

# Jenvey Files

## THE OLD STAGE COACH ROAD

In 1817, the area taken up by Thomas Ingersoll was known as 'Oxford-on-the-Thames' and had a population of 530 in 76 homes, with no churches. In 1820, East Oxford had eight schools, open six months per year. Of children between the ages of six and 16, 232 were taught, while 328 were not (this indicates the growth of the township).

In 1828, Ingersoll had 20 homes, 18 being of log construction.

After the war of 1812-14, the government granted 155-pounds to improve the Old Stage Road.

The completed road ended at the fork of the Thames (now West London). From this point down the Thames River large boats could navigate and as late as May 24, 1881, a double-decked steamer travelled the river. However, on this day the steamer, returning from Springbank with 500 to 600 passengers, mostly Sunday School children, tipped over. The day was cold and huge bonfires were built to warm and dry the rescued.

## CONSTRUCTION

The surveyors kept some distance in advance of the Indians who felled the trees. This was necessary to avoid swamps and deep ravines. The trees were felled outward and left untrimmed. Since the Indians, employed by Governor Simcoe to open the road, worked the year round for three years, it was necessary to provide them with food and water daily and shelter for the nights. Consequently a group of men went ahead and built log buildings large enough for all laborers and teamsters.

These buildings were spaced six to eight miles apart and since they were not destroyed they became the nuclei of villages. The supplies for the laborers had to be hauled from boats at the head of Lake Ontario by horses. Axes and saws became dull and a small trained group accompanied the tree cutters to keep the tools sharp. Several camp cooks were also part of the road making group.

Food was brought from the wharf at the head of the lake (there was no Hamilton in 1793). Large quantities of water were required for cooking the food for three meals a day for the hungry laborers. Cooking committees cook-

ed the meals in large kettles over rock-fires.

The water level was high in 1793, the Indians dug a well conveniently located to the log building, let it fill with water twice and dipped out of the third filling of the well, as useable water. This water was supplied to cooks, and also used by workers for washing purposes before each meal. It was also used by the cooks to wash the cooking utensils. The wells were covered with poles and surrounded by brush to prevent night-roaming animals from falling into the well. The Indians slashed a tree near the well and put the Indian mark on it, meaning water. This was for the benefit of travellers, incoming settlers and teamsters.

Meanwhile, the tree cutters continued to open the road. This road had to be at least 30-feet wide and made passable for a team of horses or a yoke of oxen on a wagon.

Seven or eight miles farther along the road, builders had erected another log cabin. When the open road reached this cabin it was moving day from this former cabin. Wood had to be gathered and secured for the cooks, requiring much extra work.

Nearly every tree that was felled, was done so near the stump. Since each was to be 30-feet, many trees required two cuts, with axes sharpened each morning. We do not know how they sharpened the axes, but any iron foundry that could weld a steel blade on an iron base to make an axe, must have had some kind of a tool to do the sharpening.

Bridges had to be built across streams, substantially, to hold the teamsters and the horses and wagons. It happened on many occasions, that a teamster could not return in daylight after he unloaded his supplies. At such times his team was put inside the log building for the night. In the winter the cabins were cold sleeping quarters and the wood committee put a large pile of wood in the building. A hole was cut in the roof of the building to let the smoke out and the committee kept up a continuous fire in the centre of the building.

Thus the Old Stage Coach Road was pushed through the forest from the head of the lake to the forks of the Thames. King Street in Ingersoll is a portion of the Old Stage Road and continues still to London as the Hamilton Road.

# Horner Nor Ingersoll First to Settle in Oxford

**John Carroll, Thomas Edwards, Thomas Dexter, Undoubtedly Here First, Writer Finds**

By STANLEY J. SMITH

Sprinkled through the bush, of what is known today as Oxford county, were many settlers that had located before the surveyors arrived to carry out the instructions of Governor John Graves Simcoe. The Governor had ordered Oxford-on-the-Thames surveyed for the purpose of giving it to Major Thomas Ingersoll as an inducement to colonize the new settlement. Oxford-on-the-Thames comprised all of the present limits of North, West and East Oxford townships. It is common knowledge that Ingersoll fulfilled his part of the agreement to construct roads and obtain new settlers only to have the government renege on the proposition "to prevent land speculation." In 1797, The major had spent \$50,000 of his own money in opening a new road from Burford and the harsh edict brought him financial reverses that led to his death in 1805.

The record of the earliest settler, known to the writer after much research, was that of John Carroll of Beachville. He arrived in 1734 from New Jersey. The Dominion archives have only records of settlers that applied for land warrants dating from the time that the district came under official notice in 1793. Previous to that time, all settlers were regarded "squatters" upon Crown land. Today, the same situation exists in the N.W.T. There is no law to prevent a person from squatting upon Crown land; but he cannot cut timber (other than to construct shelter and provide fuel) or do any mining without a government permit. Eventually, when the N.W.T. is organized into a new province, surveyed into townships, and thrown open to new settlers, the present day squatters must make a cash settlement to someone in authority before obtaining a clear deed to their present-day holdings. It is the old Roman law of "right by occupancy" and it is upheld by the courts of any land that recognizes common law. Therefore, it is easy to presume that when Oxford-on-the-Thames was surveyed, in 1793, that the old settlers took action to obtain a clear title to any land that they had worked and cleared.

## LOYALISTS FIRST

Oxford's first citizens were Loyalists from the 13 original states of the U. S. A. Their land was sequestered by the state and declared forfeited by act of Con-

gress. By boat or ox-cart they fled to Canada with only sufficient goods and chattels that they could conveniently carry. Oswego, Niagara, and Detroit rivers were the jumping-off places for those that were destined to take up land in Oxford. Indian trails invariably followed the rivers and creeks. Probably, the Thames river was the common waterway for our first settlers via McGregor's

(Chatham) and Allen's (Delaware) and thence to this district. One hundred and fifty years ago a good-sized boat could ascend the Thames river with ease. Some came overland from York. Thomas Edwards arrived in 1791, via that trail, but he had come direct from England and settled on land in what is now Dereham township, which was not surveyed until 1797. Mr. Edwards' obituary stated that he could remember the town of Ingersoll when it had only one stone building, used as a land registry office, and one log cabin. This stone building is still standing today. (Oxford harness shop; and probably, the oldest building in Oxford county).

From the foregoing, it is easily proven that neither Thomas Horner (or Hornor) or Major Thomas Ingersoll were the first settlers in Oxford county in 1793. Moreover, according to the obituary notice of John Carroll, who died 1854, aged 102, it stated that when Mr. Carroll arrived "there were a considerable settlement in the Beachville district at the time." According to post office records, in 1791, "a man, on horseback, left every spring with letters for Montreal, Kingston, York, Ancaster, Brant's Ford, Beachville, Allen's township, Chatham, Sandwich and Malden (Amherstburg). It is hardly conceivable that the government would create a post office, in the heart of a forest, two years before there was any need of one. Settlers were here and the post office was established for their convenience. Under the circumstances, the writer must say "phooey!" to historians that claim Horner and Ingersoll being first in the district, in 1793.

## LAWYER'S PARADISE

In the late '40's and early '50's of the last century, Woodstock or Ingersoll was a lawyer's paradise. The first settlers were dying fast and their estates had to be settled. Defective land titles had to be ironed out before probate. East Oxford township gave many a lawyer's clerk a headache. Likewise, all the property on the south side of Dundas street, in Woodstock, added further pains. This condition was occasioned by two different survey parties working from different points. Major

Ingersoll's road, jumped from one log cabin door to another. It was probably a trail that was widened. From Burford, it entered East Oxford between the fourth and fifth concessions. The first settler it hit was Miles Vandlear. It then headed north to the extensive land grants of the Canfields (Oxford Centre), and left East Oxford at Topping's farm, just south of the gore. It then went northwest in a diagonal direction to strike the first concession of West Oxford, at Tom Dexter's place. From there on it kept a sane course to the westerly limits of West Oxford. When the Governor's road (Dundas street) was put through as a more direct route to Detroit, the surveyors set their point from this road and surveyed southward. Naturally, it clashed with certain lands that had been surveyed from Ingersoll's road northward. Look at a township map of East Oxford and notice the irregular lot numbers. One overlaps the other and all are irregular all the way through the township.

To begin with, the government did not know, or if they did, it was only a hazy idea, where the exact whereabouts lay of Oxford or Middlesex. One of the first deeds issued in Middlesex called for land that existed in the Ottawa valley! A settler in Delaware received a land title for his farm "in Suffolk county." Perhaps this can be explained in that the seat of government was at Newark (Niagara), and Kent county reached the eastern banks of the Mississippi. Any land in between was granted to all and sundry without investigation or map reference. When Major Ingersoll pulled "traps" and left the district it was up to the owners of the land to prove their claim. Many of the settlers, probably close friends of Ingersoll, and who resented the shabby treatment accorded him, left Oxford-on-the-Thames at the same time, in 1797.

Through the kindness of Mrs. C. E. Parks, Champaign, Ill., the writer is indebted for much documentary evidence as to the procedure followed in proving a claim after actual settlement. Mrs. Parks is a great-granddaughter of one of Oxford's early settlers, Thomas Dexter by name, who located at the intersection of the first concession of West Oxford township and the Beachville sideroad. Ingersoll's road bisected the Dexter farm after it strikes northwestward from East Oxford. The exact year that Dexter came into the township is not known. His farm was quite near John Carroll's lot; and as Carroll was one of the earlier settlers, it is believed that Mr. Dexter may have located in West Oxford in 1787, the year that he was married. When the American revolution was over it was necessary for all applicants for crown land to be British subjects and swear allegiance to George the 3rd. Although Mr. Dexter had already taken up residence in the township, he had not made an official declaration up to 1797.

