

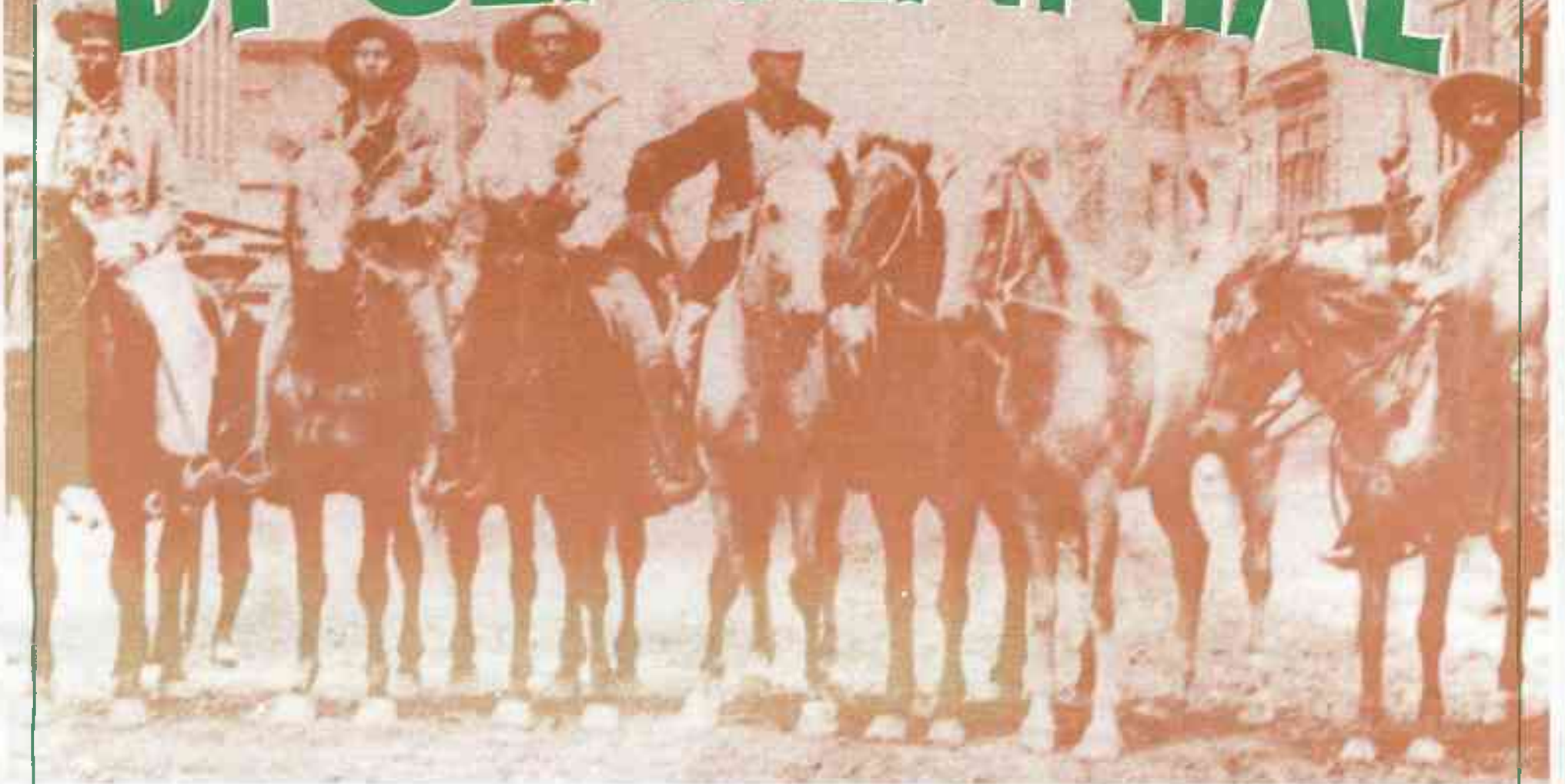
1793

CELEBRATING

1993

Ingersoll's

# BI-CENTENNIAL



BUILDING ON THE PAST TO MAKE A BRIGHT FUTURE





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By air mail  
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The Chairman,  
Ingersoll Bicentennial Committee,  
PO Box 340,  
Ingersoll,  
Ontario,  
CANADA.  
N5C 3V3



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

16th February, 1993.



Dear Chairman,

The Queen has commanded me to thank you for your letter of 13th January about the Bicentennial celebrations of the town of Ingersoll. Her Majesty remembers her visit to your town, and was most interested to hear of your celebrations, which she hopes will be a great success.

*Your sincerely,  
Kenneth Scott*

(KENNETH SCOTT)

The Chairman,  
Ingersoll Bicentennial Committee.

## Royal Mail

The Bi-Centennial committee was delighted to receive the above letter from Buckingham Palace. It is a reply to the letter (below) sent to Her Majesty.



TOWN OF INGERSOLL  
BI-CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE



Ingersoll, Ontario, Canada  
January 13, 1993

Your Majesty Queen Elizabeth II,  
Government House,  
1 Sussex Drive,  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A1

Your Majesty:

We, the undersigned, are members of a small committee appointed by the Council of the Town of Ingersoll, to organize the celebration of our Town's Bi-Centennial.

It was 200 years ago, March 23rd, 1793 that Governor John Graves Simcoe signed the deed granting the land which was to become our town, to Thomas Ingersoll.

We would hardly expect Your Majesty to remember this small South-Western Ontario town, one of many you passed through in 1972. However, we, your loyal subjects, will never forget that happy occasion. It is part of our Town's treasured history, just as is the visit made by your parents in 1939.

Ingersoll is still a small town (population just over 8,000) and its people share many of the admirable traits of loyalty, family values, honesty and respect for hard work, the same traits that enabled our ancestors to survive when they first settled this area.

Our Community's contribution to the war effort during World War 1, World War 2, and the Korean conflict was admirable. We would not even attempt to expound on the sacrifices made by our men and women who served in the armed forces during those times. In times of peace we have a happy record of working together to help those less fortunate, whatever the cause.

As we worked on our plans for reunions, re-enactments of historical events and just plain fun times, our Committee began to feel very strongly that we did want Your Majesty to be advised of just what was happening in our Community in 1993.

With deepest respect and affection,

Reg. Hours:  
Mon.-Tues. 11-4  
Wed.-Sun. 11-9

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Our Victorian  
Home offers  
casual fine dining  
in an 1830's  
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We are extremely proud to celebrate  
Ingersoll's Bi-Centennial!

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189 Thames St. S.

425-0900



## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



Bonnie Mott

You are wonderful! We at The Ingersoll Times, asked for your help in creating a special Bi-Centennial Edition, one that would enable us to learn about, to reminisce about and to honor our past. We wanted to remember what it used to be like in this Oxford-on-the-Thames town. We wanted to remember and learn about the people who used to live here and what they had done for this community.

You responded by digging into boxes in your basement, by climbing to the attic to dust off old trunks and delving into old photo albums. You made literally hundreds of phone calls and scores of visits. You allowed us to ask questions, look at old deeds and letters and borrow treasured photographs. Priceless antiques were shown to us, either in the privacy of your homes or in our office.

Some of your stories made us helpless with laughter: others brought tears to our eyes. They were all fascinating.

Today we see the end product of all the work and you and we at The Times did together. I hope you are as proud of it as we are and that you enjoy the publication so much you want to add it to our treasures and keepsakes. It truly has been a labor of love for me and I thank you each from the bottom of my heart.

## MP'S MESSAGE



Bruce Halliday

A Bicentenary is a unique milestone in the life of a community -- a time, perhaps, for reflection, but also a time to pause long enough to appreciate history, heritage, and to look to the future. On the aspect of reflection, a good friend from Ingersoll has suggested that in this article it would be appropriate for me to comment briefly on my reflections as a Member of Parliament.

This being my last year to represent Oxford in the Parliament of Canada, the dominant and overriding thought is that it has been -- for me -- a proud experience to have had that honor and privilege. I have served in the House of Commons under four prime ministers (5 as of June 13), five speakers of the House of Commons, and while Canada had four different governor generals.

There have been two Electoral Boundary Commissions, both of which proposed to substantially alter Oxford riding. Throughout the 1976 challenge to our boundaries, a very strong representation of some 40 community groups and individuals from throughout Oxford convinced the Commission to make no changes. Again in 1986 we managed to maintain the existing federal boundaries of Oxford, and welcomed the Township of Burford into the Riding. Following the 1986 redistribution processes, we were successful in having the "Community of interests" factor added to future deliberations of the Electoral Boundaries Adjustment Act, which had previously dealt principally with population and geographic size.

A historic change in the operations of the House of Commons occurred when television cameras began to record its daily operations. This led to dramatic changes in the performances and behaviour of Members of Parliament. Some "grandstanding" for the cameras became prevalent, and the traditional raucous desk thumping found its way into oblivion. On reflection, I think the cameras have helped to make Canadians much more knowledgeable and aware of parliament -- one of the reasons for the present and unjustifiable cynicism which exists.

During my more than 18 years in Ottawa, I have seen the focus of our country shift from concerns about energy resources to a ponderous debt load and the maintenance of jobs in a fast-changing world.

Although I have served on many different Caucus and Standing Committees, a special interest has been my involvement with the quality of life and opportunities for disabled Canadians. On the international stage I have concentrated on the adverse effects of the too rapid growth in population on the global environment.

As Ingersoll moves into year 200 + 1, its citizens can justifiably take pride in its past and look forward to the stable future which a small town offers. You will enjoy many opportunities to celebrate throughout the year, and I certainly look forward to sharing some of them with you.

**Bruce Halliday, M.D.  
M.P. Oxford**

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



BRIAN RODENHURST

This is an exciting year for Ingersoll as we celebrate our Bi-centennial. Many events are scheduled including a reunion at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute and Princess Elizabeth School.

Ingersoll has a proud history and has grown from a small settlement along the bank of the Thames River to a vibrant commercial centre. It is noteworthy that in our Bi-centennial year that a Historical Society has been formed with a great deal of interest from a large number of local people.

Ingersoll has grown into a major industrial centre for not only Oxford County but the whole of Southwestern Ontario! In addition to a major automotive plant, our economic base is strengthened by a variety of factories and business. We can look not only to the past with pride but also to the future with optimism. Most economic forecasters believe that the next financial boom will occur in the 401 Corridor between Toronto and Windsor. Ingersoll is an ideal geographic position to participate in the coming expansion of Southwestern Ontario's industrial and commercial base.

Special thanks must be extended to Don Dreyer, Chairman of the Bi-Centennial Committee, and all its members for the hours expended to plan the celebrations for our Bi-Centennial. Many local groups and organizations have worked hard to organize events to make this a special year for all of us. What has made Ingersoll a good place to live is the community spirit and enthusiasm of local groups and individuals. Hopefully all residents of Ingersoll and our neighbors will participate in order to make the events a success.

Looking back at the history of Ingersoll and its future we are definitely a town with a heritage and a future. On behalf of Town Council and staff, we hope everyone a happy and prosperous Bi-Centennial year.

Brian Rodenhurst, Mayor

## MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER



Freeman Farrington

By: Freeman Farrington

My introduction to the culture of Ingersoll took place almost a year ago, endeavoring to find my way, to meet fellow citizens and become involved in the spirit of your town has been exciting and rewarding. I am truly impressed with Ingersoll's wear-with-all to remain a vital cog in southwestern Ontario's heartland, despite the tragedies, and economic tough times all communities are experiencing.

The town's namesake must surely be at peace, knowing what has transpired over the past 200 years, to bring us to this Bi-Centennial celebration.

As our editorial and advertising staffs were busy gathering material for this Bi-Centennial edition, we were impressed and gratified by the co-operation of everyone. Nostalgia seems to be the essential character as history, biography, humorous stories, old photographs and facts have been inundating our office.

Overwhelmingly most of the material so generously supplied has come from personal photo albums and long preserved memories of many life-long residents. In fear of missing just one of our many contributors, I refrain reluctantly from naming here those who have donated time and material without which this historic journal could not have succeeded. As reunions and get-togethers abound throughout the year, may this year in history be one that is enjoyed and long remembered.



DEAR EDITOR:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Ingersoll Bi-Centennial Committee for the dedication given for over a year and a half. Their hard work has paid off. The citizens of Ingersoll have a positive year of events to celebrate, make acquaintance with old friends, and the opportunity to make new ones.

The co-operation received by the various Church groups, service clubs and others has been admirable, resulting in over 50 events for our Bi-Centennial year. I hope that the positive goodwill generated this year will continue and a sense of pride will be felt by all the citizens of Ingersoll.

Don Dreyer, Chairperson  
Ingersoll Bi-Centennial  
Committee

## Thank You

- \* To each and every person who loaned us pictures or other material to photograph.
- \* To everyone who allowed us to photograph and/or interview him/her.
- \* To those who wrote special articles.
- \* To those who simply dropped in with an idea or a suggestion.
- \* To each of our advertisers for their support and enthusiasm.

Special mention must be made of several people who went beyond what could reasonably be expected of them: J.C. Herbert, Lorne Moon and Nip Henderson, David Gibson, author of The Hugill Chronicles; Doug Carr, Ingersoll Cheese Museum curator Shirley Lovell; clerk-administrator E. A. (Ted) Hunt and Bi-Centennial Committee chairperson Don Dreyer.

It is very important to me to acknowledge the co-operation and assistance extended to me by every member of the Ingersoll Times staff. To editor Liz Daddon who believed in this project when it was still in its infant stages; to publisher Freeman Farrington, for his unfailing support and assistance; to Cheryl Clark-Cowan, interim editor; Tia Chiericos, reporter and photographer; to Susan North and Deb Becht advertising consultants and to Mary Pinney, receptionist -- a very sincere thank you. A special word of praise to Bev Egan, our typesetter for her skill and patience. You not only endured all the chaos I created, but you made even the difficult parts a pleasant experience.



**REMARKS  
FROM  
MPP**



Congratulations to the Town of Ingersoll on its Bicentennial! The Town of Ingersoll has a rich history to celebrate. It is a history of perseverance, dedication, innovation, and hard work, that has created a town with a strong sense of community.

Ingersoll is known throughout Ontario as a great community to reside. The success and strength of Ingersoll throughout its first 200 years is directly attributable to the people who have called Ingersoll home. Throughout its history, many citizens of Ingersoll have contributed significantly to the betterment of the town through their involvement in the public, business, social, cultural and community life of Ingersoll. In celebrating the town's Bicentennial, you are also celebrating their contribution to your community.

Congratulations to the Town's Bicentennial Committee and the organizers of the numerous events celebrating this accomplishment in Ingersoll's development. The Ingersoll Times is also to be congratulated in publishing this special Bicentennial Edition.

I hope everyone enjoys this special celebration of the wonderful community of Ingersoll.

Kimble Sutherland MPP  
Oxford



**Residents of  
the Town  
of Ingersoll**



On behalf of Oxford County Council, I would like to offer our best wishes to the residents of Ingersoll on the Bi-Centennial celebrations.

For the past 200 years the Town of Ingersoll has played a vital role in the success of Oxford County. Situated in the heart of the richest agricultural area in the province, the Town of Ingersoll has provided both goods and services to meet the needs of the farming community.

The Town of Ingersoll has always been known for its strong base of industries that have located here over many years. Ingersoll was chosen by these companies for its location, but also because of an excellent work force that was available to them.

There is one very important reason that the Town of Ingersoll has grown and prospered over the last 200 years, and that is the residents of the town. Through the good times and the bad, recessions and fires, the people of Ingersoll have continued to improve on the quality of life they enjoy. It is also for this quality that people from outside the area have chosen to make Ingersoll home.

The past 200 years have brought many challenges for the town and its residents, and as we enter the next century the Town of Ingersoll and the County of Oxford will have to continue to work together and overcome the challenges.

Again, I would like to offer my best wishes to the residents of the town of Ingersoll and to congratulate the organizers of the Bi-Centennial celebrations for their work.

Kind Regards,  
Edward Down  
Warden

**FRONT  
PAGE**

Posse blocking traffic on Thames St. in front of Woolson & Murdocks store. The occasion may have been the visit of the Marquis of Lorne in 1879.

This magnificent floral arch was created to welcome the Marquis of Lorne and his wife Louise, daughter of Queen Victoria.

Ingersoll's new entrance signs.

Modern police facility.

The future generation enjoys an Ingersoll tradition.

Ingersoll Cheese Museum.

(Photos courtesy of David Gibson and the Town of Ingersoll)

"WE TAKE THE DENTS OUT OF ACCIDENTS"

**'BOB' FAIRBANKS  
AUTOBODY**

Proud  
members  
of  
the  
Ingersoll  
community  
since  
1967

*Twenty-six years ago  
we began operating  
with one employee.  
Today, seven people  
are employed.*

**WE LOOK FORWARD  
TO SHARING  
THE NEXT 200 YEARS!**

**Happy Birthday  
Ingersoll**

**'BOB' FAIRBANKS AUTOBODY**

166 Whiting St., Ingersoll

485-1450

**McBeath Funeral Home**

246 Thames St. S.  
Ingersoll



J. HUGILL PHOTOGRAPHER - COURTESY SHOULTS' LIGHTING

**RESPECT, REMEMBERING, REVERENCE**

Pre-need counseling since 1954

**'A COMMITMENT CONTINUES'**

**DOUGLAS A. DYNES**

DIRECTOR  
425-1600



**My Ingersoll: I like it because** o o o



"Of the shopping here. There are friendly sales people, they seem happy to see you and they don't ignore you. What I really like about Ingersoll is it's not overly busy ... the stores are not crowded."

**Barbara Patterson**

Princess Elizabeth Public School teacher

Although she hasn't been back to Ingersoll since January 1985, Karen has been kept up-to-date on the news from a friend, Shelley Holden and through a subscription to the Ingersoll Times. She is hoping that in the summer of '93, she will see for herself the changes which have taken place.

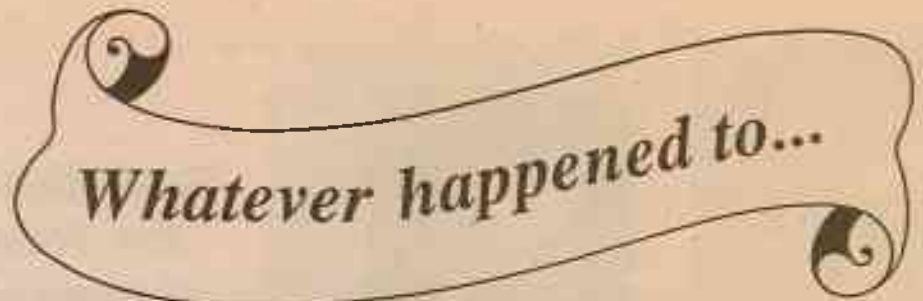
Since leaving Ingersoll in 1979, Karen has married and had three sons. They are Kyle 6, Derek 5, and Dylan 3 1/2. Between raising a family and a small crafting business, she is kept very busy. Her husband Dale hauls oil near Lloydminster. They live in the village where Dale was raised.

The Cheese & Wine Festival is something Karen remembers, along with Boniface's store. John Cook, Principal at Princess Elizabeth School and Mr. Walters were among my favorite teachers.

Current address: Box 133, Dewberry, Alta. T0B 1G0.



**KAREN (MEISNER) BENSMILLER**



**CARL & JUDIE MEISNER & SON TIM**

Leaving Ingersoll in 1985, Carl, June and Tim Meisner travelled west to Alberta, where their children Karen, Andy and Tony already resided. After a short time in Lloydminster, they moved on to Camrose where they are presently residing.

Tim is in Grade 8 now and doing well. He is active in band at school and enjoys his computer at home.

Judie works at Rosehaven Care Centre as a Ward Aide. She completed her P.C.A. (Personal Care Aide) course last year. She really enjoys her work. At home she is kept busy with family and crafting.

Before leaving Ingersoll Judie worked at the Voyageur Restaurant (later Burger King) for many years. Her bosses were Jack and Pat Cowell.

Carl has been living in Rosehaven Care Center for four years now. He suffers from Alzheimers. He had worked at Canadian Tire, McHughes Tire and MacNab Auto Sales before moving west. His grandchildren call him Papa.

Judie keeps in touch with a couple of good friends in Ingersoll.

Current address: 98B Mt. Pleasant, Camrose Alta. T4V 2M6.

**TED D'ANGELO**

Sports enthusiasts in Ingersoll still talk about his skill on the bowling lanes, but Ted D'Angelo gave up bowling long ago.

Son of the late Josephine and Ed D'Angelo, he resided at 84 Thames South, over the family's neighborhood grocery store. Ted attended Sacred Heart School and I.D.C.I. He was a respected athlete as a teenager, known not only for his bowling skills, but for all other sports, especially baseball.

Today, he admits to being a golf addict.

Ted left Ingersoll as a teenager to pursue a career in banking. His work took him to Toronto, Sarnia and London banks. For the past 22 years he has been with General Motors in London and currently, as Resident Comptroller, presides as head of the financial department there. His wife Grace, a former Sarnia resident, and he have three adult sons. Although they occasionally drive through Ingersoll, Ted never comes to visit and has not since his parents died in the early 80s.

Current Address: London, Ontario.



**INGERSOLL DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

8 KING STREET EAST, INGERSOLL, ONTARIO N5C 3L8

PHONE: 485-3530

**MESSAGE FROM 1993 CHAMBER PRESIDENT**

It is appropriate, during Ingersoll's Bi-Centennial to reflect on the abundance that we have, not only in Ingersoll but in this great country. Many changes have occurred and shaped out lives, from early pioneer times to the fast pace of today. We cannot reshape what has been, and we are not always certain about tomorrow. The best time is "now".

Ingersoll District Chamber of Commerce (formerly the Board of Trade), has been around since the turn of the century and will continue to help with the growth of tomorrow.

On behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, congratulations on 200 successful years and best wishes for the future.

INGERSOLL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
PRESIDENT

  
HANK EISEN



**CHAMBER ACTIVITIES**

- HOME GARDEN LEISURE SHOW  
APRIL 30, MAY 1, 2
- PITCH-IN CAMPAIGN ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS  
MAY 8
- FLOWER BED COMPETITION
- CANADA DAY CELEBRATIONS  
JULY 1
- REMEMBRANCE DAY OBSERVANCE  
NOVEMBER 11
- SALUTE TO RETAILERS' BREAKFAST

**1993 EXECUTIVE**

- Past President - Yvonne Mott
- President - Hank Eisen
- 1st Vice President - Ann Howlett
- 2nd Vice President - Ian Blain
- Treasurer - Dino Micacchi
- Retail Representative - Neil Barnes

**PRESIDENTS 1960 -- 1992**

- 1960 MR. GORDON W. PITTOCK
- 1961 MR. GORDON W. PITTOCK
- 1962 MR. GORDON W. PITTOCK
- 1963 MR. W. G. DAVEY
- 1964 MR. JACK STARES
- 1965 MR. C. V. MACLACHLAN
- 1966 MR. C. V. MACLACHLAN
- 1967 MR. G. B. HENRY
- 1968 MR. J. C. MCBRIDE
- 1969 MR. J. C. MCBRIDE
- 1970 MR. G. F. PIRIE
- 1971 MR. G. F. PIRIE
- 1972 MR. R. JEWETT
- 1973 MR. E. R. WHITBY
- 1974 MR. E. R. WHITBY
- 1975 MR. WM. BELL
- 1976 MR. JOHN MCFARLANE
- 1977 MR. NEIL FISHWICK
- 1978 MR. JAMES REVELL
- 1979 MR. JOHN VAN DYKE
- 1980 MRS. JOEY ULRICH
- 1981 MRS. JOEY ULRICH
- 1982 MR. GARY COCHRANE
- 1983 MR. WAYNE CAMPBELL
- 1984 MR. MURRAY BORND AHL
- 1985 MR. STAN CHAMPEAU
- 1986 MR. STAN CHAMPEAU
- 1987 MR. FRANK SAKA
- 1988 MR. FRANK SAKA
- 1989 MR. R. (BOB) PIKE
- 1990 MR. R. (BOB) PIKE
- 1991 MRS. YVONNE MOTT
- 1992 MRS. YVONNE MOTT





Carol (Mott) Nicholson

The swimming skills Carol (Mott) Nicholson learned in Ingersoll's Maude Wilson Memorial Pool as a child and teenager have remained part of her life.

The daughter of Gordon and Verda Mott, she grew up at 178 Wonham Street South and attended Victory Memorial School and IDCI. Carol not only did a lot of swimming here, but taught it as well. In addition to this, she earned distinction on the basketball courts. She left Ingersoll in 1958 to pursue a career in teaching. Currently employed part-time, she is also very active in crafts and teaches specialized swim groups.

Married to Bill Nicholson, she has three adult children. Carol does return to Ingersoll to visit her brother Bob and her sister Joan Bowman. The greatest changes she sees are the missing buildings: the ones that were burned or razed in the 1991 fire on the main street.

What has remained the same in her eyes? "The friendliness and smiles of the people."

## Ponds gave pleasure, youth kept occupied

There was never any problem finding "something to do" in the early part of this century in Ingersoll, insists Lorne Moon. Before the days of television, computer games and indoor sports, youngsters found plenty of amusement outside.

Moon recalls the many swimming places in town including the Upper

Dam, located "right across from George Fuller's at the eastern boundary of town."

Another popular swimming hole was "Raymonds", up from the Upper Dam. "We all swam nude there. It was across from the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery. Every once in awhile we would get daring when a train went by and form a kick-line.

You would see the passengers craning their necks" he laughs.

At the west end of town there were The Monkey and The Bare (named because that was the only way you swam there). These swim holes were on the Hamilton Road.

Carroll's Pond, where Zehr's is now, was another popular swimming site and there was a smaller pond there too, just across the tracks.

Smith's Pond was a great favorite for many years. Moon recalls a carp pond by the Upper Dam where he and his chums used to wade in and catch the fish with their bare hands. About one and a half feet long, the carp could be sold to local restaurants who would pay 25 cents for two of them. It wasn't long before the young entrepreneurs learned that if they ate a quantity of pungent leeks just before they went to school, they could count on being expelled for two or three days. They often had this urge to enjoy leeks during the carp season.

Moon says the same pond was full of turtles.

There wasn't a lot of money for treats, but that was no problem, he recalls. "You could always beg some bark from the trees at George Hutchison's mill and chew slippery elm. It was good and so was pine pitch. If you found someone roofing and were lucky enough to be able to break off a slab of tar, you could chew that for gum all summer. That black tar left your teeth as white as snow. I never understood it, but it sure worked."



THANK YOU

Thanks to the co-operation and generosity of many readers, the Ingersoll Times received more pictures and material than could possibly be used in this edition. As promised at the beginning of this Bi-Centennial years, your community newspaper will continue to celebrate this historical event throughout the year. Articles, interviews and photos not used in this edition will appear on a regular basis on page two of the weekly paper.

One fact that became very clear during the past months is that all people do not remember the same event in exactly the same way. We value your opinion. If you wish to dispute a date, a statement or a recollection, please feel free to do so in writing. A friendly challenge is always interesting so please jot down your thoughts and leave them at the office directed to the attention of the Bi-Centennial Editor, Yvonne Holmes Mott. As long as they are signed and legible, we will be able to use them. Please do not phone them in: we simply don't have the staff to handle the calls.

## D'Angelo's Grocery Store

During the first half of the 20th century the stretch of Thames Street between Charles Street and the river was busy and prosperous.

One of the popular businesses there was D'Angelo's vegetable and fresh produce store. It was a neighborhood grocery store, but more than that -- it was a place where friends and neighbors gathered and discussed the news of the day and their own problems.

Ed, really Ignatius D'Angelo was born in Sicily. He came to Toronto where he met and married Josephine. They moved to Ingersoll in the early 1920s and established a business that operated successfully for 60 years.

Ed and Josie kept their doors open six days a week from 7:30 in the morning until 11:00 at night. The store was their life and their customers were their friends. There were apartments on both sides of the store and across the road. Customers would drop in to pick up a fresh lettuce, some oranges, a can of soup and "put it on the bill". The amount would be jotted down on a piece of paper and on pay day the customer would come in and have all the little notes added up. It was a mutually trusting arrange-

ment on both sides. When Ed died in 1980, at the age of 82, it marked the end of an era.

Theresa D'Angelo, who was also a familiar face in the store, lives with her husband in Cambridge. Her brother, Ted, is resident Comptroller with G.M. in London.

## Eloquent Pastor

With a smile on his face, Bill Hawkins recalls a legend about a local pastor in the late 1920s, known for his love of polysyllabic words.

It seems the well-known reverend was walking downtown, when he apparently slipped on a banana peel that had been tossed away and left on the sidewalk. Down he went!

Helped to his feet, shaken, but otherwise none the worse for his accident, he thanked the two gentlemen who had assisted him.

Asked by an anxious observer if he was alright and what had happened, he replied in these memorable words:

"I placed my biped on the envelope of that most delicious fruit and my verticulousity immediately became my horizontality."

## Congratulations Ingersoll

on the  
celebration  
of your  
Bi-  
Centennial

From the employees of

# Cobi Foods Inc.

R.R. #4  
Ingersoll

Phone  
485-4410

## R. McNIVEN & SONS

since 1926



From left to right - Bill White, Tammy McNiven, Pat Mahoney, Sheryl Houston, Paul Henderson.

### INGERSOLL'S "ORIGINAL" INSURANCE BROKERAGE

Established by Mr. Robert McNiven Sr. who was formerly our Town Clerk and Treasurer for several years.

Purchased the business in 1925 and was originally operated out of the old Town Hall.

The business was then moved to the present "Ingersoll Inn" building in approximately 1946.

Son, Bob, joined his father in 1945 and the brokerage was owned and operated by the McNiven family until March 1st, 1989 when Bob and Verna retired.

Moved to our present location in 1981.

Purchased by Paul Henderson and Bill White and operated with the assistance of Pat Mahoney - 26 years, Sheryl Houston - 12 years and Tammy McNiven - 1 year.

The brokerage prides itself in offering prompt, courteous service in regards to auto, home, life and business insurance.

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**My Ingersoll: I like it because . . .**



"I like the people. They're very friendly and I find them very open to me. I like the town because it's small. It's a good town to raise children in."

**Maryellen Borndahl**

Director of Staff  
Education and  
Quality Assurance

**SENIOR ADMINISTRATORS**

- 1856 . . . . . James Berry, Clerk
- 1857 . . . . . J. Berry, Clerk; John Paterson, Treasurer
- 1858 . . . . . C.E. Chadwick, Clerk; J. Paterson
- 1859 . . . . . Henry Taylor, Clerk; C.E. Chadwick, Treasurer
- 1860 . . . . . H. Taylor, Clerk; J. Barker, Treasurer
- 1861 . . . . . H. Taylor, Clerk; E. Doty, Treasurer
- 1862 . . . . . R.A. Woodcock, Clerk; E. Doty, Treasurer
- 1863 . . . . . R.A. Woodcock, Clerk; James Murdock, Treasurer
- 1864-72 . . . . . R.A. Woodcock, Clerk; E. Doty, Treasurer
- 1873 . . . . . R.A. Woodcock, Clerk; J.C. Galloway, Treasurer
- 1877 . . . . . R.A. Woodcock, Clerk; C.F. Bixel, Treasurer
- 1878-86 . . . . . R.A. Woodcock, Clerk; C.C.L. Wilson, Treasurer
- 1887-88 . . . . . Wm. Tennant, Clerk; A.N. Christopher, Treas.
- 1889-07 . . . . . W.R. Smith, Clerk, A.N. Christopher, Treas.
- 1908-27 . . . . . W.R. Smith, Clerk; R.J. Robertson, Treas.
- 1928-33 . . . . . W.R. Smith, Clerk; R. McNiven, Treas.

**Reeves and Mayors**

- 1934-45 . . . Robt. McNiven, Clerk; Treas. (resigned Nov. 15)
- 1945-57 . . . . . R.E. Winlaw, Clerk-Treasurer
- 1958-67 . . . . . R.E. Winlaw, Clerk-Treasurer;  
G.R. Staple, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer
- 1968-77 . . . . . William A. MacIntyre, Clerk-Treasurer;  
Marion Riley, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer
- 1977-82 . . . . . W.A. MacIntyre, Chief Administrator;  
G.R. Staples, Clerk; W.L. Teed, Treasurer;  
Marion Knott, Tax Collector
- 1982-85 . . . . . G.R. Staples, Clerk; W.L. Teed, Treas.;  
M. Knott, Tax Collector
- 1985-88 . . . . . G.R. Staples, Clerk; W.L. Teed, Treasurer  
(retired Sept. 1987); Earl Lantz, Treas.;  
Marion Knott, Tax Collector
- 1988 . . . . . G.R. Staples, Clerk (retired 1990)  
Earl Lantz, Treas.;  
Marion Knott (retired Dec. '88)
- 1991- . . . . . Clerk Administrator, Edward A. Hunt;  
Treasurer/Tax Collector, Earl Lantz;  
Treasurer Assistant, Cecily Elliott
- 1872 . . . . . John McDonald, Mayor
- 1873 . . . . . P.J. Brown, Mayor
- 1874-75 . . . . . C.H. Sorley, Mayor
- 1876-77 . . . . . John McDonald, Mayor
- 1878-79 . . . . . C.E. Chadwick, Mayor
- 1880-83 . . . . . Thomas Brown, Mayor
- 1884 . . . . . James Noxon, Mayor
- 1886 . . . . . Joseph Gibson, Mayor
- 1887 . . . . . James Noxon, Mayor  
(later resigned); replaced by  
M.T. Buchanan in January
- 1888 . . . . . M.T. Buchanan, Mayor  
(resigned; replaced by  
Thomas Seldon)
- 1889 . . . . . Thomas Seldon, Mayor
- 1890 . . . . . M.T. Buchanan, Mayor
- 1891 . . . . . James Stevens  
(unseated, replaced by  
M.T. Buchanan)

**INGERSOLL REEVES AND MAYORS**

(Note: On February 01, 1856, the Market Buildings, Town Hall and Clerk's office was burned, destroying council's books and records).

