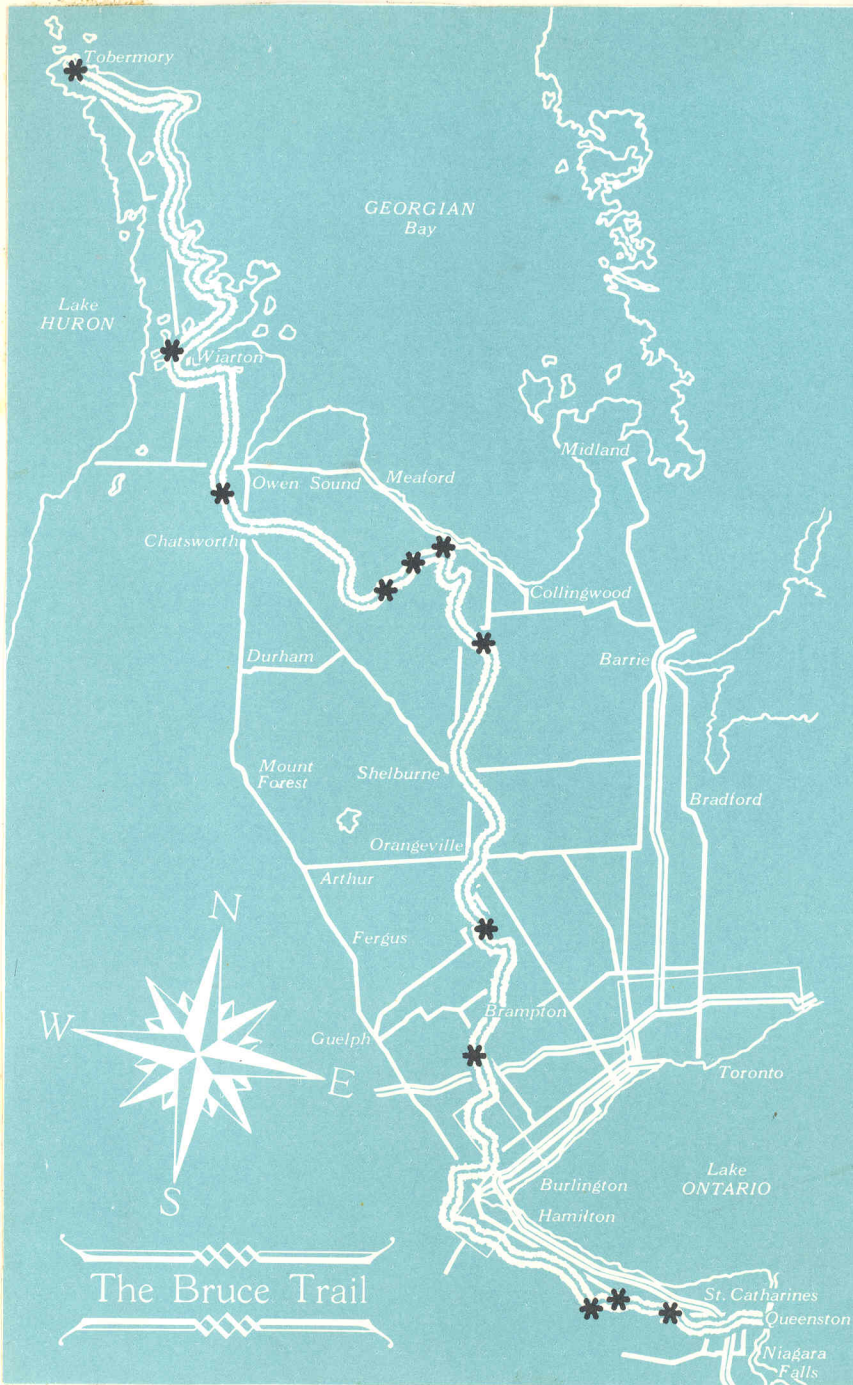
A project of The Federation of Ontario Naturalists, aided by the generosity of individuals, land owners, service clubs and government agencies, "The Trail" is a conscious effort to preserve for Ontario a three hundred mile long "green belt" through the industrial and agricultural heart land of the Province.

A foot path and nature trail following the crest of the Niagara Escarpment from Queenston in the South, to Tobermory in the North, The Bruce Trail forms a natural haven and retreat for those who would escape completely the hurrying confusions of our contemporary world. Here the family may relax; here the adventurous may know again the warmth and camaraderie of a campfire under the stars, or here the quiet ones may be at peace to examine their thoughts and the world around them; and here too may the artist fill his brush to capture the majesty of rushing waters, the magnificence of rolling hills and the calm coolness of the woodlands of this Ontario of ours!

We salute the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and those who would help them in this imaginative and exciting project.

RICHARDSON, BOND & WRIGHT LIMITED

* Location of views painted along the trail commencing at Balls Falls near Vineland.



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



1965 Christmas greeting from Metropolitan Conservation Authority.
Showing drawing of Laskay Emporium.

First Wedding Ceremony
in
Laskay Womens Institute Hall
July 25, 1976.

Linda Capon and Kevin Savage were married by Mr. J. Kotras in
Laskay Womens Institute Hall on July 25, 1976.

Linda is a Health Care Aid at King City Lodge.

Kevin works for Ronalds Federated Graphics at Richmond Hill, Ontario.

Linda came to Canada from Wendover, England in 1968.

Kevin came from England in 1957.