## On WO Water-Highway

IT WAS 222 YEARS AGO the brothers John and Richard Ingersoll arrived in North America. They settled in Massachusetts. In 1793, Mayor Thomas Ingersoll headed north. Two years after the first lieutenant-governor was appointed to Upper Canada, the major started a small settlement on the upper reaches of what is now the Thames River.

Major Ingersoll was married three times and had 1 children. He died in 1812, the year United States and Canada went to war to decide the ownership of Canada. A son by his third wife, Charles Ingersoll, named the Thames settlement "Ingersollville" in memory of his pioneer father.

Years later, by a proclamation bearing the date of September 12, 1851, the Village of Ingersoll was officially created, the proclamation to take effect "the following first day of January." Thus began one of the most historic, the most progressive towns of Western Ontario.

Its development to the present day Town of Ingersoll, Ontario, has been that of a stable community. Towards the end of the last century, as the town was involved in the front line of the dairy industry, its development pressed ahead vigorously. As a link on the Western Ontario

water-highway, Ingersoll saw the construction of a river port and the passage of much water traffic. Although this day has passed, rail and highway facilities have replaced the waterways, to make Ingersoll an important centre in Western Ontario.

Few towns can surpass Ingersoll for community spirit. Its parks and swimming pool, its hospital plans and its unique child-safety campaigns in connection with the school all show a progressive and intelligent approach to everyday citizenship.

# Police Turn Back Crowd Seeking to Gain Premises Occupied by Japanese Here

**Crowd of 200 to 300, Armed with Cudgels, Descended on Jap Quarters Last Evening — Police Batons Wielded to Disperse Gathering**

A surging throng, armed with sticks, clubs and missiles of various kinds, bent upon reaching the quarters occupied by a number of Japanese in the employ of William Stone Sons, Ltd., at the firm's premises was turned back by police about 9.30 o'clock Sunday night, before the demonstration reached a more riotous pitch.

Chief Constable Callander stated this morning that no charges were being contemplated at the moment.

There had been open talk of the demonstration during the week with the result that although it was sprung somewhat unexpectedly, the police were prepared to cope with the situation immediately.

The number of those taking part in the attempt assault upon the premises was estimated by Chief Constable Callander at from 200 to 300. The manner in which the attack was carried out indicated thorough organization. Groups were said to have gathered during the evening in various parts of the town, some of them in the business section, and they moved off at irregular intervals so as not to create undue interest and suspicion.

The attack was carried out from two sides, north and south, with the different forces converging at the front of the company's premises into which they marched determinedly. Those in the lead reached the gate behind which is the building occupied by the Japanese but to their surprise they found the way barred by the police. With Chief Constable Alex Callander were Constable John Holmes and Provincial Constable Al Lawrence.

## FIRM ACTION TAKEN

Firm action was the determined policy of the officers and the attackers were immediately called upon to disperse. Some in the crowd who attempted to push forward found this an unwise course, as they quickly received forcible and well placed blows on the shoulders and arms from Chief Constable Callander's baton. Constable John Holmes told the Squire-Review that he did not find it necessary to use his baton.

The manner in which the attempted assault was frustrated indicated that the mobsters had not calculated on resistance on the part of the officers. In the course of a few minutes the mob was broken up entirely. Some who saw their companions being rapped with batons realized that the situation might soon assume a more serious aspect and turned and ran. There were no reports that anyone had been seriously injured but the feeling was general, on the part of those familiar with the circumstances and the spirit of the mob that, had access been gained to the buildings, something close to actual combat might have developed.

## Town Again Calm, Peaceful After Night of Excitement

Following a night of somewhat wild excitement, Ingersoll on the surface of today was calm and peaceful. To what extent the hostility reflected by last night's anti-Jap demonstration has been snuffed out through the vigorous and early action of the police, remains to be seen.

The whole town was deeply stirred by what transpired last night and it is no secret that full precautions are being taken to deal with any further outbreak if such should be undertaken.

It was learned today that a factor that tended to hold last night's affair in check was the fact that the gates at the premises into which the mob marched were locked. This action had been taken by the night watchman before the arrival of the group and greatly facilitated the efficiency of the officers. Instead of being able to spread out over the inner part of the premises, the members of the assemblage were huddled together as they were about to make their final assault and under the circumstances were more easily hurled back by the police.

The incident has been one of the main themes of conversation in the town today and various opinions have been offered as to the course that should be pursued to clarify the atmosphere and restore normal tranquility.

Whatever may be the opinion in civic circles, it was not being openly expressed.

It was understood, however, that apart from civic influences, some official steps might be taken to deal with the situation with the possibility of a suggestion, which if acted upon, might extinguish and spark of hostility that may still be smouldering.

Police said the demonstration was not launched against the Japanese because of strictly patriotic reasons, but chiefly out of resentment concerning the Japanese and some local girls. "It was jealousy," said one officer.

# Ingersoll Once Busy Port Cargoes Shipped on Thames

By H.T.B.

We have read much about the early history of our community and the stirring events of the pioneer days, but possibly our entry into the status of an incorporated town, was surrounded by conditions of more importance and of greater interest, not only local, but of national and international as well. As the stage coach and the broken stone roads of toll gate days was a vast improvement over the oxcart and saddle bags of the old Thames valley trail, so the coming of the Great Western Railroad in 1854 gave Ingersoll a wonderful advance in trade with the outside world. The products of the surrounding farms and forest could now find easy access to world markets from the village that once had seen cargoes shipped by water down the Thames from the port of Oxford. Then began the real attack on the forest for wood could now be sold, wheat was worth more and the art of making cheese was already in practice.

The American civil war broke out in 1860 and in spite of the fact that the Northern States were fighting to abolish slavery yet England found herself to some extent lined up with the Confederate States. The result was that after some unpleasant incidents at sea, trade between England and the Northern States was broken off and at once the demand for Canadian wheat, dairy products, etc., advanced as it were overnight. The need for more cleared land to raise wheat and fodder for dairy herds became so important that we are told the sound of the axe could be heard in any part of the country throughout the long winter months and the tall lines of trees rapidly receded to the back in the holdings.

All this meant more trade for Ingersoll. Our merchant business increased in numbers and in volume, and our tradesmen were very busy. The population had kept pace with the expansion of trade and in the year 1864 Ingersoll found that she had outgrown the village stage and would be incorporated as a town at the end of the year. As has been said these were times of national and international importance. The American civil war ended in 1864 and the Fenian scare was beginning to be felt. The Fathers of Confederation were already talking about the possibility of the union of all Canadian provinces into a Dominion, also the plans for the big cheese had been laid.

The last village council was as follows: John Galliford, Reeve; Dr. D. M. Robertson, Deputy Reeve, and Jas. Noxon, R. McDonald, Arthur O'Connor, Councillors, with R. A. Woodcock, Clerk, and Ed. Doty, Treasurer. There was keen rivalry among our leading citizens as to who should have the honor of representing the new town in its first municipal council. The result of the election gave as in 1865 Adam Oliver, Mayor; James McCaughey, Reeve; and Edward Barker, Deputy Reeve, with James Bell, Aaron Christopher, James Noxon, R. H. Carroll, Edward Barker, C. P. Hall, Councillors, the clerk and treasurer remaining as in 1864.

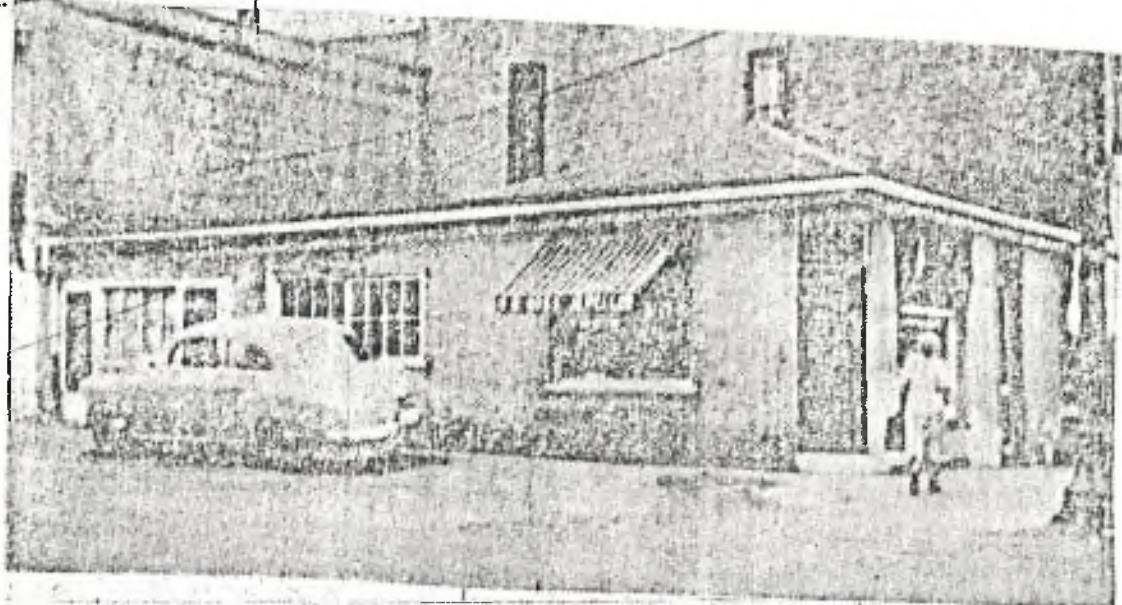
Possibly the inauguration of our advanced status was not celebrated as such events often are, for at this time Canada was menaced by the so-called Fenian raids and the young men from Ingersoll were called out with the Oxford Rifles and travelled to the Niagara Peninsula. These raids, no doubt, hastened the consummation of Confederation of the Provinces into the Dominion of Canada.