- 1852 . . . . . John Galliford, Reeve
- 1853-54 . . . . . Thomas Brown, Reeve
- 1855 . . . . . James McCarthy, Reeve
- 1856-58 . . . . . John Galliford, Reeve
- 1859-62 . . . . . Adam Oliver, Reeve
- 1863-64 . . . . . John Galliford, Reeve
- 1865-66 . . . . . Adam Oliver, Mayor
- 1867-68 . . . . . John Galliford, Mayor
- 1869 . . . . . John McDonald, Mayor
- 1870-71 . . . . . James McCaughey, Mayor



**BRIAN RODENHURST**



**ROBERT McNIVEN**



**ELMER WINLAW**



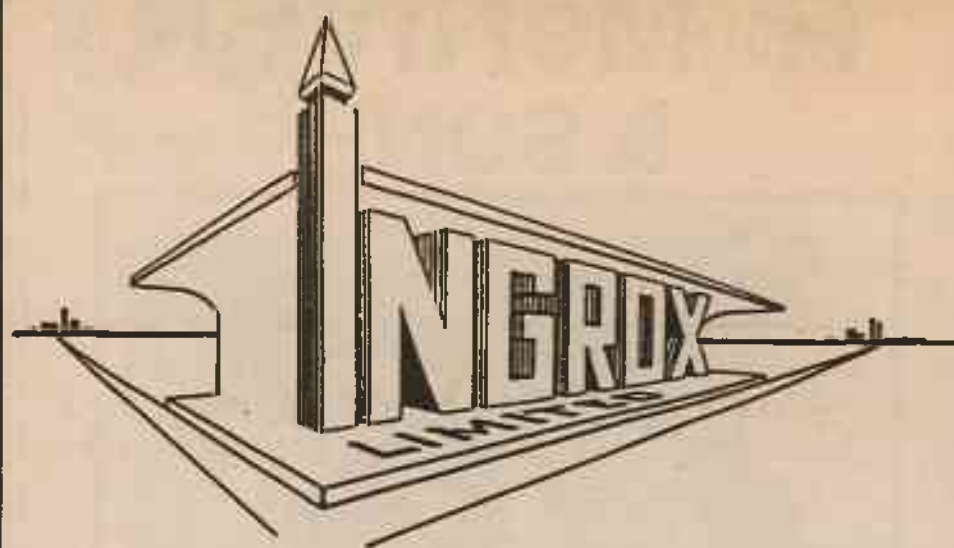
**GORDON B. HENRY**



**ROSS FEWSTER**



**C.A. (JIM) ROBINS**



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Ingersoll!**

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the next 200 years with you"



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LIMITED**

BEACHVILLE, ONTARIO



**TOWN OFFICIALS CONTINUED**

- 1892-93 ..... James Stevens, Mayor
- 1894-95 ..... Dr. J. A. Williams, Mayor
- 1896-97 ..... W.H. Jones, Mayor
- 1898-99 ..... Walter Mills, Mayor
- 1990-91 ..... Justus Miller, Mayor
- 1902 ..... Walter Mills, Mayor
- 1903-04 ..... Walter J. Berry, Mayor
- 1905 ..... James P. Boles, Mayor
- 1906 ..... James P. Boles, Mayor  
(deceased; J. Anderson Coulter acclaimed)
- 1907 ..... Dr. J.B. Coleridge, Mayor
- 1908-09 ..... George Sutherland, Mayor
- 1910-11 ..... Dr. A. McKay, Mayor
- 1912-13 ..... Dr. J.B. Coleridge, Mayor
- 1914-15 ..... M.T. Buchanan, Mayor
- 1916 ..... W.J. Elliott, Mayor
- 1917-19 ..... J.V. Buchanan, Mayor
- 1920-21 ..... James Henderson, Mayor
- 1922 ..... H.D. McCarty, Mayor
- 1923-24 ..... Wm. English, Mayor
- 1925-26 ..... M.E. Scott, Mayor
- 1927-28 ..... S.E. Brady, Mayor
- 1929-30 ..... W.E. Manzer, Mayor
- 1931-32 ..... James E. Ferguson, Mayor
- 1933 ..... H.D. McCarty, Mayor
- 1934-35 ..... J.M. Wilson, Mayor
- 1936 ..... J.L. Paterson, Mayor
- 1937 ..... J.V. Buchanan, Mayor
- 1938-39 ..... A.H. Edmonds, Mayor
- 1940-42 ..... Dr. J.G. Murray, Mayor
- 1943-44 ..... K.R. Daniel, Mayor
- 1945-48 ..... C.W. Riley, Mayor
- 1949-51 ..... Dr. J.G. Murray, Mayor
- 1952-54 ..... Thomas J. Morrison, Mayor
- 1955-56 ..... Donald B. Bower, Mayor
- 1957-58 ..... Winnifred L. Williams, Mayor
- 1959 ..... Norman E. Pembleton, Mayor
- 1960-63 ..... Ross Fewster, Mayor
- 1964-67 ..... Thomas J. Morrison, Mayor  
(Mayor Morrison died Aug. 15)
- Councillor C.A. (Jim) Robins appointed Mayor Aug. 17)
- 1967 ..... C.A. (Jim) Robins, Mayor
- 1968-1976 ..... Gordon B. Henry, Mayor
- 1977-91 ..... Doug Harris, Mayor
- 1991-94 ..... Brian Rodenhurst, Mayor



Freddie Wurker and his orchestra brought music and fame to the area. His musical career was interrupted for a stint in the armed forces where he was asked to form a band. His career resumed when he returned to civilian life. This photo, circa 1930, includes from the left in the front row Frank Kelly, Wilf Manning, Freddie Wurker and Keith Geddie. In the back row, from the left, are Crosby Cable, Albert Quait, Der Markham and Ian Goodall. (Photo courtesy Alex and Dora Wurker)

**Do you remember? ...**

When King Street West featured on the north side, the Royal Bank, a towering building for the day...Edgar Dunlops' barber shop...a grocery store (can you tell us the name of the lady who operated it?)...Kerr's meat market...Ross' Jewellery...around the corner Miss Currie's Variety Store...and in the old police building, McMullin's Meats (downstairs) and Healey's Grocery (upstairs)...the Unemployment Insurance office? Before we move to the south side of King, let's look at

Thames Street, just past McNivens. There would be the town's first Canadian Tire Store, operated by Herm Lindsey and Guy Jones...Eaton's Order Office...Jennie Morello's variety store...Moon and Moon Insurance...Cade's barbershop...Harry Nagles insurance and licence bureau. Crossing the road the old Imperial Bank, can you recall...the Maitland Theatre...Petrie's barber shop...King's Ice Cream Parlour...Willow's Drug

Store...Bell Telephone...McDougall Grocery...McVittie & Shelton Ford dealership and bus depot?

Crossing the street to where the laundromat was until recently, can you picture the Western Tire Store operated by Mervyn Haycock? down Oxford Street do you remember...the Ingersoll Inn in its glory days...the restaurant at the back of the hotel which also became the bus depot...Barnett's, then Beckham's Massey Harris dealership...Zurbrigg's...Bell Telephone...Ashton Service Station...the blacksmith's shop?

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"I don't think there's a more exceptional group of harder working people. Here in a small town we connect with our history."

**Lonnie Atkinson**

Minister of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church

# Avalon Chapter history

By: Ruby Miree, D.D.G.M.

Grand chapter officers from all sections of Ontario were present for the Institution of Avalon Chapter #220 Order of the Eastern Star on March 24, 1938. The attendance of more than 300, could not all be accommodated in the Masonic Banquet Hall.

The 50 charter members were inducted by Harold Kitchen of London, Worthy Grand Patron,

assisted by Associate Grand Matron Mrs. Ethel Malcolm, Ingersoll and other Grand officers.

The first officers of Avalon installed were: Worthy Matron, Edith Volk; Worthy Patron Joseph M. Wilson; Asst. Matron, Elizabeth D. Duff; Asst. Patron, J. Ferris David; secretary, Nora Neil; treasurer, Ruth Smith; conductress, Mabel Brown; Asst. Cond. Bertha Shuttleworth; chaplain, Ethel Nancekivell; Marshall, Alice Stephenson; organist, Violet Petrie; Adah, Blanche Bisbee; Ruth, Marge McKinley; Esther, Gladys Byerman; Martha, Georgetta Harper; Electa, Francis Kerr; Warder, Edith Le Faire; Sentinel, Harry R. Cornell.

Avalon chapter received many lovely gifts including a hand-carved gavel from Alice Meadows, St. Thomas; a complete set of officers badges from Mr. & Mrs. James M. Malcolm, Ingersoll; the five star point pedestals from Ruth Chapter #26 London and a ballot box from Mr. & Mrs. Harold Kitchen, London.

Mrs. Edith Volk W.M. was congratulated for the organization of the chapter and also for suggesting the name "Avalon" of the new chapter. Congatulations were also read from Mrs. Volk's W.M. home chapter in Waukesha, Wis.

Several petitions for membership and affiliations were received. It was decided to hold meetings on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month in the Masonic Hall.

Today, the Order of the Eastern Star is the largest fraternal organization in the world to which men and women belong. Its origin dates

back to about 1,850 when Dr. Rob Morris and his wife discussed with other Masons and their wives the possibility of an organization in which men and women could work together in harmony for the good of the community.

The teachings of the Order are based on the morality of charity, truth and loving kindness.

Social aspects of the Order of the Eastern Star meetings lead to many friendships and fellowship.

It is a fraternal and social order comprised of persons with religious convictions and spiritual values. It is benevolent and charitable in actions raising dollars annually for projects that benefit all mankind.

This year the Worthy Grand Matron's project and that of Ruby Miree D.D.G.M. Dist. #5 is directed to the support of Genetic Eye Degeneration Research.

Avalon Chapter's Worthy Matron, Edith Piper, has chosen the Canadian Diabetic Assoc. (local) and the Dietary Department of Alexandra Hospital as her project.

The chapter at its March 11 - meeting celebrated 55th birthday. Charter numbers still in the membership are Mrs. Beatrice Corbett, Mrs. Frances Ellery and Mrs. Louise Fraser.

Being a member of the Order of the Eastern Star is a wonderful and fulfilling way of life. Through this fraternal service to humanity members hope to build a better life for all.

The members of the Eastern Star invite inquiries and interest in membership. Contact any Eastern Star member.

# Credit Valley Railway

Running in Connection with Port Dover Railway.

## NO. 2 TIME TABLE NO. 2.

Taking effect Monday, 9th September, 1878.

Miles.	GOING EAST.		STATIONS.	GOING WEST.		Miles.
	No. 1.	No. 3.		No. 2.	No. 4.	
0	A.M. 7.40	P.M. 4.00	Dep. Ingersoll.	Arr. 9.15	5.25	10
2	7.45	4.05	× Centreville.	9.10	5.20	8
5	7.55	4.15	Beachville.	9.00	5.10	5
10	8.10	4.30	Woodstock.	8.45	4.55	0
—	8.15	4.35	Arr. Woodstock, P.D. & L.H.R'y. Dep.	8.40	4.50	—

× Flag Station—Will stop on signal.

**G. LAIDLAW,**

Managing Director.

September, 1878.

Courtesy of Lorne Mercer

## HAPPY 200<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY INGERSOLL!

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THE NEXT 200 YEARS"



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- saw sharpening depot
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- repairs to power tools

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Tel.: (519) 485-2350



# Reminiscing with Ted Bowman

An afternoon spent with E. (Ted) Bowman is an afternoon with a living, enthusiastic and very interesting history text of Ingersoll's past.

Bowman has lived at his Margaret Street home for 39 years, but even prior to that always lived on the north side of the river. Consequently, many of his fascinating tales are about that side of the town, because as he explains "Ingersoll was always a divided town and I don't remember much of the south side of the river."

The son of Tom and Anne Bowman, who immigrated here from England, he was born in a house near the Ingersoll Rural Cemetery. He attended Princess Elizabeth School when it was the old Ward School. Well read and with a keen memory, Bowman credits his amazing knowledge of Ingersoll's past with the fact "I was always a good listener; I love to just sit back and listen". Some of the best listening times were in his own home, sitting around the kitchen table with his father and some of his cronies while the men enjoyed a glass of homemade dandelion wine and swapped tales. Names like Sam Sherlock, a lifetime resident of Ingersoll who worked at the piano factory, and "Bender" Bower, brother of the respected teacher Effie Bower, spring to his lips as he recalls those days of listening.

Bowman, still a craftsman, started an apprenticeship with well-known wood carver Frank Leake but felt he wasn't learning. He left there and went to work at the Evans Piano factory on Thames Street. He

remembers two years when "there was no work at all for the young" as the Great Depression was building up. A stint at the Morrow Screw & Nut factory was followed by a job washing milk bottles at Martin's Dairy on King Street East. He chuckles that he kept upsetting his brother-in-law Charles Dykeman who would get him a job at the Ingersoll Machine Company only to have him leave. "The truth is" explains Bowman, "I just couldn't stand greasy, oily places". He worked on the knitting machines at Harvey Woods in Woodstock for four years and then came back to Ingersoll for a job at the St. Charles Hotel, at the corner of Charles and Thames Street.

It was an interesting job and all the more so because by now the Depression was in full swing. Jobs were scarce so you never complained about the hours you worked, usually about 72 a week. He describes the hotel itself as "having 15 very clean, but inclined to be shabby rooms. Owner Gus Morello had put heat and running water into all the rooms. The restaurant, which Bowman managed, "was so busy you often couldn't get a booth there." Morello's wife, Maude, opened a coffee house there. The hotel was open 24 hours a day.

**"DEPRESSION:  
We don't realize  
what that word means"**

Bowman believes that those who call the recession we have been experiencing a "depression", know



Ted Bowman

nothing about the Depression. **Everyone Shared** "The one good thing about it was that those who had, happily shared with those who had not." Walking home at 2:30 p.m. for his own dinner, Bowman would look down the tracks and see as many as 200 men sitting on the roofs of the trains that had just come into town. "I have seen fellows so hungry it was pitiful. We had a standard meal the town would give them: two fried eggs, two slices of toast and coffee. Sometimes they were housed in jail overnight so they had a warm place to sleep."

He remembers sitting on the steps of the St. Charles about 2 a.m. during a night shift and seeing a big fellow coming down Thames Street to Charles and "staggering like a drunk." "We knew he was hungry and took him in and fed him." Another day, Bowman

noticed a well-dressed young fellow sitting at the counter. He walked over to ask him what he needed and the fellow told him his story. He had not had a thing to eat for three days. He was trying to get to Montreal where he had the possibility of a job in a restaurant. Bowman fed him and saw him on his way. Ten days later he received a letter from the now employed young man, thanking him for his kindness.

People were really poor, says Bowman, "and I would never wish a period like that on anyone." He recalls his father going to play cribbage with a couple every week. After the game they would have a weak cup of coffee, served in one mug and two flower pots.

After seven years at the St. Charles Hotel, which had become famous everywhere for its hot dogs, hamburgs and turkeyburgs, Bowman, with his country at war, went to work at Central Aircraft. Throughout the war he rebuilt airplanes. The early postwar years saw him delivering milk for Bartram's Dairy. When he started his route he had 160 customers, but by the time he left, the route had grown to 314 and he prides himself on his punctuality. Starting at six every morning, first with a horse (an old ploughhorse not built for this kind of work) and later with a truck, he would be at the bowling alley by two every afternoon. It was a seven day a week job.

After Bartram's Dairy went out of business, Bowman went to work at the Morris Turner Body Shop, by the swinging bridge. His next job,

and the one from which he retired, was "the best job I ever had in my life", was at GM Diesel in London.

## LOVES INGERSOLL

Bowman pauses to think a minute when asked how he feels about his hometown. Then the words come slowly, but firmly: "I love Ingersoll. It's a nice, quiet, friendly town. When you walk down the street people greet you. It's an ideal small town and I never had any ambition to move anywhere else."

As he looks back on the past 83 years of his life, he recalls some of the businesses and factories that no longer exist. Beck's Confectionary Store (now Ledgley's) was a favorite spot. He remembers the Northway Building where quality ladies clothing was sold. It later became Loblaw's and now is Allen's Men's Wear and Dorothee's Shoppe.

He remembers when Rochdale was the post office drug store and Walt Thurtell's father, who had started out to be a doctor, was the pharmacist. "People swore by him."

Other memories centre around the Pork Factory (now the Cheese Company). He recalls slaughter days were Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday and as boys they daringly would sneak in to watch Harry Moffatt, who was the pig sticker, kill up to 700-1,000 pigs a day. "Some days the drains couldn't take all the blood."

The Evaporator Factory (now Riverside Cement) "seemed to burn down once a year." Farmers would bring their excess apples here. (Continued on Page 12)

Wayne G.

# CAMPBELL

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**Cindy Murphy**  
Town Councillor



Located almost opposite Macnabs, the river then came right to that area. A fourth place for fun and swimming was at Raymond's in Stumptown. "Stumptown" explains Bowman "was bounded by the North Town Line and Carnegie Street. It was called that because, long before my time, the area was a big lumber yard and the stumps of the trees were still there." A man named Raymond owned the farm back of the cemetery and had a quarry there. Girls never visited any of the swimming holes. "It would have been disgraceful!"

**TED BOWMAN CONTINUED**

(Continued from Page 11)  
Women were hired during the season to peel the apples. When dried, the apples were cut up into little pieces and packaged. "Remember" smiles Bowman "I'm talking about times before you could buy food in glass jars at the grocery store."  
He also remembers when there were two telephone systems in Ingersoll, Bell and the Independent, and phones were cranked. His first radio was purchased "instead of a washing machine", a fact his wife Queenie teased him about throughout their married life. Bowman's dad, who lived with them was "a baseball fanatic" and loved to listen to the games. A poignant memory is of seeing his dad, who thought no one was looking, peeking into the back of the radio to see where those sounds were coming from.  
The flood of 1938 is something he will never forget. He was in the car behind Dr. McDonald when the bridge went out. "That Thames Street bridge was one of three that went out in town and the Wonham

Street one never was replaced. It should be even now. The road was washed out eight to 10 feet and if Dr. McDonald had not been in a car ahead of us we would have been the ones who died.  
There wasn't much money when he was a boy but there was lots of fun, he stresses. Families spent time together and there was always things for a boy to do. The most popular swimming hole was Smith's pond. Pirie's pond on the North Town Line was another good spot and then there was The Bare, named that because of the way the boys swam. The latter was part of the river and had a big sandy bank.

Bowman, while keeping his standards of the past, is a very modern 83 year old. He sees television as both a curse and a blessing - a blessing when used to educate and a curse when used to take the place of parents to babysit. Describing himself as "not radical, but a good union man", he firmly believes that Unemployment Insurance is one of the biggest improvements the working person has ever had." He also stresses the importance of Old Age Assistance which "gives older people such piece of mind. Remember, it hasn't been around forever."  
How does he feel about his life? Good. "If I had my life to live over

**First murder?**

Bowman is certain that recent tragic events in Ingersoll were NOT the first murders to take place here. He clearly remembers an event in the early 1900s which was discussed at length around his father's table.  
It seems there was a man, by the name of Issaah Wright who spent a great deal of time in the Oxford House. He used to "earn" his beers by butting his head through a wooden door. Two other men would hold up the door between them and Wright would take a head-first run at it, butting his head right

through the door and then collect a beer for his payment.  
The legend is that one night another man got into the picture and as the hapless Wright's head burst through the door, it was whacked by a 2x4 plank. As Bowman remembers the story, the man was killed instantly. Several men carried his body to the Wonham Street bridge and tipped it into the river.  
He recalls hearing about the men being charged with manslaughter and the case eventually being thrown out of the courts. No one was ever convicted.

again there would be very few changes. I feel true religion is being good. I have never in my lifetime, knowingly, done anybody any injury and I feel very good about that."

**Do You Remember?**

**Brenda Wilson Moyer**  
Since leaving Ingersoll in 1971, Brenda Wilson Moyer has enjoyed a successful career as a nurse and as a full-time mother. Her daughter Sara is now 17.

Hobbies and volunteer work have included being a childbirth educator, a Girl Guide leader, a United church volunteer and an elementary school assistant.

She is the daughter of Norma Wilson and the late W. Currie Wilson and resided at 336 Thames Street South. V.M.S. and I.D.C.I. were her schools and she remembers with pleasure "the fun I had participating in the Glee Club,

Orchestra and dance routines in IDCI's Blue and White Revues." Brenda left Ingersoll in 1971.

She feels the greatest change she sees on her trips home with her husband John Moyer are "the physical changes of the main street, particularly the closure of Carr's Book and China Shop where I worked part-time with my good friend, Anne Pirie and received my first lessons in PR from Bert and Doug Carr."  
In reply to the question about what has remained the same, she notes "The friendliness of old friends who greet me on the street as though it were yesterday. If you have never left town, you may not understand my comment that when I return to Ingersoll, I feel as though I'm returning to my "other" life."

Moyer's final comment is: "I am saddened each time I pass the remains of Smith's Pond. I loved walking past that spot every school day and I wish it could be restored to its former state."

**Have a Buffalo Mead!**  
Buffalo Mead was a popular drink sold in the early 30s at the St. Charles Hotel. "Like root beer, carbonated and sold in a glass with a good head on it" it drew people from all over.  
The hotel also sold real butter-

milk. A Mrs. MacDonald who lived behind the Machine Company and kept cows would sell all the buttermilk she made to the St. Charles and it was never enough. People from as far away as Texas would come back to the hotel asking for it!

**HAPPY 200<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY, INGERSOLL**

Congratulations Ingersoll on 200 years of achievement. We are proud to be part of your history and your future.

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# Joe Wilson recalls first radio, TV sold to local families

Joe Wilson has been around for a long time. Not only that, but he has lived his life to the fullest. He has raised a family, defended his country, run a successful business and still spends his days doing work he loves with his British cars.

He remembers battery radios, the Depression, buying eggs for 12c a dozen and milk for 10c a quart along with sirloin at 25c a pound.

A healthy looking, energetic 83 year old, he mourns the fact there are only four others left besides himself of the original merchants of the 1930s: Doug Carr, Robert Carr, Ernie Underwood and Bernie Zurbrigg. "All fine men" he acknowledges "and so were the others who were in business then. We all worked together. My father taught me "Take care of your customers and you won't have to worry about the competition, and that is what I did."

The J.M. Wilson Hardware came into being on March 28, 1928 when Joe's father, J.M. purchased it from Nelson Richardson. The hardware store was actually opened in 1890 by the Wilson Brothers (no relation) and remained that type of store until 1964.

Joe and his brother Don both worked in their dad's store for years. They carried everything, from sliding door locks for parlor doors to blacksmith supplies.

### REPAIRING RADIOS

By 1929 Joe was repairing radios in his father's store and earning the grand sum of \$18. per week. He married Marion Clifton from Follen's Corners in 1935.

With a memory like the proverb-

ial steel trap, he is able to recall installing the first car radio, an RCA, at a cost of \$69., with parts attached to the steering column of the car; selling his first radio to Harold Nancekivell, on Oxford Street. He remembers selling the battery radios with two stations coming in -- KDK from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania and WJZ New York. Later Foster Hewitt and his hockey games from Toronto were enjoyed.

The stock market crash of 1930, converting radios here over from 25 cycle, everyone rushing to a radio at three o'clock each afternoon to listen to "Our Gal Sunday", floor models selling for \$300. and table models for \$29.95 are among his memories. Other highlights of 1935 are his father becoming Mayor of Ingersoll and President of the Ingersoll Pipe Band. The legend in town was "there isn't a radio made that Joe Wilson cannot repair" and he, with a quiet smile, acknowledges the truth of the statement.

### CYPRESS COMMAND

Duty called in 1939 and Joe enlisted with the Oxford Rifles. His experience was invaluable and he was off to the R.A.F. to become an air operator signal officer. Later, after special training, he became a radar operator. While Ingersoll folks were home glued to their radio to hear the war news, Wilson was overseas listening to the BBC and "Lord HahHah" breaking in on the six o'clock news, in his attempts to undermine the morale of the soldiers. His nine years of service included top secret radar work. As flight lieutenant, he had

several postings in England and Scotland and then Cypress. In Cypress he was commander of 100 men at an RCAF station where he also served as "father confessor and paymaster. I couldn't leave them."

When he returned to Ingersoll it was business as usual -- only even busier. He remembers the main street being so crowded on a Saturday night "you could hardly make your way up it to another store. They were open until 10 o'clock and all the armers would bring in their wives and let them shop. His father had five chairs in his store and "it was a regular hot stove league every week."

Certain people stand out in his mind: W.W. Wilford, with a flower in his lapel, the best dressed man on the street; Mrs. Ted Fleischer Sr. and Mrs. Ruth Tingle, the best dressed ladies to come downtown and Mrs. Charles Pearson, one of the friendliest people on the street. He is still friends with Bob Carr and Anne McKim, two of his competitors.

### SWITCHED TO ELECTRONICS

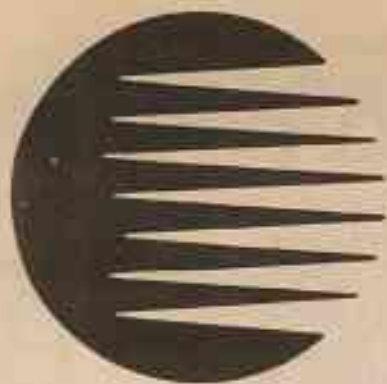
In 1964 the Wilsons sold out their hardware business in a sale that lasted 30 days and converted to an electronics store. He sold his first seven inch Admiral black and white television to Stan Turner. The second TV was sold to A.F. Carr and is in the Ingersoll Cheese Museum today.

Joe worries about Ingersoll today and admits "...it hurts me to see 23 empty stores." "The fire gap is hard on the front street" he adds "and I don't know what the answer is." The Wilson business was sold



JOE WILSON

in February 1977. Joe hasn't forgotten his customers. He says when he visits the Harris Street Cemetery, he can identify each person's name on the gravestone with which radio he sold to him.



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# Hundreds learned to swim

By: Al B. Clark

*(Editor's Note: Al B. Clark, 95, is a retired YMCA professional secretary. He resides at 135 Carroll Street. From 1950 to 1967 he presided over gym classes, basketball, volleyball, badminton, floor hockey and swimming in Ingersoll. An outstanding coach in all sports, he took many teams to local and provincial championships. He served with the YMCA across Canada and overseas during World War II. One of the features of a career that spanned 50 years, was an interview with James Naismith, the Canadian who invented basketball. An athlete in his own right, Clark is the winner of many championships and trophies in tennis, basketball and golf. Swimming in Ingersoll has always been dear to his heart and it is estimated that he taught literally thousands of Ingersoll children how to swim. The Ingersoll Times invited him to write this article.)*

These days Ingersoll is digging into the past to celebrate our Bi-Centennial. I have been asked to comment on swimming. As my own knowledge only encompasses about 40 years in Ingersoll, I am asking old timers and some not-so-old-timers for information. The term "the old swimming hole" was often used. Where was the old swimming hole? Jean Kean identified it by its proper name of Carroll's Pond. It has a lot of use. Jean's father taught her to swim there. The river toward Beachville



Maude Wilson Memorial Pool

was a playground for youngsters. Floods and alteration of the river's bed, some filling in and behold, you have Carroll's Pond right under Zehrs.

The next place for swimming was a pool built in the old YMCA building opposite what for years was the Fleischer and Jewett building. It was a remarkable effort and part of a complex that included an auditorium, a stage and dressing rooms below the stage. We do not know when that club or that building ceased to be.

A good pool was built by the Kiwanis Club and the YMCA. This pool, located in Memorial Park, had a good attendance for a number of years. It was eventually filled in when the Maude Wilson Memorial Pool was built.

### Transformed Swimming

This splendid pool transformed swimming in Ingersoll. Ingersoll was ready for the pool and the pool was ready for the town -- so Maude Wilson Memorial Pool took off for years of high attendance.

Several things contributed to this. The fact there was no charge for

morning lessons or for the swim team was the major reason. The next most important factor was that one could attend or stay away and still fit in with the program. The home was not controlled by the schedule. The central location was also a help, as was the fact no formal registration was needed.

M.G. "Buck" Billings, pool manager, was at the pool mornings, afternoons and evenings and kept things running smoothly. The afternoons were often crowded.

There is a story behind this picture. A reporter phoned me one morning at the pool. He was getting attendance numbers from pools in the district. I gave him an estimate and he frankly did not believe me. I invited him to come and take a picture. We set a day: I kept the swimmers at the pool. I don't remember the date, but I am sure some of the swimmers do and will be able to find themselves.

It is a coincidence that this month the newsletter from the YMCA has an article on George Carson, the Canadian who revolutionized mass teaching of swimming. He covered Canada and much of the U.S.A. I

saw him in Winnipeg. The method included lowering the water in the pool so as to have more shallow water. The following paragraph was reflected in our program, but we also used a large number of staff and volunteers and some individual instruction.

"Waterwings" made of canvas girded the waistline of each swimmer, instilling confidence, so learning fundamentals was paramount in the swimmer's mind. The simple up-and-down leg kick was taught. It was followed by breathing exercises--in through the mouth, out through the nose, always exhaling under the surface. Said Corsan "nine-tenths of the art of swimming is to know how to breathe properly; the other tenth is motion." Students then put it all together, shed their wings and swam away."

These shallow water canvas wings were not available in Ingersoll, so the YMCA Ladies Auxiliary made plenty of them.


### Swim Team

The swim team was also a great help. Members would be at the pool at eight o'clock every morning

and then again at six at night. Many stayed and helped with the learners in the morning. Since we learn most things by imitation, it was most helpful for the beginners to see good swimmers.

There were usually 10 or more swim meets each summer. This required a lot of co-operation from parents and the Kiwanis Club which provided the transportation. Kiwanians also supplied the ribbons and the bleaches. Merchants donated the trophies. We had a core of officials, timekeepers and scorekeepers. The home meets were well attended and the cheering could be heard as far as King Street. The presses always gave us good coverage.

This year Ingersoll is celebrating a centennial of progress for the art of swimming and heading into the next 100 years. With what swimmers have always wanted - a good 12 month pool. Make the best of the Victoria Park Pool and there will be a real celebration at the next centennial. But as we celebrate our past, may we remember Maude Wilson Memorial Pool and the days Ingersoll was called "swim town".



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# Bride of 1928 lists memories

Hazel Mott came to Ingersoll as a bride in 1928. Now a resident of Oxford Manor, she remembers a quite different Ingersoll from that of the 30s.

As a Bi-centennial project she made a list of the factories and businesses that used to be part of Ingersoll.

Here is her list:

- \* The flour mill on Mill Street which burned in 1934 or 1935.
- \* The knitting mill on Charles Street East, operated by water power from the old mill race.
- \* A grist mill, lumber mill, coal and wood yard, on King street west on the east side of the creek and railroad.
- \* A tannery on King Street, just east of the creek.
- \* A blacksmith shop on Oxford Street.
- \* Borden's condenser.
- \* The Noxon Implement Company which made implements to be drawn by horses.
- \* The New Idea Furnace Company
- \* The Ingersoll Furniture Factory which later became the Casket Company.
- \* Pork Factory
- \* Smith's Pond and its ice cutting operation.
- \* The Brick Yard on Whiting Street (where the Retirement Home is now).
- \* The Evans Piano Factory (Ed and Hazel Mott were the owners of one

of the four pianos carved my Messrs. Leake and Summer. Mr. Summer built the pianos and strung them; Mr. Leake carved them.

\* Hotels: "there were 20 hotels in Ingersoll at one time. Each had a livery stable and when you came to town your horses were put into one of those stables and given hay and water while they rested. I remember a lady getting very excited once when one of the livery boys brought out the wrong horse for her."

\* Anglican Church: "The first Anglican Church was in about the middle of the back yard where our house was on Earl Street (now the Senior Citizens' Apartments). There was a cemetery on two sides of the church and Ed was always digging up pieces of old tombstones. There is a plaque commemorating this church and cemetery in the vestibule of St. James' Church."

\* "Picture Shows": I remember the picture show on King Street even before it was the Maitland theatre. Then, a new one was built on Thames Street. The kids all loved Saturday matinees."

Hazel Mott feels readers should remember that as people come home to celebrate Ingersoll's Bi-Centennial, they will be doing a great deal of reminiscing. This, in return, will become Ingersoll's history to the younger generation.



Two well known faces on the streets of Ingersoll for many years were Roy Johnson and Johnny Brassi. Johnson was a skilled mortar man and Brassi, in addition to working with his dad at their fruit and vegetable store, was employed at the Ingersoll Machine & Tool Company all his working life. Always polite, always cheerful, the friends led an unauul lifestyle, but one that kept them happy. (Photo courtesy Lome Moon).

*We Cover  
the Town!*

Week after week, people in-the-know turn to the pages of The Ingersoll Times for the latest coverage of community news and events, and this souvenir edition of Ingersoll's Bi-Centennial celebrations is proof. We hope you enjoy and preserve.

*Ingersoll Really  
Does have it all!*

**The  
Ingersoll  
Times**

Wednesday, March 31, 1993



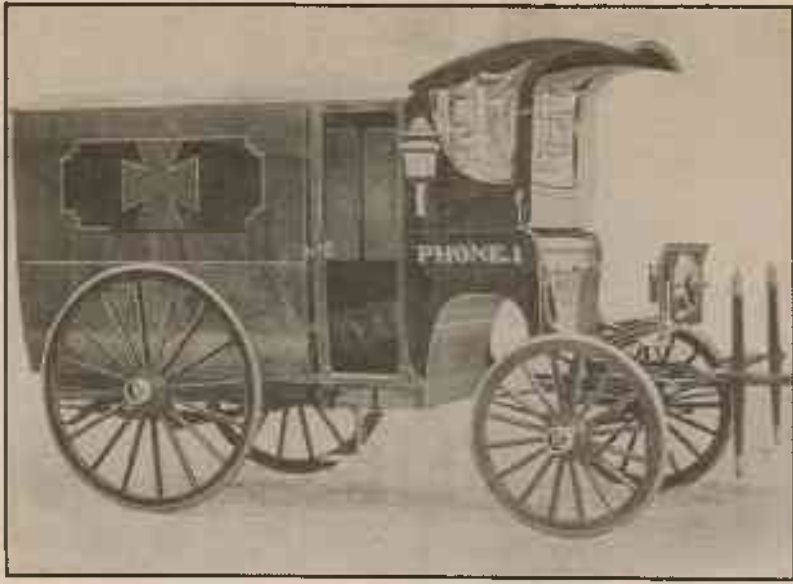
by David L. Gibson

The story of Ingersoll, Ontario's  
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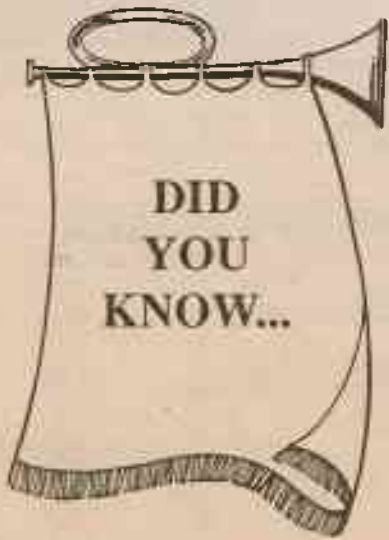
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Courtesy of Doug Carr



By: J.C. Herbert

In 1881 a ladies seminary was located at the corner of Carroll, Cherry and Queen, now Charles Street. Mrs. O'Grady was the principal.

Mr. Thomas Brown, mayor of Ingersoll from 1880-1883 was responsible for giving Victoria Park its name.

The first stage coach passed through Oxford in 1832. It is on record that on May 10, 1844, it passed through Woodstock on sleighs -- case of a late spring.

Elisha Hall erected the first saw mill at the corner of Hall and Canterbury Street; W.A. Ramsey the first foundry at the corner of Thames and St. Andrew; W.A. Eastwood the first flour mill on Charles Street and Charles Park-house the first carding mill. Earlier, wool had to be carded by hand and spun into yarn.

Mr. Jarvis owned a distillery on Mill Street, later the site of a flour mill. Mr. Charles Bixel had a brewery on Avonlea Street. This was formerly called Gas Street. Mr. Bixel lived on Duke Street.

Ingersoll was the most northerly terminal for the Underground Railway. More than 300 slaves found a safe haven in Ingersoll. John

Brown, the famous abolitionist, visited Ingersoll and sought recruits to help him free the slaves.

In 1907 there were five automobiles in Ingersoll. They were owned by Dr. J.M. Rogers, Dr. J.B. Colridge, A.B. Walker, stepson of James McIntyre; M.T. Buchanan, and William Partlo.

At one time Ingersoll had two brass bands, one sponsored by the I.O.O.F. and the other by the A.O.F. Later they combined to form the Ingersoll Citizens Band.

The trolley named Estelle which operated between Ingersoll and Woodstock was named after the postmaster's daughter.

In 1898-1909 Ingersoll doctors had their own hospitals. Dr. J.M. Rogers had his at 100 Francis Street, near Earl, and Dr. McKay at the corner of Victoria and McKeand. Both these buildings remain as private homes. The first town hospital was at 350 Oxford Avenue.

In 1872 gas lighting was installed as street lighting. The plant was located on Gas Street, now Avonlea. In 1891 an electric light system came into use.

The first railway, the Great Western, passed through Ingersoll in 1853.

On February 1, 1856 the market building, and town hall was destroyed by fire. The clerk's office was in the building and most of the municipal records were destroyed.

On May 24, 1851, 10,000 people came to Ingersoll to see the pond drained (Smith's) to capture an alleged alligator. When drained they found some fermenting grain from a nearby mill inside a large canvass bag.

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Mr. Winders

**PASTRY SHOP**

## Aroma from Winders' part of Ingersoll memories

Long-time Ingersoll folk still remember the wonderful sensation of sinking their teeth into a freshly made, honey-dipped doughnut from Winders Baker. The doughnuts, along with the aroma of the freshly baked bread, the pies, the Christmas cakes and the never-to-be-forgotten cream puffs are part of this town's folk lore.

Thomas Casswell Winders, known to everyone as Tom, was born in Ingersoll in 1886. He spent his entire life in the baking business. He served his country in World War I and when he came back worked in bakeries in various places including Port Burwell, Aylmer, Dunnville and Port Colborne. He married his life-long partner, Lillian Ineson in 1922 and they became a business team as well. Mrs. Winders, tall and elegant, with her hair neatly braided around her head and her spotless white uniform became as well known as Tom.

They had moved back to Ingersoll in 1923, and encouraged by Sam Zurbrigg of Zurbrigg's Bakery, for whom Tom was working, to "start

out on your own", he did just that. His first shop was at 64 Charles Street West and was called "Dew Drop In". The family lived there as well as operating the bake shop.