Thus Ingersoll as a town is 84 years old, older than the Dominion of Canada. We have had rapid expansion at times and have suffered some grave set backs, but on the whole our town has slowly and surely advanced in many ways until today we have one of the most progressive towns in Western Ontario and most of our citizens are looking forward with optimism to a sure and steady expansion of a community that will be as good a place to live as any other town, any where.

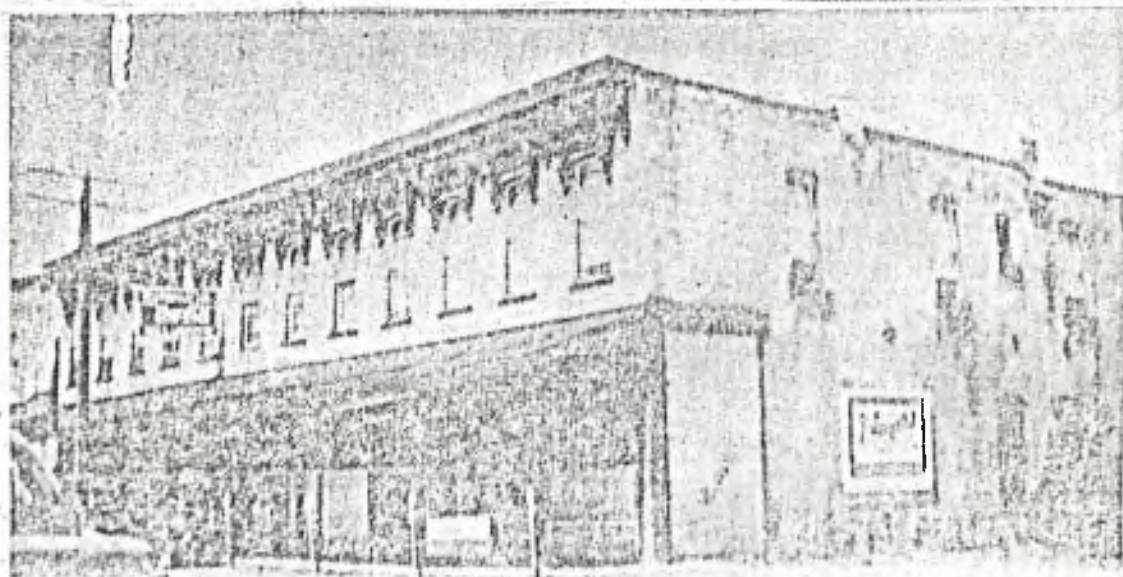
#### Nine Hotels

There were nine hotels listed for 1862. Three of them remain and are used as apartment houses. Those now in use are Carroll's Hotel, the Daly House, and the Royal. The Royal was very classy. It had a theatre, and advertised free bus service to and from the railway station. It was later known as the Atlantic Hotel.

Other hotels listed were the Anglo American, Carroll and Queen (now Charles) streets—this hotel was locally known as Bummers' Roost; the Royal Exchange; the Mansion House, King and Thames; the Great Western Railway Hotel, Thames and Victoria; Adair's Hotel on north Thames, and the Commercial.



Among old Ingersoll buildings still standing are the former Registry Office (right), the town's oldest building, and the old Jarvis Block (below). The Registry Office was built in the early 1830's and the Jarvis Block was listed in accounts of the town in 1862. Both buildings are links with the past of Ingersoll which this year celebrates its centennial as described on this page by M. E. Cropp.



## Early Writer on W.O. Trip Predicted Ingersoll Property As Best Site Along Road

George Gurnett, a newspaper publisher from Ancaster who made a trip through what is now Western Ontario in 1828, proved himself not quite infallible as to the future of communities in the district. In that year he looked to Oxford County as the site of what would be the leading community between Windsor and Brantford.

London, in his opinion, was faced with obstacles. He did concede, however, that if roads were continued on from London and connecting links made with other existing roads, the village might do better.

"But, unless this be done," he said, "or manufactories of some

kind be established, it can never become a place of consequence."

Of the Oxford County sites he had this to say:

"There is no place on this road which presents so eligible a site for the establishment of a village as the Township of Oxford on or near the property of Mr. Ingersoll.

The water privileges are very superior, and every kind of machinery might be established thereon with advantage; and, as it is surrounded by an old, settled and fertile country in a wealthy neighborhood, merchants, and others, who usually establish themselves in villages might settle here with an unusually fair prospect of success. We should recommend to Mr. Ingersoll and his neighbors to survey and lay out the Town Plot on the site in question, as a village here would, in our opinion, soon take the lead of any place between Brantford and Sandwich."

Mr. Gurnett made his observations in his Ancaster paper on September 6, 1828, following his tour of the district.

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# Oxford-upon-the-Thames Name Given Ingersoll Prior to 1851

By STANLEY J. SMITH

Over 100 years ago, Jan. 1, 1851, the hamlet of Oxford-Upon-The-Thames became the newly created village of Ingersoll, Canada West. Nine hundred and ninety-seven acres of West Oxford along with 725 acres of North Oxford were detached from the respective townships to form the new village, which, since 1793 had been the nucleus around which the entire county of Oxford was settled, therefore, Ingersoll is the oldest settlement between the Niagara and the Detroit rivers.

We interviewed, some 16 years ago, a number of aged citizens who remembered Ingersoll when it was known as Oxford Post Office, namely: The late Neil McFee, Miss Lucy Scott, Mary Haskell and Clarence Brown, all of whom were between 90 and 100 years of age at the time. They possessed all their faculties and, fortunately, childhood memories are more vivid and reliable than the fickle recollections of latter years and from them one can reconstruct Ingersoll of a century ago.

Between 1820 and 1835 seven farms were subdivided into village lots. In North Oxford township they were the farms of Richard Crotty and John Carnegie. In West Oxford they were lots 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22. These lots were owned by Charles and Thomas Ingersoll, jr., Daniel Carroll, Gilbert Harris, James Harris, Elisha Hall and Samuel Canfield. As late as 1852 there were many trees standing and almost all of the stumps of trees which had been felled some-time previous. One could stand at the rear of the town hall and look down the hill towards the present location of the C.N.R. station and see a clear view between the rear of the shops situated on Thames and Oxford streets. Many of the

buildings were of squared log construction and many had false fronts. There were no sidewalks and each merchant bore the expense of planking in front of his business establishment. In the springtime, Thames and King streets were in a muddy condition and draymen sank to their axles when freighting heavy merchandise.

There was a daily stagecoach service between Hamilton and London both ways. And on alternate days a coach ran between Ingersoll and Port Burwell. The monetary system was in sterling, shillings and pence. The penny being the lowest unit and not broken down to include half-penny and farthings. Nova Scotia currency (Halifax shilling); York shilling, and American currency were freely circulated and accepted. Barter was the main medium and they settled their accounts with the merchants once a year.

The largest general store was owned by Joseph Browett, of King street, and the building is still standing today and numbered 61, 63 and 65 King, east. The oldest commercial building is on the corner of Market Lane and King street, west. Now occupied by W. B. Ross, jeweller, and Flander's Meat market. This building was built on the order of Col. John Askin, of London, for James A. Ingersoll, newly appointed Registrar of Oxford county, in 1835, and is probably one of the oldest commercial buildings in south-western Ontario today. The oldest frame buildings for commercial purposes are the row of stores now occupied by the Douglas Brothers for a furniture store. These were built in 1845 by Adam Oliver, carpenter. The oldest brick residences are on Thames street, north, they being number 229 (Clarence Steinhoff) and number 255 (Len. Butler). On the North Townline, but in North Oxford township, is another brick house built about the same time (1838) which was the homestead of Nicholas Dunn. The late Neil McFee stated that he lived on Victoria street in the early 50's and he attended school on the corner of the North Townline and

Thames street (The Sandick property opposite the Allen site.) and there were only 11 houses on both sides of Thames street. Four of the mews of brick. Two were of logs and the other five were framed. One of these frame houses, number 221, was built in Barker, shoemakers, and it was dedicated as a Baptist mission. This writer has seen the original communion cups used at the service and they were in the possession of Mr. Barker's granddaughter the late Mrs. Tom Winders. We are also indebted to Mrs.

Winders for much information concerning our own residence . . . 275 Thames. It was reconstructed four times and each time an addition added. The deed to this property reads:—

"Crown to Crotty (1832) Crotty to Edward Barker (1849) Barker to Brown and Brown estate to Stanley J. Smith (1941). The late George W. Brown, North Oxford, informed this writer that our dining room was moved up from the rear of the house and it was originally Emphrain Roll chair factory. Mr. Brown said when he was a small lad he could recall

grew in the direct path and horses had to skirt around them. Also, there were many hogs and swine existing at the time and it

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We are also indebted to Mr

Max Bixel, late of Wurtemberg, Germany, opened up a brewery in Avonlea (Gas) street. Mr. Bixel complained to the council that the fenceviewers were lax in their duties. Certain fences on Charles street were in bad state of repair and hogs, chickens and cows, strayed on to his premises and ate the fermented barley. He said that he did not object to the animals and birds having a feed of an otherwise waste product, but objected to said hogs, chickens and cows invading the malt house floor to sleep off their jaund



# Early Citizens In First Vote

By STANLEY J. SMITH

Published below are the names and occupations of the principle citizens of Ingersoll, in 1852, who voted at the first municipal election held on January 5, 1852.

This list was from the poll-book and it was supplied to T. S. Shenston, Woodstock, by James McDonald, the returning officer, for the election. This is not the complete list of all the chief inhabitants because many refrained from voting or could not vote because they were unable to meet the qualifications to vote, namely, "A subject of Her Majesty the Queen, or one who had not signed an oath of allegiance to the Crown. Or not being in possession of property worth £50 or more." The population at this time was 1,190 people, including negroes and children. The first could not vote because they could not produce an oath of allegiance and the second for obvious reasons. This writer knows about a dozen inhabitants, whose names appear below, who have direct descendants living in Ingersoll today. We would appreciate from readers any descendants that is not on our list. Let us tick out grandfather:

Arthur Adams, laborer; David Adair, merchant; John Archer, mechanic; G. W. Allen, mechanic; Laurie Barnes; Yeoman, John Bower, laborer; Wm. Beattie, merchant; Wm. Barker, shoemaker; Edward Barker, shoemaker; John Brady, laborer; Wm. Berry, tailor; Thomas Byrne, harness - maker; Thomas Brown, tanner; Joseph Barker, merchant; Joseph Browett, merchant; James Brown, baker; Wm. Bunker, yeoman; John Buchanan, tinsmith; George Babcock, millwright; John Bowers, clerk; Joseph Burke, merchant; Carnegie, yeoman; William Cadnegle, yeoman, Charles Connaught, bootmaker; Richard Crotty, yeoman; R. H. Carroll, yeoman; D. Carroll, miller; D. Canfield, J.P.; Homer Campbell, mechanic;

laborer; George Fox; William Fowler, labo. C. Girham, sawyer; Rev. C. G. bert, minister; James Grler; A. Gordon, tailor; John teamster; John Galliford, Esq., bootmaker; James Gunes, bricklayer; Angus Gilchirst, laborer; Robert Haining, tinsmith; John Holland, fiddler; E. Harwood, painter; John Henderson, shoemaker; R. P. Hill, teamster; David Hill, carpenter; Alex. Holmes, carpenter; C. P. Hall, merchant; William Haywood, painter; Elisha Hall, yeoman; Stephen Ioughton,

laborer; H. P. Hopkins, saddler; John Hewett, plasterer; George Harrington, bricklayer; Sylvester Hill, yoman; Leonard Harris, shoemaker; James Izzard, teacher; James A. Ingersoll, yeoman; Richard Jessup, laborer; G. T. Jarvis, distiller; Solomon Johns, cooper; J. R. Jackson, merchant; John James, cooper; Wm. Knott, miller; Robt. Kelley, shoemaker; Peter Kennedy, teamster; henry Liniraux, teamster; M. Lawrence, carpenter; J. W. Lanson, blacksmith; William Larkworth, carpenter; Edward Lind, shoemaker; John Leonard, tanner; John Lawrence, joiner; Stephen Miller, laborer; Alex Mulleron, black

smith; John Morrison, tailor; Robt. Moore, laborer; Peter Mais Miller; Joseph Mais, laborer; Patrick Mahoney, weaver; James Murdock, wagonmaker; John

Macklin, merchant; John Mollison, mechanic; John Moore, moulder; James Murray, blacksmith; Edward Mavor, carpenter; George Jiam McDowell, laborer; John McKenzie, tailor; James McDonald, laborer; John McDonald, merchant; James McDonald, J.P., merchant; John McNab, merchant; J. I. McKenzie, merchant; Chris McMulklin, yeoman; Dr. James McCarthy, physician; Robert McDonald, merchant; Marshall McKay, carpenter; Henry O'Brien, tailor; Adam Oliver, carpenter; Hiram Pickard, teamster; Robert

Poole, yeoman; Thomas Peacock, yeoman; Willis D. Pillton, shoemaker; H. Poole, teamster; J. Powell, laborer; C. P. Parker, yeoman; Chas. Parkhurst, clothier; Sam Poole, tailor; Daniel Phelan, J.P., merchant; John Patterson, innkeeper; David Paine, tailor; Uriah Phillips, blacksmith; Edward Quigley, lumberer; Ephraim Robinson, chairmaker; R. H. Rumsey, founder; Patrick Shanley, laborer; Robert Sheedy, laborer; John Sheedy, carpenter; G. A. Spur, innkeeper; William Smith, wagonmaker; Daniel Schell, carpenter; A. Snelgrove, mechanic; Arron

Steele, mechanic; Henry Schofield, blacksmith; Rev. L. F. Smith, minister; John Taylor, carpenter; Moses Tripp, bailiff; John Urwin, yeoman; Stephen Venton, laborer; James Vanatter, laborer; John Warwick, cabinetmaker; John Walker, cooper; John Walsh, lawyer; David Wilson, druggist; G. H. Webster, cabinetmaker; Richard Weigh, mechanic; Edward Wellfare, teamster; James Walker, butcher; George Webster, joiner; John Wail, yeoman; Thomas Ward, laborer and Rev. Robert Wallace, minister.

Of the above names the oldest residents were Henry Schofield, J. A. Ingersoll, Patrick Shanley, Elisha Hall, John Goble, Daniel Phelan, Hiram Pickard, Thomas Brown, Richard Crotty, The Doty brothers, The Barkers, the Carrolls, D. Canfield and J. M. Chapman. Edward Doty was born in Ingersoll, in 1799, and J. A. Ingersoll, in 1801.

Other citizens living in the town at the time and did much for its early development were Henry Crotty, Washington Bevins, (colored); George Bartlett, (colored); H. Barraclough; Max Bixel, Leonard Bixel, brewers; James Brady, Edwin Casswell, Edward Comiskey, George E. S. Crawford, William Cuthbert, candle and soap maker; Riley Deuel and his daughter, Miss Caroline Deuel, who was Ingersoll's first lady teacher; N. McFee, Wm. Frizelle, Richard Fitzmorris, Isaac and James Greenaway, Charity Harper, (colored); Erastus T. Judd, David Lockey, Robert Kneeshaw, John Boles, Mrs. Ellen McCaskill, William McDowell (Ingersoll's first market clerk, James McIntyre

(the cheese poet), Hope Macniven, auctioneer; Edward Merrigold, Mark Ollerenshaw (Ingersoll's first bandmaster); Elias Pickard, James Pickard, Thomas H. Rawlings, John Roddy, George Ross, coal and wood; G. G. Stimson and J. D. Stimson, grocers, (arrived in Ingersoll in 1827); Joseph Thirkoll, A. T. Tuttle, Robert Vance, James Vine, notary public; G. W. Walley, George Waters, horse farrier; David White, dry-goods; William Willford, Ralph A. Woodstock bookseller; W. G. Wonham, surveyor and Miss Susan Young private school teacher.

Some names are missing - C-17

# IMPROVEMENTS.

## PROGRESS IN INGERSOLL.

### BUILDINGS GOING UP THE PRESENT SEASON.

We feel it a duty incumbent upon us as journalists to note the progressive steps which our town has made during the past year. It affords us great pleasure to be able to speak thus of the town of Ingersoll, for progression and improvement she has made, and that too of a very substantial nature, as will be evidenced by a glance at the following. Much money has been spent in good and lasting enterprises which will remain for years, as monuments of the advancement we have made in 1868.—Although we have done well in the building of Churches, Mills, Stores and additions to these public and semi-public, buildings, it is rather surprising to us, that more money has not been invested in the erection of private dwelling houses. We have known several families who have come to this town, and been compelled to board at hotels three, four and even eight months before they could find suitable dwelling accommodation for their families. This is not as it should be, and will, in a measure, retard our progress. It is a good evidence of progression to be able to say there is not a single house in the town to rent, but we think this state of things will have a tendency to retard that progress which we so much desire. We would draw the attention of capitalists to this matter, for we think the erection of good, respectably-sized private dwellings would prove a very lucrative investment.

Some of our citizens who are engaged in mercantile pursuits, speak of the present season as being unusually dull; but, we believe, before the year has ended, they will have amply made up for what little depression in trade they may have experienced. Ever since the opening of the spring, mechanics have been very busy, not having had an idle day, except of their own choosing; especially has this been the case as regards those classes of artisans who are engaged in the construction of buildings—Masons, Bricklayers, Carpenters, Painters and Plasterers. On the whole, the demand for skilled labor has greatly exceeded the supply, which has made the price of such labor very much higher than usual. This may, in a great measure, have induced many who had intended building during the present season, to hold over, until the price of building material and labor should come within their reach.

We give below a description of the several buildings which are being put up during the present season, as near correct as it is in our power to give. This list may be incorrect in many particulars, but we shall be glad to make it right. We dare say we may have made many omissions, which we shall be happy to rectify if pointed out to us.

As far as we have been able to ascertain the amount which will be expended during the present season for building and improvements will be about \$52,000. This is as far as we have been able to ascertain, but, of course, there have been many improvements which we have not been able to find out, and we dare say before the end of the season many more will be gone into which will swell the amount to the neighborhood of \$75,000.