The move to 23 King Street East in 1933 was a good one. The whole family became involved. Son Bruce would deliver bread and pastries to stores after school and daughters Geraldine and Jean each had their own duties.

Bruce, following in his father's footsteps enlisted in the Air Force. He never came back home. On September 27, 1943 Air Force Flight Sgt. Bruce Winders was killed in action. Gerry, now Mrs. Fred Kimberly, of King Street East, Ingersoll and Jean, now Mrs. Christopher Routenburg, of Woodstock, in an interview with the Ingersoll Times, talked about life when the bake shop was at its peak. Gerry makes it very clear that Jean spent much more time there than she did "because I was much more interested in getting to the (Todd's) bowling alley."

In fact, the sisters laugh that their roles have reversed. Gerry, who

was not nearly as involved with the pastry shop, graduated from Wells Business Academy and went to work in the office of Morrow Screw & Nut Company where she remained all her working life. Today, she is the sister who stays at home and is very well known for her baking and cooking. Jean, who devoted many years of her life to the family business, now presides over the office of her husband's construction company and has no time to bake. Both were happy with their roles as children and both are happy now. King Street East was very different then. On their east side of the street there was Todd's Bowling Alley on the west side of them and the Ho-Bing Laundry on the east side. Brassi's Vegetables and Fruits, McSherry's Meat Market and a restaurant were other neighbors. Across the street were Sam Douglas with his furniture stores, Gurney's Fish and Chips and Miss Noe's Variety Store. On the corner was Todd's Tobacco and Confectionery.

One of Gerry's fondest memories is being allowed to go to the cash

register and take out two or three pennies to go across the street to buy black balls from Miss Noe. The bills and the silver went into the proper spots in the till, but extra pennies were tossed beneath the cash drawer and were there for the children.

The famed donuts were 35c per dozen and you always got 13 of them, the Bakers' Dozen. Bread was a nickle a loaf - until it was increased to seven cents. Both the donuts and bread were mixed and formed by hand. Loaves of bread were weighed out at exactly one and one-half pounds and then shaped by hand.

During the summer, the family would bake at night and the sisters can remember going down to Memorial Park to swing at two or three in the morning, while waiting for the bread to bake. The bread was steamed on a wooden proof over pails water which were heated on a candy stove. This "raised" the bread and the donuts.

Bread was sold to grocery stores, particularly the Superior Store and the pies to restaurants. There was a

large following of regular customers who knew what days and what times certain articles would be ready. One man would regularly go into the store on "cream puff day", buy one for 10 cents and eat it right there. Chelsea buns were 35c and pies were 25c.

"It was more than a job to Mom and Dad" the sisters agree, "They were very good at what they did and their customers meant a lot to them. I always remember getting ready for Christmas, Dad made the cakes and Mom made the puddings."

Nothing was charged and there were no phones in the store. Sadly, the business closed in 1962 because of ill health. Mr. Winders died in 1965 and Mrs. Winders in 1989.

Many people tried to buy their recipes but they will never be sold. "Many of them were in their heads" explain the sisters and "the ones that we do have are all in pounds for huge quantities. Besides it just wouldn't be right to pass them on. They meant too much to Mom and Dad. They were their lives."



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## My Ingersoll: I like it because . . .



"The friendliness of the town. When I'm in restaurants, the waitresses are very "Americanized" ... they have big smiles and are friendly and helpful. Ingersoll is just the right size."

*Bernie Rosevear*

## BASEBALL IN RETROSPECT

The baseball diamond at Victoria Park before 1925 faced the grandstand with home plate below the hill in centre field. Then it was moved across to the race track in front of the grandstand, until 1929 when it was moved further east to where it is now. In centre field across the track, used to be a big wooden building, called the Crystal Palace that was two stories and was used for exhibits during the fall fair etc., and have never seen a picture of it, since it was torn down. Baseball has always been a big part of Ingersoll's history and Victoria Park has been the diamond for five Ontario baseball championships; 1930 won the Intermediate title, then 1937 won the Intermediate "B" Ontario title and then won the Bantam "B" O.B.A. championship in 1961, the Midget "B" O.B.A. championship in 1963 and the Junior "B" championship in 1964. In 1924 Dolph Staples joined the first Ingersoll baseball team and built the team around Charlie Kelly pitcher and Bob "Robin" Henderson catcher, plus Jack and Red Shewan, Tom Filmore, Norm Allen, Jack

Rodgers, "Tee" Daniels and "Sliv" Woodcox etc. They won their group, but Brantford put them out in the O.B.A. playdowns by a pitcher, 18 year old Ralph Beemer who later played for Ingersoll. In 1925, Ingersoll baseball got a break, when Andy Myerjack who had played pro ball in the States, came here from New York to install machinery at the Morrow Co. Andy changed his name to Myers, as a former pro could not play amateur here. He was a great pitcher and along with Henderson were Dolph's right-hand men, as he didn't want a coach. New players were Bill Weir, Charlie Hovey and 16 year-old "Rabbit" Marshall. Again Ingersoll won their group, then eliminated Samia and Windsor before beaten out by Fort Erie. about this time, there used to be baseball tournaments held in small centres, like Delhi, Springfield, Dereham Centre etc. nearby communities for big prize money and Kelly and Henderson were imported for a fee as a battery and were good as any imported from Detroit, Toronto or Buffalo. In

fact, Kelly played in England during W.W.I for the Canadian Army, against an American Forces team and beat the great Herb Pinnock of N.Y. Yankees game 2-1 with King George present.

In 1926 "Scurry" Lee was playing for Ingersoll as well as MacKenzie, Hazelwood and White from London and were put out by Leamington on the second round. Also Charlie Kelly quit pitching and played a great second base and was a big hitter also that year.

In 1927 Ralph Beemer was imported, but the O.B.A. declared him ineligible. They played in the Western Ontario League, and it was a very torrid summer with many protests and fights, with Ingersoll winning the group and then put out Galt and Appin before losing to Leamington.

In 1928 Dolph entered Ingersoll in the inter-county league and brought "Lefty" Judd to play from Rebecca and starred here until 1931 when he moved in to Guelph seniors which started his way to professional ball with Boston Red Sox and Philadelphia Phillies and was selected to the American League All star team in 1943 when with the Red Sox.

In 1929 with Red Pullin and Leo Flynn added had a good season with Judd, Beemer, and Marshall pitching and were three outs from winning the Inter-county championship against Galt. Galt won the first game here and Judd pitched a 17-0 no-hitter back in Galt. The deciding

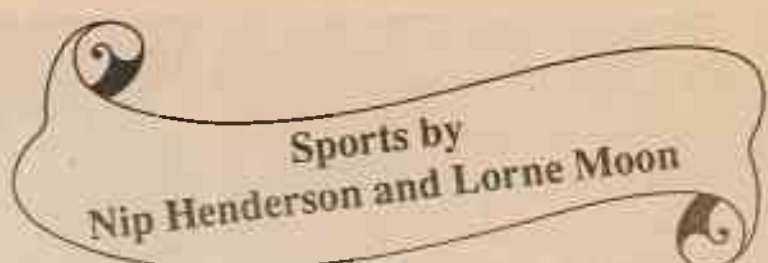
game was played on neutral ground in Preston. Ingersoll was leading 1-0 in the ninth - but Judd developed a blister on his finger and had to retire, then Galt scored two runs, winning 2-1. Also Bob Henderson played his last game that year, hitting a homerun on Labour Day in Strathroy during his last time at bat before retiring. Losing out to Galt - 1929, made it five years that Dolph was shut-out from an Ontario Championship.

So, in 1930 five players joined the Ingersoll team from St. Thomas, "Pond" Odell to catch, plus Bill Cabot, "Dude" Lindsay, "Snapper" Binns and playing coach Joe Evans. Also left from 1929 were Judd, Beemer, Pullen, Shewan, Wally Pitt, Daniel Gee, Marshall, "Dinty" Moore and Ed Hicks. Ingersoll won the group beating Brantford on the finals. They then won over Samia, then Harrow and met Peterborough in the Ontario Baseball Finals. The first game was there on September 27th and Judd allowed three hits, winning 6-1 and he struck out 13. Then, Saturday, October 4th, a bright clear day saw Ingersoll and Peterborough hooked up in the second game with three bands in attendance; Ingersoll Pipe Band, Oxford Rifles Band, and "Had" Petrie's Stump Town Band. "Lefty" Judd again pitched in Ingersoll, before a packed Victoria Park crowd of likely 4,00 or so, winning 15-4 making Dolph Staples the happiest man ever, as he finally

had an Ontario Baseball Association championship. In 1931 and 1932 Ingersoll had good Intermediate clubs but crowds fell off badly, after the big winning 1930 championship team as Judd had gone to Guelph Seniors, Shewan went to teach school in Galt, and four of the St. Thomas players stayed home to play Senior. Ken Biddle came here to pitch, as well as fielders Parks and Pascoe, plus juniors Bill Jordan and Fred Wurker, as short-stop and catcher.

The talk of the 1932 season here was the Juvenile baseball team coached by Dr. Ralph Williams with players "Gump" Thorton, Pete Williams, George Hayes, Bill Kerr, Jack Payne, "Herbie" Boynton, Arnold Shewan, Max "Ding" Clark, Frank Keen, Bill Taylor, "Kitch" Henderson, Jake Pittock and Grant Swackhammer. After winning the Intercounty championship, beat Galt and Waterloo in straight games, only to lose out to Niagara Falls in a tough three game series. They lost the deciding game played at Hamilton 5-4 in 10 innings.

*(Watch for the next phase of this historical review of sports in future editions of The Times.)*



### WANTED

All former pupils and staff to attend a Reunion on May 15, 1993 at the Ward/Princess Elizabeth Public School.

### AGENDA

9:00 A.M. School opens for visitors.  
10:00 A.M. Opening ceremonies.  
11:00 A.M. Lunch in gym (sponsored by Parent's Association).  
12:00-4:00 P.M. School tours of rooms and visiting, old friends, old memories.  
Mementoes of reunion available on May 15 will include mugs and history books.  
Come One - Come All

### REWARD

Renew old friendships, tour the school as it is today, have lunch with us (prepared by the Parents' Association), view pictures and memorabilia of other days. Enjoy the history of this 127 year old school (in various locations). School will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with opening ceremonies in the gym at 10 a.m. Registration book to be kept.

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## Hockey at Three Arenas

### HOCKEY HISTORY OF INGERSOLL & DISTRICT

Ingersoll over the years has had three arenas and two still stand, the first according to the late George Hayes, was built around 1880 and now owned by the Harvest Trend. Nip Henderson remembers when it was used for curling and the man in charge of making the ice, would let kids skate on the west practice sheet sometimes after school about 1929. The second arena on Charles St. E. was built about 1912 by George Mason and burned down Decembr 10th, 1955. The third arena is the present District Memorial Centre opened in 1959. On October 5th, the two pro teams Buffalo and Rochester of the American Hockey League played an exhibition game with Art Skon as referee and George Hayes and Nip Henderson the linesman. Henderson also worked the last game of the Charles St. Arena on the night of Friday, December 9th, 1955 between two Air Force teams - one from Crumlin Air Force Station were all outfitted with all new equipment, including goalie pads etc. and was all lost in the fire as decided to leave it there, as were going to play again Sunday.

As for O.H.A. history for Ingersoll, the old Hockey Pictorial Book lists Ingersoll first in 1904 and says the Ingersoll 1909 Intermediate team was group champs. The town had some very good teams between 1915 to 1930 - both Junior and Intermediate, including players "Bud" Kelly, "Bubber" Cline, "Had" Petrie, "Robin" Henderson, George Mason, Walt Moulton, "Babe" Hollands, Lorne McDoug-

all, G. Gregory, "Thorny" Noe, "Mouse" McMillan, "Dinty" Moore, Fred Filmoe, Ralph Beemer and Juniors "Soda" Crane, John Brassi, Bill Jordan, Cec Longfield, Gord Elliott, Clayt Knapp, Don McKay, Harry Dales etc.

The 30s had some good Junior Hockey with excellent playes as Bill Brewer, "Skimmer" Fuller, "Ritch" Henderson, Max and "Ding" Clark, "Crowdy" Scott, Jim Elliott and even imported from London one year Bobby Bloxam, Bud Ray and John Moffat.

In 1936 Ralph Beemer and Mouse McMillen formed the Ingersoll Juvenile club, making it to the Ontario semi finals, defeated by Hamilton 6-5 in a total home and home series of goals. Players were: Russ Payne, Jack Warden, "Sandy" Pearson, Lorne Mills, Jimmy Jamieson, "Zip" Cole, Lloyd Phillips, Nip Henderson, Bill Nash, Fred Maurice, Clarence Woodman, Ray Sadler, Cec Nadalin, and Ray Connor.

#### Juniors Cs

In 1941 Ingersoll had its first Junior "C" club called the Kestles Chevrolets with players Bill Barrons, Sam Douglas, Bob Henderson, Tim Daniels, "Abe" Burton, John Fuller etc. and was the last O.H.A. team in Ingersoll, until after the war, when Max Fisher, put an Ingersoll Intermediate team called the Hellcats in a league with London, Sarnia, Chatham and Tavistock. The 1945-46 team had locals Bill Jordan, "Kitch" Henderson, Dave Daniel, "Zip" Cole, "Pike" Weir, Nip Henderson, Thorny Noe, plus "Scotty" Fairser-

(Continued on Page 22)



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## OUR STORY

Ingersoll Machine and Tool (IMT) is not only a strong economic force in Ingersoll but it also has been part of the town for over 75 years.

During World War I, the company manufactured parts for army trucks and tool and die products. After the war, they began to manufacture milling cutters, twist drills, reamers and many other necessary farm equipment. In the 1920's, automotive parts became important to the company's production line. They produced manual gear assemblies for the passenger car and light truck industry for many large companies including Studebaker, American Motors, Massey Ferguson, White Farm Equipment and International Harvester.

In 1934, IMT purchased the John Morrow Screw and Nut Company. The screw company, located in Ingersoll, had been in business since 1887. It supplied nuts and bolts to the Canadian Automotive Industry and to the general marketplace. In 1974, the company became Ingersoll Fasteners and moved to a larger building in Ingersoll.

During World War II, IMT reverted back to defence manufacturing. They supplied parts for automobiles and aircrafts and also manufactured 30MM and 40MM rounds of ammunition. After the second World War, IMT continued to improve its automotive product lines with steering and suspension parts and engine and transmission parts.

During the 1930's and 1940's, IMT designed and manufactured the transmissions on the Miss Canada series inboard speedboats. Before competition, the company tested many of these boats including the Miss Canada IV which competed for the Hardsworth trophy.

Over time, the company became better known for more than just automotive parts. By 1940, the business produced wringer washing machines, automatic washing machines and electric and gas clothes dryers. During the late 1960's, the company manufactured self-propelled farm wagons and developed the recreational hover craft.

In 1957, the company began to manufacture highway and off-highway trailer axles. The great success allowed the company to expand internationally. Today, products are shipped around the world to countries such as the United States, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Indonesia and throughout South America and the Middle East.

In the 1970's, Ingersoll supplied engine component parts to Caterpillar Incorporated. Today, IMT also supplies this company with water pump assemblies.

In 1970, IMT merged with Ivaco Incorporated of Montreal. In 1981, IMT purchased P.C. Drop Forgings of Port Colborne. In 1990, Ingersoll Machine and Tool and P.C. Drop Forgings became a division of Canron, which is owned by Ivaco.

Today, Ingersoll Machine and Tool prides itself on customer service and world class manufacturing. They have just recently introduced new products and production processes which will strengthen their global competitiveness. Their reputation is a benefit to the community and they are well-known for service and friendliness around the globe.



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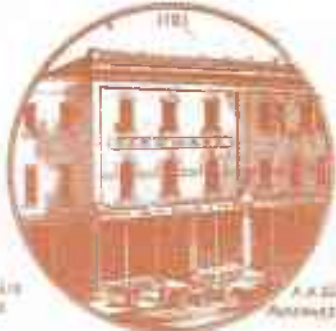
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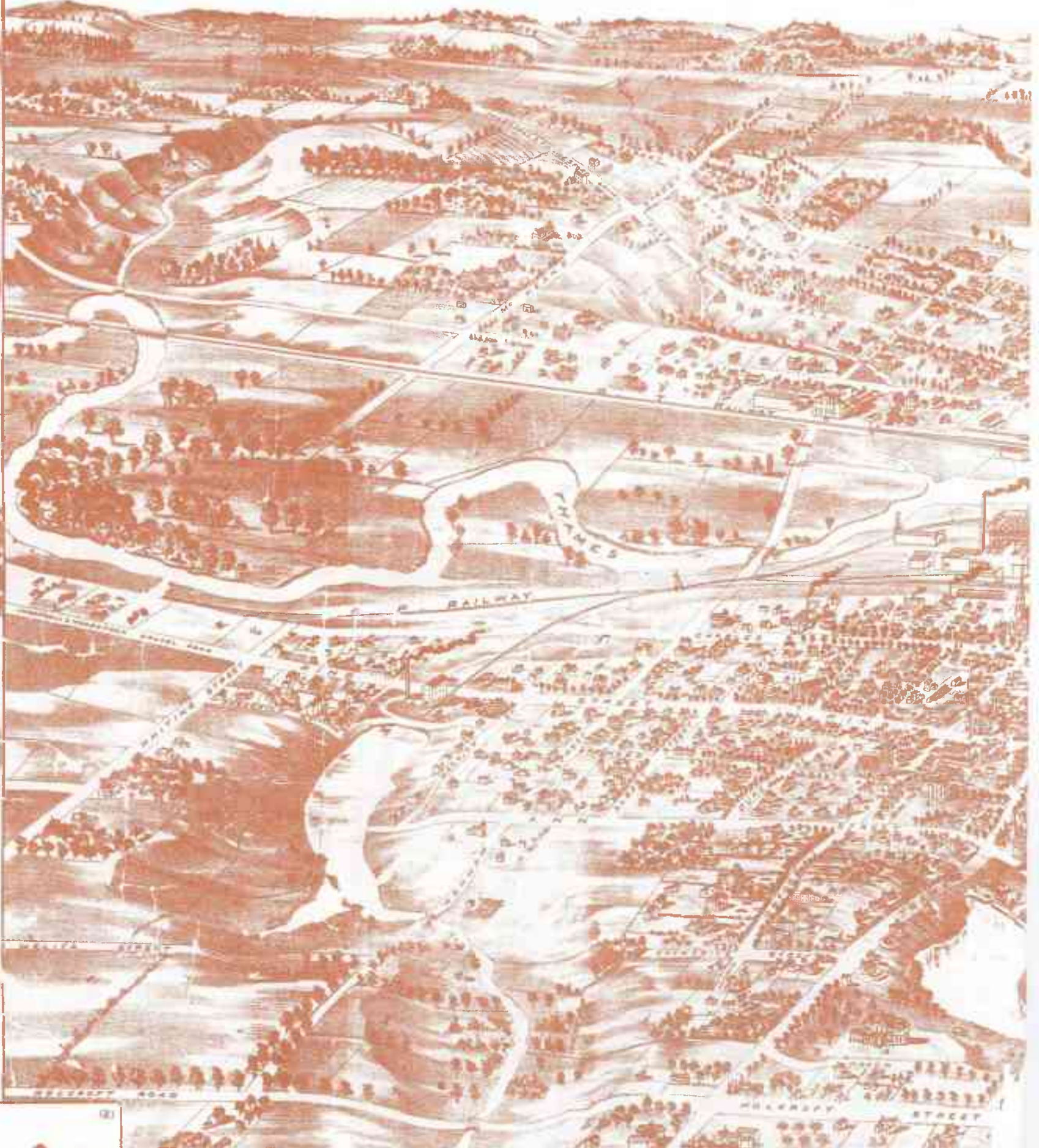
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TOWN OF  
This 1885 Historic Map compliments of the C



- References to Buildings on Map
- 1 - RICHARDSON, Importer and Manufacturer of Watches and Jewellery, Thames St. (corn. King)
  - 2 - MARKET BUILDING, King St.
  - 3 - COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE, Alma St.
  - 4 - CHRONICLE PRINTING OFFICE, Thames St.
  - 5 - RNOX PRESBYTERIAN CH., St. Andrew's St.
  - 6 - MITCHELL, O.J., Furnisher, Thames St.
  - 7 - KING ST. METHODIST CHURCH
  - 8 - CENTRAL PUBLIC SCHOOL, Thames St.
  - 9 - ELLIS, A. H., House.
  - 10 - BELL, W. H., Hardware Store, Thames St.
  - 11 - STUART, PETER & CO., General Mill, Standard Granulose and Roller Oatmeal, Rolled Oats, Wheat, Pot Barley and Cornmeal, Canterbury St.
  - 12 - GRANT, J. L. & CO., Victoria St., Pork Packers, Cheese, Butter and Egg Exporters.
  - 13 - PARTLO, W., Roller Mills, Mill St.
  - 14 - GRANT, J. L. & CO., Office, cor. Thames & King Sts.
  - 15 - BELL, W. C., Victoria St., Dealer in Lumber and House Furnishings.
  - 16 - NOXON, J., Residence, cor. Thames and Norton Sts.
  - 17 - CHARLES ST. METHODIST CHURCH
  - 18 - CATHOLIC CHURCH, Thames St.
  - 19 - GIBSON, JOSEPH (Postmaster), cor. Norton and Wellington Sts.
  - 20 - ENGLISH CHURCH, Oxford St.
  - 21 - ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CH., Thames St.
  - 22 - COYNE, E., Importer of Dry Goods, Millinery, Mantles, Carpets, Tweeds, Ready-made Clothing, etc.
  - 23 - MACAULAY & CO., Thames St., Imp's and Dealer in Staple and Fancy Dry Goods and Millinery.

- Professional Establishments
- 24 - HEDDERLEY, W.P., M.D., General, Thames St.
  - 25 - GIBSON, J., Architect, Thames St.
  - 26 - HEDDERLEY, J., Dealer in Books, Stationery, etc., Thames St.
  - 27 - HEDDERLEY, J., Dealer in Books, Stationery, etc., Thames St. (Old Town)
  - 28 - HEDDERLEY, J., Dealer in Books, Stationery, etc., Thames St. (Old Town)
  - 29 - HEDDERLEY, J., Dealer in Books, Stationery, etc., Thames St. (Old Town)
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  - 46 - HEDDERLEY, J., Dealer in Books, Stationery, etc., Thames St. (Old Town)
  - 47 - HEDDERLEY, J., Dealer in Books, Stationery, etc., Thames St. (Old Town)

- MACAULAY & CO., Imp's and Dealer in Staple and Fancy Dry Goods, Millinery, etc., Thames St.
- 35 - SMITH, J. S. & CO., Importers and Dealers in Dry Goods, Millinery, Mantles, etc., Thames St.
  - 36 - WHITE, DAVID & CO., Importers of Staple and Fancy Dry Goods, Millinery, Carpets and House Furnishings, Thames St.
  - 37 - LENEHAN, JOHN, Cheap Clothing, Boots and Shoes, King St.
  - 38 - BROWETT, J. W., Dispensing Chemist, Sign White Mount, Thames St.
  - 39 - KNEESHAW, R. & CO., Druggists and Stationers, School Books, etc., cor. Thames and King Sts.
  - 40 - SECORD, D., Druggist and Chemist, Thames St.
  - 41 - SUDWORTH, W. A., King St. W., op Market
  - 42 - KENNEDY, C., King St. W.
  - 43 - BAKER, MISS S. P., Dress Makers
  - 44 - BAKER, MISS S. P., Dress Making and Fancy Goods Store, King St. East
  - 45 - FLOOD, MRS. E., King St.
  - 46 - MITCHELL, O.J., Spring Bed Manufactory, Dealer in all kinds of Furniture, Thames St.
  - 47 - MCINTYRE, JAS., Undertaking and Furnishings, King St. East
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- 70 - ELLIS, A. H., Book, Stationery, etc., Thames St.



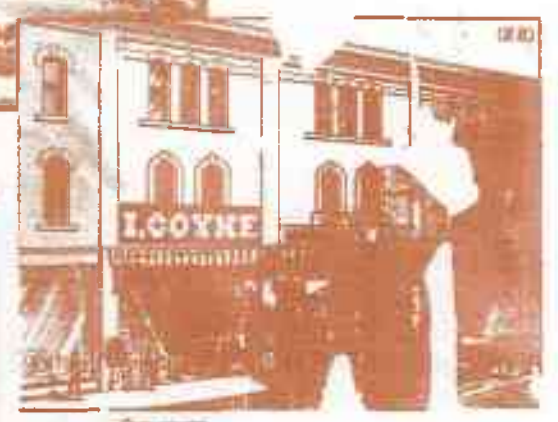
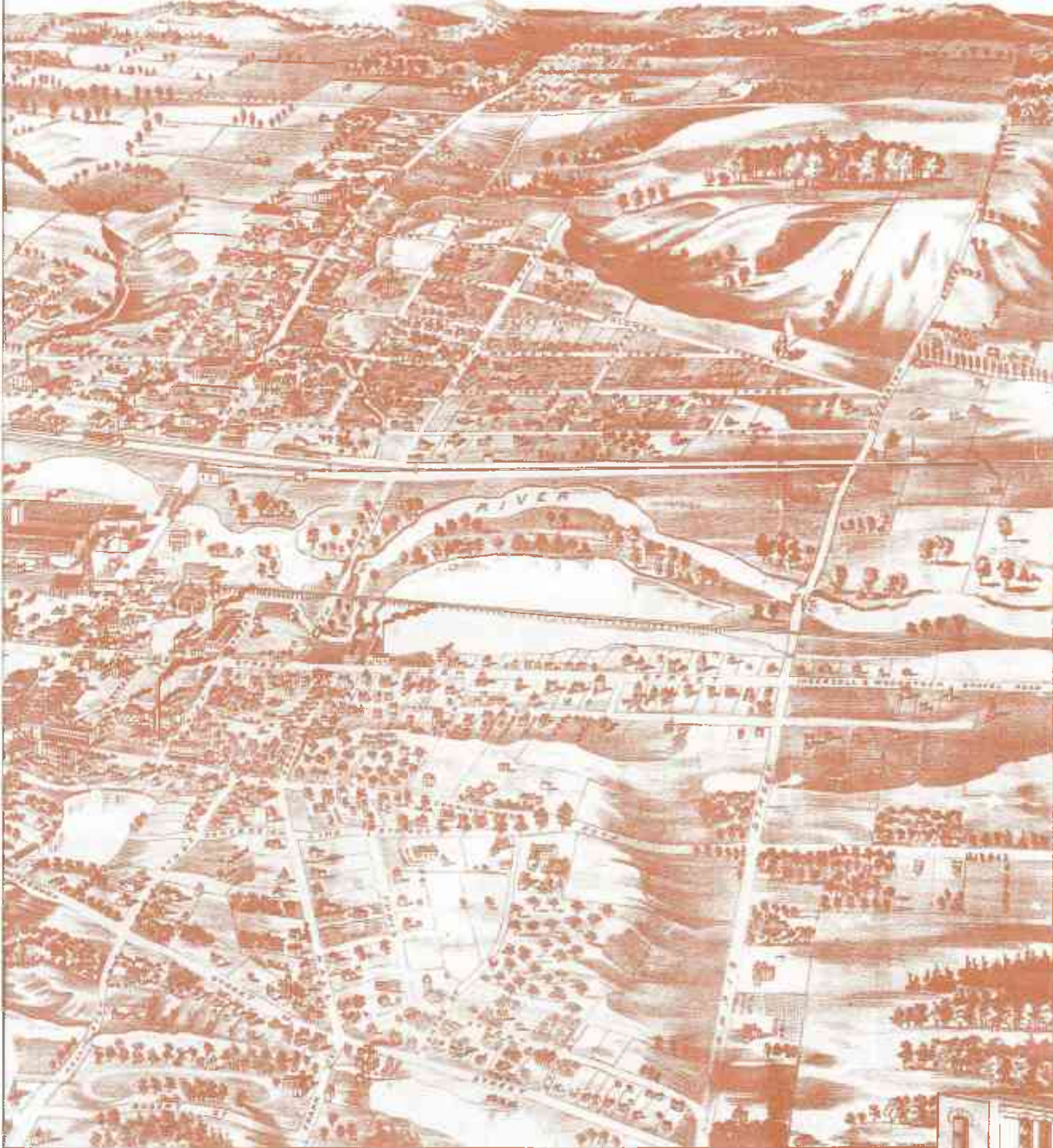


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## HOCKEY CONTINUED

(Continued from Page 19)

vice and "Bena" Huras of the O.P.P. stationed here in Ingersoll. From London were "Red" Gettas, coach, Ted Collins, Gil Burford, Si Lewis, Russ Avon and Gilbert, plus Vinni Hesse, Ken Roefritsch, Al Flood, Norm Carnegie of Stratford. The Hellcats played to full crowds for three years and was good fast-paced hockey.

Then Max Riddell and Walt Leaper formed a Junior "C" club and was the start of good hockey, that finally led to the only O.H.A. championship in Ingersoll's history in 1955. That 1949 team had local players like "Goose" Land, Jack Lewis, "Bud" Cussons, Frank Beemer, Orly Hamilton, "Chief" Henhawke, Bob Connor and Ed Ellis etc.

Finally "Red" Clark took the Junior "C" club over in 1950 and called the team the "Reems" with Ralph Beemer Sr. coaching and added players like Ron MacDonald, "Chike" Nadalen, Gino Defent, Danny Barratt, Ralph Beemer Jr.,

"Bummer" Connor, "Bud" Garton etc.

In 1951-52 Clarke got "Monk" Shuttleworth as coach and the players stated above, along with Land, Hamilton, goalie Watson from Brampton and Dennis Windsor of Orillia, went on a 28 game winning streak, before being beaten four straight in the finals against Collingwood in the O.H.A. finals. Then the next game with Jack Robinson coaching and Bill McWhinnie in goal lost again to Collingwood in the finals. Then again in 1954 they played Midland in the finals and lost 4-2 in games, when the O.H.A. let Midland use a Collingwood goalie, claiming their own was sick.

So the next season, Red Clarke decided to coach himself and once the play-offs started, won all series, belting Lindsay in the semi-finals here 18-1 and gave them another bad beating at home, before Lindsay defaulted. That meant it was Collingwood again - the finals for the Ontario Jr. "C" title and Ingersoll gained its revenge,

## Prominent pioneer profiles

### COLONEL WONHAM

William George Wonham who came from England in the early 1840s opened an office and carried on an extensive business in land surveying and civil engineering, not only in Ingersoll but throughout the county. His desire to come to Ingersoll may have been due to the registry office here. The greatest number of subdivision plans for towns and villages bear his signature. He was also involved in the construction of many roads being built at that time, one of these the plank road to Port Burwell now known as Highway #19. He was also actively involved in the community affairs, particularly the Oxford Militia where he was promoted to the rank of Colonel. The Wonham Hotel, later known as the Carroll Hotel, was built by him and Wonham Street perpetuates his name. Francis, Ann, and Albert Streets are named after his children.

### WALTER MILLS

Walter Mills came to Ingersoll in 1874 as manager of the recently installed system of gas lighting, a position he held for 12 years. The gas plant was located on Avonlea Street, then known as Gas Street, and built shortly after the fire of 1872. During the time Mills was manager the system expanded rapidly and supplied gas for lighting as well as heating and cooking. In 1890 when the first sidewalks were being built of material called baritic silica, a mixture of broken stone, gravel and cement. A com-

pany was formed to produce this material and Walter Mills became the president and general manager. The first sidewalks were built by a firm from Detroit, from the Baptist Church to the C.P.R. tracks. The next year after the Ingersoll plant became a branch of this company they laid many miles of sidewalk not only in Ingersoll but in many towns and villages in Ontario. Some years later Mills entered into partnership with T.W. Nagle and under the firm of Nagle and Mills many buildings were constructed among them Morrow Screw and Nut Company, the Evans Piano Factory, the Traders and Merchants bank buildings as well as houses in the area. They also received government contracts and built armouries in Woodstock, Stratford, Guelph and Burford.



Mills was a civic minded citizen. He was a town councillor for 112 years, the mayor in 1889 and 1890, chairman of the Board of Education for two years. His accomplishments were many and he contributed much to the development of Ingersoll. Perhaps some people in Ingersoll may have knowledge of this family. Until taken down to make way for the I.G.A. store, his home was on the corner of Charles and Avonlea Street.

The Gibson name has been associated with the post office for many years. Joseph Gibson came to Ingersoll about 1850 and was employed for several years at the Noxon factory. He conducted his own grocery business for a time as well. He was an unsuccessful candidate in the federal election of 1881 when John A. McDonald returned to power.

In 1882 Gibson was appointed postmaster. The post office at that time was located on Thames Street, south of the present McNiven insurance office. In addition to his duties as postmaster he was active in many community affairs. Mayor in 1886, he was a member of the town and county council for a number of years. He was particularly active in the Methodist Church and in several fraternal organizations. His house was at the corner of Noxon and Wellington Street.

In 1898 a new and larger post office was built on the site of the present Bank of Montreal.

When Joseph Gibson relinquished his job as postmaster his son Sam took over the position. Many people remember Sam for his efforts in organizing the Big Eight with representatives from most service clubs and other organizations to co-ordinate the war effort in the town. He was always a great booster for Ingersoll, as was his father.



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The Shannon farm, prior to becoming part of the Ingersoll Golf & Country Club.

## Ingersoll Signature

To most people the back half of the Ingersoll Golf and Country Club is just that, but to Yvonne Hunt it's a reminder of her childhood home.

Hunt, formerly Yvonne Shannon, grew up on what now hosts the 10th to 18th holes. She lived there until 1948 when the family moved into town.

Both Hunt and her husband Ernie are history buffs. Among their treasurers are a number of mortgage papers, deeds and other legal documents that reveal not only some of the family history, but trace the owners of that 50 acres of property.

One of the signatures that appears on several legal documents is that of James Ingersoll, in the capacity of Justice of the Peace. Another Ingersoll signature also appears several times, but the first name is illegible. Other signatures read like a roll call of Ingersoll history: Charles Christie, Boyle Travers, William Holcroft, Casswell, Martin Williams, George Sebbin, Joshua

Young. The earliest deed is dated 1836. One year later, another interesting document announces:

James Ingersoll and Peter Connoll, enquires, two of His Majesty's Justice of the Peace, in and for the London District, do certify that before us personally appeared Haussale Travers, wife of the within named Boyle Travers and being duly examined by us touching her consent to be barred of her dower of and in the lands therein described. She gave her consent thereto and it did appear to us that such consent was free and voluntary and not the effect of coercion or the fear of coercion on the part of husband or any other persons. dated 3 April 1837

143 pounds 19 shillings and three pence. Peter and Eleanor Shannon sold the farm in 1948 to P. M. Dewan. Dewan sold part of it to Glen Edmonds who built a home there and operated a wrecking yard and the majority to the Ingersoll Golf and Country Club.

## Hotels, Inns, Taverns - exciting part of our past

By: J.C. Herbert

During the last half of the 19th century no fewer than 18 hotels were located in Ingersoll, most of them on King and Thames Street. Early ones were built on King Street, the route of the Old Stage Road, but with the building of the Great Western Railway Line in 1853 newer ones were mainly built on Thames Street. At least 10 were located between Charles and Victoria Street.

Major Thomas Ingersoll and his family had moved out of the area in 1805 after his charter had been revoked but his sons Charles, James and Thomas returned after the war of 1812 and did much to promote development in the settlement. They built one of the first hotels in the area on the northeast corner of Mill Street, called the Oxford hotel. Some time later William George Wonham, a land surveyor and engineer who came from England and began surveying the settlement in Oxford built a hotel on the corner of King and Hall Street. Named the Wonham hotel, it was destroyed by fire and rebuilt by Reuben Carroll a descendent of a pioneer family in the area. It remained the Carroll hotel until the early 1900s when it was sold to George Mason who made it into an apartment building.

At the corner of King and Oxford Street, Absalom Daly, an English officer in the rebellion of 1837 took his discharge in Ingersoll built a hotel and for many years it was known as the Daly House. Built mainly of timber it was destroyed by fire in 1854 and was replaced by a

larger white brick building, later named the Ingersoll Inn. Daly was an astute businessman and later became the proprietor of other inns in the village. To promote business he started the stage coach line to Port Burwell. Situated near the town hall, the Ingersoll Inn was host to many famous politicians, entertainers and public speakers. John Brown the famous abolitionist stayed there and a room is named after him.

West of the Brady Hotel was the Thomson House and to the north on Oxford Street was a hotel known at various times as the Oxford, the Chamber and Frizelle's hotel. The last owner was Mr. William Kirwan and until it was demolished in 1967 it was known as the Kirwin hotel. Across from the Kirwin Hotel was the Bowman hotel and a fifth hotel was located on King Street across from the town hall. At one time known as the Lee and the Dereham hotel, in 1881 it was known as Rice's hotel. Both the Frizell and the Rice hotel had barns and enclosed areas for the sale of farm animals. They catered to the farmers and advertised that they had "the best wines, liquor, the finest brand cigars and good stabling".

One other earlier hotel the Trick hotel was built on the corner of King and Merritt Street by William Trick. It too catered to farmers coming into the Culloden Road. The late Byron Jenvey in his account of this hotel states that farmers coming into Ingersoll on unimproved roads accumulated considerable dust and it was the custom to call at the hotel before

proceeding to the business section to flush their throats of dust. Proceeding home, with foresight and in anticipation of more dust, they would again call for protection of this occurrence. This building was at one time a church manse and is now a private residence.

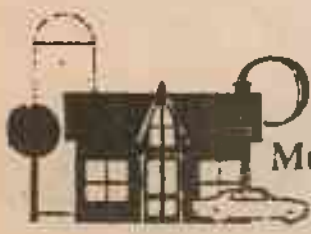
The 1850s was the beginning of the railway era and the demise of the stage coach. Because of the location of the railway station many enterprising business people saw that growth and development would be in that area. Many hotels were built on Thames Street from King to Victoria. Space permits only brief mention of these but take a stroll with me beginning at the Brady hotel, present site of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. Built in 1860, it was later purchased by Mr. Robert Reid and renamed the Mansion House. The brick building standing at the rear of the hotel was used to stable horses and it was there where Aimee Kennedy (Semple McPherson) kept her horse when she drove from Salford to school at the collegiate. About 1913, the hotel was moved to Canterbury Street where it is now used as a duplex and a bank building was erected on the site.

In 1828, William Gallagher built the Prince of Wales hotel near the present location of Zurbrigg's Bakery. It was considered a very stylish hotel and catered to the upper class. Unfortunately it was destroyed in the fire of 1872. At the corner of Charles Street, site of the present Bank of Montreal, a

(Continued on Page 24)

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"I think Ingersoll's real strength is in its people. I meet a lot of volunteers and people who come in here."

*Rosemary Lewis*  
Town Librarian



The Carroll Hotel became the Mason Apartments.

## Do you remember?

When King Street, East of the Thames Street corner was not only a busy place filled with places for adults to do business, but was a paradise for youngsters as well? Do you remember when the corner on the east side was a wonderful pop, magazine and tobacco store, known simply as Todd's... (later Elliott Appliances and still later McNiven Insurance presided over that corner)... Miss Noe's Candy Store... the enormous Douglas Furniture stores (where Sam, Fred, Jack, Ted, and Marie reigned supreme)... Tom Morrison's pop manufacturing shop... Blake Haycock's egg grading station... the Ingersoll Dairy with its double ice cream cones... the huge billboard... Storey's Beauty Salon...? And across the road... Brassi's fruit and vegetables... Winders Bake Shop... Clarence Todd's Bowling Alley... McSherry's Meat Market... the Chinese Laundry?

## Hotels, Inns, Taverns from the past

(Continued from Page 23)  
very elaborate hotel was built. It had large posts under a verandah which surrounded most of the building. It was called the **Royal Exchange** and catered mainly to the business and commercial people. The first election for reeve and council for the recently incorporated village in 1852 was held here. All eligible voters gathered here to vote and no doubt remained to celebrate the election and the newly acquired status which the community had achieved. Fire started in the stables at the rear of the building in 1872 and destroyed most of the business area including the Prince of Wales and Exchange Hotel.

On the northwest corner of Charles and Thames Street, site of the present Dewan Festival Gardens, the **McMurray** hotel was built. In later years it was called the St. Charles. It was built at a cost of \$3,000, and cost about half as much to demolish it in 1971. To widen the street cost an additional \$85,000., half of which was paid by the provincial government on the stipulation that the property would be used for municipal purposes.

Three more hotels, the **Walker House**, the **Royal Hotel** and the **Keating House** were built between Charles and St. Andrew Street. The Walker House was built mid way between Charles Street and the present Lions club building, by Mr. Henry Hearn and is frequently called the **Hearn** hotel. At another time it was called the **Royal Oak**. On the east side of Thames Street across from the Walker house a very elaborate hotel was built. It had a theatre for plays and other

productions and it also housed the town library. It was called the **Royal Hotel** and considered one of the best at that time. The **Keating House** was built in 1884 on the site of the present Lions club building. It was also called the **Commercial** at one time but it was more commonly known as the **Red Onion** after its red-headed proprietor. An old plan of early Ingersoll shows a hotel called the **Leach** at the corner of St. Andrew Street across from a present car lot. Perhaps this is one of the earlier ones since it is not mentioned in later directories.

The **Atlantic Hotel**, built across from the Presbyterian Church, because of its proximity to the railway station, catered mainly to the travelling salesmen. Special rooms were set aside so they could display their wares and they did a thriving business. This was a common practice until the early part of the 20th century. Rooms were advertised for one dollar a night, a standard fee for most hotels. On the west side of Thames Street, across from the present Esso service station Absalom Daly who had earlier built the **Daly Hotel**, built the **Queen** hotel. He had wanted to call it the **Queen Victoria**, but told he could not do so, settled for the **Queen**.

Close to the railway tracks and the station, a cluster of hotels was built. Mr. Thirkell who became the third postmaster of Ingersoll had a store near the site of the present Optimist Youth Centre. The post office was moved to a new location at King and Thames Street and John Carnegie who owned the property built a hotel on this location. Because it was built partly on

water, it was called the **River House**. It was more frequently referred to as the **Bachelor** hotel since no woman would ruin her reputation by being seen there. Another hotel, the **Great Western**, was built on the north side of the tracks near Victoria Street. In 1876 the hotel, as were so many others, was destroyed by fire. Asa McCarty the proprietor rebuilt it and it was then known as the **McCarty Hotel**. When it ceased operation it was moved to Mutual and King Hiram Street and is now an apartment building.

On the east side of Thames Street, north of the railway tracks John Adair built a hotel and it was named the **Adair** hotel. In 1881 Dr. D.W. Carroll, a prominent doctor, became the proprietor. While trying to rescue his horse when a fire broke out in the stable he was badly burned. Dr. Carroll owned the now vacant house on King Street, east, and when he died in 1915 bequeathed the Carroll park, now called Memorial Park, to the town.

One other hotel, not in the core area, should be mentioned. Before the railway came through Ingersoll there was speculation that it would come farther south, nearer Charles Street. Mr. James Fowler, a farmer in North Oxford, sold his farm and erected a hotel at the corner of Charles and Carroll Street. When the tracks were laid farther north Mr. Fowler's investment proved a failure. This hotel was called the **Anglo-Saxon**, but was more frequently referred to as **Harmony Hall** or **Bummers Roost**.

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# Out of the past an intrepid pioneer: Thomas Ingersoll

By: Doug Palmer

When John Graves Simcoe became Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada in 1792, he formulated a plan to settle the vast forests of the British colony. Simcoe proposed to offer individual colonizers whole townships of 60,000 acres or more if they would guarantee to bring 40 families to the land and complete the necessary road links throughout the territory. Thomas Ingersoll, together with a number of business associates, applied for the rights to a township located south of the Thames River, which at that time was more widely known as La Tranche. Simcoe approved the application in spite of Loyalist opposition to the donation of large land grants to "Yankee latecomers". Perhaps to lessen the criticism of this particular grant the papers were made out in the name of the Rev. Gideon Boswick "in consideration of his well-known loyalty". But from the beginning there was no doubt that the driving force to the association was Thomas Ingersoll. With great energy he set out to fulfill the terms of the contract. In doing so he played a major role in the early development of Oxford County and the Town of Ingersoll.

Thomas Ingersoll came to Upper Canada from Massachusetts where his relatives had become renowned, or infamous, on both sides of the struggle for independence from Great Britain. Jared Ingersoll, though he opposed the Stamp Act, a major colonial grievance, did

accept the post of stamp tax collector for Connecticut. Because of this position and others that he held in the colonial administration he earned the enmity of the revolutionaries. When the conflict became intense he was imprisoned until his parole in 1778. His son, also Jared, distinguished himself on the other side of the struggle, first as a member of the continental congress and later as a delegate to the Federal Convention which produced the American Constitution. Thomas himself served in George Washington's Continental Army as a captain and was promoted major after the war for his part in Shay's Rebellion. There have been those who have called Ingersoll a Loyalist. He certainly was not, but within a decade of the conclusion of the Revolutionary War he was prepared to take an oath of allegiance to the British crown and seek his fortune in Upper Canada.

### DIFFICULT TASK BEGUN

Unlike most of the other township proprietors, Thomas Ingersoll wasted no time in tackling his new responsibilities. In 1793 he paid his first visit to the township. There he encountered the hostility of settlers who had already established themselves in the area of Beachville. Most had filed claim to the land they had settled and found themselves at the mercy of Ingersoll who now held the legal rights to their homesteads. Their initial antagonism dwindled when they found no threat of eviction and the




Remember these pumps? Harold Longfield provided the photo. You will each have your own memories.

promise that roads would be constructed to ease their isolation. Within a year new settlers, including Ingersoll, began the difficult task of clearing the land and building homes at Oxford-on-the-Thames, part of which would later bear the name of Ingersoll himself. At considerable expense to himself and his associates, Ingersoll hired 11 men to construct a road along the route of the Detroit Path from the Grand River across Burford and along the first concession in Oxford and north to the Thames River. Apparently Ingersoll's crew received a little help from the inhabitants of the new Burford settlement. Not only was there little physical assistance forthcoming but the road builders were charged for food and lodging while working in the area. Owing much to the work of Ingersoll, the community of the Oxford district could boast a population of 200, the majority clustered in the area West Oxford.


In spite of Ingersoll's investment in time, energy, and money, the project was to end in bitter disappointment. Simcoe's town proprietorship scheme had never enjoyed popularity among government officials. Loyalists were particularly unhappy to see the arrival and prosperous prospects of so many former enemies. It was also true that many of the town proprietors had not nearly fulfilled the requirements of their position. When Simcoe's health forced his return to England, his successors moved quickly to cancel the township proprietor system. In many cases the cancellations were just. In Ingersoll's case, it certainly was not. Instead of 30,000 acres which he thought would be his share he was left with only 200. There followed a major land grab as various friends of the government rushed to possess land made more valuable by the work of people like Ingersoll. Bitterly disappointed and near

bankruptcy he eventually moved to Port Credit where he died in 1812. Thomas Ingersoll's departure was not the end of the family's contribution to the development of Ingersoll and Oxford County. Following the War of 1812, Ingersoll's sons, Charles, James, and Thomas returned to Ingersoll to claim their father's land. Charles and James particularly would play major roles in the political and commercial life of the growing community. Ingersoll's daughter Appolonia and her husband William Carroll were important in the settlement of the small community of Lakeside. Thomas would contribute to the commercial development of St. Marys. Of course the most famous Ingersoll, Laura, daughter from an earlier marriage, and better known by her married name Secord, would make her famous trek to Beaver Dams to warn the British and their Indian allies of an impending American attack.


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Dr. Bruce Halliday  
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**The Forgotten Heroes**

**Captain-Matron Sitter**

Captain Matron (retired) Lily May Sitter is one interesting person! Ninety years old, a veteran of World War II, nearly blind, this cheerful, knowledgeable, resident of Oxford Manor is a delight to talk to.

A rebel in her own time, she accomplished many things, not the least of which is what her step-daughter, Sharon Payne, describes as "creating a warm and comfy home for us, a place where my friends were always made welcome."

Sitter spent her early years in the Beachville, Embro and East Zorra areas, as her father, John Wilks, managed several different farms.

In 1920, feeling very grown up at 17, she moved to Tillsonburg and got a job, first in the Maple Leaf Harvest Tool Company and then a shoe factory. She had to go to the hospital to have her "good tonsils" out and came out of the hospital knowing she was going to become

a nurse. She entered training at Stratford General Hospital in 1924 and graduated as an R.N. in 1927. Opting for private duty nursing, she only had two or three cases when the hospital's nursing superintendent asked her to take over as night superintendent because of illness in the family of the incumbent. With some apprehension she accepted that challenge and later accepted a permanent night position which lasted for nine years.

A transfer to Women's Medical and Surgery did not make Sitter very happy. Anxious to further her training, she applied to take post graduate work at Columbia University, NYC. Being turned down just made her fight that much harder to go and when she was finally accepted she was so successful she stayed there three months and "never had to rewrite a single exam." After coming home to look after her ill mother in Woodstock, Sitter went back to Stratford Hospi-

tal to be in charge of the maternity ward.

In 1942 she learned that the Armed Forces were recruiting nurses in London. Other units had been recruited but never there. She knew that one 500 bed unit had already gone overseas. Sitter joined the first 1,000 bed hospital unit to go overseas in WW II. Officially known as #10 Canadian General Unit, the nurses are unofficially known now as "the forgotten heroes". Joining up as a nursing sister, she was a Captain Matron when she retired, one of the few Canadian nurses with the third pip when she came back.

Sitter remembers the trip over on the Queen Elizabeth II very well -- she was sea sick all the way. "You wouldn't believe how packed in we were on that boat."

Landing in England at King's Langley, she was posted to Abbott's Langley, a tiny place where the patients of the mental hospital had been moved across the road to make room for the war casualties. There were plenty of them. Five hundred were in the main building and others were in rows of huts. A mess hall and quarters for the men and women were down the road. Her experiences would fill a book. She watched bombs fall on London; she watched, in awe, the allies flying over to free France and she nursed and cared for the shattered and broken bodies that came back.

Although she never feared for her own life, she worried constantly about her charges and did everything possible to care for them.



Local veteran with the many admirers.

Sitter's next assignment was to Basingstoke, a large hospital with a transplant ward where "they reconstructed the boys". This was interesting and rewarding. Going in early one morning, as many of them did, to feed burn patients, she noticed one particular man literally covered in bandages. As time went on and the patient became a little stronger they learned they were both from Woodstock. The patient was Teddy Hewitt, who was on the Athabaska when it was torpedoed going into France. The two never met again until November 1992 when Bill Chessell of the Woodstock Legion set up the meeting.

Back in Canada, Sitter was in charge of a nursing hospital at Crumlin for one year. She stayed in the Reserves until she was 70 years old and got her final discharge.

In Woodstock, Sitter was coping with several family emergencies, when friend Dora Allison invited

her to a dinner party. Thinking she needed a respite, she accepted and that changed her whole life. Another guest that night was George Sitter. He asked for a ride home with Lily May even though he had come with his own sister. They were married quietly in 1952 in All Saints Church in Woodstock and Lily May had an instant family. "I was five years old and a little terror" admits Sharon. "Mom turned my life around. No one could have a better mother." Sharon has a brother Gary and the Sitters also raised a niece, Ruth. They resided at 22 Holcroft Street in Ingersoll for 40 years.

Reluctant to be too critical of modern times, she does feel that the bed care of patients is "not what it used to be". Very much aware that part of the problem is due to financial cutbacks to all hospitals, she is adamant that lottery monies should be designated for hospitals.

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Kelly Wilson

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# History told through collection of irons

Grenville Douglas is not only a collector -- he is one of the most organized collectors you will ever meet. A man of many interests -- and many collections - he is a person who appreciates both the past and the present.

His collection of irons is fascinating. Not only are they unusual objects, but being told about each one is an education in itself. And Douglas has, in his quiet, efficient way, documented and recorded all the facts about each item in his collection.

## BUSY BUSINESS

Douglas came to Ingersoll in 1947 from Guelph. He had been to a lot of towns, but Ingersoll appealed to him and "It was so busy; the sewers were going in". He opened G.L. Douglas Plumbing and Heating, at the back of the old Ingersoll Inn. In 1950 his brother Harley

came to work with him and they moved to King Street, buying another part of the Ingersoll Inn that had been the Ontario hydro office. In 1954 they remodelled and opened as partners, Douglas Brothers Plumbing, Heating and Electrical. Their phone number he recalls, was 395.

The Douglas Brothers remained there until they sold the business in 1963. At that time Grenville went to work for Bell Canada where he served 28 years as a construction project manager. He travelled all over Canada in that capacity, including 12 years in Toronto and four in Ottawa. During all this time he kept Ingersoll as his home, putting 100,000 miles a year on his car and coming so close to the one million mile mark (945,273) of flying miles that only a serious bout of illness prevented him from reaching that mark.



Collector Grenville Douglas.

Among his eclectic collections are a 90 year old washstand and a 1901 Singer sewing machine.

An ash iron, a Chinese cast iron laundry iron, a charcoal-carbon iron and a chimney charcoal iron are only a few of his treasures.

the hot sad irons, flat irons, and slug irons sitting on stoves and dangerously hot to handle.

He notes that the electric iron was introduced toward the end of the 19th century, but were mostly for display because so few people had electricity then.

Douglas notes, "The first demonstration to farmers in the use of hydro power and its value to farmers took place on the Clark farm. Electricity had come to Ingersoll 1911. After Sir Adam Beck approved the construction of a transmission line from Ingersoll to Prouse's Corners, he came from London to witness the ceremony. Mrs. Prouse was presented with one of the first electric irons.

Gas irons, Douglas explains, were introduced around 1880 and worked basically on the same principle as the plumber's blow torch. The Coleman gas iron gave off a clean, small flame and the housewife could iron until the tank ran dry.

## FEATHER WEIGHTS?

Manufactured around 1900, Douglas feels they were the start of a whole new concept for ironing. Weighing about five pounds, they were a marked improvement over

## IRONS' HISTORY

Douglas notes that it was the Vikings who came up with the notion that extra-large, flat pieces of stone, called "Slykestones" could serve well flattening out the creases in their coarse linen shirts and skirts. Weighing up to 20 pounds, the stones were held with the aid of a piece of cloth or a crude wooden handle. Heated in a fire, these smoothing stones must have done a good job, says Douglas. "So good in fact that the last evidence of their use occurred in the late 1800s."

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## Auctioneer, artist, drover, Hawkins has done it all

Auctioneer K. W. (Bill) Hawkins has sold jewellery, cattle, airplanes, antiques and farms since he became an auctioneer in 1957.

That's only part of his career history. Like his father, Ford, he is a cattle dealer, drover and butcher. He is also an artist, a sign painter and a calligrapher. He believes firmly in putting back into the community what you have gained from it and that is why you see much evidence of his generosity around town.

Hawkins became an auctioneer in 1957. He had been thinking about it for some time and finally talked to someone who had just come back from taking the course in Mason City, Iowa. That convinced him and he signed up for the two week (six days a week and you must go to church on Sunday) course. One of 16 Canadians in a class of 116, he placed number two in the class.

Hawkins quickly became known for his rapid patter and the odd caustic comment, but gained a reputation for being fair. He made

it his credo to never belittle anything that he sold. "Everything was important to someone once" he says. His experiences have been many over the years. He recalls once selling a farm for an owner who had hoped to realize \$250,000. for it. The farm was sold within five minutes -- for \$325,000. and "everyone was happy, including me".

A big sale north of Embro, in the late 1960s, featured the sale of 90 cattle, to be sold in lots of 10. Hawkins stood on a ladder and talked up a storm. The cattle went for \$235. a head, or \$21,000. The auctioneer said "Sold!" -- then climbed down off the ladder and sold it for \$1.50!

Hawkins has lived here since 1924. He was born in Saskatchewan.

Hawkins looks back on Ingersoll in the 1930s and 40s as "a busy time". "Every store was occupied then. There were not as many cars, but it was busy in a different sort of way."

### TRAFFIC DUMMY

"There were horses in the fire hall" he reminisced. "They pulled the fire wagon. There were no traffic lights. There was a "traffic dummy" in the main Thames and King intersection. It was a five foot high post painted red and white and you were expected to always keep to the right of it no matter what you drove. Whenever the fire bell was rung the first thinking, closest citizen would grab that traffic dummy and haul it over to the sidewalk out of the way of the fire horses and wagon."

Hawkins recalls when Helen Kirwin would play the piano at the Mason Theatre and the "kids would all start to clap as soon as she went into the theatre."

Hawkins doesn't feel the 1930s Depression was anything like this one because "back then no one had any money." "Cattle were worth nothing -- \$10.00 to \$15.00 a head was a big price. The price of fat hogs was about three cents a pound. The price of cattle today has never been higher in the history of the world than it is right now."

### SATURDAYS WERE SPECIAL

Hawkins remembers fondly when Saturday nights were special in town. "There were no televisions and people came downtown to meet their friends. They went to Beck's Store to drink cold Buffalo Mead, "a carbonated drink not unlike root beer."

Hawkins, although officially retired, still conducts a few auctions. And he still keeps giving back to the community.



"Pioneer" Jon Bowman

## My Ingersoll: I like it because



"It's a nice small town to live in. London and Woodstock are close by. It's a friendly town."

Bessie Dunham

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## Congratulations to Ingersoll on your 200th Birthday!

### "SERVICE TO THE INGERSOLL COMMUNITY SINCE 1911"

In April, 1911, a connection was made to the new hydro substation on Mill Street and the first hydro electric power was turned on in Ingersoll. The completion of this project made Ingersoll one of the pioneers of hydro service and distribution in the province.

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OCTOBER 18-22, 1993

MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR!



## INGERSOLL PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

143 Bell St., Ingersoll

485-1820



# DEVELOPMENT OF INGERSOLL

By: Shirley Lovell, Curator  
Ingersoll Cheese Factory Museum

On March 23, 1793 at Newark (Niagara-on-the-Lake), Governor John Graves Simcoe placed his signature on a petition presented to him by Thomas Ingersoll, for the grant of one township. This event was probably not marked with much fanfare or hoopla for it was a scenerio that would be repeated at least 100 times over the next few years as Governor Simcoe undertook to fulfill his dream of settling Upper Canada. His policy was to entrust large tracts of land to worthy and respected individuals or groups with conditions that they bring to their respective areas a required number of permanent settlers within a designated length of time.

Although March 23, 1793 was a routine day for the governor, it was to have a significant effect on this area and the development of the Town of Ingersoll.

Thomas Ingersoll was one member of a group of associates headed by the Rev. Giddion Bostwick of Massachusetts. The others were Charles Williams, Seth Hamlon, Abel Kelson. Major Thomas Ingersoll served as a second lieutenant in the militia in 1777 and fought against the British during the American War of Independence. He had a successful business in Great Barrington, Mass., where he lived.

"Upper Canada,  
Council Chambers,  
Navy Hall, March 23rd, 1793.  
His Excellency JOHN GRAVES

*SIMCOE, Lieut.-Governor in Council assembled. His Excellency informed the Board he wished to call their attention to several petitions he had received from parties for townships. Petition was read, signed by Gideon Bostwick, Charles Williams, Seth Hamlon, Abel Kelson and Thomas Ingersoll and associates. Thomas Ingersoll appeared in behalf of himself and the above-named Petitioners and in consideration of the well-known loyalty and suffering of the Rev. Gideon Bostwick, one of the Petitioners, His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor and Council are of the opinion that he comes precisely under the description of persons who ought to be encouraged to settle in the Province; and not doubting but what he will have due regard to the principles and morals of the proposed inhabitants of his neighborhood.*

*Grant the aforesaid petition for one Township.*

*Signed,  
E.B. Littlehales."*

*(extracted from the Minutes)*

Their project has passed its first hurdle! With the guidance of his friend Chief Joseph Brant, Thomas Ingersoll chose for his settlement an area of West Oxford Township, County of Oxford, London District. It provided an abundance of fresh water, plentiful fish and game, fertile soil as well as being accessible as an inland port. It covered approximately 60,000 acres.

On Ingersoll's return to Massachusetts, advertisements were placed in American newspapers to attract prospective settlers. At this point, with their project well launched, Rev. Bostwick and his group of associates were no doubt celebrating the successful beginning of their venture. But clouds were looming on Thomas Ingersoll's horizon! Rev. Bostwick died shortly after the petition was granted, and with his passing went much of the influence that his position had carried. His death must have greatly discouraged the remaining associates who, with the exception of Thos. Ingersoll, withdrew from the

project. From this point Ingersoll is left to shoulder the burden by himself. This fact is confirmed in



later correspondence with Governor Simcoe in which Ingersoll seeks financial compensation as he had become the sole supporter of the development of the township.

The problems facing the settlement were enormous. The Stage Road leading to the area had to be improved. Lots had to be surveyed. Concession roads had to be mapped and constructed. Settlers had to be fed and cared for until they could build homes and harvest crops.

Although this proved to be a financial drain on Thos. Ingersoll's resources, by 1797 at least 40 families either lived in the area or were in the process of immigrating. The most serious blow came when Gov. Simcoe was compelled to return to England due to poor health. With a change in governor came a change in land settlement policy. Simcoe's policy was now viewed as a deterrent to settlement as some landowners might be tempted to speculate, thus many land grants were revoked. Thomas

Ingersoll wrote numerous letters to the governor but to no avail.

His friend, Colonel Thomas Talbot had encouraged him to take his plea directly to the King of England. Similar action by Talbot had led to the reinstatement of his grant. However Ingersoll, who by now had no financial resources left, could not afford the journey. He did keep his original 200 acre farm which was described in the deed register dated 1802 as the northernmost part of Lot 20 in the first concession with the broken land in front on the River Thames, Township of Oxford, Western Division in the County of Oxford in the District of London. This area encompasses Ingersoll's business section from the Thames River south to Holcroft Street.

By now the strain of the past few years had taken their toll on Thomas Ingersoll's health and he chose to move his family to Port Credit

He died there in 1812.

Some history books portray Thomas Ingersoll in an unfavorable light, as an opportunist following his release from the American Army or as a quitter who abandoned his fledgling settlement when the going got tough. Others see Thomas Ingersoll as a man of courage and determination, a man with a vision, an almost impossible dream that ruined him financially and physically. Unfortunately he did not live long enough to witness the culmination of this dream through the efforts of his sons Charles and James, a dream that began with the signing of a document on March 23, 1793.

## My Ingersoll: I like it because . . .



"The friendliness. Most people know each other. I like (that) there's a lot of activities for kids and adults."

**Ken Campbell**

Canada Post Letter Carrier

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## CONGRATULATIONS INGERSOLL ON YOUR 200TH BIRTHDAY!



# Ingersoll's Song

## INGERSOLL - OUR HERITAGE IS YOU

In days of old when the Mohawks camped right here  
 Gov'nor Simcoe granted land so dear, from  
 Great Barrington, New England Thomas Ingersoll did roam and  
 found  
 The settlers, who made this town their home.

He sold each acre for a mere sixpence  
 Two hundred years ago when trees were dense  
 The deed was signed in March of 1793  
 And Oxford-on-the-Thames, then came to be.

In wartime Laura Secord showed her bravery  
 And we recall a stagecoach robbery  
 Incorporation came in 1852 and folks  
 Then drained the pond and found our monster hoax.

The U.S. Civil War did let us seize  
 The dairy business with the first big cheese  
 But 80 stores in 1872 then burnt right down  
 And the flood of Harris Creek rushed through the town.

1900 saw the trolley car "Estelle"  
 And soon we were a town for all to tell  
 The Noxon Pipe Band formed and the pipers they did send  
 The Oxford Rifles off to war, our country to defend.

Victoria, Memorial, our parks  
 Saw concerts and champions leave their marks  
 The flood of '37 was the worst there'd ever been  
 Then visits from King George and Elizabeth our Queen.

D-Day brought to us some new war brides  
 Diaper Heights built houses side by side  
 Maude Wilson built our pool and of course we were elated  
 But one cold December night fire burnt the centre where we  
 skated

Our festival was known for cheese and wine  
 And then a train wreck happened down the line  
 Mr. Hunt worked hard and Cami came to town to hire  
 Our downtown was then burnt by one more fire.

Two hundred years have passed, we did not fail  
 Aimee McPherson, James Harris, Elisha Hall  
 And Adam Oliver, who was our mayor first of all  
 We thank you for our town called INGERSOLL.

### CHORUS:

Ingersoll -- our heritage is you and  
 Ingersoll -- your legacy is what we want to  
 share with the world and sing it loud and clear  
 That it's so great here in our town called INGERSOLL.

*(Composed and written by musician Bruce Fleming of Ingersoll,  
 at the request of the Bi-Centennial Committee)*

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# Alexandra Hospital saga 104 years of dedication

By: Pat Newman

## PART I: The Early Years

June 1993 will mark the 104th year since the concept of having a public hospital in Ingersoll was born. However, sufficient signatures could not be obtained on a petition due to the citizens' belief that it would be too costly. This was the year 1889 and the whole financial burden would have to be borne by the municipality. It was not until 1909 that the dream was realized, and until then Ingersoll had only private hospitals and private nurses.

Dr. J.M. Rogers opened the first hospital for his patients in 1898. The front rooms of what was then known as "the O'Neill house" at 106 Francis Street were used. One nurse assisted the doctor. That same year Dr. Angus McKay opened the second private hospital in the house at 252 Victoria Street (north east corner of Victoria and McKeand Sts.). Again, one nurse was in attendance.

In 1900 the doctors set up a joint hospital with then modern equipment in the Waterworth house on Oxford Avenue, a large yellow brick house on the west side of the street, no longer standing. It was here that operations and the first local hospital births took place. (Even then the doctors had an insight into the advantages of shared facilities.)

The need for increased accommodation became evident and in late 1908, the idea of establishing a local, larger hospital met little

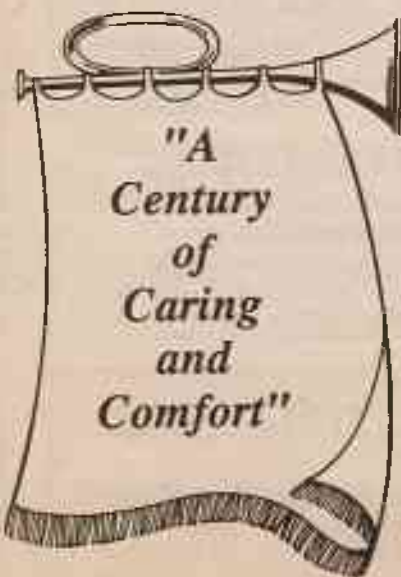
resistance. Those promoting the need for a proper facility were: Drs. Rogers, Neff, Coleridge, and Carroll. A meeting was held and citizen support was given by Joseph Gibson, postmaster; Thomas Seldon, exporter; John E. Boles, merchant; Stephen Noxon, manufacturer; George Naylor, merchant; and J. Anderson Coulter, of the Morrow Company.

On January 28, 1909 a citizens' group met in council chambers to consider properties suitable for purchase. Those being considered were - the George Christopher property on Thames Street North (now the Canadian Legion), the Kirkwood property (opposite the present hospital), and the Dr. Angus McKay home on Noxon Street (the former James Noxon house).

Dr. McKay's property could be purchased for the sum of \$8,000. with the agreement that he could keep the east field with a cottage and small barn for his four horses. Dr. McKay gave all the electric light fixtures, a 90 gallon hot water boiler, and the library book case to the hospital and very generously donated \$2,000. to the building fund. This offer was accepted and the building and site were both approved by a Dr. Bruce Smith, of Toronto. He reported that all the houses reviewed were well built and could be used for hospital purposes. At this time the Welland Hospital was newly built, and on comparing its size to one needed to service Ingersoll area, and the cost per bed being \$1,000., Dr. Smith thought that the Dr. McKay prop-

erty was quite appropriate.

A committee was appointed to procure a charter. The proper documents were sent to Toronto to the Provincial Secretary's Department. The committee was given power to set by-laws, and legal documents were drawn up. This was on April 29, 1909 and, not anticipating any delays, a suitable name had to be decided upon. It



was Dr. McKay's suggestion that the name "Alexandra" be given in honor of the wife of the reigning monarch, King Edward VII (1841-1911), the eldest son of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. The charter was granted on May 3rd, 1909.

Now the fund-raising began under provisional directors: Thomas Seldon, Stephen Noxon, Mayor George Sutherland, Raymond Hutt, Joseph Gibson, George Naylor and

John E. Boles. Legal advisor was J.L. Paterson.

## PART II: "The Noxon House"

James Noxon came to Ingersoll in the early 1850s and established the Noxon Implement Company. By 1873 this firm was the most important one in Ingersoll, employing between 200-300 men. Their farm machinery became known worldwide. It was sent not only across Canada and the United States but to the British Isles and some European countries also.

In 1874 James Noxon built a castle-like home on the street that still bears his name. It was considered one of the beauty spots of Ingersoll, set in a treed, park-like setting. It became the centre of social life in Ingersoll and belles of that age were thrilled to dance in the lighted ballroom of the beautiful house on the hill. The gracious hospitality of the Noxons was enjoyed by many noted people including Sir Wilfred Laurier when he visited Ingersoll in 1895.

This magnificent property was later purchased and occupied as a home by Dr. Angus McKay, who was a beloved physician in Ingersoll and area for many years. He was known in Toronto, where he served for 16 years in the Provincial Legislature, as "the handsome member from South Oxford."

(Footnote: Excerpts from "To the Memory of the Founders of Alexandra Hospital" dedicated by the Women's Auxiliary.)

## PART III: Nursing School

Graduates of Alexandra Hospital Nursing School 1909-1937: Reta M. Bodkin (Mrs. Aubrey Nunn); Ina Buckley (killed in car accident); Amy I. Church (Mrs. Charles Cowell); Elsie Clement; Evelyn Currie (Mrs. Ferris David); Ella A. Daniel (Mrs. Fred S. Newman); Miss Forbes; Helen Forsythe (Mrs. Allan Phillips); Violet Henry; Helen Hobart; L. Hooper; Isabel Hudson (Mrs. Alex McShimming); Miss Hughes (died while in training); Veda Kenny (Mrs. Morrison McBride); A.D. Lloyd; Pearl Lowery; Miss McDougall; Evelyn B. McEwen (Mrs. Everett Quinn); Norma McIntyre (Mrs. Currie Wilson); Agnes McKay; Ina McTierman; Madeline L. Martin (Mrs. Clarence Campbell); Lillian Maynard (one of first two grads of Ing. Training School); Elsie Minty; Emma E. Pfaff; Florence M. Pettit (Mrs. Eugene Anger); Janet E. Pringle (Mrs. Carson) Almina M. Riebel (Mrs. Grant Wright); Mary E. Robertson (Mrs. Wilfred La Flamme); Sadie E. Russell; Ethel M. Siple (one of first two grads of Ing. Training School); Violet S. Stevenson; Grace Thomas (Ms. Colin Belore); Miss Tomlinson; Ruby Turner (Mrs. Ronald White); Julia Waitson.