The following is a descriptive list of the buildings completed and in course of erection during the present season:

### SMITH'S MILL.

The new flouring and oatmeal mill erected by Mr Jas. Smith on the upper end of Thames street, strikes the eye in a very prominent manner, situated as it is just on the curve in the street. This mill is built on the site of an old sawmill erected by Chas. Ingersoll, Esq., and which was burned down about fourteen years ago. This new mill is intended for the manufacture of flour and oatmeal, being provided with a kiln for drying the oats and three run of stone—two for flouring purposes and one for oatmeal. Its area is 40x60 feet, exclusive of the wheel-house, four storeys high—the first being of stone and the other three frame of the most substantial construction. The mill machinery is furnished by Mr Whitelaw, of Beachville. The flouring stones are supplied by Garretson & Co., of Dundas, and the oatmeal stones come from Glasgow, Scotland, but have not yet arrived. The mill will be driven by a breast-wheel, the dimensions of which are 12x14 feet. The cost of this mill is estimated at about \$6,000, and the building of the dam will be about \$400 more. This mill will prove a valuable acquisition to the town and vicinity, and is, as well, an ornament to the place.

### ST. JAMES' CHURCH.

This church will be situated on the corner of Oxford and Francis streets. At present we can say but little about this edifice. The foundation is of stone and the remainder will be of brick. Its dimensions will be 60x81 feet, exclusive of tower and chancel; the lower will be 16 feet square and 95 feet in height. The cost is estimated at \$9,000. The corner stone will be laid next Tuesday, by the Bishop of Huron.

### EPISCOPAL METHODIST CHURCH.

The foundation stone of this church (which is now drawing to completion,) was laid on the 19th of August of last year. This church, which is of Gothic design, is a most elegant structure, and a decided ornament to the town. The foundation and basement walls are built of stone, and the remainder of the edifice is brick.

The dimensions of the church are 40x75 feet, and it is capable of seating between 600 and 650 of a congregation, a gallery running round three sides of the interior. The steeple rises 110 feet from the ground, and strikes the eye as a very pleasing piece of architecture.

Mr H. Goble is the contractor, the fixtures having been furnished by Messrs Christopher Bros. Cost, \$7,000. The interior is now undergoing the finishing touches of the painters—the Messrs Thompson,—and will be ready for occupation in a week or two. We cannot close this brief notice without mentioning the pleasing effect which the large stained glass windows in the front of the building have on the appearance of the interior.

### INGERSOLL POST-OFFICE.

This building, which has been much needed, is being erected under the direction of Mr Thirkell, the Post Master. It will be two storeys in height with basement—the basement will be of stone and the remainder of the building of brick. Its dimensions are about 36x40 feet, and will cost upwards of \$2000. If the work on this building goes on as rapidly as it is doing at present it will be ready for occupation early in October.

### MERCHANTS' BANK.

This will be a very handsome two-storey brick building, which is being erected by Mr A. O'Connor, for the use of the Merchants' Bank, situated on Thames street, nearly opposite the post office. This building will be built of the Woodstock stock brick, with stone foundation. The building has only lately been commenced, but the workmen are getting along with it very rapidly, and at the present rate it will not be long before it is ready for occupation. Cost \$5000.

### MASONIC HALL BUILDING.

Mr R. Vance has erected on Thames street a very handsome three-storey brick building, 25 feet wide by 65 feet deep. This building when completed will be an ornament to the street on which it is built. In the front of the building a marble tablet is inscribed containing the inscription, "Masonic Hall," the upper storey of the building,—which is to be fitted up in the most elegant and elaborate style—having been leased by that Order for their occupation. The second storey is occupied by the CUNNINGHAM Printing and Publishing House, which is well adapted for the purposes for which it is used, being light, airy, and centrally located, and we must say we feel proud of our new office. The ground floor or storey basement is occupied by Mr Vance for his cooper, tinners and baking business. The cost of the building is over \$3,000.

### C. P. HALL'S JEWELRY STORE.

Mr Hall has added two storeys to his store on Thames street, built of the Woodstock brick, and fitted up in the best style inside, suitable for a dwelling. The roof is of galvanized iron, which is considered far superior to many of the kinds now in vogue. The cost of Mr Hall's improvements on this building will amount to about \$1,100.

Mr Hall has also converted a large frame on the corner of Charles and Oxford streets into three small stores 18x30 feet each, and 1½ storeys in height. The cost of these alterations will be \$800.

### ADDITION TO SCHOOL HOUSE.

Messrs A. Oliver & Co., completed, during the early part of this year, an additional wing to the public school house. This wing is built of brick, two storeys high. Contract price \$1,275. It is intended for the Grammar School Department of the Ingersoll Union School.

### BADDEN & DELANEY'S CARRIAGE SHOP.

This establishment is on Charles street. It is a large 2½ storey frame building, 24x66 feet, and is put up by the enterprising proprietors, Messrs Badden & Delaney, to accommodate their increasing business. A Blacksmiths' Shop 40 feet long and about the same width is to be added in the rear, capable of accommodating three forges. The cost of this building when completed will be something over \$1,000.

### NOXON'S SAW MILL.

Messrs. Noxon Bros. have made several additions to their already very extensive foundry and machine shop on Thames street, during the past season, the most important of which is a building 40 feet square, for a saw mill; also, a blacksmiths' shop, 21x48 feet, which is now in course of completion. The cost of these buildings will be about \$1,600, and the machinery which this enterprising firm have added to their establishment will be about an equal amount, making a total of improvement added this season of about \$3,200.

# FEARFUL FRESHET IN INGER-SOLL! GREAT DESTRUCTION OF PROP- ERTY.

## BREAKING AWAY OF MILL DAMS. Canterbury, King and Charles Streets Bridges Destroyed.

ESTIMATED LOSS \$10,000.

A sad calamity has befallen our town. The heavy rain in this place and neighborhood on last Tuesday caused the waters in the creek and river running through the town to rise to a great height, in some places over twelve feet. At eight o'clock on Wednesday morning the waters continued to swell to such an alarming extent that the fire bell was rung, and soon the citizens assembled in large numbers, and commenced to do what they could to avert the threatened danger. Mr Stuart's dam, at the southern part of the town, was the first to give way, when it was found necessary to raise the floodgates at Mr Smith's dam, a short distance below and north of Mr Stuart's. In the meantime the water rushed down in such immense volumes and with such a force that in a short time the bridges on Canterbury and Charles streets were swept away. Shortly after, several wooden buildings on the banks of the creek were also swept away—the general destruction being facilitated by large numbers of saw logs—the property of the Messrs Noxon—being carried by the current with such force and velocity as to cause the greatest alarm for the safety of King street bridge—supposed to be a very substantial structure. It was not many minutes, however, before the southern portion of King street bridge also gave way—a large part of King street, in the meantime, being flooded several feet in depth. Mr Chief Engineer Brady, with Mr Allan McLean and others, got the firemen together, who did all in their power to save the destruction of property, but their praiseworthy efforts seemed to avail little.

This, indeed, is a sad calamity. Such a flood was never known here since April, 1856, when the bridges on the same streets, together with a large amount of other property, amounting in the aggregate, as we find by referring to our files, to over \$5,000, was destroyed.

The losses on this occasion will fall heavily on private individuals, as well as on the town. Mr James Smith—now one of our most esteemed citizens—will lose, it is thought, by the undermining of his new flouring mill and the derangement of machinery, at least \$5,000—Mr Stuart will lose \$400; Eastwood, Murr & Co.'s loss will be about \$300; Mr Pooler's, \$800; Mr McIntyre, by the undermining of his large furniture establishment, will lose not less than \$200, it is thought; Messrs Noxon will lose not less than \$200, and the loss to the town is estimated at about \$5,000—nearly \$10,000 in all. There are others, of course, who are losers to a greater or less extent. We have given the names of the principal sufferers only.

Through the exertions of Chief Engineer Brady and staff, Thames street bridge was saved, although at one time it was thought impossible to do so.

In the afternoon the Mayor called a special meeting of the Council, when it was decided, we learn, to take early steps to rebuild the bridges. Canterbury street bridge will be rebuilt at once.

The following correspondence we take pleasure in laying before our readers. It speaks for itself.

Ingersoll, Aug. 25, 1870.

JAMES SMITH, Esq., Ingersoll.  
DEAR SIR,—The undersigned, on behalf of your many friends, regretting the serious damage done to your flouring mills and dams by the freshet yesterday have much pleasure in presenting you with the sum of one thousand dollars as a slight token of their sympathy and appreciation of your energy and business capacities. This sum, although small as compared with your loss, we hope you will accept, and thus enable us to equalize in a measure the losses which you have sustained.  
Yours, very truly,  
JAMES NOXON,

INGERSOLL  
CHRONICLE

August 25, 1870

# IMPROVEMENTS IN INGERSOLL

## NEW BUILDINGS GOING UP

Over \$73,181 to be Expended the  
Present Season.