In the 28 years as a training school, Alexandra Hospital, Ingersoll, graduated 36 nurses. The applicants had to be between 18 and 30 years of age. The students worked 12 hour duty with a two

(Continued on Page 38)

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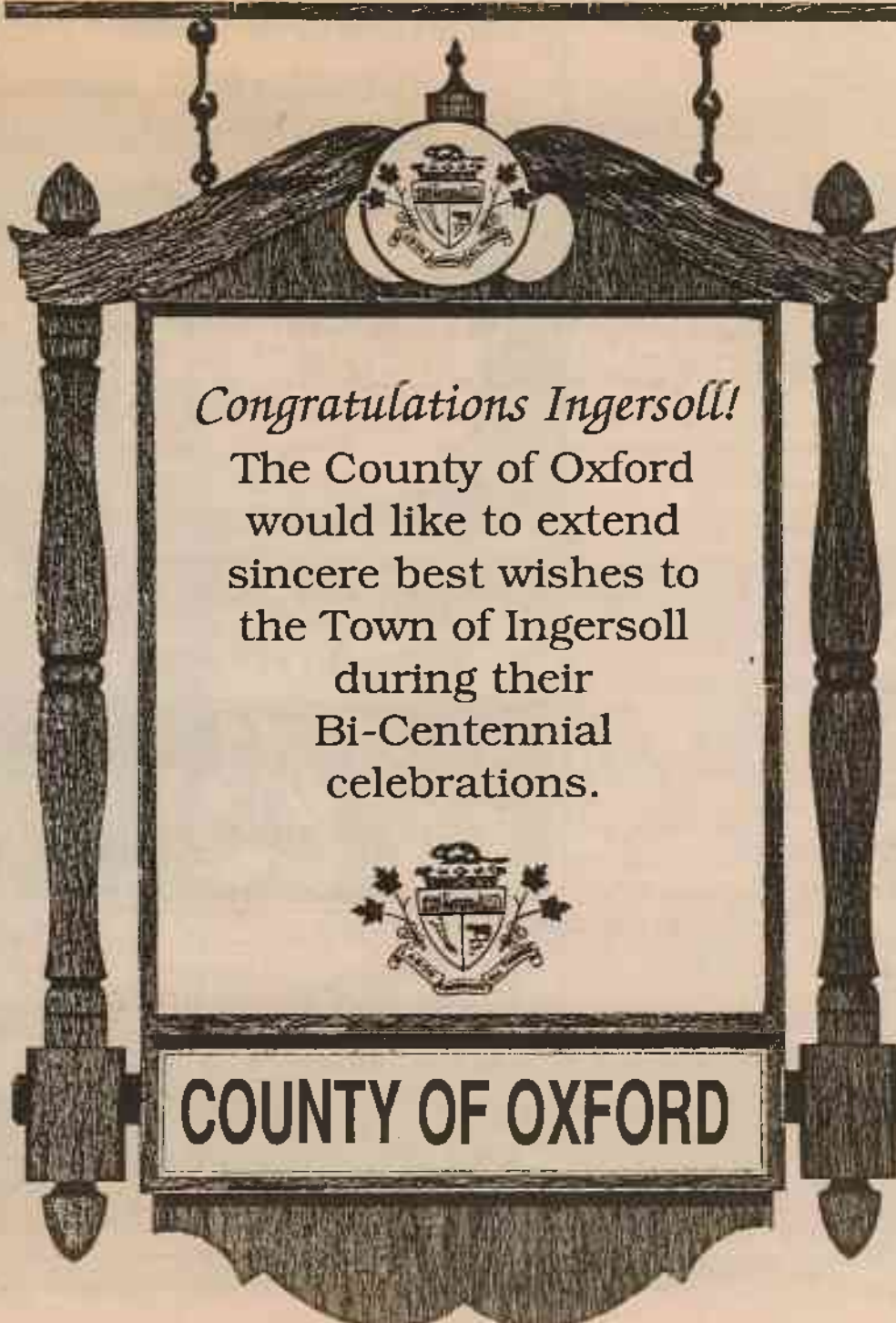
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Robert Vance  
1883 - 1888  
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George Cragg  
1888 - 1899  
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Roderick Sutherland  
1899 - 1920  
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John Radford  
1920 - 1927  
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John Williams  
1927 - 1930  
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A. B. Handley  
1930 - 1935  
Twelve hour fire of Wood's Mill.

H. Gillespie  
1935 - 1942  
While serving as chief went to war with the Commonwealth Air Training Wing. WW2.

Fred C. Ellis  
1942 - 1955  
Served as a volunteer, full-time fireman and full-time chief, total of 35 years served with his sons Don, Bill, and Tom.

A.H. Schaefer  
1955 - 1960  
Prior to becoming chief he was a volunteer fireman, and municipal buildings caretaker.

Leslie G. Harlow  
1960 - 1978  
Served for 30 years as a volunteer and member of full-time staff.

Kenneth Campbell  
1978 - 1990  
Started as a volunteer in 1949, full-time officer in 1963, chief from 1978 to retirement in 1990.

Compiled and researched by Kenneth Campbell, retired Fire Chief.

(Editor's Note: A fascinating history of the Ingersoll Fire Department has been compiled by retired Fire Chief Kenneth Campbell. It will appear on page two of our regular paper soon.)

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Providing our community with Professional-like theatre  
ITOPA now owns the Park Place Theatre. We are presently undergoing renovations, with assistance from the Ministry of Culture and Communications and donations very much appreciated from local industries and the public.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!  
PARK PLACE THEATRE • THAMES ST. S. 485-3070



# Hot Stove League invokes kaleidoscope

*It was a veritable Hot Stove League designed especially for the Ingersoll Times Bi-Centennial edition. Doug Carr had conceived the idea and hosted the meeting. Art Presswell had recruited the history buffs for the evening. Present were Joe Wilson, Nip Henderson, Lorne Moon, Fred George, Isabel Sutherland, J.C. Herbert, Presswell and Carr. The concept was that these people would share interesting ideas and anecdotes from the past that others would find interesting.*

Sutherland had been manager of Eaton's Order Office, located where Jack's store is now. Next to her was Agnew Surpass Shoe Store, managed by Doug Carr. Moon had worked for Carr and for Mike MacMillan. They all remembered the noise and strange sounds that came from a vigorous evangelical church that had quarters over Eatons. Sutherland recalls she could always hear the loud music and "people thumping around on the floor." Moon agreed and confessed to one of his youthful indiscretions. It seems one night he and five of his young buddies decided to attend one of the meetings they had heard so much about. As the minister exhorted his congregation to "Seek the power" over and over again, Moon and his friends leaped to their feet shouting "Praise the Lord". The service came to an abrupt end when the minister announced "This service will cease. The devil is amongst us". Moon and his cohorts were then unceremoniously run out of the hall.

Herbert is asked if he was aware

that James Sinclair served in the Riel Rebellion? He is also told that Charles Christie served on the HMCS Niobe in WWI. The Niobe was Canada's first cruiser and Christie travelled with her to Bermuda and Gibraltar. His paybook is in the Halifax Museum.

## ONE TIRED HORSE

Dick Stacey and Sam Smith were two Ingersoll gentlemen who performed a very essential hygienic service for the town. To carry out their duties they had a two wheeled cart pulled by a horse. The horse wore a straw hat with two holes cut into it for his ears. One day while the two men were cleaning the front street, the horse fell asleep and then fell over, said Moon and everyone came running thinking the horse had died. "It just laid there sound asleep, then got up and was fine."

Doctors were discussed with special mention going to Doctors Furlong, J.M. Rogers and C.C. Cornish "who looked after you no matter how long it took or what time of night it was".

Presswell: I was a delivery boy for Dominion Store. We came back from England and I brought the first English bike to this town. I would carry a 100 pound bag of sugar on that bike. Later I worked at the A&P Store (now McKims) and Greenaways (now Sears).

There was a customs office in Ingersoll and it was busy. Located on the third floor of the post office in 1928, a Mr. Lynch who lived on Wonham Street was in charge of it.

The 1934 Firemen's convention. When it was over many heads rolled.

A tent was put up where Ashton's Service Station was on Oxford Street. A wrestler offered to pay \$50. to anyone who could beat him.

Henderson: A big man by the name of Ken Brockmeyer would dig a hole in the ice in the river and go in with just his undershorts on. Crowds would gather to see him dive into the icy waters.

The carnival that would come every year to the market square, complete with everything including a ferris wheel.

The rivalry that would often break out into fist fights between the youth of Woodstock and Ingersoll.

The best toffee in the world was bought at Miss Francis Noe's store on King Street East. Candy was three for one cent at Miss Currie's store in the market square.

Ed Deamude's store, "He had everything and was always so glad to see you."

George: Don't forget Bigham's Restaurant. It was so important to the town. I drove a truck for them delivering ice-cream and confectionaries. They made their own candy. John Fairbairn was the candy maker in the 30s. It was a great place.

Moon: The first Coke in Ingersoll was served in the old Diana Restaurant. Edity Clipson worked there and there was a nickelodeon in the restaurant. It was the 30s and they had carbonated water and were giving out free samples. Pete Stratakos was the owner and then Pete Tatulis took over during the war.



Bruce Phillips (left) and Lorne Healey. The date was April, 1914. Bruce Phillips had just purchased his downtown grocery store and both gentlemen seem happy with the arrangement. (Photo courtesy Lloyd and Margaret Phillips)

Moon: don't forget Nip's dad! Bob Henderson was the best catcher going. He played for the Intermediate Bs. The whole town would turn out to see those games.

Cadets--remember the ICI cadets in the 30s. Bert Mole instructed the boys. It was males only. They wore putties and blue uniforms.

Herbert: The Oxford Rifles has a long and honorable history. D. Col. Stan Fuller was CO prior to me and before the war. We were camp #6 and we had 150 on parade. The armories was on Charles Street.

Carr: I remember when my father was on the road, before we moved to Ingersoll and opened the store. He would come in by train and Walt Beattie would meet him with his horse and drey. They would take all dad's wares up to the Ing-

ersoll Inn where he would have a room rented. He would put out his samples and the business people would come to look and buy.

Presswell: It was Stan Wickware with his horse and wagon who met the CNR train in 1925 when we arrived in Ingersoll from England. My mother (Mae) and my brother Frank and me were taken to our new home that way.

(Editor's Note: What a wonderful experience this was! The kaleidoscope of memories continued for a total of three hours. People, places, events, all parts of our history, were relived again in Doug Carr's apartment. Unfortunately, space does not permit us to record them all here. However, the information was all put to good use in other ways and the Ingersoll Times is most grateful to The Hot Stove League).



### 1962-1963 STAFF

Back Row (left to right): Merv Haycock, Ralph Collins, Gordon "Tee" Daniels, Ross Walters, Joe Wrona, Dave McClay, Henry Schuurs. Centre Row: Ed Mutsaers, Willy Kiersma, Art ?, Len Tye, Norm French, Jim Bakellar, Bill Herd. Front Row: Phillis Hayes, Jan Mutsaers - Service Mgr., Frank Beemer - Bus. Sales Mgr., Louis Macnab - Owner, Grant Brady - Office Mgr., Don Robinson - Parts Mgr., Helen Paddon.

## Macnab Auto Sales Limited

In 1934, Mr. Louis Macnab, started buying and repairing used cars in a small rented garage in Ingersoll. His small used car dealership was a success.

In 1946 Mr. Macnab obtained the Lincoln/Mercury franchise, one of the first in Canada, and has been associated with the Ford Motor Co. ever since. This makes Macnab the oldest Lincoln/Mercury Dealership in Oxford County.

In 1948, Mr. Macnab saw the demand for school buses and as they would be carrying "one of the most precious cargos - the children of our community," he formed Macnab Bus Sales and later became the Ontario distributor for Thomas Built Buses.

Mr. Macnab passed away suddenly in 1978 and the company was left under control of his wife, Elsie Macnab (President), and Tim Bannon (Vice-President).

When Mrs. Macnab died in 1986 Tim Bannon became President. Tim joined the company in 1972 as Assistant General Manager, later becoming Sales Manager of Macnab Auto Sales.

Macnab celebrates its 60th Anniversary in 1994.

The business now employs 38 full time people and is located at 439 Bell St. in Ingersoll on about 14 acres of land with 25,000 sq. ft. sales and service building.

**We are proud to be a part of Ingersoll's PAST AND ITS FUTURE**

439 Bell St., Ingersoll  
485-3340

Mercury, Lincoln,  
Ford Trucks

London Line 285-3413



# macnab auto sales limited



# Slaves built church

By: J. C. Herbert

Perhaps one of the most historic buildings in Ingersoll was the Wesleyan Methodist Church on Oxford Street, now the site of an office building for a firm of a chartered accountants. This church was once the most northerly point for the "Underground Railway" which brought negroes escaping slavery in the United States. It is estimated that about 400 colored people were brought to Ingersoll during and after the Civil War.

John Brown, the abolitionist spent some time here in his efforts to get recruits to help him free the slaves. His headquarters were in the Ingersoll Inn and he spoke to large audiences in the town hall. One of the waiting rooms at the Inn was called the John Brown Room.

The church was built using slave and volunteer labor in 1854. It was a three storey building with living quarters and a large utility and storage room on the upper floor.

Adam Oliver who two years later became the first mayor of the town of Ingersoll, was the builder. Because a large number of black people settled in Ingersoll, the British Methodist Episcopal Church (B.M.E.) was built on Catherine Street. The last minister was Solomon Peter Hale. The building was later used by Mr. Sutherland as a sales room for buggies and cutters. At one time a machine shop was also located in the building. It was demolished in 1976.

## Do you remember?

Ration cards...nylons that always had a seam up the back...the beehive hairdo...the short bob...a police officer at the Thames and King corner at noon hour to help the boys and girls cross the street safely...Borden's whistle calling the employees back to work at noon...the town hall bell ringing for curfews?

War bond drives...saving tin foil to foil the enemies' radar (you took it to Harry Burton at the Mill Street sub station)...picking milkweed pods (collected to make parachute silk)...having to wait for your vacation to take time off to have surgery...the gypsies coming through town...men coming around to the house to sharpen your knives...other men walking the streets with a pony, hoping to take a picture of your child with it...?

I.D.C.I. Literary Society meetings at the old town hall...Saturday night dances at the old town hall...dances at the arena every weekend with the CKNX barn dance band a great hit and the I.O.D.E. chapters running the coat check and the food concession...the night the old arena burned...zoot suits...bell bottoms...maxi skirts...mini skirts...the wonderful smell of leaves burning in fall bonfires...skating on Smiths Pond?

These Churches and Their Congregations Wish To Congratulate Ingersoll On Their Bi-Centennial Celebrations

**SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE**  
10:00a.m.  
Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Service  
Nursery provided

**Fellowship Baptist Church**  
Ingersoll, Ontario  
Church of the Open Word

**Ingersoll District High School, Alma Street**  
PASTOR: David K. MacBain, Th.M. - 485-0727

**THE SALVATION ARMY CHURCH**

Pastors: Captains Leslie and Edna Rowe  
Sunday Services: 9:30 A.M. - Sunday School  
11:00 A.M. - Holiness meeting  
7:00 P.M. - Salvation meeting  
Tuesday 7:30 P.M. - Prayer and Bible Study  
Wednesday 7:30 P.M. - Ladies' fellowship  
We will celebrate 110 years of Ministry and Service in Ingersoll June 5th-6th, 1993

**West Oxford United Church**  
*The Little Country Church 'With A Big Heart'*

**CONGRATULATES INGERSOLL!**  
Mother Church of Methodism. Founded in 1804 by Rev. Nathan Bangs, a saddle-bag preacher. A small, energetic and friendly congregation working together in the community to strengthen and promote Christian ethics.  
We welcome you as a visitor or new member.

**ST. PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church welcomes the opportunity to participate in the Bi-centennial celebration of Ingersoll. Organized as a presbyterian church in 1849 it has ministered to the Ingersoll area since that time. It welcomes those who have no church home to worship with us. Visitors are always welcome.  
As part of the Bi-centennial celebration, an invitation is being extended to former ministers and students from St. Paul's who have entered the ministry to conduct service during the summer months. We hope you will help us extend a welcome to them when they return.

**INGERSOLL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**  
429 King Street, West, Ingersoll  
John M.V. Koole, Pastor 485-3906

**SERVING GOD IN INGERSOLL 1953-1993**  
WORSHIP SERVICES - 10 A.M. AND 7 P.M.  
Nursery provided, Sunday School during morning worship to age 12  
Religious instruction for handicapped Monday evenings  
Come meet us, join us for worship.

**ST. JAMES' ANGLICAN CHURCH**  
184 Oxford Street, Ingersoll

**SUNDAY WORSHIP: 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**  
JOIN US!!!  
Church office - 485-0385  
THE REV. LOUISE PETERS

**First Baptist Church**  
*"A Church For People On the Grow"*

**CHURCH 485-3046**

WE CARE ABOUT PEOPLE AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, because we are more than just another institution: *we are people*, people who worship and serve Jesus Christ together.  
SINCE 1858, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HAS BEEN  
FIRST IN CARING  
FIRST IN SHARING,  
FIRST IN SERVING,  
FIRST IN LOVING,  
FIRST IN GROWING DEEPER.  
And we are committed to continuing that great tradition, providing programs for all ages to meet the needs of the total family. *While we're proud of our past, we're not stuck in its ruts!* We continue to change to meet the needs of each new generation.  
**COME AND GROW WITH US AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH!**

PASTOR - REV. THOM BRELSFORD  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR - REV. JIM SANDERSON  
ORGANIST DANIEL DURKSON

**Trinity United**  
King and Church Streets, Ingersoll

**Pastor**  
The Reverend Barry J. Robinson B.A., B.D.  
Pastoral Associate Susan E. Robinson  
Director of Music Andrew Boume B. Mus., B.Ed., A.R.C.T.

**WORSHIP - SUNDAY 11:00 A.M.**  
Sunday School, Nursery, Mid-Week Groups  
Fellowship and Study for all ages.  
CELEBRATING 189 YEARS OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

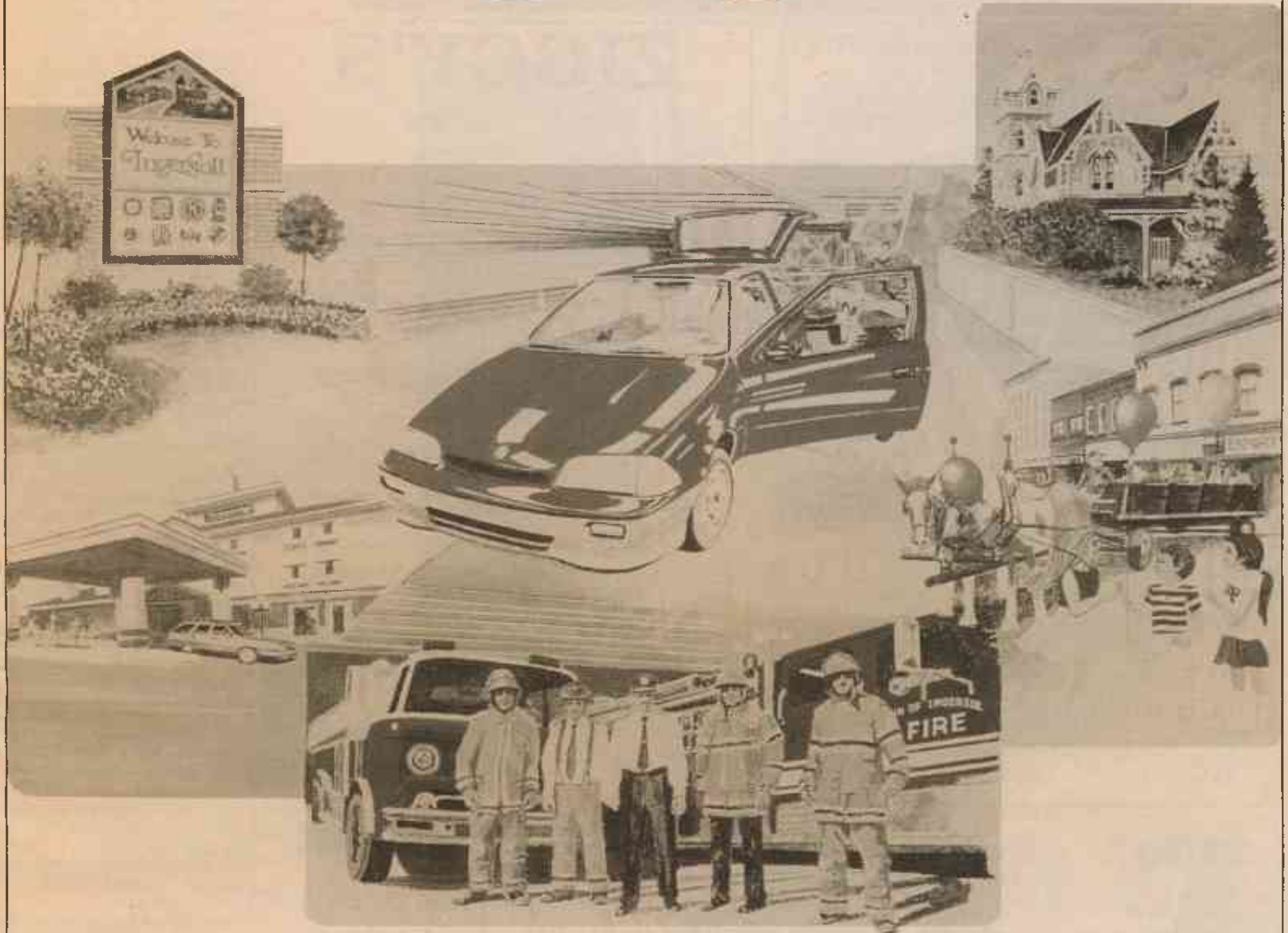
**SACRED HEART ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
131 Thames St. N., Ingersoll, Ont.  
(Ph: 485-1802)

**PASTOR: Rev. M. Kaminski**  
**ASSOCIATE: Rev. R. Masse**

**WEEKEND MASS TIMES:**  
Sat. Evening: 7:30 pm  
Sunday: 8:00am, 10:00am, 12:00pm  
**WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:**  
Sat Morning: 9:00 am  
Daily: 7:00 pm



# Ingersoll



## A Heritage and a Future

**200 YEARS OF STABILITY AND PROGRESSION**



**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF INGERSOLL**





**CAC** **INGERSOLL CREATIVE ARTS CENTRE**  
**ART IN THE PARK**  
 Saturday, June 12 - 10 am - 9 pm  
 Sunday, June 13 - 10 am - 5 pm  
 345 Hall St. in Victoria Park 485-4691

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 \* unisex haircare \* tanning  
 \* nails \* waxing  
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**INGERSOLL BIG V DRUG STORE**  
  
 Proudly Serving Ingersoll & Area!  
 110 Oxford St. 485-2230  
 Mon.-Fri. 9 to 9  
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 Sunday & Holidays 11-5  
**FREE DELIVERY**


**GIBRALTAR TRADE CENTER**  
*The Ultimate Flea & Farmer's Market*  
 Part of Ingersoll since 1992  
**THAMES ST. S. 425-0823**

**WE SELL & INSTALL TRAILER HITCHES**  
 • Minor Repairs also available  
**MURRAY'S RADIATOR & AIR CONDITIONING SERVICE**  
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 P.T. SHUM PHARMACY LIMITED  
 48 CHARLES ST. W., INGERSOLL, ONT. **485-4560**  
**STORE HOURS**  
 Mon.-Fri. 9 am-10 pm  
 Sat. 9 am - 7 pm  
 Sun. 10 am - 6 pm  
**Proud to be part of this great community!**  
**EVERYTHING YOU WANT IN A DRUGSTORE!**

Hunting • Fishing • Archery  
**HAGAN GUN & TACKLE**  
 42 Thames St. S., Ingersoll, Ontario N5C 2Z9  
**DAVE HAGAN (519) 485-1800**

**ESTABLISHED 1907**  
  
 120 Thames St. S. Ingersoll  
**485-3310**  
 "Let Zurbrigg's do your Baking"

**RECORDS UNLIMITED**    
 103 Thames St. South, Ingersoll, Ont. N5C 2T3  
 Phone 485-5081 Fax 519-485-5081  
**AUDIO-VIDEO**  
**CASSETTES** Mon. - Thurs. 9 - 5:30 **CASSETTES**  
**CDs** Fri. 9 - 9 Sat. 9 - 5 **CDs**  
**T-SHIRTS** **T-SHIRTS**  
**SERVING INGERSOLL FOR 17 of Its 200 Years**  
**SPECIAL ORDERS ALWAYS WELCOME**

 **SAFETY CHECKS (Licensed Mechanic on Duty)**  
**GENERAL CAR & TRUCK REPAIRS**  
**COMPLETE RAD SERVICE & GAS TANKS**  
**BIDWELL'S TOWING & RADIATOR SERVICE**  
**485-4705**  **CAA NAL DAA**  
 If No Answer Call 539-7791  
 24 Hour Emergency Service

**LILLIAN'S Beauty Salon**  **SERVING INGERSOLL & AREA SINCE 1959**  
**Hours:** Tues. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
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 Open Thurs. evenings by appt.  
 151 Thames St. S. **485-1060**

**OLD LIGHT FIXTURES AND OIL LAMPS BOUGHT AND SOLD**  
**SERVICES OFFERED:**  
 Brass, Copper - Polished  
 Lifetime Trade-In Value  
 Coating Guaranteed  
 Lighting Fixtures - Rewired  
**Shoult's Antique Lighting & Brass**  
 345 KING STREET WEST, INGERSOLL, Ont. N5C 2K9  
 D. KENT SHOULTS (519) 485-1440  
 Open 7 a.m. - 5 p.m., 7 days a week - Evenings by Appointment  


**J. Allen reveals interesting data**

James Allen of Thames Street North, had some interesting treasurers to share with the Times' readers.

An old picture of the first T.N. Dunn Hardware Store will surprise many people. The first store was located on the south east corner of Thames Street. A picture of it appeared in the 1907 Ingersoll Sun.

Another family picture shows a group of people packing apples at the T.C. Harris Farm. The accounts ledger for that year indicates that the types of apples grown then were: Greenings, Grimes, Golden, Kings, Baldwins, English Table Russets, Golden Russett, Spy and Spitzenburg.

Allen will be sharing more glimpses of the past with readers in future editions of The Ingersoll Times.

**Hospital**

(Continued from Page 33)

hour rest period for day duty. Lectures were given by the medical staff in the hospital library.

A monthly allowance "to cover expenses" was paid to the students - first year \$5.00; intermediate year \$8.00 and senior year \$10. per student. During these early years, the superintendent was the only "training nurse" with the rest of the nursing staff composed of "student nurses". This meant that she filled the position of surgical, obstetrical, X-ray and emergency nurse.

Alexandra Hospital was fortunate in having Miss Ada C. Hodges as its first superintendent from 1909-1937. Miss Hodges was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Hodges of London, Ontario. She graduated from West Side Hospital, Chicago, Illinois in 1901, and remained in the United States for three years - during part of this time taking post graduate studies in surgical nursing. After returning to London, she worked there for five years, then came to Alexandra Hospital when it opened. She was well qualified and it was her untiring efforts and capable supervision that gave Alexandra such an efficient beginning.

Marking her 25th year as superintendent, the Women's Auxiliary to the Hospital Trust presented Miss Hodges with a lovely silver tray suitably engraved.

In June 1937, the last graduation ceremony supervised by Miss Hodges, Mr. George Sutherland, first president of the Hospital Trust, on behalf of the trustees presented her with a cheque. Mr. Sutherland remarked that she had won the respect and love of each graduate and that she had given her best, not just to Ingersoll, but to the whole of Oxford County. During her tenure as superintendent, a radio was given to the hospital by Mr. Raymond H. Swetland of Cleveland, Ohio, a friend of the Hodges family. It was one of the first radios installed in any hospital in this area.

In 1937 the Nurses Training School, Alexandra Hospital, was closed by the Provincial Department of Health following an order-in-council that all training schools in smaller hospitals should be eliminated.

(Excerpts from "Alexandra Hospital, Ingersoll 1909-1950")  
 (Editor's Note: Further historical articles from the hospital will appear during Bi-Centennial year.)



# I.D.C.I Reunion

## May 14, 15 & 16/93



### SATURDAY MAY 15, 1993

10:00 am SCHOOL OPENS  
11:00 am OFFICIAL WELCOME

#### SPORTING EVENTS:

11:15 am • Students of the 40s and earlier  
12:00 pm • Students of the 50s  
1:00 pm • Students of the 60s  
2:00 pm • Students of the 70s  
3:00 pm • Students of the 80s and 90s

Light refreshments will be served.

#### AS FOLLOWS:

12:00 pm • Flag Football - Lower Field  
• Co-Ed Slo-pitch Game - Upper Field  
• Basketball Games - Gym #3  
• Volleyball Games - Outdoor Courts  
• Soccer Game - Upper Field  
4:00 pm • SCHOOL CLOSÉS

### SUNDAY MAY 16, 1993

10:00 am • **School Opens**  
Former Students free to tour Period Rooms  
10:00 am to 2:00 pm • **Reunion Brunch in Cafeteria**  
Sponsored by IDCI Athletic Society  
3:00 pm • **OFFICIAL CLOSING** in Gym #4  
4:00 pm • **School Closes**

MANY THANKS TO THESE FORMER I.D.C.I. STUDENTS WHO ARE INGERSOLL BUSINESS PEOPLE AND HAVE DONATED TO MAKE THIS ADVERTISEMENT POSSIBLE.

BRUCE COLE INSURANCE	Bruce Cole
COYLE AND GREE AWARDS CANADA LTD.	Brenda (Coyle) Schiedel
DAN NAIRN C.G.A.	Dan Nairn
HUMAN SYNERGISTICS	Mike Pellow
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NESBITT COULTER CARR Barristers	James Carr
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P.T. WALKER LTD.	Scott Walker
REALTY WORLD-LANDEX	Joan (McWilliam) Stephenson
ROSS DIXON FINANCIAL SERVICES	Hugh Ponting/Mark Ellis
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WAYNE G. CAMPBELL REAL ESTATE LTD.	Wayne Campbell
WEST END SERVICE	Bob & Sheril (Hansford) McClintock

**Friday & Saturday Evenings School Play**  
**Wizard of Oz**

8:00 pm - 10:30 pm  
Tickets available in advance or at the door.

**Saturday Cheese & Wine Reception**

7:00 pm - 11:00 pm  
Hosted by Ingersoll Lions Club @ **INGERSOLL COMMUNITY ARENA**

## All Former Students Invited

OUR I.D.C.I. REUNION COMMITTEE APPRECIATES THEIR SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY.

### REGISTRATION AND SOUVENIR FORM PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION WITH CHEQUE BY MAY 17/93

PAYABLE TO "IDCI IN TRUST" 37 Alma Street, Ingersoll, Ont. N5C 1N1 Attention: Eleanore Wardrop

REGISTRATION FEE \$5.00 PER ADULT # \_\_\_\_\_ tickets @ \$5.00 Per Person = \_\_\_\_\_

#### REUNION EVENTS

CHEESE & WINE RECEPTION \_\_\_\_\_ tickets @ \$3.00 Single/\$5.00 Couple = \_\_\_\_\_

SUNDAY BRUNCH \_\_\_\_\_ tickets @ \$5.00 Per Person = \_\_\_\_\_

total = \_\_\_\_\_

#### SPORTS EVENTS

I left IDCI in \_\_\_\_\_ and I am interested in participating in:

• \_\_\_\_\_ Volleyball • \_\_\_\_\_ Co-Ed Slo-pitch • \_\_\_\_\_ Soccer  
• \_\_\_\_\_ Flag Football • \_\_\_\_\_ Basketball

#### WIZARD OF OZ

FRIDAY PERFORMANCE # \_\_\_\_\_ tickets @ \$6.00 Per Person = \_\_\_\_\_  
SATURDAY PERFORMANCE # \_\_\_\_\_ tickets @ \$6.00 Per Person = \_\_\_\_\_

#### SOUVENIRS

— To avoid disappointment please pre-pay; limited number of items will be available at the door.

T-SHIRT . . . . . # (M) \_\_\_\_\_ (L) \_\_\_\_\_ (XL) \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$12.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
SWEATSHIRT . . . . # (M) \_\_\_\_\_ (L) \_\_\_\_\_ (XL) \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
SPORTS STEIN . . . . . # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 5.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
COFFEE MUG . . . . . # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 5.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

NAME(s): \_\_\_\_\_

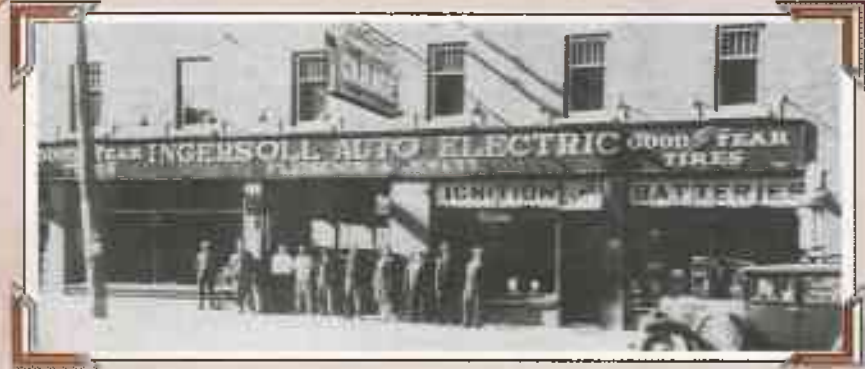
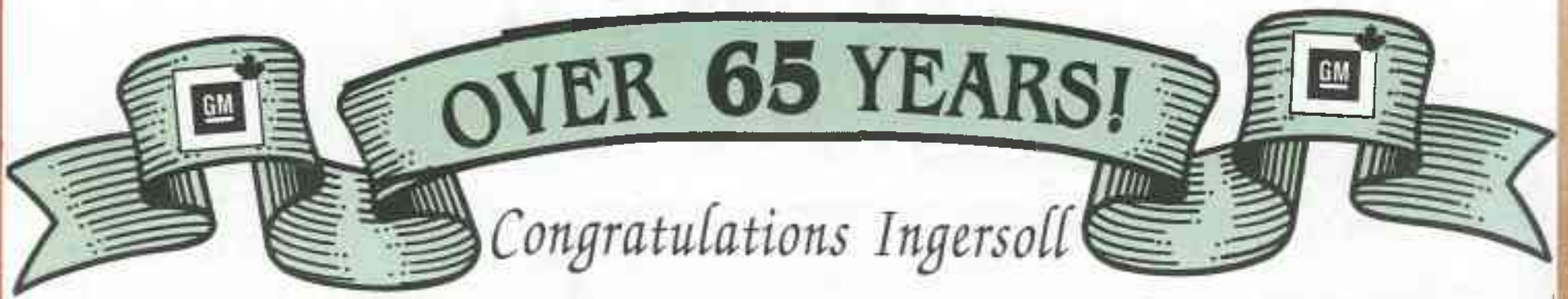
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AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY FOR



*circa 1929*  
The original Fleischer & Jewett building on Thames St. S.



*circa 1972*  
Lloyd Hall Motors

# THEN



1928 Buick Standard Country Club Roaster Coupe



1926 Pontiac 6.27 Landau Coupe

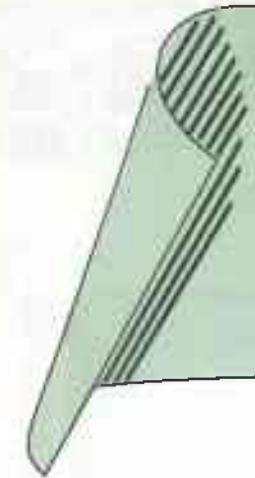
## HONOUR ROLL OF INGERSOLL GM DEALERS

### CHEV-OLDS

- 1945 — John W. Miller
- 1954 — M. C. Rigby
- 1954 — Harry Nesbitt
- 1958 — J. Huron Clark
- 1961 — P. T. Fleischer
- 1965 — Robert W. Jewett
- 1988 — Paul G. Burroughs
- 1992 — Rod Dench

### PONTIAC-BUICK

- 1937 — Roy Odell
- 1955 — P. Lloyd Morgan & Norman M. Allen
- 1959 — Norman M. Allen
- 1959 — Peter Lloyd Morgan
- 1961 — P. L. Morgan & Clifford W. Jamieson
- 1964 — Lloyd V. Hall & P. L. Morgan
- 1970 — Lloyd V. Hall
- 1973 — Gary Cochrane



1993  
Rod Dench



1993  
Gary Cochrane

**ROD Dench**  
CHEVROLET GEO OLDSMOBILE LTD.  
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1793

CELEBRATING

1993

Ingersoll's

# BI-CENTENNIAL

THE CONTINUING STORY

**1993 PROGRESS EDITION**

BUILDING ON THE PAST TO MAKE A BRIGHT FUTURE

The Ingersoll Times

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1993  
SECTION 2





### Dr. Bruce Halliday expresses thanks



As I near the end of my responsibilities as Oxford's Member of Parliament, it is with mixed feelings that I prepare my last comments for a Progress Edition, and I thank the Ingersoll Times for the opportunity.

It is very gratifying to see the great steps forward that Ingersoll is taking this year. After some unpredictable and unavoidable setbacks in its business community, a number of thoughtful and innovative people have carefully developed a progressive plan, the elements of which are now becoming apparent. All of those who have been involved in this process are to be commended. We look forward to seeing these plans put in motion.

In connection with my retirement from public life, while I am looking forward to a less hectic pace, I suspect that I shall miss my frequent contacts over the years with the people of Ingersoll. I have appreciated your co-operation and wish you continued success.

Dr. Bruce Halliday, M.P. Oxford



### Mayor Rodenhurst

On behalf of the Town of Ingersoll, we congratulate *The Ingersoll Times* on the second edition of its heritage issue.