The province of Ontario is to-day in a very prosperous condition. This is evinced by the improvements which are going on in its cities, towns and villages, as well as the rural sections. Many towns are spoken of as being in a highly progressive state, and it is difficult to say which takes the lead, when, on every hand, such advancement is observable. We claim for Ingersoll that she is not one whit behind, but at the end of the present season will be able to make an exhibit as favorable as any of her sister towns if she does not outstrip them. The number of buildings to be erected this year will be greatly in excess of any previous year. These improvements are not confined to any particular section of the town, but are pretty generally divided over it. Vacant lots are being built upon and unightly gaps filled up. Our borders are also becoming extended and many new houses are being erected on the outskirts of the town. Some of the new buildings will be of a permanent and substantial character, and will be a great acquisition and improvement to the town. There will also be several very commodious and handsome private residences erected, which will add greatly to the beauty and attractiveness of the place. The erection of such houses as these add importance to the town and give evidence of the wealth and prosperity of its inhabitants. Ingersoll has now a greater number, in proportion to its population, of this class of dwelling houses, than any other town in the Province, and the additions to be made this year will be something we may well be proud of. A large number of cottages have already been erected—some of them very pretty, indeed;—and before the end of the season a good many more will be under way. The want of more such buildings has been greatly felt for a number of years, and we are glad to see attempts being made to supply the want. There are over thirty such buildings just finished and in course of erection, and we are informed by the owners that they cannot get them finished soon enough. In some cases the tenants take possession before the buildings are completed. In years past many people came to Ingersoll with the intention of taking up their residence here, but were compelled, for want of proper and suitable dwelling accommodation, to go elsewhere. Such buildings as these are a good paying investment and it would be well for property holders to give their attention to it. With all that have been put up there is still a demand for more, and if the class of houses was a little improved we do not doubt but sufficient rent might be obtained to pay for the additional outlay. By so doing a better class of tenants would be obtained. We merely throw out this suggestion for those of experience to study, and feel convinced that if acted upon they will be amply remunerated. Our council are proverbially liberal, but it is a question in our mind if a little more liberality would not be of advantage, especially in the matter of opening up streets and making approaches to property at present isolated. We have heard of several parties who would build but will not do so until the streets are opened up.—

There are several places in the town where sidewalks should be laid down for the accommodation of property already built upon. As long as this is the case it gives very little encouragement for property holders to build, not knowing how long it may be before any improvement is made in the streets so located. Year after year complaints of this kind are made. Instead of being bled with the improvement of streets they should be in advance of the actual requirements. This is the secret of success in the cities and towns in the adjacent States, and it would be well if our Town Council would take a lesson from them. In the long-run, we believe, it would pay, for if the town makes improvements in the streets the taxes must of necessity be increased, and property holders will be compelled to turn their vacant land to advantage by building upon it, to relieve them from the burden of taxation which would be involved. Where improvements of this kind are made it might be well to put an additional tax on the property, of, say one-third or one-fourth of the improvements made. This would compel the holder to build upon or turn his vacant land to some account, and they could afford to do it, for their land would be so much more valuable. In this way, and in this way only, can we expect to see the town improve and grow as it should, with the advantages which it possesses. Every inducement and facility should be given to persons who are disposed to build, for we thereby add to our wealth as a town, and the more we advance in this respect the more we add to our importance as a commercial centre. We give the following list of buildings which are in course of construction or have just been completed. We have used our best endeavors to make it as complete as possible, but in some respects it is not as full as we could have wished. However, it gives a pretty good idea of what is going on:

The Congregation of Erskine Church propose building at once. The exact site is not yet fixed upon nor are the plans yet drawn out. The size of this new church will be about 50x39 feet, and will cost about \$9,000. It is expected to be commenced immediately and will be covered in before the fall sets in.

On Thames street, opposite the Post Office, a two-story brick building, for the exclusive use of the Niagara District Bank, is to be built. We have not learned the size of the building, but understand it will be very similar to the Bank of Commerce building, Woodstock, with Mansard roof, etc. The estimated cost is from \$6,000 to \$7,000.

A wing, 24x40 feet, two stories, is to be added on either side of the South Thames Street School House. Estimated cost \$3,500. More anon about this.

Mr. C. P. Hall, who purchased the corner lot on King and Thames streets, formerly occupied by the Post Office, has removed the old building to the rear of the lot over the creek and facing King street. This will be converted into offices and shops. He is also putting a new addition to the building which will be occupied by Mr Charles Cragg, as a saddlery store and work shop. On the corner from which the old building was taken a good substantial two storey brick building will be erected, 88x41 feet, the ground floor of which will be divided into four stores and offices. The upper storey will be fitted up for a dwelling. The outlay on this property will be about \$4,000. Mr Hall is also about to build

on the lot south of the post office a two-story brick building, 30x60 feet, divided into two stores. The cost of this will be \$1,200.—Messrs J. Christopher & Bros. are the contractors for the work.

The Hon. F. Smith is building on the opposite corner three very fine stores. They will be built of brick, two stories high. Two of the stores will be 22 feet wide by 85 feet deep, and the other will be 16 feet in width by 80 feet deep. These stores will occupy one of the best business locations in the town. The store on the corner is being built expressly for our enterprising townsman, Mr. E. Robinson, into which he will move as soon as it is completed. The old buildings have been taken away and a good deal of the material for building is on the ground. The work is to be pushed forward with the utmost vigor, and will be ready for occupation early in autumn.—Messrs Wright & Durand, of London, are the contractors. The block will cost about \$8,000.

Mr. William Gallagher is putting up a first-class fire-proof building for hotel purposes, on the corner of Hamilton and Thames streets. This building will be built of brick on a good solid stone foundation, and covered with a slate roof. The dimensions of the building will be 50x80 feet. It is the present intention to make it two storeys high, but Mr G. may possibly run it up another storey before it is completed. We should strongly advise the latter, as it is well located for the purpose and a first-class business would undoubtedly be done, besides it would greatly add to its appearance. The cost of this building will be \$3,000 if two storeys, and \$6,800 if three.—Messrs J. Christopher & Bros. are the contractors.

Mr. Gurnett, of the CHRONICLE, is about erecting a three-story brick building—16x40 feet and 20x50 feet—on Thames street, to be used solely for a printing and publishing office. Owing to the large increase of business, the accommodation afforded by the premises at present occupied has been found inadequate. The estimated cost is from \$1,500 to \$2,000.

James McCaughey, Esq., purposes pushing forward the work on his residence this season. It will be a large two-storey brick house of the Italian style of architecture, and will occupy nearly the same site as his present residence on Thames street north.

Mr. M. Bixel has just completed the brick work of a very handsome and convenient residence on Charles street. The building is on a good stone foundation, two storeys high; area, 42x52 feet. Mr Wyght, architect; H. Jackson, brick and stone mason. The cost of this building will be fully \$3,500.

Dr. Clarke is just completing a two-storey house on King street for office and dwelling. This is a very neat building and quite an ornament to that section of the town. The ground floor will be occupied as an office and consulting room, and the upper floor as a residence. He also purposes building a large addition at the rear. The size of the building, at present up, is 36x16 feet, and will cost \$500. Mr Jas. Wyght, architect and builder.

Mr John Aokert is building a frame cottage on Carnegie's survey, 32x31 feet, to cost about \$700.

### The Town Improvements.

A few weeks ago we gave a short description of the various new buildings which were in course of erection, or in prospect, the present season, and we are now glad to notice the progress that is being made in their erection, and the vigor displayed by the several contractors. The want of brick has been a great drawback in carrying on the work of some of the larger buildings, but with the very dry and favorable weather for brick-making, of the past six weeks, this difficulty will, in a measure, be overcome, and by the middle of next month the various brick-yards in this vicinity will be amply able to supply the requisite material to finish the various buildings early in the fall. In the meantime, however, the work has not been standing still, but the utmost energy has been displayed in making the necessary excavations, and building the stone foundations, some of which are completed, and the others will be ready as soon as the brick can be furnished.

Messrs J. Christopher & Bros., the contractors for the erection of Mr Gallagher's Hotel, on the corner of Thames and Hamilton streets, are making rapid progress with the building—the inside frame being already up to its full height and the rafters in place. We are glad to see that Mr Gallagher has followed our suggestions in running up a third storey. The building will now have a very handsome appearance, besides being a very great improvement to the main street of the town, and we are fully convinced that the additional outlay which the third storey will cost will, in a very short time, prove a good investment. The brick work has been commenced, and in a few weeks, at the present rate, it will be enclosed.

Messrs Wright & Durand, the contractors for the Hon. F. Smith's block on the corner of Thames and King streets, have had a Herculean task to perform in laying the foundation for this structure. The work, so far, under the sub-contractor, Mr John McCall, has been performed in a thorough and efficient manner, and is being pushed forward with creditable energy. We believe it is the intention of the proprietor to make this block only two storeys in height above the level of Thames street. We must say that we regret this. The very eligible business location which these stores will occupy, we think, would fully warrant the proprietor in running them up to a uniform height with the surrounding buildings, and we are convinced that before many years it will become an actual necessity to do so. If the matter were properly laid before the hon. gentleman, we are sure he would not consider the additional cost thrown away; and as the block is situated on one of the principal business corners of the town, a fine, three-storey building would be an ornament of which the proprietor and the occupants might well be proud of.

Workmen are busy at work on Mr C. P. Hall's block, on the opposite corner, which will soon be covered in. It is also the intention to make this building only two storeys high, and the same remarks will apply which we have expressed above, in regard to the block opposite, but we are sure the good taste of Mr H. will not allow him to erect anything but a slightly, well-proportioned edifice. Perhaps, by an elevated roof, or the erection of a proper parapet, the "squat" appearance which a two-storey building must produce may be relieved. Had the proprietors of these two corners consulted together, and made their buildings of a uniform style of architecture, with handsome Mansard roofs, now so much in vogue, we should have been able to boast of two as handsome corners as there are in any city or town in the Province.

The stone foundation walls for the CHANCELLER Printing House are now completed, and we are only waiting for the brick, which will be ready in a few weeks, to push it forward to completion.

Our town fathers want a severe stirring up in the matter of street improvements. Very little has as yet been done and the season is rapidly advancing. Wake up, gentlemen.

TRIBUNE EXTRA

Address presented by the Mayor of Ingersoll, to his Excellency the Governor-General.

Wednesday, Aug. 26, 1874.

To his Excellency, the Right Honorable the Earl of Dufferin, Governor-General of the Dominion of Canada.

We the Mayor and Municipal Council of the Town of Ingersoll on behalf of the Citizens, beg to express the very great pleasure we feel in tendering Your Excellency our loyal congratulations on this your first visit to the Town of Ingersoll.

We greet you with more than ordinary feelings of loyalty, as the honored representative of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, assuring you of our esteem for yourself personally, and our grateful recollection of the deep interest you have always taken in everything that effects the honor and welfare of our Dominion, and the kind courtesy you have ever extended to all classes of the community.

We hope that your tour through Ontario so far, has left pleasant impressions upon your mind, both with regard to the loyal demonstration of our people, as well as the evidences of material prosperity you must have witnessed on every hand.

We trust that your visit to Ingersoll will not be among the least pleasant of these associations.

We are glad to be able to extend to both Lady Dufferin and yourself a cordial greeting, and regret that want of sufficient time alone prevents our offering our hospitalities to the extent to which our feelings prompt us.

Appreciating the interest we know your Excellency has always taken in everything affecting the prosperity of our country, we propose to show you a specimen of a very important industry that has sprung up in our midst in the past few years, and with which the interests of the Town of Ingersoll are largely identified; an industry which is now adding materially to our national wealth, and which had its origin, so far as Canada is concerned, in this locality. We mean the manufacturing of cheese on the "factory system", an inspection of which we hope will interest Your Excellency.

That your Excellency, Lady Dufferin and family may ever enjoy happiness and prosperity, and that you may long be spared to vindicate the sentiment so noble expressed by you at Sarnia, "That you would wish every Canadian to feel and understand, that there is no man in the country prouder of his connection with it than myself", and that there is no inhabitant of the Dominion who has more deeply at heart its honor, its prosperity, and its future welfare, is the earnest prayer of those who now address you.

Signed on behalf of the Municipal Council and the Citizens of the Town of Ingersoll.

C.H. Sorley, Mayor.

R.A. Woodcock, Town Clerk.

Ingersoll, 26th August,  
1874.

*Featured Products of the Area*

# Elaborate Arches Hit the Skyline To Mark Vice-Regal Tour In 1872

By C.S.E.

Lord Dufferin, the third governor-general of the Dominion of Canada, made a visit to the western portion of Ontario in 1872 and returned to it two years later. During the latter tour he visited London and a number of smaller towns. Among them, Ingersoll, Sarnia and Goderich.

Every place got into full-dress uniform to receive the guest of honor. Reeves and mayors wrote up and engrossed speeches of welcome. The municipal councils had platforms constructed for receptions and galleries to hold choruses to sing anthems. Local merchants and manufacturers built magnificent arches which depicted the products of their regions.

Of the western towns the first one at which the vice-regal train of the Great Western Railway stopped was Inger-

soll, on August 26, 1874. It is reported that "the town was alive with people and the streets, Thames street especially, were grandly tricked out in gala dress."

The citizens were very proud of three arches which had been erected on the streets. As F. M. Bell-Smith, noted in the 19th Century for his magazine and newspaper illustrations, accompanied the party and made a pictorial record of the tour, we know how elaborately they were planned. One of the Ingersoll arches was composed of agricultural implements — reapers, ploughs, rakes and threshing machines while another consisted of McIntyre and posed in a sweep across the street: chairs, cupboards and what-nots showed on the skyline. Its exhibitors not only sold furniture but made it at their shop.

The Ingersoll arch illustrated

points out the fact that Ingersoll was the centre of Ontario's cheese industry at this time. Casswell, celebrating Ingersoll's dairy interest, was responsible for creating this feature of the celebration.

The arch was constructed of twenty-eight hundred cheese boxes, providing its main bulk and form. In addition its builder had used fitches of bacon, hams, cuts of cheese, flowers, flags and portraits of members of the royal family.

Lord Dufferin and his party were so much impressed by this unique edifice that the governor-general called a halt to the procession until he had taken notice of all its varied products.

From Ingersoll Dufferin went to London, and then to Goderich. The Huron County town had chosen to build an arch of salt barrels to emphasize its claim to be the chief salt pro-

ducer of the Dominion.

After the celebration in Huron was over, the governor-general went down the lake to Sarnia where "a gay escort of steamers met his boat and accompanied the vice-regal steamer to the dock." Here the governor viewed abundant decorations put up by the County of Lambton and the Town of Sarnia.

The arch, pictured by Bell-Smith, was described as "a beautiful Gothic triplet built to the emblems of Lambton County, of barrels of oil and of salt, and a collection of agricultural implements upon the top. There, also, perched upon its summit men were busily at work performing field operations of digging, raking and harvesting."

Thus, in Ingersoll, in Goderich and in Sarnia, the governor-general was forcibly helped to remember the products of Western Ontario.

THIS PAPER IS ON FILE WITH  
  
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**The Oxford Tribune;**  
 And Canada's Daily Reporter.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 1877.

**INGERSOLL.**

The "Tribune" Comments 33 and 133  
 at Length upon the Town and  
 its Surroundings.

THE INFLUENCES AT WORK WHICH  
 HAVE RESULTED IN THE PRESENT  
 DEGREE OF DEVELOPMENT.

**OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES.**

A RESUME OF THE LEADING BUSI-  
 NESS INTERESTS OF INGERSOLL.

*The Factories, Mills and other  
 Workshops.*

**OUR MERCHANTS.**

An Outline of the Business Identity  
 of the More Prominent Ones  
 with the Town itself.

The traveller east or west via the Great Western Railway, as he is hurried through a portion of the town or pauses for a brief moment at the depot, can form but a very imperfect idea of Ingersoll, a town that is upon all hands conceded to be one of the most thriving and enterprising of the Province of Ontario, and the Thames has therefore undertaken the task of giving at least something more than a casual view of it through its columns.

The following "writing up" of the town is in no sense a history of it—within three columns will doubtless be found many historical facts and data relative to men and things, but the actual history of the town, or its compilation, will be left to others. The province of the newspaper register is to deal rather with the present than with the past—his mission is to seth things as he finds them, and, though references to the past naturally are made for the purpose of comparisons and the showing of different stages of development, yet we wish, at the very outset to be under-

stood.

**THOUGH NOT THE CAPITAL**

of the County, our neighboring town of Woodstock having that honor, Ingersoll is, in point of population, upon a par with its rival. The generally accepted statement of population is five thousand, and we have no doubt it is essentially correct. The visitor to the town will find both rural and metropolitan features. The residence portion of the town has the appearance of a village in this, that for the most part the grounds are large, there is a profusion of shade trees and shrubbery, and the dwellings, or a large per cent. of them, are of the cottage order, with quite a number of exceptions in the form of really pretentious edifices.

The topography of the town site is all that could be desired, the surface being quite undulating. Indeed, like Rome, Ingersoll sits upon her hills, and from this throne of beauty—not exactly rules the world, but lays tribute upon a rich and fertile country adjacent, and from all, citizens and strangers alike, attracts conclusions of admiration, for the town is really and truly attractive.

**A LOVE OF HOME**

has been manifested by the residents that has taken an appreciable form, and there is a home-like appearance noticeable that is so foreign to larger cities.

This undulating surface not only adds to the appearance of the town but contributes materially toward its exceptional healthfulness. The river Thames courses through the heart of the place, and in its nature has given us a magnificent sewer. The drainage from all parts of the town toward the river is unobstructed, and the result is no stagnant pools, breathing miasma, nor are the streets rendered impassable from mud.

**THE THAMES**

deserve other purposes than sewerage. The stream, though christened after a noble namesake, can by claim to few pretensions per se, and yet it bears an important part in the development of manufacturing and milling interests, and has contributed in the past (and doubtless will contribute in the future) materially to the progress and well-being of the town. The Thames and the waters of its tributaries serve to operate flour mills and woolen mills and various other factories, and the power thus conserved is quite reliable, too. There is nothing picturesque about the stream, but in these pre-scientific practical days the purely picturesque hardly receives a second thought.

**THE BUSINESS PORTION OF INGERSOLL**

is confined to two streets—Thames and King—the former being the principal thoroughfare. From the Great Western Railway tracks which intersect Thames street at right angles, following the general course of the Thames, there is a general ascent to both north and south. The greater portion of the town and all its leading business interests are south of the track, and for a considerable distance Thames street is lined upon either side with long rows of business blocks, almost wholly of brick, and from two to three stories in height. These brick are of a yellowish cast, and the effect is pleasing;

there is an appearance of uniformity given to the street that impresses the beholder very favorably. Here are the leading dry goods, grocery, hardware, drug, boot and shoe and other mercantile houses, the two printing offices, some of the banks, the Post Office, telegraph office, several hotels &c. The other business thoroughfare, King street, crosses Thames street at the summit of the slight elevation referred to. Upon it are hotels, various business houses, banking, exchange and other offices, the Town Hall, &c. Either extremity of this street, as well as Thames street is adorned by numbers of neat cottages, or more imposing residences.

As one strolls through the business portion of Ingersoll he or she cannot but be impressed with the superior character of the business houses,—i. e., the stocks displayed are apparently unusually large, and indicate that the volume of trade transacted by the merchants, in the aggregate, must be very considerable. There are dry goods and other stores that in stock and appearance rival the more pretentious business houses of either London or Hamilton, and though the merchants place their greatest reliance upon the country trade, mainly attracted from a radius of ten to fifteen miles, it is apparent that cordial relations have been and are maintained between the town and country, and that this trade is a fixture.