It is encouraging to see so much interest in Ingersoll's history and its future. Only by learning from past mistakes and successes can we make proper decisions for today and tomorrow. Ingersoll has a proud history and a bright future.

Although a thriving industrial centre, we have been able to maintain a small-town atmosphere and remain a friendly, open community. Progress has been obtained without the sacrifice of our unique history.

We look forward to a bright future and economic prosperity along with maintaining our heritage. The modern expansion of our town can be accomplished through proper planning and respect for historical aspects and quality of life.

It is our wish that the next 200 years are as exciting and fulfilling as our first 200 years. Happy Bi-Centennial.

### Oxford MPP optimistic about town's future



Once again I've been invited to share my views about Ingersoll's future for the annual Progress Edition. And this year more than ever, I am optimistic about the Town's prospects.

I realize Ingersoll has faced its share of economic woes and setbacks such as the downtown fire. But from those problems springs new and stimulating solutions.

Last July the Town received \$960,000. from the jobsOntarioCommunityAction program to implement its downtown revitalization strategy which was developed by a committee. They identified a set of problems, conducted research, analyzed their information, and came up with a plan of action.

Once completed, the project will provide improvements to both public infrastructure and the downtown's overall appearance to encourage new private sector investment and increase tourism. With the matching funds from the town, this project is expected to create 448 weeks of short-term employment and 23 full-time jobs.

The combination of the jobsOntarioCommunityAction grant, increased employment at CAMI Automotive, and recent announcements of new private sector investment in the Town, should make everyone feel more positive about its future.

Ingersoll has battled back from adversity, and without doubt, will be even stronger in the years ahead.

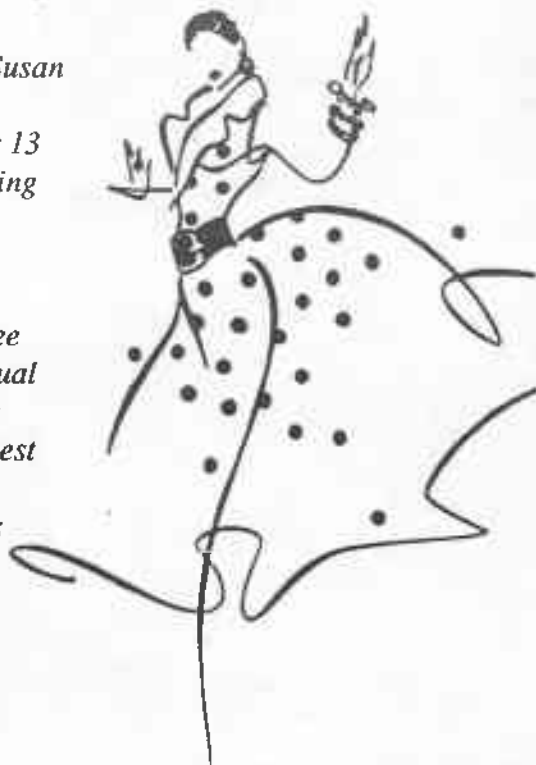
Kimble Sutherland, M.P.P. Oxford

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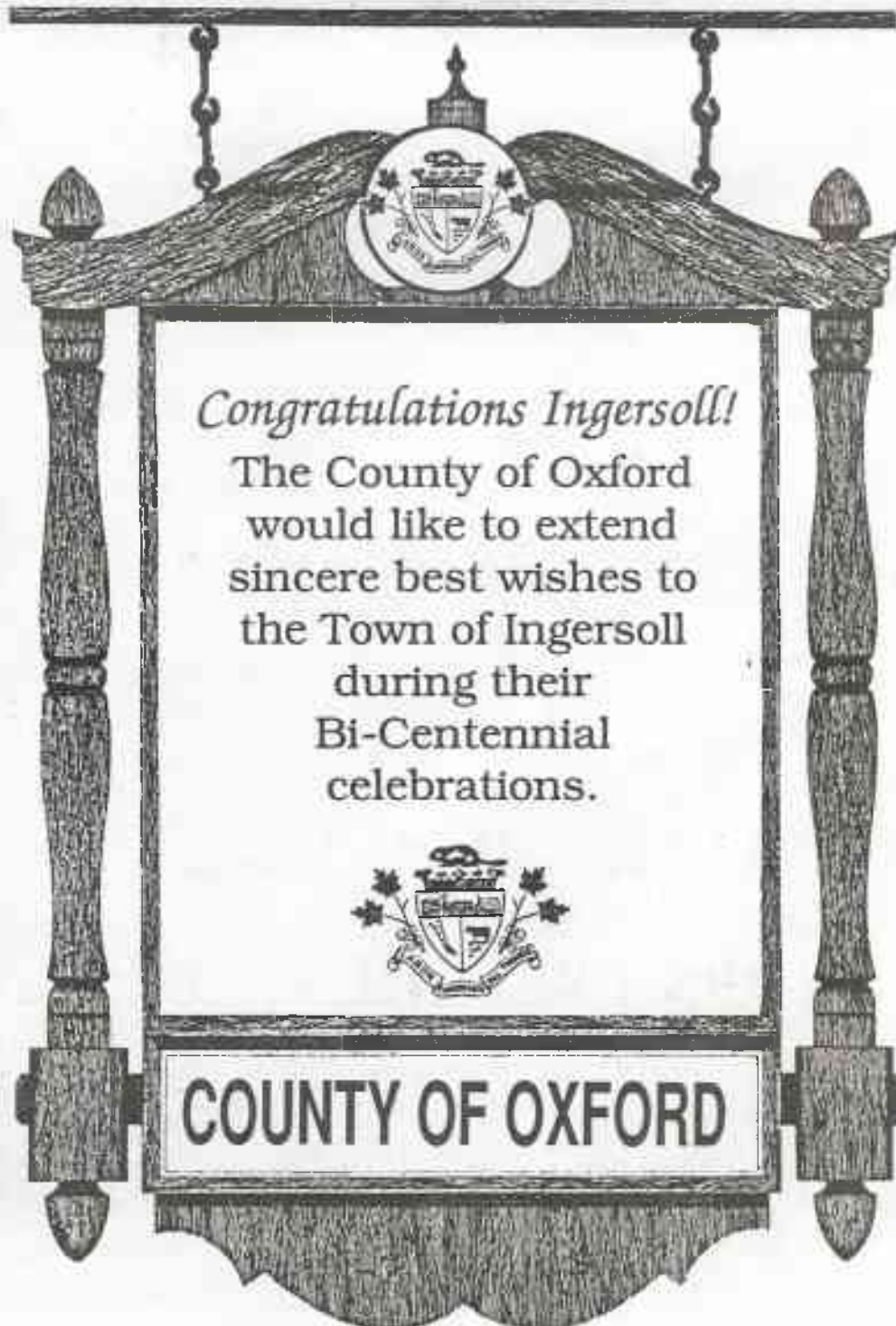


We are pleased to be a part of Ingersoll's Bi-Centennial celebration

**"PROUD TO BE A PART OF INGERSOLL"**

122 Thames St. S.

485-3895



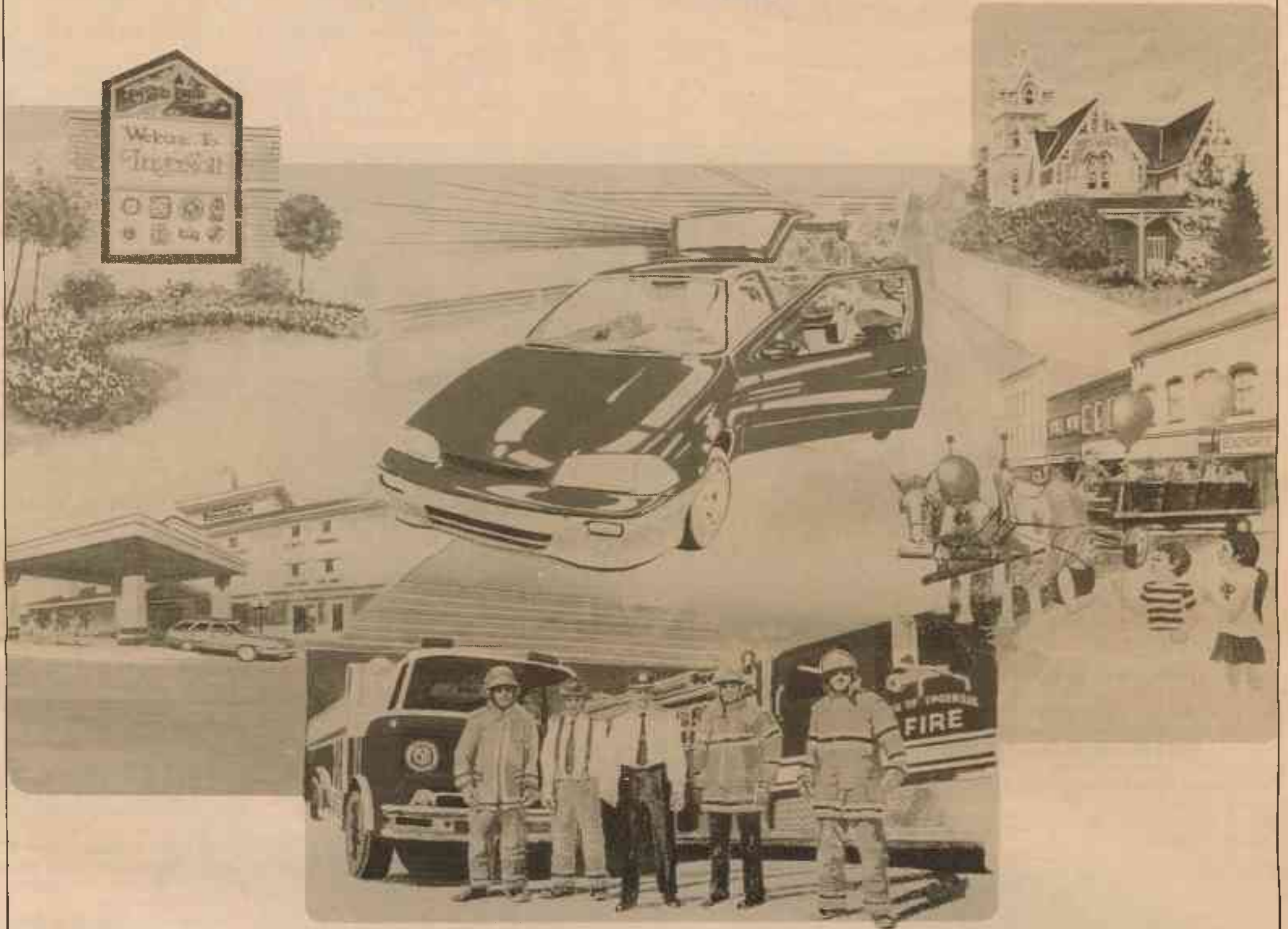
*Congratulations Ingersoll!*  
The County of Oxford would like to extend sincere best wishes to the Town of Ingersoll during their Bi-Centennial celebrations.



**COUNTY OF OXFORD**



# Ingersoll



## A Heritage and a Future

**200 YEARS OF STABILITY AND PROGRESSION**



**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF INGERSOLL**



# "Building On The Past to Make a Bright Future"

## Lieutenant-Colonel

### John Moyer

John Moyer, the son of Ken Moyer and the late Belle Moyer, has good memories of Ingersoll. He resided with his parents on Mutual and Merritt Streets and attended Princess Elizabeth School, Victory Memorial School and IDCI. Those memories include being a member of the 1963 champion midget baseball team; and parading with the Ingersoll Pipe Band at the Indy 500. He left Ingersoll in 1967.

Still serving as a lieutenant-colonel in the Canadian Army, his interests include fitness and community activities. John and his wife Brenda (nee Wilson) have a daughter, Sara. He notices a "general aging" of the downtown area and suggests that since people have become more mobile they probably frequent London, Woodstock and Toronto. The positive aspects he cites are "friendliness and a feeling of roots."

Current Address:  
115 Rue De Mesy  
St. Bruno, Quebec.

## FRONT COVER

It was nearly 20 years ago that the train derailment and collision in downtown Ingersoll shocked the community. The date was May 30, 1974.

Statistics show 75 people were involved, with 57 taken to the hospital. Ingersoll services were highly commended on the way in which the rescue work was handled.

This picture was presented to the Mayor of Ingersoll, Gordon B. Henry, at a special dinner in June 1974 by the C.N.R. The elusive lady is a mystery. She is from Ingersoll and was featured in the book *The Hugill Chronicles*. Its author, David Gibson, is offering a \$100., reward to the first person to identify the lovely Hugill subject. (Photos courtesy Gordon B. Henry and David Gibson).

*Whatever happened to...*



### Rev. Michael Lawson

The son of Molly and Dr. John Lawson, Michael resided with his parents at 60 King Street West. After attending Victory Memorial School and IDCI, he left Ingersoll in 1967 to attend university.

Summer classes at the Maude Wilson Memorial Swimming Pool are listed as the most memorable

thing he did while here. A member of the Anglican clergy for 20 years, his hobbies include working in shelters and food banks; and cross-country skiing.

He has very rarely returned to Ingersoll "because I am never in Southern Ontario". When he has been here he has noticed a differ-

ence in the stores, but feels the layout of the main area has remained the same.

His family includes his wife Marina; their son Dennis and daughter Nicola.

Current Address:  
Box 820, Bon Accord  
Alberta T0A 0K0

## CAROL TABOR

The daughter of Harry and Maisie Masters, Carol grew up at 8 Chisholm Drive and attended Victory Memorial School and I.D.C.I.

Good memories of Ingersoll are part of her heritage. She particularly enjoyed the musicals at the I.D.C.I., working at the hospital here, attending and being part of friends' weddings. Carol left Ingersoll in 1967.

A registered nurse, she enjoys working as well as taking care of her family, husband David and one

16 year old son Darryl. Many hobbies, including camping in a trailer, golf, church activities, RNAO and Big Sister, fill up any spare time she might have.

Returning to Ingersoll, Carol finds there is more housing than she was accustomed to: Cami, the Victoria Park complex and the fire site down town as the biggest changes. Things that have remained the same to her are the churches, some of the downtown and the golf course.

Carol notes that she particularly enjoyed the July 1992 high school reunion. She describes Ingersoll as "a great place to grow up; quiet and safe".

Current address: 366 Lansdowne St., Woodstock.

## CARL MILLARD

Do you remember Carl Millard, who as an enterprising young man in his 20s, operated a feed store and flour and grist mill? The locale was a large building, long since demolished, next to Harvest Trends on King Street. This dates back to the 1930s.

While at the mill, Carl got interested in flying. His inspiration came from the late Tom Williams, whose reputation and expertise as flyer were well known. By 1935 Carl had caught the flying bug and it was incurable. He never looked back!

In 1946 he sold the mill to a Mr. Marsh who operated it for a number of years. Many people will remember back in 1939 and 1940 when Carl had his own small plane and took passengers up, from a field on the farm of James Ruddick north of Ingersoll, for the sum of \$1.00.

In 1963 when Millard was 60 years of age he acquired his own eight-passenger Cessna Citation Jet aircraft, the first jet of its kind to be used by a charter firm in Canada. This aircraft would make direct flight from Montreal to London in 55 minutes.

Carl served as captain of Trans Canada airlines (now Air Can) for some 14 years before starting his own charter business in 1955, flying under name Millardair Ltd.

He spent his early years at the Foldens Corners Farm of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Millard. He has been flying for over 50 years and is just as enthusiastic today as he was 55 years ago.. In 1993 Carl still operated a charter service with 20 planes in his fleet.

Wayne Millard, son of Carl and his late wife Dell, inherited the flying bug and is presently a captain with Canada 3000 Airlines.

Carl enjoys visiting family and friends in the Ingersoll area and reminiscing about those "good old days". The welcome mat is always out at his establishment for his friends and relatives who "have played an important part in my life".

Changes in Ingersoll? Carl says "I'm sorry to say, Ingersoll has lost much of its historical character through the demolition of so many of its beautiful old buildings, buildings that gave Ingersoll an identity of its own. For example, the Royal Bank building, the post office and the town hall were replaced with nondescript buildings and a parking lot."



Carl Millard



# SWIMMING, HOCKEY AND A BAND

"What? a YMCA in Ingersoll!"  
 "Yes siree - and a very active one too that served Ingersoll and District and lived the slogan of the "Y" - Spirit, Mind and Body Building".  
 "Yea, well tell me more."

St. James Anglican Church built a big addition to the church in 1921, which still serves the church well as its Sunday School and hall for dinners and meetings. In the basement a good sized gymnasium was built.

E.A. Wilson was a great and generous supporter of St. James Church. He was also a community activist. He owned and operated Morrow Screw & Nut Co. Ltd. and Ingersoll Machine & Tool Ltd. and was a genius in operating his businesses. He also was very interested in his community and in the opportunities for the youth of Ingersoll and district.

It bothered Wilson greatly that there was a gymnasium practically lying idle. He felt a means should be found to have it properly utilized by the youth and people of the town. Wilson discussed this with other leaders such as Heath Stone, President, and Reg Stone, General Manager Wm. Stone & Son and other leading citizens such as Roy Start a prominent lawyer and Roy Green - Royal Bank Manager.

Contact was made with the head office of the "Y" in Toronto and shortly thereafter a Y secretary, Herb Handley came to start at the Y in Ingersoll. His early endeavors were interesting business men to join the "Y" to play volleyball and do other exercises to keep in good health. He also started some youth

basketball and volleyball teams.

### Hide Building

The YMCA board of directors was set up and Wm. Stone & Sons donated a building which had been used as an animal hide building for receiving and curing of hides. This Oxford Street building was renovated and made into an acceptable facility for the Y secretary to operate from. There were kitchen facilities, a room to serve 40 to 50 people, and a board room also used as the Y secretary's office. These events occurred in the early and mid 1930s.

Herb Handley moved on to work in another community and a new Y secretary Laurie Summers came to Ingersoll. He was a very outgoing

chap and soon more things began to happen.

### Finances

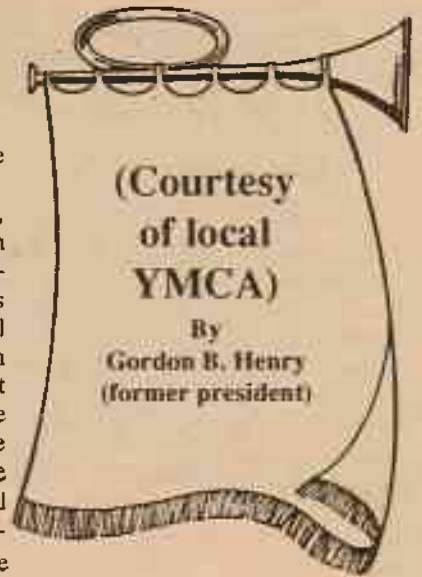
Finances were important but more emphasis was always placed on service to the youth. The community had confidence in the "Y" program and the "Y" had confidence in the community.

Each October, many volunteer canvassers went out door to door and business to business to raise the necessary funds to balance the books - very seldom a surplus.

Industries, mostly owned or controlled locally, gave steady support. The merchants were also good supporters. The Y's Men's Club held an annual radio auction which helped the coffers considerably with

items for auction donated by the merchants.

Canvassers were the Y's Men, their wives and friends which included canvass teams from Kiwanis and Lions clubs. Some years an unexpected expenditure would take place and a temporary loan arranged at the Imperial Bank. At times this required four or five board members to co-sign a note for the loan. Invariably, before the end of the year, the debt would disappear. Very quietly and unannounced, E.A. Wilson would have the debt erased so that the Y could start the new year without a deficit. This article writer pays grateful tribute to E.A. Wilson who so quietly and effectively used his talents in assisting the Y in sugges-



tion and through funds.

The Maude Wilson Memorial Pool was donated to the town by the members of the Wilson Family.

It was found that in 1971 the pool required major repairs amounting to \$75,000. John Loveridge who managed Morrows & Ingersoll Machine offered to have the two companies contribute a total of \$25,000. The mayor called Harold Wilson at his home on Montsaut Island and explained the problem. As a result, the members of the Wilson family equalled the contributions of the two firms which were then owned by Ivaco Ltd. Thus we had \$50,000. In two above mentioned contributions and the Town of Ingersoll paid the balance which with some added expenditure came to slightly over \$25,000. However, the pool was able to continue as in the past to serve Ingersoll and district with top quality swimming instruction.

### Gym Classes

One of the main users of St.

(Continued on Page 7)



The Ingersoll Y's Men's Boys Band (photo courtesy Rita Jones)

"WE TAKE THE DENTS OUT OF ACCIDENTS"

## 'BOB' FAIRBANKS AUTOBODY

Proud members of the Ingersoll community since 1967

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'A Commitment Continues'

A Tree Tribute Program was implemented in Ingersoll by McBeath Funeral Home to place trees in Ingersoll Parks.

Pre-need counseling since 1954

**DOUGLAS A. DYNES**  
 DIRECTOR





Part of Ingersoll's past is captured in this photo. When *The Ingersoll Times* was unable to contact Carolyn McGaw, who loaned this picture, we asked Jack Cole, an authority on the Borden Company, to comment on the picture. The driver is Len McCauley. Cole explained that the St. Charles Condensing Company actually built what became Borden's. The evaporated milk, on the cart, was made here for the St. Charles company. Cole could not put a date on the photo, but knew it was taken prior to 1937 when he joined the company. (photo courtesy of Carolyn McGaw)

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## FARM HOME AUTO

*"Congratulations, Ingersoll  
on the celebration of your  
Bi-Centennial"*



**Oxford**  
Mutual Insurance Company

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## CONGRATULATIONS INGERSOLL

*The Board of Trust, staff and volunteers of Alexandra Hospital wish to congratulate Ingersoll on its 200th anniversary.*

*We are proud to have been able to contribute to the health-care needs of this thriving community.*

*As Ingersoll enters its third century, we remain committed to our pursuit of excellence in patient care. We look forward to ensuring that Ingersoll and community prospers in good health.*



**ALEXANDRA  
HOSPITAL**

29 Noxon St., Ingersoll 485-1700



# "Building On The Past to Make a Bright Future"

(Continued from Page 5)

James Gymn was senior classes from Victory Memorial School, brought over by their teacher where the Y secretary gave instruction in basketball, volleyball and physical training. This was a co-operative plan between the school board and the Y Board at practically no cost to the taxpayer, and making the very best use of facilities and personnel. I doubt if any other community could match that type of co-operation. Al and Ann Clark were so pleased to see a plan of that type in operation.

## Y's Men's Club

In 1938 the Ingersoll Y's Men's Club was sponsored by the London Y's Men's Club and the first president of the Ingersoll Club was Max Poole who was on the sales staff of Stones. Poole had and has the personality to attract people. He and Laurie Summers soon had gathered a goodly number of young active men to form a very active Y's Men's Club. The Y's Men's Clubs are known all over the world as the service club of the Y.M.C.A. The Ingersoll club got off to a good start with the dynamic leadership of Max Poole and then following him Joe Foster who also enlarged the membership and the services to the "Y" and community.

The Y and Y's Men's Club continued their expanded progress under leadership of a new president each year. Oh no, I'm not going to list the names - some would be missed - however, they all carried their responsibilities well. Without

the Y's Men's Club, the Y secretary could not have carried out the many programs for the boys and girls of Ingersoll district.

Then, the swimming (sometimes known as the "piddle pool") was located in Memorial Park. The wooden above ground structure was filled at irregular times with a fire hose, after being drained of its former contents. The Ingersoll Kiwanis club furnished the pool which was used until the Maude Wilson Memorial Pool was built by the two industrial firms owned by E.A. Wilson. Many young people now in somewhat senior years can remember the wooden pool structure in Memorial Park.

Wilson was enthusiastic about giving every youngster the opportunity to learn to swim without charge.

During the Memorial Park Pool era, another Y secretary appeared on the scene in the person of Jimmy West. He left for parts unknown at the time the Maude Wilson Pool was opened in August 1958 by Hon. Ray Lawson. Ham Gosse was engaged as Y secretary and he also carried on the swimming program. Before long Ingersoll was producing swimming teams taking part and winning their share of honors with surrounding municipalities including: Woodstock, Tillsonburg, Simcoe, Delhi, St. Thomas, Stratford, and London.

While the swimming program was in full force, the Y's Men's Club was sponsoring boys and girls' softball teams and boys' hard ball.

In the winter the Y's Men's Club

sponsored boys minor hockey leagues in the various categories. One name that comes to mind is Roy "Goose" Land who started in the Peewee league and became a star in Junior and Senior ranks. The original hockey program was started in the old Thayer's Arena, located where that lovely parking lot is off Charles Street, behind the present arena.

## Artificial Ice

The Y's Men's Club then became very brave and purchased Thayer's Arena and in a year or two installed artificial ice. The volunteer work which went into that project headed up by Gordon Pittock is remarkable! Every member of the club spent three or four nights at the arena, working in some capacity, painting, cleaning up, coaching various tickets etc.

All this effort came to an abrupt end with the complete destruction of the arena by fire in 1955.

This meant a new arena and the Y's Men's Club donated the insurance money to the committee organizing the building of the arena as we know it today.

Reg Stone was chairman of the fund-raising and he enlisted dozens of volunteers to raise money. Three fund-raising campaigns were held and finally the town debentured the final \$5000. The taxpayers of Ingersoll did not have anything to complain about concerning the arena project!

Oh yes, it is past time for a change in the Y's secretary. M.G. "Buck" Billings was on the scene

and still received all the necessary help from the Y's Men's Club. Bob Waterhouse was secretary at the Y building on Oxford St. A year or two before he moved to Toronto to a much better position and much more lucrative in the Ministry of Health where we will think he is still employed.

## Outstanding Club

In 1945 the Ingersoll Y's Men's Club received the "Australian Boomerang" indicative of the most outstanding work with boys and young men. That same year a member, Gordon B. Henry received the Elmer Crowe Award as outstanding district governor in all of the international groups. George Clifton was club president and he and Henry received the honors on behalf of the Ingersoll Club at the International Convention in Toledo in 1947.

Time marches on: Buck Billings became employed with Morrow Screw & Nut Co., but still assisted at the Maude Wilson Pool in the swimming program, directed by the new Y secretary Al B. Clark, still hale and hearty at 95, in his bailiwick on Carrol Street.

Al Clark was one of a kind - a gentleman, a leader, a man of high principles and a hard worker. His swimming program was second to none and he will ever be remembered.

Clark came to Ingersoll in 1950 and retired in 1965. It can be truly said that Al Clark and his wife Ann gave more of themselves to the youth and the whole community than can be put into mere words.

Our thanks are inadequate.

## Brass Band

One of the projects the Y's Men's Club became famous for was unusual, but one which meant a great deal to many people. The club was persuaded by a band master - master salesman of musical instruments - to start a boys and girls brass band.

This was accomplished and Harold Uren a member of the Y's Men's Club put his heart and soul into the success of the project. The band became very successful and many of the members became excellent musicians. It is dangerous to mention names but some should be mentioned because of their success in later years. Gwyn Beynon, Jim Miller, John Petrie, David Uren. (Now, don't start phoning - I know I have missed a good many.) Two of the girls that come to mind are Pat Desmond (Newman) and her sister Dolores. There were many other faithful members. Harold and Grace Uren deserve the credit for keeping the band project of high calibre. Harold directing the personnel and Grace taking care of the uniforms.

The Y building on Oxford Street was destroyed by fire in the early 1960s and all the records were lost in the blaze.

Ann Clark must be remembered for starting the Tiny Tots program for pre-schoolers.

Now there is a whole new carpet. The Wilson Pool was closed in 1990 and we have a new leisure pool, competitive swimming is passe.

## NESBITT COULTER CARR

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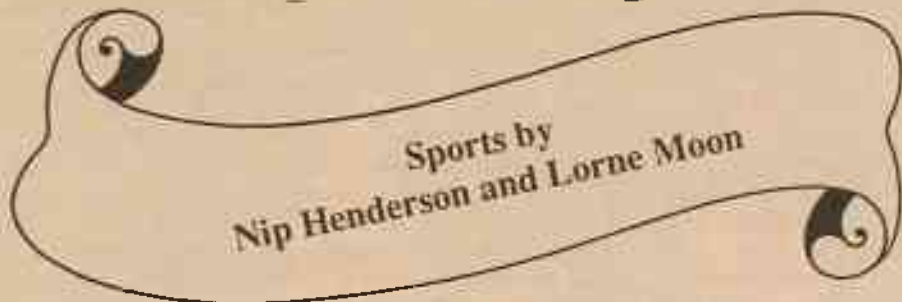
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# The continuing story of hockey



So the next season, Red Clarke decided to coach himself and once the play-offs started, won all series, belting Lindsay in the semi-finals here 18-1 and gave them another bad beating at home, before Lindsay defaulted. That meant it was Collingwood again - the finals for the Ontario Jr. "C" title and Ingersoll gained its revenge taking them four straight games. Red Clarke was one happy coach, along with players Ron Boomer, Angus McDermitt, George Cariveau, Danny Barratt, "Chike" Nadalin, Ronny MacDonald, Ralph Beemer, Wally Livingstone, Les Vivian, Bill Rodgers, Gino Defent, Harry Henhawke, Bill Pittock, Bill Irwin, Jim Thain and George Lewis.

Then in the early morning of Saturday, December 10, 1955, the Charles St. arena burned to the ground, leaving only memories and hockey died until 1959 in Ingersoll, leaving minor hockey the South West Oxford Rural Hockey League, Figure Skating Club, town League Hockey etc. without a home. This arena from 1912 - 55 served the town well with good O.H.A. hockey teams, a very strong minor hockey league, run for years by the Y's men service club and who we think installed the artificial ice machinery after the war was over some time. Also the South Oxford Rural Hockey League ran successfully year after year with teams from Belmont, Dorchester, Kintore, Thamesford, Burgessville, Embro, Salford, Crumlin, Beachville, Centreville, Foldens

and Otterville. Plus the Ingersoll Collegiate Hockey team played their home games in this arena and Geo. Hayes refereed his first game for 50 cents between Ingersoll Collegiate and London High School here, then refereed a few years - the South Oxford Rural League, before moving up to the O.H.A. refereeing leagues and finally the National Hockey League. Both "Bud" Cussons and Nip Henderson refereed after Geo. Hayes in the Rural League, before going up to getting their O.H.A. referee cards. This league played every Monday and Wednesday nights all winter, triple-headers and the price was 50 cents to watch the games and nearly always assured a few fights per night. Also am sure many remember skating each Saturday evening 8 to 10 p.m. to the Stump Town Band", playing great skating music. So, soon after the Charles St. Arena was no more, many town fathers, under the organizing of R.A. Stone etc. started the ball rolling to rebuild, with many committees formed to raise funds, payroll deductions, bingos, minor hockey young players turning small change to the Imperial Bank to

raise funds etc. after many difficulties and delays and nearly four years later the new Ingersoll District Memorial Centre opened in the fall of 1959, complete with upstairs and auditorium for banquets etc.

The opening 1959 team for Ingersoll was an Intermediate "B" team called the Marlands with Les Feldman in charge and Goose Land his coach with ex Reems players as well as Lang Puroola, Buzz Bidwell and Don Pearson from Woodstock and White, Duncan and Allison from London. The Marlands had a very good season, going to the Ontario finals before a good Bucko McDonald team from Sundridge won four games to two.

The next year going, Intermediate "A" Ingersoll lost out in the Ontario semi finals to Port Colborne four games to three after leading the series three games to one. Then lost again to Port Colborne in a seven game series the next year with added players Ed Lockhead, Gord Nudds, Jack Campbell, Harry Bentley, Joe Pelesh, Cec Cowie, Rod McElroy and Don Beatty.

In 1963-64 a Junior "B" club under manager Les Feldmar, coach

Danny Barratt, assisted by Bob McNiven was entered in the Western Ontario Junior "B" league, sponsored by Chicago Black Hawks with players Horton, Peter Hughes, Grilles, Tubenche, Kitching, Tom Murphy, Rick O'Donnell, Jim Dent, Gary Kyte, Al Blair, Rod Martin, John Henderson, Ted Winch, Paul Henderson and Robin Williams. The 1964-65 Junior "B" Marlands were in the Central Ontario Jr. "B" league including Kitchener, Waterloo, Stratford, Goderich, Owen Sound, St. Marys, with added players Tim Coughlin, Jim Dorey, Len Bazay, Wilson, Vaillancourt & Dickson with Goose Land coaching and Bob McNiven the manager and Springfield Indians owned by Eddie Shore of the American Hockey League signed a working agreement with the Marlands, plus players Dawson, Sevigny added late. Marlands ended the schedule in third place, but didn't fare well in the play-offs.

The 1965-66 Junior "B" team was called the Nationals, as were now affiliated with London Junior "A" team and in a league with Sarnia, St. Thomas, Wallaceburg, Strathroy, and Chatham and added Ray

Reeson, Goulet, Tim Blain, Jim Higgs, Larry Davenport, Bob Nadalin, Jim Lange and Dave Del Pappa and lost out to Sarnia in group finals in a great series.

Over those good Junior "B" years, many players came and went, but some made a name for themselves as Paul Tubenche, Jim Blair, Ray Rieson, Jim Dorey, Len Bazay, "Check" Keely and Doug Shelton all made pro hockey and Larry Davenport, John and Paul Henderson and "Rick" Bacon went to the States on college hockey scholarships.

In 1966 London sent a poor crop of players to Ingersoll and the team folded in late November, for the end of "B" hockey. The next fall Bob McNiven, Les Feldmar and others formed a Junior "C" team bringing back the name Marlands. But were beaten out by Woodstock Navy Vets and the last year by Grimsby in the group play-offs.

The 1971-72 season had an Intermediate "B" O.A.A. team, after 10 years of Junior hockey with "Goose" Land as playing coach, Ron McDonald the manager and Martin Vanboekel, president in a grouping of Aylmer, Tillsonburg, Delhi-Langton, Simcoe, Paris and Ingersoll. Players were: Ken Kitchens, Dave Duncan, Ken Cook, Wess Kitchens, Paul Henderson, Jim Fewster, Bill Falden, Bruce Smith, Gale Kelly, Tom Murphy, Ray Liske, Paul Hominick, Dave Cussons, Al Lockhart, Dave Peden, Marty Manning, Don Longfield,

(Continued on Page 11)

## BEACHVILIME LIMITED

The Limestone/Lime industry in Oxford County has grown from its small rural beginnings in the farming community of the 1800's to a major contributor to the economy of the area in the 1900's. Beachvilime Limited has been fortunate to be a large part of that growth.



## BEACHVILIME LIMITED

Beachville, Ontario



# From gas to electric lights

(Editor's Note: C.V. (Bud) MacLachlan retired as manager of the Ingersoll P.U.C. in 1985. He has remained active in community work. This part of the history, originally written to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the P.U.C. covers the first five years. Part II will appear in a later edition of the Ingersoll Times.)

These days we worry about energy, conservation, pollution, clean water and industrial development. What were the problems in the early years of this century? It is reported that council proceeded with plans for a hydro system, improved telephone system, sewage, water, a library, a hospital and at least one school.

Electric or hydro service is now such a part of our everyday life that you might wonder how it all began and who the people were who worked diligently to develop the "hydro system".

At that time, there was a gas company in the Town of Ingersoll which presumably supplied lighting and cooking energy to its customers. Most people would use coal-oil lamps and would burn wood for coal for heating. Prior to 1906, the town had a contract for street lighting with the Gas Light Co.

In 1880, the Ingersoll Electric Light and Power Co. was incorporated and signed an agreement with the town to supply electric service to street lights and some customers. Energy was of concern to the Board of Trade and they lobbied for power for industry.

The plant was located on Water Street and the generator or dynamo was powered by steam with coal as the fuel source. The company held a contract with the town for street lighting. There were poles and wires on some streets and information is limited to how many customers were supplied. The rates must have been adequate and there must have been a demand for service as there was no indication that the company was not solvent. We are aware that power was supplied to an electric railway between Woodstock and Ingersoll.

In 1906, the town signed an agreement with the Ingersoll Electric Light and Power Company to furnish 45 arc lights at a cost of \$2,500.00 per year based on a schedule of 300 nights per year. Apparently, on moonlit nights, the lights were not connected.

At this time, there was an active plan to develop electric or hydro power at Niagara Falls. This plan was headed by the Honorable Adam Beck, MLA from London. He organized the Western Ontario Municipalities to petition the Ontario Government to develop Niagara power. It was, therefore, through his efforts that the Hydro Electric Power Commission was formed in 1906. Its mandate was to develop Niagara power and to distribute it to the municipalities in Ontario at cost.

Politicians continued to discuss and petition for the development of Niagara power for Ingersoll. There were many meetings and studies done to determine if it was a feasible source of power (alternating

current - 25 cycle). Mr. Beck attended a meeting in Ingersoll on December 28, 1906 to answer questions relative to this subject.

Council had decided earlier in December that a by-law be placed before the electorate to enable the town to enter into an agreement to supply Niagara power to the Town of Ingersoll. Mr. Beck was in agreement with this plan. At the municipal election on January 9, 1907, Dr. Coleridge was elected mayor and the power by-law passed by a vote of 563 to 58. The by-law received third reading on January 24 and was registered as By-law #669.

Council assigned the task of negotiating the details of the power contract to the fire, water and light committee.

A Mr. Richards, an engineer with the HEPC, came to Ingersoll to study this project. It was planned that Ingersoll would contract for about 1,000 horsepower of electric energy.

The Town of Ingersoll was one of seven municipalities negotiating with the province for electric power at this time.

The provincial government announced that it planned to build a transmission line from Niagara to Hamilton and, from Hamilton, a hoop line into Western Ontario to supply Galt, Guelph, Stratford, St. Marys, Ingersoll, Woodstock and Brantford, plus other places in this route.

However, the Ingersoll Light and Power Company had a perpetual and exclusive franchise to supply power. It was not considered prac-

tical to enter into a contract for Niagara power with the local private company still in operation. It was, therefore, recommended that the town purchase the local power company.

An engineer from Montreal had visited the town to study the existing system and to prepare an estimate. The company had apparently prepared an estimate of \$55,211.45 for the plant. This was later reduced to \$52,500. (Cost of poles, wire, substation equipment was estimated at \$20,052.00.)

## ADAM BECK HERE

The town prepared a by-law to provide the sum of \$50,000.00 for the purchase of the electric plant. This by-law was to be voted at the 1908 election. To promote the by-law, a large meeting was held on January 2, 1908 to present all the facts. There was much discussion about municipal ownership. The meeting was addressed by Adam Beck and representatives of other communities including Mr. Breithaut from Berlin.

The municipal election was held on January 9, 1908 and the \$50,000.00 power by-law was defeated 446 against to 200 votes in favor. All other 12 municipalities voted for Niagara Power.

A point of clarification is required at this point. The Ingersoll voters were voting for \$50,000.00 to purchase the existing power system while other municipalities were voting for the supply of Niagara power. The Ingersoll voters considered the price of the power plant

was too high and consequently voted against it. However, the news spread fast and it was widely publicized that Ingersoll had not approved Niagara power.

## MUCH CONFUSION

The year 1908 was a year of many meetings and much confusion. An agreement was prepared between the Town of Ingersoll and the Hydro Electric Power Commission to purchase 500 HP. This was the same plan as other municipalities were signing and the Ingersoll people felt that there were being left out as they could not sign the agreement when they already had contracts with the Ingersoll Light and Power Company. The discussion indicated that if Ingersoll signed at a later date, they would not get as good a price as the original group.

(Continued on Page 12)

## A LIGHT HISTORY

By  
C.V. (Bud)  
MacLachlan  
B.Eng., P.Eng.



1962-1963 STAFF

Back Row (left to right): Merv Haycock, Ralph Collins, Gordon "Tee" Daniels, Ross Walters, Joe Wrona, Dave McClay, Henry Schuurs. Centre Row: Ed Mutsaers, Willy Kiersma, Art ?, Len Tye, Norm French, Jim Bakellar, Bill Herd. Front Row: Phillis Hayes, Jan Mutsaers - Service Mgr., Frank Beemer - Bus. Sales Mgr., Louis Macnab - Owner, Grant Brady - Office Mgr., Don Robinson - Parts Mgr., Helen Paddon.

## Macnab Auto Sales Limited

In 1934, Mr. Louis Macnab, started buying and repairing used cars in a small rented garage in Ingersoll. His small used car dealership was a success.

In 1946 Mr. Macnab obtained the Lincoln/Mercury franchise, one of the first in Canada, and has been associated with the Ford Motor Co. ever since. This makes Macnab the oldest Lincoln/Mercury Dealership in Oxford County.

In 1948, Mr. Macnab saw the demand for school buses and as they would be carrying "one of the most precious cargos - the children of our community," he formed Macnab Bus Sales and later became the Ontario distributor for Thomas Built Buses.

Mr. Macnab passed away suddenly in 1978 and the company was left under control of his wife, Elsie Macnab (President), and Tim Bannon (Vice-President).

When Mrs. Macnab died in 1986 Tim Bannon became President. Tim joined the company in 1972 as Assistant General Manager, later becoming Sales Manager of Macnab Auto Sales.

Macnab celebrates its 60th Anniversary in 1994.

The business now employs 38 full time people and is located at 439 Bell St. in Ingersoll on about 14 acres of land with 25,000 sq. ft. sales and service building.

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# An insight into early photography

By: David L. Gibson

## What Happened?

Most readers of The Ingersoll Times have, during their entire lifetimes, been accustomed to snapping the shutters of their nice 35 millimeter cameras to produce negatives that can be enlarged to any sized photo they may wish to have produced.

Not so in the Ingersoll days when John Hugill and his son Edgar H. Hugill took their early photos. With few exceptions almost all of their photos were printed by what was called "contact printing", which means that the glass negatives of that time were placed on top of light sensitive paper of equal size (in the "dark room") and then exposed to light - often sunlight. The exposed paper was then chemically treated to "bring out" the resulting photo.

Some readers may have inherited some of those very large family portraits of the 1880s and '90s. These were indeed likely to have been printed from glass negatives of the identical size. You will note from the adjacent photo, I am holding in my left hand, that it would have been printed directly from the negative in my right hand. It is almost miraculous that a sheet of negative glass of this size has survived through numerous handlings and mishandlings of necessary moves from place to place, especially when one realizes that such glass becomes more brittle with age.

Making copies today from negatives of this size create a reverse problem for me, in order to make smaller prints. To do so it is necessary to first photograph a fresh print from the old negative to photograph and obtain a 2 1/4" x 3 1/4" negative. From that negative, and with the use of a variable enlarger, it is then possible to print new photos of a size convenient for illustrations such as in my book "The Hugill Chronicles".

It is interesting also to know what happened to thousands of those old, large negatives that became obsolete. Many were sold to greenhouse owners. After removing the emulsion and cutting to size, the old negative glass was used to repair or be used in greenhouse construction. As the glass was usually better than ordinary glass, and a bit thicker, it was much in demand. Smaller negatives were also re-used in picture frames, stained glass windows, and multiple pane window frames.

## Mini-Series Feature

Some of you may have seen the U.S. TV mini-series "The Civil War". Many of the photos used in that production (stills) were obtained some years ago from a greenhouse owner who "hadn't gotten around" to using his old negatives in repairing!

Edgar Hugill had a quiet sense of humor which came forth in various ways in his photography. I have a number of his "trick" photographs which illustrate that trait. Sometimes when photographing two or three of his friends he could, by partially covering his camera lens (in between repositioning his subjects), make them appear in different locations within the resulting single photo, thus "twinning" them! One would be seen both sitting and standing, or with reverse profile - whatever struck his fancy at the time. That was a versatility of the times, but not easily done without some tell-tale line of demarcation in the photo.

## Touching Gesture

Another instance when he had taken two separate "homey" scenes in his own livingroom, one of his wife, and one of himself, he was later able, through his photographic "genius of the time", to create a single photo of them sitting side-by-side. There was absolutely no



David Gibson displays early glass negatives.

division line to show the "joining" of the two images. It was a very touching indication of his love for his wife, as the "joining" was done following her death, so that he might bring them together in one photo.

Another of his talents was his uncanny ability to pose, or position people without them seeming to be stilted or contrived. It might just be the placement of a hand, something in a hand, or whatever he could quickly arrange before the subject became tired of holding still. (Rem-

ember also that photos took several seconds of complete "freeze" to maintain motion-free results.

## Signature Touch

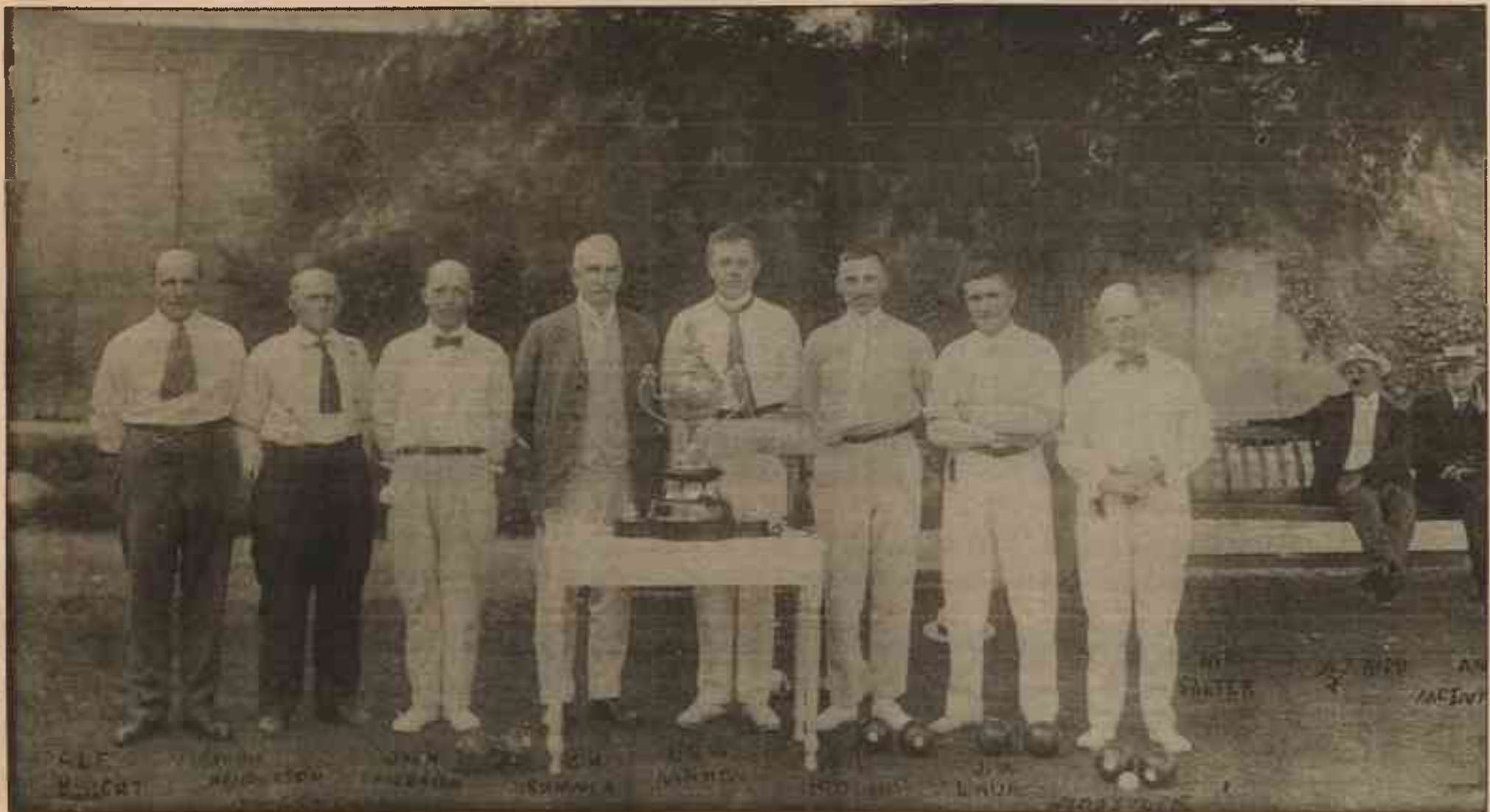
Hugill's major "signature" touch shown in many of his interior home scenes, almost to the point of being universal, was the inclusion of other portraits of family, relatives, or scenes he had previously taken: in the subjects' lap, on a table, on a wall. In several instances it has been possible to identify the major

photo subject, not by recognizing him or her, but by recognitions of the secondary photos in the backgrounds.

Having personally known Edgar Hugill for nearly 35 years, before his death in 1955 at age 96, I never cease to be amazed at discoveries of this man's personal qualities as brought to light through his photographs, taken long before I was born! My grandfather, William Gibson, and my Uncle David Gibson, were bakers on the street, Ingersoll, next door to the building where the Hugills had their studio. Together with Sam Gibson (no relation), Walleys, W.H. Jones, Elliots, Seldons, Robinsons, Bridens, Rev. Ross, Dundass', to name but a few, these person's lives became intertwined in both Ingersoll and Muskoka, to create a heritage seldom experienced today.

I have been particularly honored by the Ingersoll Times with their co-operation and participation in bringing about the presentation of the works of the Hugills and others in the development of a strong sense of Ingersoll history for this the Bi-Centennial Year. It has been a pleasure to have been able to provide photos for this publication. I hope also to be able to assist the Historical Society, now newly reorganized in any way possible. To you readers, who may have questions about their old photos, whether by Hugill or otherwise, you may send me a Xerox copy and your inquiry, via the Ingersoll Times, and I will endeavor to provide answers.

*Congratulations Ingersoll!*  
*"We Salute You"*  
*Happy 200th Birthday*



LAWN BOWLING CHAMPIONS - It looks as if Woodstock and Ingersoll were both involved in this championship. Left to right, are Alf Knight, John Henderson, John Fairbairn, C.H. Sumner, George Mahon, E.H. Hodgins, J.M. Laur, Mr. Salter. The debonair spectators are A.J. Bird and Andy McIntyre. (photo courtesy of J.C. Herbert)



# Ingersoll hockey

(Continued from Page 8)  
 Brian McIntyre, Brad McNiven, Bob Nadalen, Bruce Watts, Dave Fitzmorris, and Roger Henhawke. The team played tough, exciting hockey and won the Southern Counties Championship, winning four straight from Simcoe, then taken four games to one by Lucan, Ilderton in a tough close series in the Ontario Semi Finals, before packed arenas.

**Church League Hockey**  
 Before the war a church league existed in the old Mason Arena. All churches were involved and played once a week, generally two games a night. After the war, this league never was started again. The odd part of the church league, many of the players never played for the church they attended. Rivalry was always keen in the league and under the counter deals were always part of the changing of players yearly. Good sportsmanship was a great part of the league but occasionally the odd fight would break out

to add to excitement of the game.  
**Rural and Industrial Hockey**

When the new arena went back into operation, rural hockey returned but after several years ceased. At that time industrial hockey came on and remained for many years but the threat of injury caused many players to drop out. Later, N.B.C. (no body contact) was started and still continues.

### JUNIOR HOCKEY












In 1957, with help from Ingersoll Recreation Board, Ingersoll formed its first minor bowling league. Friday nights were set aside for the teenagers and Saturday morning and early afternoon was set aside for the younger players. Both girls and boys played on mixed teams.

The first year the junior bowlers were coached by the Inter-City Bowlers; Casey Chambers, Dutch Moggach, Jack Wilson, Albert Warham, Cecil Crane and Sam Crane. There were others who assisted but names have slipped our memories.



What an impressive interior! This downtown store, Healy's, appears to have carried just about everything. In the background are the owners, H. W. Healy Sr. and Mrs. Healy, grandparents of Dorothy Douglas of Stratford. (photo courtesy of Bruce and Marie Douglas)

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# "The first five years 1906-1911"

(Continued from Page 9)

In the meantime, other municipalities were signing their agreements and the Hydro Commission was getting right-of-ways for transmission lines for distribution to the area.

In Ingersoll, the Ingersoll Light and Power Company were getting requests for additional power and did not want to invest in new equipment if they were to be purchased by the municipality. The same customers were asking the municipality to supply additional power if the municipal plan was developed (i.e. - local industries wanted to expand).

It was decided that a legal opinion be obtained regarding the agreement with the Ingersoll Light and Power Company to determine if the town could cancel the contract. It was reported that the town had renewed the contract on January 15, 1906 for a period of five years.

In 1909, George Sutherland was

elected as mayor and stated in his inaugural address that the power problem must be resolved. The council was also involved with the purchase of Dr. McKay's property for the hospital and a site on Charles Street East for the library. Mr. Carnegie had donated \$10,000.00 for this project.

In April 1909, the Fire, Water and Light Committee made a verbal offer of \$35,000.00 for the Ingersoll Power System. This offer was not taken seriously, as it was verbal, and it was suggested that an arbitrator from the County of Oxford be appointed.

The company was agreeable to arbitration provided each side appoint an engineer and the third person be from the County of Oxford. On August 5, 1909, the F.W.L. committee recommended that the town purchase the plant by arbitration according to the recommendation of the company. This was to be completed under the Gas

and Water Companies Act.

The council was awaiting a legal opinion from T.C. Meredith from London regarding the purchase of the power plant. His opinion, obtained in November, was that the town was not obliged to buy the system. Another lawyer, Mr. Blackstock, did not agree as the agreement was signed under the Conmee Act of 1889.

Mr. Meredith was asked to prepare a by-law to purchase the system, to be approved at the 1910 election. This was passed by council late in December 1909.

### 1910 RESULTS

The by-law was approved 297 to 274. Dr. A. McKay was elected as mayor.

On January 27, 1910, approved By-law 697 to acquire the Ingersoll Light and Power Company at a cost to be determined by arbitration. The arbitrators met in Toronto in April. The valuation was \$37,225.00.

Council passed two money by-laws, \$39,800.00 for plant and \$15,000.00 for the distribution system. The by-laws were submitted to the electors on May 26, 1910 and approved by a large majority.

The Electric Plant was taken over on June 30, 1910 and \$39,810.00 was placed in the credit of the Electric Light and Power Committee and an account was opened in the Traders Bank.

Mr. Reynolds of St. Marys was appointed manager on July 4, 1910.

August 16, 1910 - tenders accepted for transformers, panels, etc. - \$10,780.27 from General Electric Co.

Complaints against 1910 Civic Administration (spending too much money).

October 4, 1910 - Alderman Mills introduced a by-law for the election of a commission to manage the Electric Light and Power System. Two commissioners to be elected

and the mayor to be the third commissioner.

The election was held January 5, 1911 and, therefore, the first commission was: George Sutherland - Chairman; H. Richardson, Dr. A. McKay - Mayor, W.R. Smith - Secretary, R.J. Robertson - Treasurer.

Named: Ingersoll Power and Light Commission.

A transformer station had been built in Woodstock and a pole line was being constructed from Woodstock to Ingersoll at 13,000 volts.

A tender was awarded to Silica Barytic Stone Co. to build the substation on Mill Street. Cost for the Mill Street Station was \$2,750.00.

Finally, on March 31, 1911, a successful test of hydro electric power was made at the substation at 5:17 p.m. Transformers were energized and all equipment worked satisfactorily. The street lighting circuit was connected that evening.

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# Julia Davies: Midwife and practical nurse

By Debbie Johnston

Julia Davies - Practical Nurse and Midwife and her family has been Ingersoll residents since 1915.

Many residents of town will recall an era when people convalesced at home under the care of a practical nurse. Julia Davies was a nurse and midwife for many years prior to the second world war when such care became government regulated in hospitals only.

Julia emigrated from Stockton, Wiltshire at the age of 21 in May 1910. She came to stay on the farm of her paternal uncle, Joseph Wheeler and his wife Elizabeth near Harrietsville. Two of her older brothers, Charles and Percy had emigrated a couple of years earlier and Charlie had sent her the fare for the journey. Within three years her two younger brothers, Harry and Frank joined their siblings in Canada, leaving only Sidney remaining in England.

While at Harrietsville, Julia met her future husband, George Davies. He was working on a neighboring farm. When he left to seek his fortune in Toronto, Julia decided to follow although they were not officially engaged. She obtained work as a housekeeper in one of the homes in Parkdale. A family friend, Laura Smythe, had been the cook at W.L. MacKenzie King's home and she helped Julia find employment. Meanwhile, George was employed as a butcher at the St. Lawrence Market. They were married on August 28, 1912 and lived upstairs at 20 Seymour Avenue.

On May 31, 1913 Julia gave birth to a baby girl. Mother and baby were close to death and the doctor asked my grandfather whose life he should save. Imagine being confronted with such a statement.

Three years after this tragedy, Julia and George left Toronto and came to Ingersoll. George found a



Julia Davies

job at the Pork Factory and they rented a house at 199 Victoria St. C.C.L. Wilson, the plant manager, loaned George the money to purchase a house on King Hiram St. Later, they sold this house and

bought the one at 164 George St. In 1920 they sold this house and bought a half acre of land on Whiting St. and contracted Mason Brothers to build a new home. "Pipe Major" Johnson did the plumbing. They moved in during the spring of 1921. Their grandson Paul now owns this home.

I think that the loss of her baby and the fact that her own mother had died in childbirth were the factors which determined my grandmother's chosen career. She wanted to help take care of ill people. Mrs. C.C.L. Wilson was, I believe, my grandmother's first patient. She cared for her at her home at 168 King St. W. during her illness. Soon she was called upon to go to homes all over town to care for invalids and maternity patients. Also, many patients came to her home to have their babies. While telling me the stories of her patients, my grandmother mentioned the names of two particular

attending physicians more than others. They were Dr. Counter and Dr. C. Cornish. She held them in very high regard.

I once asked her if she had any written records of her work. She told me that some of those babies born were to unwed mothers. Of course no one wanted to have a record of such births, so she never kept any.

The Depression was a very difficult time for Ingersoll's citizens. My grandfather lost his job when the pork factory closed and only worked sporadically afterwards. But my grandmother was always in demand and I'm sure that she must have contributed greatly to the family economy. She also found time to volunteer as a cook at the Kiwanis underprivileged camps at Lakeside and to keep chickens and eggs for resale. During these years she raised four children: Joyce,

(Continued on Page 16)

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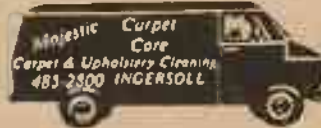
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# History of the Ingersoll libraries 1855-1890

By Rosemary Lewis and Ken Moyer

## EARLIEST ACCOUNT OF THE INGERSOLL LIBRARY 1855

It is unclear when a library was first established in the community of Ingersoll. A library was in existence in the village by 1855: an editorial in the Ingersoll Chronicle of February 23, 1855: praised the Ingersoll Public Library, located in the Common School on Thames Street South (near the location of Victory Memorial School), for its collection of some 700 volumes, "and this entirely free to any inhabitant of Ingersoll". The "obliging librarian" was Mr. Barker.

In 1861, the library was still part of the school. In a list of accounts paid by the School Board January 14 (reported in the Chronicle of February 3, 1861) is "D. Paine Librarian's salary...24.00".

In the Ingersoll Chronicle of January 17, 1862, in a report of a

School Board meeting we read: "On motion Mr. Joseph Barker was reappointed librarian." By 1868, Mr. Barker was being paid \$13.00 every six months (Ingersoll Chronicle January 16, 1868).

## FORMATION OF MECHANICS' INSTITUTE 1866/1871

The Ingersoll Chronicle of December 6, 1866 announced a meeting in the council chambers "of persons interested in the formation of a Mechanics' Institute". This meeting was held on Friday, December 7, 1866 (reported in the Chronicle December 13, 1866) and a further meeting on December 19, 1866 was planned.

It seems that a Mechanics' Institute was not actually formed at that time. Four years later, in the Chronicle of January 12, 1871, we read: "A meeting of the subscribers of the fund to establish a Mechanics' Institute in this town will be held in the building known as Jarvis Hall (now occupied by the Good Temp-

lars), on tomorrow (Friday) evening at half-past seven". The Chronicle of February 2, 1871 records a public meeting (date, place) to organize the Institute.

The Ingersoll Chronicle of October 5, 1871 records the annual meeting of the Mechanics' Institute "held in the reading room". The officers elected were President C. E. Chadwick, Vice President Dr. Williams, and Secretary & Librarian Joseph Fox.

From this report we know that the Ingersoll Mechanics' Institute, like most Mechanics' Institutes in Ontario, had a library with a reading room and a librarian.

## TWO LIBRARIES 1871

The establishment of the Mechanics' Institute meant that there were two libraries in Ingersoll in 1871. Almost immediately, there was a recommendation that they be brought together. A report of a School Board meeting in the Ingersoll Chronicle of Thursday, Sep-

tember 14, 1871, states "that the committee appointed to examine the state of the library, reported recommending that it should be placed in charge of the Mechanics' Institute Librarian".

This same report indicates that the public library was still under the jurisdiction of the School Board and names Mr. Barker as librarian. This library is mentioned in the Oxford Gazetteer 1870-71 (p158) in the description of the town of Ingersoll: "a public library of a 1000 volumes". We do not know whether this library was still located in the school (which had by this time become the Union School).

At the meeting, Mr. Barker vigorously opposed the combining of the two libraries. The Chronicle (September 14, 1871) states: "Mr. Barker did not think it was in the power of the Board to place it out of the charge of the Board in that way"; "Mr. Barker -- We could not amalgamate our library with that of

the Mechanics' Institute".

## ONE LIBRARY 1871

Nevertheless, the School Board decided to place the public library "in charge of the Mechanics' Institute Librarian" (Ingersoll Chronicle Thursday, September 14, 1871).










## FIRE WIPED OUT LIBRARY 1872

Only a few months after the libraries were united, on May 7, 1872, fire struck the town of Ingersoll. "The Mechanics' Institute lost their entire library and furniture valued at \$500. as well as the town library which was placed in their charge -- no insurance" (Ingersoll Chronicle May 25, 1872). In the May 30 edition the town library loss is given as "\$300. - no insurance".

Because of the reports of the fire, we know that the Mechanics' Institute had been on Thames Street, in a building owned by W. McMillan,

(Continued on Page 15)

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# Earliest account of the library 1855

(Continued from Page 14)  
and which was also occupied by J.G. Chown, hardware (London Free Press September 13, 1952 reprint of article on the Ingersoll fire of 1872). This building is on the east side of Thames Street, where the Ingersoll Department Store Annex is today.

This fire was a disaster for library service in Ingersoll: not until 1880 was a library re-established.

## 1870s PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR RE-ESTABLISHING A LIBRARY

In the *Chronicle* of June 22, 1876 a letter to the editor from "SHELL" indicates public support for re-establishing a library: "I observe that there is a subscription list on foot in town for the purpose of raising funds to provide books, etc. for a free library or Mechanics' Institute". This writer suggested: "instead of attempting to set on foot an enterprise which, from

its reliance upon casual voluntary subscriptions, would inevitably be a failure... that the mater should be thoroughly ventilated to ascertain whether the sense of the ratepayers is not in favor of an appropriation from the revenue of the town...". A shrewd observation in the light of subsequent developments.

The *Chronicle* of April 11, 1878 reports a meeting on April 9 in the Council Chambers to re-establish a Mechanics' Institute. A committee was set up consisting of Joseph Gibson, W.K. Sumner, M. Minkler, W.H. Root, and Thomas Hovenden.

In the *Ingersoll Chronicle* of July 4, 1878 all those interested in a Mechanics' Institute were invited to a meeting in the Council Chambers on July 11.

## RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF MECHANICS' INSTITUTE 1880

The first page of the minute book of the Mechanics' Institute records

a public meeting in the Council Chamber November 12, 1880 at which the Mechanics' Institute was formed. At the next meeting, December 7, 1880, the Ingersoll Mechanics' Institute had received a grant of \$400. from the Province of Ontario. In June of 1881, the Town Council granted the Institute \$100. (*Ingersoll Chronicle* June 9, 1881).

The library was located in two rooms rented at \$50. per year from Mr. Gurnett, publisher of the *Ingersoll Chronicle* (minutes of December 9, 1880). The rooms were "the second flat of the Chronicle building", located where the Sentinel-Review offices are now, and were expected to be ready "shortly" (*Ingersoll Chronicle* December 16, 1880). Mr. Adkins was appointed librarian at a salary of \$50. per annum (minutes of December 9, 1880).

The library opened in this location sometime early in 1881. From March 1, 1881, the minute book

gives the location of meetings as "Ingersoll Mechanics' Institute rooms".

## MECHANICS' INSTITUTE LIBRARIANS 1880s

From the minute book of the Mechanics' Institute, we know that Mr. James Adkins was the librarian from 1880-1882, when he became ill. From 1882-1887, the librarian was Mr. Richard Grigg.

## 1880s; FINANCIAL STRUGGLE

The minute book of the Mechanics' Institute indicates a struggle to raise funds and pay the bills throughout the years from 1880 to 1888. The library was supported by subscriptions, set at "one dollar over" at the first meeting in 1880, and by fundraising from entertainments, concerts, trips, and classes.

In the midst of this effort, the library was without a librarian: the minutes of July 7, 1887 read: "The Librarian, R. Grigg having gone to

England... the Vice-Pres. and the Secretary be authorized to make what arrangements they think best for filling the position of librarian". A librarian was not hired until 1889.

## BRANCH LIBRARY IN COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

In the minutes of October 1, 1884, the Mechanics' Institute established a branch library in the high school, "in charge of the Head Master", for which the school was to pay \$40. per year to the Mechanics' Institute. That these books were still at the school in 1889 is indicated by the minutes for June 17, 1889, in which the Library Committee recommended "that the books belonging to the Mech. Inst. now in the Coll. Inst. be catalogued and marked with an asterisk in the new catalogue".

(Continued on Page 17)

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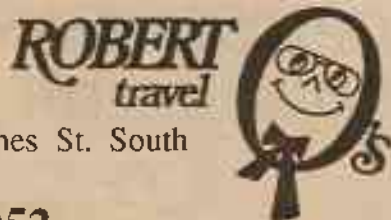
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# Music club welcomes all to relaxed informality

By: Margaret Paterson

## INGERSOLL MUSIC CLUB 1912 - 1993

The reason a number of ladies decided to meet once a week to perform, was their mutual enjoyment of music and their respect for each other's musical ability. I was told that these meetings were eagerly anticipated and I guess when we realize that there were no radios, TVs and only scratchy cylinders played on a gramophone, the personal performance would really fill a musical need in their lives.

Two clubs were formed in 1912 but they soon amalgamated and became the Ingersoll Women's Music Club. In 1987, the word "women's" was dropped from the name with the hope of encouraging men to belong. So far the club has only had the privilege of having a guest on our program once in awhile.

There were 30-35 original members. By the 1930s the meetings were held every two weeks. In the 1940s, to give more time for "war work", it was agreed to only hold a monthly meeting on the third Wednesday of the month and so it remains today.

### FEE PROMOTES MUSIC

Through the years the club has charged a membership fee. In 1912 it was a 25c a year and this was used to buy music, gifts, or flowers. Of course inflation struck and

as the years went by, fees were raised slowly until today when members contribute \$4.00 each.

This money is used to present music prizes at the Woodstock Music Festival and commencement prizes at VMS, IDCI and Sacred Heart Schools. Music Club has never been a money-making organization but members do wish to promote the advancement of music with the youth of today.

When the public schools decided to have a music competition, the Music Club ladies were the judges as well as giving a \$2.00 donation to the Board of Education for prizes.

### Informal Atmosphere

Through the years, the Music Club has progressed from a very formal format to a free and relaxing atmosphere. The formality has been broken down by the use of first names and the absence of hats and gloves.

The club's music has encompassed a wide range, from piano solos, duets, 2 piano, 8 hands, violin, string guitars, flute, trumpet, accordian, organ, vocal solos, duets, trios and choruses.

Programs has featured most of the famous composers and some not so famous, popular music, sacred, travelling, opera, operettas, theme music such as lullabys, marches, spring, fall, favorites, love etc.

The story of the Ingersoll Music Club would not be complete without mentioning a couple of clubs



Swim coaches or swim team? Perhaps readers can help. M.G. "Buck" Billings, popular manager of the Maude Wilson Memorial Pool has posed with a group of well known swimmers. They are all local. Can you name them. (file photo)

which we, the Ingersoll group has sponsored. The Delhi Music Club got their start from Ingersoll and the clubs exchanged meetings periodically. The other off-shoot of the Ingersoll club was the Junior Music Club with Mrs. Tune as the advisory leader. This club met in the evenings and gave the young people a chance to perform for each other. Unfortunately, the young people matured and left town and the Junior club was forced to discontinue. However, some of their members joined the Seniors' Club and are still members.

Some of the names that would be

recalled by many are Tune, Wilson, Bonesteel, MacKinney, Horton, Kerr, Seldon, Furlong, Folden, Coventry, Meek, Brooks, Silcox, Gilling, Hunsberger, Harrison, Walker and many others who played as important a part of the Ingersoll Music Club.

The club still meets on the third Wednesday of the month in the homes of our members.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Bi-Centennial Music Club meeting in Trinity Church Parlor on Wednesday, April 21st at 2 p.m.

(Excerpts from "History of Ingersoll Music Club" by Eileen Riddolls)

# Julia Davies

(Continued from Page 13)

born Dec. 27, 1920; my father Roy, born July 27, 1922; June born June 30, 1924; and Harry (Bud) born Jan. 17, 1929. they had a big garden and various livestock - chickens, geese and pigs - to look after.

Joyce left Ingersoll as soon as the opportunity arose, but the three younger children stayed in the area to raise their own families. Roy enlisted in the army in 1942 and June trained as a practical nurse like her mother.

On December 21, 1944 Julia lost her 59 year old husband to a heart attack. They had temporarily moved to Brantford while he worked at Cockshutt Plough. She and Bud had already returned to Ingersoll while George remained for the last few days before Christmas "so he would get his bonus turkey" she told me. He walked through deep snow to work and collapsed once he got inside.

As was the norm I believe, his insurance policy was minimal and there were still a few years of house payments to be made. So, my grandmother began to take in boarders. Several of them told my parents later that no finer accommodations were to be found in Ingersoll.

June was married in 1946 and moved to Woodstock with her machinist husband, John Bone. They had three children. She was a very community minded person who volunteered as a Girl Guide leader and as a teacher of handicapped children for many years. She passed away at the age of 42 of cancer. My grandmother cared for her at home as long as possible; her last patient.



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Friends gathered all over town when Ingersoll's Old Boys Reunion was held in 1919. Among the friends and families gathered here are Violet and Fred Sheldon, Walter and Hannah Holmes, Kitty and Harry Burton and Pearl Holmes. This photo was taken in Victoria Park. Notice the hats that were the order of the day! Can anyone identify the officer in the WWI uniform at the extreme left? (photo courtesy of Doris Fleming)

## 1888 A Free library becomes a possibility

(Continued from Page 15)

In the Mechanics' Institute minutes of October 24, 1888, we read of a possible solution to the money problems: The W.C.T.U. (Women's Christian Temperance Union) proposed, not for the first time, the establishment of a free reading room. "After considerable discussion as to the feasibility of the scheme, it was moved by J. Gibson seconded by C. H. Slawson and resolved that the president be requested to ascertain if the law provides for the levying of a rate of

free library, things began to move quickly. In June 1889, William Johnston was appointed "caretaker and librarian" at a salary of \$150. per year (from the minutes of June 10, 1889).

The Ingersoll Chronicle and Canadian Dairyman of November 21, 1889 reports that "a petition signed by 206 ratepayers for a by-law establishing a free library and reading room as laid before the council". The December 5, 1889 issue announced that this by-law would be voted upon "in the coming municipal elections", and was expected to carry.

Results of the vote were reported in the January 9, 1890 issue: 486 for the free library, 187 against.

### 1890 MECHANICS' INSTITUTE BECOMES A FREE LIBRARY

By March, the Free Library Board had been formed. The March 13, 1890 Ingersoll Chronicle and Canadian Dairyman reports: "The Mechanics' Institute having been merged into a free library, the

directors of the Institute met on Tuesday evening last (i.e. March 11) and wound up the business in connection therewith." The board then adjourned, and "a meeting of the Free Library Board was then held with all members being present but Mayor Buchanan."

The members of the Free Library Board who were at this meeting were listed in the minutes of March 11, 1890: H. F. McDiarmid, H. Richardson, L. C. Menhennick, J. Sinclair, G. O'Callaghan, M. J. McDermott, J. McKay, and W. Briden.

The Board decided "that all books now out be called in by the librarian, and held until new regulations are issued". The minutes of this meeting show that the Mechanics' Institute passed a balance of \$6.20 to the Free Library.

The Ingersoll Chronicle and Canadian Dairyman of March 27, 1890 reports that the Free Library Board decided to "ask the council for a grant of 3/8 of a mill on real and personal property of the town

instead of the \$454.00 as previously decided upon".

The April 10, 1890 Ingersoll Chronicle and Canadian Dairyman reported that "The by-law to legalize transfer of the Mechanics' Institute and library to the town was read a third time and finally passed."

### OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The minutes of March 18, 1890 state: "The Reference and Circulating Library and the Reading Room shall be open every week day from 2 to 6 and 7 to 10 p.m..."

The Thursday, April 17, 1890 Ingersoll Chronicle and Canadian Dairyman announced on the front page that: "Persons desiring books from the free library can procure forms of application and cards from the librarian on Saturday and any subsequent days, but books will not be issued before May 1. Donations of books to the Free Library, will be gladly received by the Board. The following have been received this week: -- Thiers' History of the French Revolution, presented by

Geo. Johnston; Proctor's Pictures on Astronomy, presented by Wm. Johnston".

The librarian's report from the minutes of the Free Library, April 29, 1890, gives the number of books in the library: 1580 on the shelves and 98 not yet returned, for a total of 1678 volumes. At this same meeting, the Board discussed "rearranging the furniture in the rooms and making them more attractive", in preparation for opening to the public.

### LIBRARIANS

- ?... 1855-1860 Mr. Joseph Barker  
Ingersoll Public Library
- 1861 D. Paine  
Ingersoll Public Library
- 1862-1871 Mr. Joseph Barker  
Ingersoll Public Library
- 1871 Mr. Joseph Fox  
Mechanics' Institute
- 1880-1882 Mr. James Adkins  
Mechanics' Institute

half a mill on the dollar on the taxable property of the town for the purpose of establishing a free library and reading room, and if so, that the proper steps be taken to submit a by-law to the rate-payers with that object in view...". In fact, the Free Libraries Act had been passed by the Ontario Legislature in 1882.

With the discovery that property taxes could be used to support a



FORD HAWKINS AND GEORGE - This remarkable father-son photograph was taken in Saskatchewan in 1912. The gentleman is Ford Hawkins, father of Bill, George, Dora (Wurker), Carman, Doug and Marion. They moved to Ingersoll in 1924 and became valued members of the community. Ford Hawkins was a cattle dealer and butcher and several of his family carried on the tradition. (photo courtesy of George Hawkins)



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# Fires and fire protection vital part of Ingersoll life

By Kenneth Campbell  
Retired Fire Chief

The history of the town of Ingersoll dates back to 1793. There are few towns or villages in Ontario that have not had some serious setbacks in their history and Ingersoll is no exception. During the war of 1812, Ingersoll was to feel the effects of this conflict. In the summer of 1812 marauding bands of Yankees destroyed many homes in Ingersoll, also the mill and anything they thought would be of use to the Canadian Forces. In 1832, another setback was to hit the village of Ingersoll. This time it took the form of the then dreaded yellow fever. This outbreak was to take a huge toll among our citizens.

On May 7, 1872, the greatest calamity of all took place in the form of a fire. Ingersoll was to fall prey to the largest fire in Canada to that date. The Ingersoll business section in those days stretched along King St. from Oxford to Hall Sts., and on Thames St. from the Thames River to King St. and on Oxford St. and Charles St. There were only two or three brick buildings in the whole town at that time. For the most part the buildings in the business section were made of wood, and many were no more than shacks, and built close together. There were also a few residences and vacant lots on all the streets in the business part of downtown.

## GAS LAMPS

In those days the streets were gravel with plank sidewalks that were raised six or eight inches

above the gutters. The main streets were lit with gas lamps that hung from iron standards, and the village lamplighter had to make his rounds at dusk and again at daybreak. The streets in the business section were lined with hitching posts with iron rings for the hitching of horses. Many of these posts were fancy iron rods surmounted by a carved horse. There were also rails which were used for the tying of horses and teams.

In the year 1863, under by-law #78, the village of Ingersoll was to form its first fire brigade. This fire brigade was established for the prevention of fires, and the preservation of property.

The new fire brigade consisted of fire companies, hook and ladder companies, life saving companies and a committee for the governing of same.

The establishment of the fire brigade was made by the municipal council of the corporation of Ingersoll under and by virtue of the municipal institutions act of Upper Canada.

It was on April 6, 1863 that Reeve John Galliford and Town Clerk R. A. Woodcock signed the by-law to form the first and still going Ingersoll Fire Brigade.

R.H. Carroll was named the first chief engineer for the village of Ingersoll. The executive or governing body of the brigade consisted of the chief engineer, a number of assistant engineers, a captain, a first lieutenant and one member from each company. The chief engineer had sole and absolute control of all the fire engines and other apparatus belonging to the

fire brigade. He was also in command of all the officers and firemen on the brigade, and all the other persons working at a fire. The assistant engineer had this power in the absence of the chief engineer.

It was the duty of the officers and the members of the several companies of the fire brigade, whenever a fire should break out, to respond with their engines, hook and ladder carriages, hose carriages and hose reels, and all other apparatus belonging to the brigade.

## HELP COMMANDEERED

When a fire broke out in the village, it was lawful for the chief engineer or the officer in command to ask the assistance of any male inhabitant between the age of 16 and 60 to assist in conveying any engine or any piece of apparatus to, or near any fire and to assist in the operating of same. If the male inhabitant refused to comply to the demand for assistance the guilty person on conviction before the reeve or magistrate could be fined the sum of not more than \$20. for each offence, or if in default of payment committed to the common jail in the county of Oxford for a period not to exceed 20 days.

The firemen depended on water in those days to extinguish their fires as we do today, but the first fire brigade had to get its water from wells, the river or reservoirs, that were placed about the village. The largest reservoir was located on Oxford St. just west of the old town hall. The populace in those days all had a bucket or two which they kept full of water or snow. It was also a common sight to see a

ladder at the side of a house and one on the roof near the chimney so a fire could be put out as soon as possible. Homeowners in those days used wood for both heating and cooking and a great number of chimney fires was the result.

## NO LADDERS

The property saving company, consisted of 12 men. It was the duty of these men to see that such property was put into safe keeping, and to do all in their power to prevent such property from being stolen or damaged.

In order to promote attendance at fires, a premium was awarded to the fire company who were first at the greatest number of fires in a year. Each engine company carried 200 feet of hose. Any engine company going to a fire with a less amount was not entitled to credit as first arrival.

When the fire brigade was formed the firemen received 50 cents a month. When they arrived at a fire it was their duty to exert themselves with vigor in order to extinguish the fire. In the early days of the fire brigade the chief engineer, the assistant engineers and company officers carried trumpets that were used to direct the firemen while they fought the fire.

When the volunteer fire brigade was formed, the firemen were summoned by the ringing of a large bell. The bell would ring for a considerable length of time, then stop, then sound once if the fire was in ward one, sound twice if the fire was in ward two, and three times if fire was in ward three.

The village of Ingersoll in the

1860s and early 1870s had three fire stations. The first station was on King St. E. on the north-east corner of Water St. The second station was a small building just north of the Thames River on Thames St. N. It housed some small equipment for the protection of buildings on the north side of the river. The third station was on King St. W. at the corner of Benson St. and the C.P.R. tracks.

The fighting of fires was a serious business in the early days of Ingersoll, just as it is today. When the alarm sounded the firemen would respond, even if getting a haircut or shave, or if dressed in his best clothes. These were dedicated men and I would like to think that the present day fire fighter is equally dedicated.

## DEVASTATING FIRE

On the evening of May 7th, 1872, a fire broke out in the stable of the Royal Exchange Hotel; this building was on the south east corner of Oxford and Charles Streets. The origin of this fire was never discovered as this building was supposed to be unoccupied. The fire travelled so fast and furiously that the residents were overcome by panic and confusion, as they watched the work of near a lifetime go up in flames. When the fire was finally extinguished, it had destroyed about 80 places of business. Both sides of Thames St. and most of the buildings on Oxford St. from Charles to King St. had also fallen prey to the flames.

During the course of this fire a

(Continued on Page 20)



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## Whatever happened to Tom Moore?

Tom Moore has close ties and fond memories of Ingersoll. The son of Anne and Eddie Moore, he grew up on Thames Street North. He attended Princess Elizabeth and Victory Memorial schools before going to I.D.C.I. Among his memories are enjoying YMCA Teen Town, softball games at Princess Elizabeth diamond and "the smell and taste of Frenchies' French Fries." Tom left Ingersoll in December, 1967.

Now retired, he enjoyed a successful career in sales. Hobbies include water skiing, ice skating and, in fact, all sports.

Tom's family includes wife Dorothy, daughter Lisa; his brother, Bill Moore and his wife Joan and their three daughters and grandchildren.

When he returns to Ingersoll, Tom is always surprised at "How much we have all aged -- especially Norm Mott!" The one thing that has remained the same in his eyes is the home he grew up in. Last time Tom was home "We saw the big cheese plaque for the first time."

Current address: 6781 Jedora Drive, Brentwood Bay, B.C. V0S 1A0.

## Whatever happened to Dorothy (Knott) Moore?

One of the most memorable things Dorothy Moore did while she lived in Ingersoll was marry Tom, in the home of her parents,



Tom and Dorothy (Knott) Moore

Blanche and Jack Landon. They resided at 186 Skye Street.

Dorothy also remembers "enjoying Ingersoll's special people." A graduate of V.M.S. and I.D.C.I., she enjoyed a career in both office work and as a teachers' aid. She is now retired.

Since leaving Ingersoll in 1967 she has enjoyed water skiing, ice skating and all sports as well as gardening.

Family includes her husband, Tom and daughter Lisa as well as her brother Carl Knott in Ingersoll.

Similarities when she returns here are many. In fact, she says, "most of the town". The greatest changes she sees are the many new homes and the Cami plant.

Dorothy adds "We really enjoy the articles from the paper (sent by my brother Carl) and Bonnie Mott's column."

## Whatever happened to Marg Robinson?

Marg Robinson often comes back to Ingersoll to visit friends and family, including her brother Lorne Moon.

The daughter of Ewart and Gladys Moon, she grew up on Catherine Street and attended the Ward School, Victory Memorial School and the Ingersoll Collegiate Institute.

Marg left Ingersoll in 1956 and pursued a career as secretary-bookkeeper. Now retired, she enjoys a number of hobbies, including bridge. She has three children, six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Current address: 301-16 Celestine Street, St. Thomas, Ontario.



Marg Robinson

## Ingersoll and area Kinsmen serving the greatest need

By Bill Riddick

The Ingersoll & Area Kinsmen this year are celebrating their 10th anniversary as a service club in Ingersoll.

Kinsmen is an organization of young men between the ages of 21 and 45. Members come from all walks of life, with varied interests and backgrounds. These factors are the ingredients that make Kinsmen a young and dynamic organization.

Kinsmen is an organization born in Canada, whose object and aims are based on a uniquely Canadian perspective.

The main goal of Kinsmen is "to serve the community's greatest need." The Kinsmen Club has selected Cystic Fibrosis as one of its main projects on a national

level. Over the years Kinsmen have donated millions of dollars towards Cystic Fibrosis research and this research has made great progress in combating this dreadful disease which brings death to children.

On the local level, Kinsmen support "community" type projects rather than individual ones. For example the Ingersoll & Area Kinsmen Club has in recent years donated to the Victoria Park Community Pool Complex. The day care room was named the "Kinsmen Room" in recognition of their donation towards its costs.

In addition the club:  
- Financially contributed to the rubberized flooring and new sound system at the arena.  
- Annually supports the Ingersoll

Kinsmen Tiny Tots Program held at the United Church.

- Most recently donated a 1993 Chevrolet Astro Mini Van to the Ingersoll Police Service for its use, for a four year period.

- Sponsored the "Proud to be Canadian" tour and its signature flag that went through all the Ingersoll schools last spring.

- Sponsors the Easter Egg Hunt.

- Has supported in the past, schools' parent-teacher associations.

- Supports the Ingersoll Fire Department's "Learn Not to Burn" program.

- Gives financial support yearly to minor hockey, minor ball, Crime-stoppers, Big Brothers and many other worthy causes.

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# "Building On The Past to Make a Bright Future"

(Continued from Page 18)

call for assistance was put out to the London and Woodstock fire brigades. Both communities did respond with help in the form of a fire fighting team. These teams consisted of a piece of fire apparatus, complete with men and horses to man same. The first team to arrive was from London. They came on a flat car on the Grand Trunk Railway. The team from Woodstock arrived a little later by the same method after having some difficulty making transportation arrangements.

The business section along King St. E. was saved by the strenuous efforts of the London Fire Brigade and the men of Ingersoll who were employed by the McIntyre Furniture Factory which was on King St. E. and escaped the fire.

During the holocaust the lives of two men were taken; C.C. Payne and John Omand. Both of these men died while assisting firemen fight the flames.

While fire burned on one side of the street, goods from stores had to be moved across the street, only to be moved again as the fire spread. Naturally goods were damaged in moving; and some removed by thieves, always ready to profit by the misfortunes of others. The stores with bottled goods seemed to be the favorites.

The firemen on the hand pumps and those who carried water buckets all night were so stiff and sore in the morning that they could not remove their clothing.

## FRAME BUILDING

Why Ingersoll had not suffered a similar calamity before is hard to explain. Nearly all the buildings in the business section were of frame construction and in no way fire-proof. But from the blackened ruins of 1872 have risen bigger and better business places and homes, evidence of the courage of the people of Ingersoll. In November of 1873, Ingersoll purchased a Silsby Steam Engine from the Silsby Manufacturing Co., Seneca Falls, New York, U.S.A. at the cost of \$4,750., a modern piece of fire apparatus in those days. This engine was equipped with a rotary pump as are some pumps today. Along with the new steam engine came the introduction of horses to the Ingersoll Fire Brigade. Many of the old-timers fought their coming and in later years their going. They were of course housed in the fire station, and became special pets of the firemen. For the most part they were crosses between light and heavy draft horses. These horses were among the best kept, if not the best.

No sight was more thrilling than a team of galloping horses, sparks flying from the metal wheels and the horses' feet as they pulled a fire engine down the street. The smoke pouring from the steam engine, the clanging bell and the whistle, all united to make an impression never to be forgotten.

The two horse hitch was used in Ingersoll, but it was not uncommon to see three and four hitches, especially in the north where the win-

ters are more severe. In spite of the special attention the fire horses were given, their lives were not an easy one. From their warm stalls they could in the next few minutes be out pounding the icy streets in the worst kind of weather. Many a fire horse had to be destroyed after suffering a sever fall on the icy streets.

It would be a sad day at the fire station when one of the horses had to retire. Special attention was always given to see that a good owner was found for the horse.

The first team of horses the town purchased cost \$215.00. In the early 1900s a good team of fire horses cost the town \$425., and the last team of horses cost \$310.14 plus \$97.82 for freight because they were bought in the west. In April, 1927 this team was sold for \$300. because it was in this year the fire department went completely motorized with the purchase of a second piece of motorized equipment.

## KING ST. SITE

In 1878, all the fire equipment was moved to the old town hall site on King St. W., an extension was built on the north east side to house all the equipment. Fire helmets and coats were first used by the members of the fire department in 1874; these helmets were made of leather as was the fire hose in those days. New helmets and belts were purchased again in 1931 and once more in 1986. It was also in 1931 that smoke masks were first introduced to the Ingersoll Fire Department.

In April of 1926, Ingersoll purchased its first piece of motorized stock. It was a Model "T", hook and ladder truck. This truck was purchased from the Jolly Motor Car Co. This truck was to see service in 1946 when a new Ford ladder truck was purchased from the Bickle-Seagraves Co. of Woodstock, Ontario. In March 1927, a Stewart Fire Pumper with an Aherns-Fox Marine Motor was purchased from the Lorne Tractor Co., Tillsonburg, Ontario. Some of the parts of this truck were made in Ingersoll just across the street from the old fire hall on King St. W. This pumper saw service in Ingersoll until it was replaced in 1958 by an International Pumper which is still in reserve today. The 1958 pumper was purchased from the LA France Fire Engine and Folamite Co. Ltd., in Toronto, Ontario. The 1927 Stewart Pumper has been kept and can be seen in parades in the district or at the fire hall on Mutual St. N. In May 1975, Ingersoll purchased an International 50 foot Tele Squirt Truck from the King Seagraves Co. Ltd., Woodstock, Ontario. This unit replaced the 1946 ladder truck which was sold. The town of Ingersoll purchased a 1988 Triple Combination Ford Pumper from Hub Fire Truck Co. Inc. This truck was delivered in July of 1988. The department also has a 1986 Ford Van that carries the rescue tools and other emergency equipment.


## BELL ALERT

The system of ringing the town

bell to alert the firemen of a fire was replaced by the telephone in 1927. You must realize that during the early years of the fire brigade over a hundred volunteer firemen were on call. It was also in 1927 that the first full-time chief was hired. When the telephone calling system started the number at the fire hall was 100. When the operator was asked for this number she would listen, and if it was to report a fire she would call all the firemen at their homes, as they had telephones. When the dial system was introduced to Ingersoll a new arrangement had to be found. This came in the form of two-way radios. This system came in 1963. Two-way radios were installed in the fire station and each fire fighter had a monitor set in his home. With this system all the staff was alerted at the same time. Many changes have taken place in the field of communication since the beginning of the two-way radio system.

Ingersoll is one of the 20 fire departments in Oxford County that work under the mutual aid system. In 1954, this system was organized under the leadership of Fire Chief Gordon Tripp, who was then the chief of the Woodstock Fire Department. Chief Tripp was the county co-ordinator until his retirement from the fire service. This system has proved most helpful to all fire departments in Oxford County at one time or another. When a serious fire occurs in a community there is no limit to the number of

(Continued on Page 21)



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
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# Fire Protection

(Continued from Page 20)

men and pieces of equipment that can be called to assist.

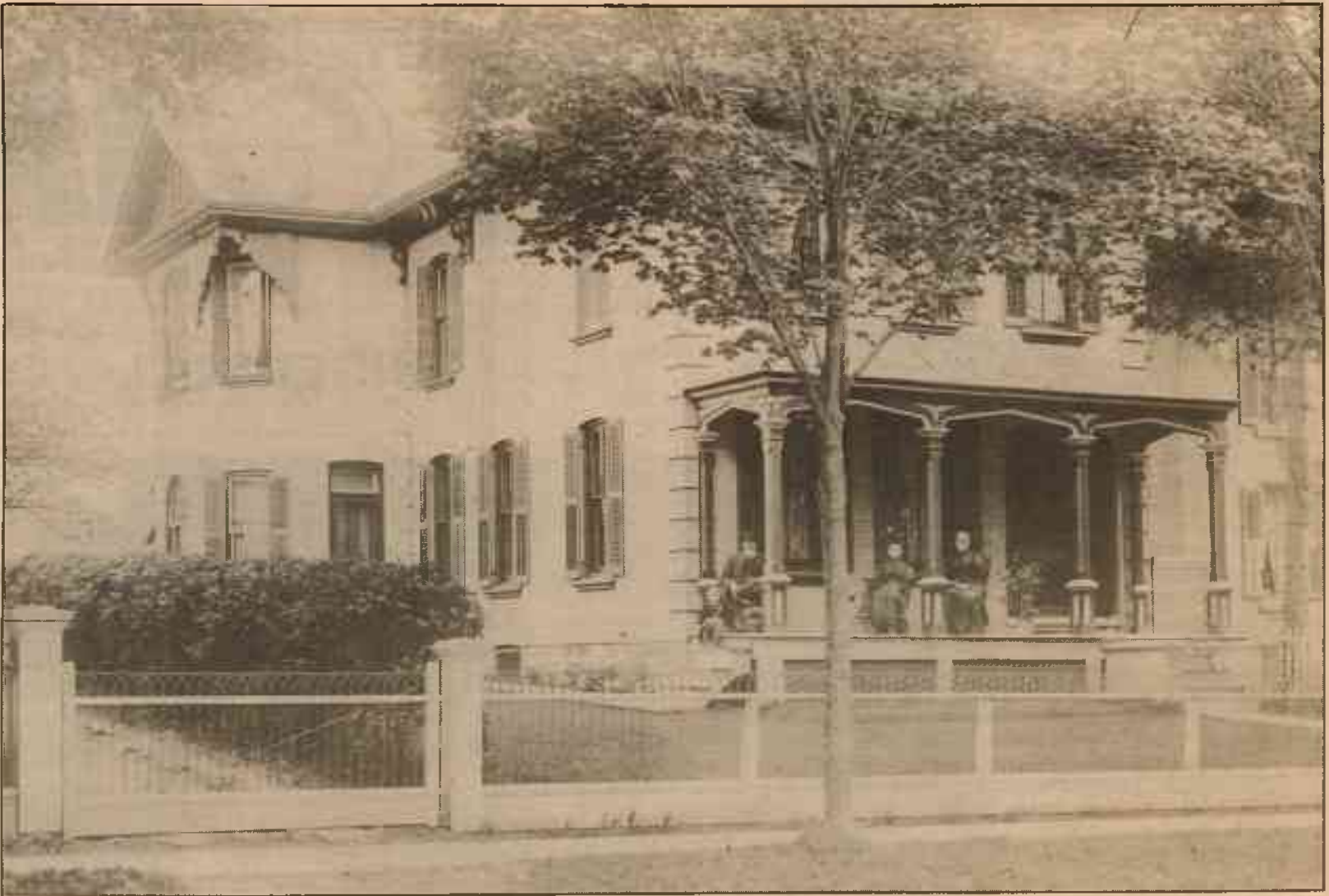
The town of Ingersoll at the present time has three full-time officers and 16 volunteer fire fighters. The full-time staff is on duty during the day while the volunteer staff take turns staying at the fire hall nights. Therefore, the Ingersoll Fire Department is manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Great strides have taken place in the fire service in the past 30 years. In 1958, the Ontario Government opened a Fire College in Gravenhurst, Ontario for the schooling of both full-time and volunteer fire fighters. The Fire Marshal's office staff who work under the solicitor general are always on call to give assistance to a municipality or their fire department.

The office of the fire marshal also run regional schools in all sections of the province. These schools are for the training of full-time and volunteers who cannot attend the fire college.

Most, if not all fire departments have their own training program which is conducted by the fire chief or an instructor appointed by him. Ingersoll is no exception to this practice. This profession is like all others, new things can be learned every day, and as fire fighters it is our duty to keep up with the changes.

In May of 1983, the Ingersoll Fire Department was again on the



This magnificent residence at the corner of Oxford and Charles Streets was originally the home of John Thompson, the pioneer, after he and his wife, Nancy (Brown) Thompson, moved in from their farms in Dereham Township, County of Oxford, around 1882. This picture was taken much later, circa 1902. From the Shirley Law collection, this photo shows her great-grandfather, John Thompson, sitting at the left, while his second wife, Henrietta Monk Thompson, entertains a woman visitor. The visitor's little girl has moved to sit on the steps with John Thompson. (Photo courtesy of Shirley Thompson Law)

move, this time to 110 Mutual St. N.

In 1989, a training tower was constructed at the east end of the fire hall. This tower will be used for all types of training. What will

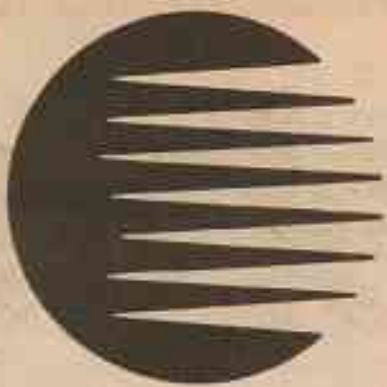
the future bring to the Ingersoll Fire Department?

In 1988, the Ingersoll Fire Department celebrated the 125th anniversary of its founding. A celebration with a large parade of fire vehicles

was one of the highlights of the weekend celebrations. The events that took place will not soon be forgotten by the members of the department.

That about brings us up-to-date,

but I should like to add that the present members of the Ingersoll Fire Department will continue to act in the spirit of the dedicated men and women who have served Ingersoll since its early days.



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# Memories

## OF CENTERVILLE FROM CALIFORNIA

By Dorothy Hilyard

Lorna Mallory of Redbridge, (formerly L. Brackenbery of Ingersoll) a friend since we were 14 years old, sent me the old time Centerville school picture of 1932. I remember it like it was yesterday and thought I would write you my memories. I was Dorothy Shuttleworth and the school yard was cut out of the side of my dad's farm.

Centerville was proud of the 12 Connor children as they often said they had never seen a Connor child in dirty clothes and they didn't get into trouble. They were good swimmers and great hockey players. The little ones had on miniature skates and a hockey stick in their hands as soon as they could walk. In between times they played baseball on the river flats. Cecil was a real good "pike" fisherman and Dad would buy any extras from him. With a house full of little ones, Cecil probably liked the peace and serenity of the river. Jean and Ruth were my age and hard working girls, especially after their mother died when baby Shirley was around a year old. Their home was always clean and tidy as was the yard.

Mildred and Kaye Morris (cousins) were my closest friends as my mother could look down from the hill and see what we were doing. We didn't have much freedom in those days; especially me, as there was always work to do on the farm. I have fond memories of my friendship with the Connors, Barkers, McKillens and Voigt children. Mrs. Voigt made the best root beer and was generous with it when we walked up the road on a hot day after swimming in the river. Don Voigt worked for my Dad weekends and summers until war work took him. My parents really liked him and he was a hard working boy.

My brother Jack was in the Air Force at the time. He has lived in Venezuela for over 20 years now. He and his wife are retired on a little farm on the mountainside above Caripe, Monagas.

If I remember right, Doris Fugard's mother became our once a week music teacher. What a happy break that was.

Miss McEwen, the teacher at that time, was a disciplinarian type teacher and I remember cringing in my seat as she strapped the little kids. A year or so later we had a Miss Sutherland (Southerland?) and there never was a sweeter or nicer teacher. I used to stop on my way home from high school just to visit with her.

Times were difficult and for a lot of families became progressively more so as the depression deepened. The fathers worked at the N. A. Dyanamide in warm weather but the winter months were really difficult for the families with the father out of work. Money was scarce on the farm but because of my mother's canning fruits, vegetables and meats and dad's slaughtering a pig, we always had enough to eat.

We children learned songs, skits and recitations that we put on stage at West Oxford Church at Christmas time. I can still remember the wonderful smell of the hard candies, nuts and a beautiful orange that was in our stockings given out to us by Santa. The Ladies Aid Society spent long hours each year working on these so that no child was left out. I like to think that this tradition is still being carried out.

I have lived in California since 1946 and now have retired to the Central Coast half way between Santa Maria and San Luis Obispo. I have two sons and two lovely granddaughters.



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## OUR STORY

Ingersoll Machine and Tool (IMT) is not only a strong economic force in Ingersoll but it also has been part of the town for over 75 years.

During World War I, the company manufactured parts for army trucks and tool and die products. After the war, they began to manufacture milling cutters, twist drills, reamers and many other necessary farm equipment. In the 1920's, automotive parts became important to the company's production line. They produced manual gear assemblies for the passenger car and light truck industry for many large companies including Studebaker, American Motors, Massey Ferguson, White Farm Equipment and International Harvester.

In 1934, IMT purchased the John Morrow Screw and Nut Company. The screw company, located in Ingersoll, had been in business since 1887. It supplied nuts and bolts to the Canadian Automotive Industry and to the general marketplace. In 1974, the company became Ingersoll Fasteners and moved to a larger building in Ingersoll.

During World War II, IMT reverted back to defence manufacturing. They supplied parts for automobiles and aircrafts and also manufactured 30MM and 40MM rounds of ammunition. After the second World War, IMT continued to improve its automotive product lines with steering and suspension parts and engine and transmission parts.

During the 1930's and 1940's, IMT designed and manufactured the transmissions on the Miss Canada series inboard speedboats. Before competition, the company tested many of these boats including the Miss Canada IV which competed for the Hardsworth trophy.

Over time, the company became better known for more than just automotive parts. By 1940, the business produced wringer washing machines, automatic washing machines and electric and gas clothes dryers. During the late 1960's, the company manufactured self-propelled farm wagons and developed the recreational hover craft.

In 1957, the company began to manufacture highway and off-highway trailer axles. The great success allowed the company to expand internationally. Today, products are shipped around the world to countries such as the United States, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Indonesia and throughout South America and the Middle East.

In the 1970's, Ingersoll supplied engine component parts to Caterpillar Incorporated. Today, IMT also supplies this company with water pump assemblies.

In 1970, IMT merged with Ivaco Incorporated of Montreal. In 1981, IMT purchased P.C. Drop Forgings of Port Colborne. In 1990, Ingersoll Machine and Tool and P.C. Drop Forgings became a division of Cannon, which is owned by Ivaco.

Today, Ingersoll Machine and Tool prides itself on customer service and world class manufacturing. They have just recently introduced new products and production processes which will strengthen their global competitiveness. Their reputation is a benefit to the community and they are well-known for service and friendliness around the globe.



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# Ingersoll family member knowledgeable and charming

By YVONNE HOLMES MOTT

Joyce Brown is a direct descendent of the Ingersoll family and has a wealth of information about this town's founding fathers. She and her husband, Tom, who is totally supportive of her research and her interest, live only a few kilometres away, at Oxford Centre.

Her family tree is a local history lesson. Joyce Brown is the great great granddaughter of Thomas Ingersoll and Sarah Whiting. James Ingersoll is her great grandfather and John McNab Ingersoll is her grandfather. Joyce's father, Leslie Hall Ingersoll, was here in 1960 when the historical plaque, on the river bank near Beckers, was unveiled.

Laura Secord would have been a great great aunt to Joyce Brown. She has no evidence that Laura Secord ever stayed in Ingersoll, but is very interested in the on-going debate about whether or not the legendary lady spent time here. Bi-Centennial "Great"

Joyce Brown has nothing but good things to say about the Bi-Centennial celebrations in Ingersoll and adds "I am learning from it too".

"It's just great to see so much interest in the history of the town and its founders".

She has high praise for local historian J. C. Herbert and credits Shirley Lovell and Jack Smith for arranging for them to meet and

share their interests and historical data.

The Ingersoll Times was invited to sit in on a meeting at the Herbert home with Tom and Joyce Brown, historian Doug Palmer Ingersoll Cheese Museums curator Shirley Lovell and Herbert.

Facts and dates flew across the room as ideas were exchanged

notes made and plans formulated for future research.

If Joyce Brown is typical of the Ingersoll family, it is no wonder the town prospered so well in its early years. Clever and charming, she has a deep sense of history and family balanced with wit and a great sense of humor. She is generous with her information and willing to share anecdotes about her family.

For instance her great grandfather, James, had four sons. "One was her grandfather John McNab Ingersoll and one was "George, the black sheep of the family". George, she said went to Eustace, Florida where he became involved in the orange business and, to the best, of her knowledge, never did come back to his home town. The two other sons died in tragic accidents: one while tobogganning and the

other while tossing turnips up into the air and shooting them.

## Never Knew Him

Joyce Brown never knew her grandfather Ingersoll. He died when his son, Lesley, her father, was only two years old. However, the grandfather left the family a wonderful tangible legacy. Knowing that he did not have very long to live, he moved from Brockville to Woodstock and began to compile a history of the Ingersoll family.

The book contains photographs of people and early homes, here and in Woodstock; important deeds, military commissions and letters. When John Ingersoll died of tuberculosis his wife, Elizabeth Hall, completed the project for him. It is a priceless heirloom.

Incredibly, the book survived the 1979 tornado that destroyed the Brown home. It was upstairs under a bed and "although the walls crashed down" the book remained intact.

Brown's great grandfather, James Ingersoll learned the native language and became a runner for the Indians who fought on Canadian soil.

Leslie Hall Ingersoll, Joyce Brown's father was such an interesting person, his story needs to be told on its own.

Equally interesting, is his daughter and her pursuit of the facts about this town and its founding fathers. She provides a vital link to Ingersoll today and the Ingersoll of 200 years ago.



Joyce Ingersoll Brown, the great-great-granddaughter of Thomas Ingersoll shares some family history with local historians Doug Palmer and J.C. Herbert. The book they are examining was compiled by her grandfather John Ingersoll and survived the 1979 tornado in Oxford Centre. (Liz Dadson photo)

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# Hurley's

## FOODS

*As a supportive part of our community since 1975, we are very proud to be part of a progressive community.*

*We pledge our continued involvement in and support of this community as together we work for a prosperous future.*

*Dale and Berdine Hurley*

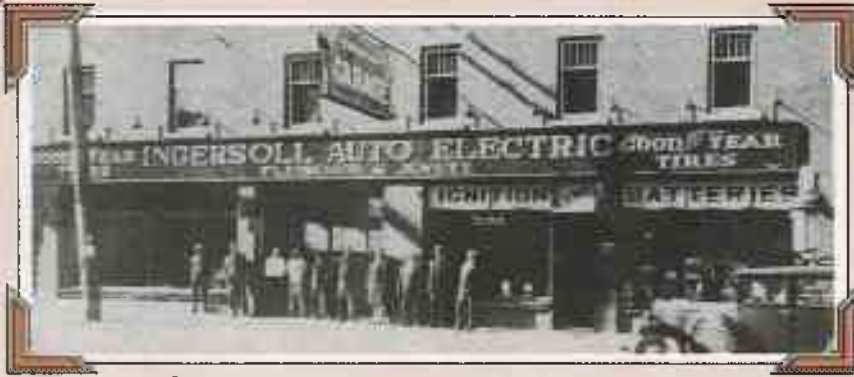
**"LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED"**

(formerly IGA)  
72 CHARLES ST. WEST

INGERSOLL



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY FOR

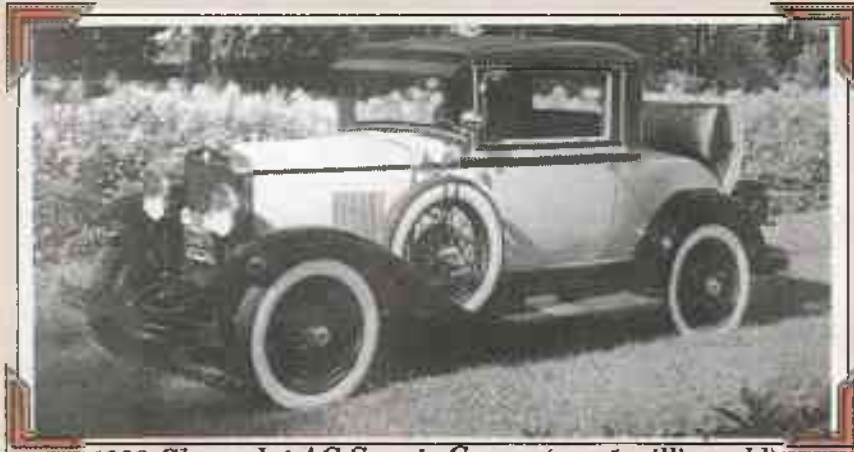


*circa 1929*  
The original Fleischer & Jewett building on Thames St. S.



*circa 1972*  
Lloyd Hall Motors

**THEN**



1929 Chevrolet AC Sports Coupe (over 1 million sold)



1926 Pontiac 6.27 Landau Coupe

**HONOUR ROLL OF INGERSOLL GM DEALERS**

**CHEV-OLDS**

- 1945 — John W. Miller
- 1954 — M. C. Rigby
- 1954 — Harry Nesbitt
- 1958 — J. Huron Clark
- 1961 — P. T. Fleischer
- 1965 — Robert W. Jewett
- 1988 — Paul G. Burroughs
- 1992 — Rod Dench

**PONTIAC-BUICK**

- 1937 — Ray Odell
- 1955 — P. Lloyd Morgan & Norman M. Allen
- 1959 — Norman M. Allen
- 1959 — Peter Lloyd Morgan
- 1961 — P. L. Morgan & Clifford W. Jamieson
- 1964 — Lloyd V. Hall & P. L. Morgan
- 1970 — Lloyd V. Hall
- 1973 — Gary Cochrane



1993

Rod Dench



1993

Gary Cochrane

**ROD Dench**  
CHEVROLET GEO OLDSMOBILE LTD.  
485-0720



**COCHRANE**  
PONTIAC - BUICK LTD.  
INGERSOLL

Hwy. 19, North of Hwy. 401  
485-3130