Another thing will be noticeable, and that is that the great majority of the merchants of Ingersoll are young men. Their enterprise and energy has taken substantial form; they are mapping out new commercial paths for themselves.

Undoubtedly we may attribute the superior character of the business structures that adorn Thames street to

**THE DISASTROUS FIRES**

that have, from time to time, ravaged the town. Only five years ago a very general conflagration swept away a large per cent of the business blocks of this street. This "purification by fire" has been of benefit, and taught many practical lessons—expensive lessons they have been, too—but the people, even those whose hard-earned savings have fallen victims, once, twice or thrice to flames, have not been discouraged. These disasters have only served to incite the people to renewed energy, and without assistance from outside the work of recuperating from losses entailed, has gone forward bravely and steadily.



very forcible and pointed manner in what estimation they are held by the purchasing public; to any more than that would be like gilding refined gold.

The greatest development of the enterprise has been experienced since 1870. In comparison with last year the business for 1877 will show but little change either way the unusually depressed financial condition of the county precluding, as a matter of course, any marked improvement. The full working force required is 100 persons. The active management of the business rests with the President, Treasurer and Superintendent, each of whom takes personal cognizance of some department. The result is systematized effort, productive of good results.

Incidentally, we allude to an item which shows how much faith the Noxon Brothers have in the future of Canada. During the past few years the firm have acquired a very large mill property as well as lands in the town of Walkerton, County of Bruce. A part of that property they recently sold for \$60,000, and we believe it is their intention in disposal of their remaining interests in Bruce and thus be free to devote their whole capital and energies in extending the manufacturing operations to Ingersoll. They realize the fact that large markets are opening up in Manitoba and the North-West, as well as in the lower provinces, and to supply this demand admits of an almost indefinite increase to the company's operations.

The twenty years that have come and gone since the enterprise was inaugurated have been characterized by wonderful improvements in all classes of farm machinery. The Messrs. Noxon have recognized the progressive demands of the age—they have not only kept pace with, but have aimed to be in the most advanced rank; their success illustrates what men of energy, probity and business ideas may accomplish even in the face of obstacles.

#### Waterhouse & Bradbury.

It has been many years since the first custom roll cards were put in operation in Ingersoll, but it was not until about twelve years ago that any manufacturing was done. In 1868 Messrs. James Waterhouse and Frederick Bradbury bought the mill then controlled by H. Parkhurst, and they at once equipped it with machinery, and at the same time increased its custom capacity. This was the beginning of woolen manufactures in Ingersoll.

Both Messrs. Waterhouse and Bradbury were thoroughly conversant with this line of manufactures—indeed it has been the occupation of their lives. Each had learned the trade of spinner in the old country, and for the past thirty years they have been associates, and partners for twenty-three. Previous to locating in Ingersoll they had run a woolen mill at Thamesford for five years and at Port Stanley for five.

The Ingersoll woolen mill is run the entire year and ordinarily gives employment to fourteen to sixteen persons. It is what is known as a one set mill, and its capacity of consumption may be fully placed at 20,000 pounds of wool. Two custom roll cards are in use, one self-operating spinning Jack of 200 spindles, five narrow looms, and such fulling, dyeing, scouring and other machinery as naturally makes up the outfit of a well equipped woolen mill. The chief products of the mill are tweeds, flannels and yarns, and though a considerable quantity of these goods are purchased by wholesale houses of the Province, still the bulk of sales are here in the local market. There is a sales room at the mill, and last May the firm opened another up town, where in addition to goods of their own manufacture they carry a general line of staple dry goods, and also have a general tailoring department. The business is showing improvement all the time.

In the division of labor Mr. Waterhouse takes general charge of the sales departments, while Mr. Bradbury manages the mill. Both are kept busy, and their work is one that has resulted in decided good for the whole community.

#### Thor, Brown & Co.

The Times reporter has called upon the firm named above with the view of "stoma." The answers "we have no time to give," and "we take no interest whatever in the work," is sufficient reason for no "stoma" appearing. As this is one of the largest businesses in the town our report will be imperfect without it, and we are compelled, in order to exonerate ourselves for the omission to give the above facts of the case.

#### McIntyre and Crotty.

Furniture making is, at this time, one of the most depressed of any of the manufacturing industries of Canada, and yet we find an item or two of interest respecting McIntyre & Crotty, representatives of that interest here.

Mr. James McIntyre, the senior of the firm, is one of the oldest business men of Ingersoll. He came here twenty-four years ago and established a small cabinet making shop on King street, the work then all being done by hand power. Indeed, it was not until twelve years ago, when the factory now used was built, that steam power was introduced. Of course the twenty-four years that has elapsed since the business was established have been productive of good results. The business, through active exertion, has been enlarged very much, and instead of the one or two workmen of a quarter of a century ago, the full force required by the factory of late years has been 28, though not as many are now employed. Four years ago Mr. H. S. Crotty became a co-partner. Mr. Crotty is a native of Ingersoll, and formerly was engaged in the farming and millstone business until seven years ago, when he engaged in the furniture trade. That, since then, has been his business.

Messrs. McIntyre & Crotty make a general range of bedsteads, bureaus, chairs, &c., both for the wholesale and retail trade, their wholesale shipments extending throughout the country, so far west as

Barnia, and to the north, south and east. The local trade, however, is of chief importance. They also make a specialty of undertaking, manufacture and import of coffins and caskets, and keep two barbers. With the revival of business which certainly ought to come this fall, the firm will be found well equipped to supply either department of this trade, and they will be happy to fill orders now or then at such rates that cannot fail to give satisfaction.

#### THE MILLING INTERESTS OF INGERSOLL.

##### ITS FLOURING MILLS.

All told, in flour, meal, &c., there are nineteen run of stones in the town, (so far as merchant, (almost exclusively) and nine for custom and the strictly local market. The coopers for these mills is also made here, and the interest in the different phases it assumes, becomes of prominence, well justifying the column we devote to it.

The principal mills are: The Ingersoll Steam Flouring Mills (sometimes known as the "Manchester Mills"), Stuart & King's Mill, the "North Star" Mills, and Smith's Mill. We allude to each separately, and they serve as representatives of their class.

##### The Manchester Mills.

are located in the western portion of the town, and consist of a large frame structure with necessary outbuildings. These mills are operated by the firm of King & Bro., the co-partners being James King and W. B. King. The senior member of the firm is also largely interested in the manufacture of flour at Barnia, and devotes his time to the business there, his brother and partner, Mr. W. B. King remaining here and assuming management of the business of this mill.

The Manchester Mills have four run of stone, and are largely engaged in merchant milling, producing about 100 barrels of flour per day, in addition to the custom work. As nearly as possible Canadian wheat is ground, and most of the grain comes from this immediate neighborhood. The great per cent. certainly as much of nine-tenths, of all the flour manufactured goes to Glasgow, Scotland, the firm shipping direct, and thus, through the "old country" is given practical, we may say "testimony" evidence of the agricultural and milling resources of Ontario. Both water and steam power is used, the chief reliance being placed upon a fine 40 horse power engine.

By the side of the mill is also a cooper shop and stove and heading factory operated by King & Bro., in the interest of millers, pork and butter packers, oilmen &c., and in the various departments of the business employment is usually given to a force of twenty or thirty workmen.

troublesome...  
 and fifty and two hundred dollars, and with  
 this an capital he opened a medical grocery  
 store on King street. Continuing the  
 grocery trade for three years he then  
 with a retail trade in his business, he  
 founded "A Jeweller." About this time the  
 Great Western Railway was being built,  
 money was plenty, and the demand of life  
 was in about the same demand that the  
 necessities are now. The business  
 a success, and Mr. Hall has remained  
 it at first with the jewelry interest and  
 stock. There are few older established  
 dealers in the Province, and in the  
 ing years have cultivated the tastes of  
 people, we find his establishment now of  
 character that would find a place upon a  
 place twice the size of this small shop.  
 It has not been all plain sailing with  
 Hall—every venture has not proved  
 a thousand dollars of other people's debts,  
 equally profitable. At an early day in  
 the history of the town he became largely  
 interested in real estate, and in the dis-  
 astrous fires that have prevailed from time  
 to time he has been a heavy loser. Then, too,  
 it is a matter of fact that he has sold many  
 stores, simply by having lost his name  
 "as a mere matter of form," and these un-  
 lucky hits have doubtless tempted to  
 keep him in business. Be that as it may,  
 he is now as far years past he has both, one  
 of the leading business men of the town.

In addition to his elegant place of busi-  
 ness here Mr. Hall has another jewelry  
 house at Kzeier, and until recently also  
 had one at Woodstock. His place here is  
 one of the institutions of the town, and  
 makes a handsome display of everything  
 appertaining to the jewelry trade as also  
 musical merchandise and fancy goods. A  
 large watch and other repairing business is  
 also done. Thus far this year trade shows  
 an improvement over last, and we hope this  
 will remain a fact to be abridged from  
 year to year so long as he remains one of  
 the business fraternity of Ingersoll.

**John McEwen & Co.**

One of the best known of the dry goods  
 and millinery establishments of the town is  
 the "Glasgow House," John McEwen &  
 Co., proprietors. For a number of years  
 it has held a leading place in the list of  
 merchantile interests here, and certainly  
 no other business house of Ingersoll more  
 deserves detailed mention here than it.  
 John McEwen & Co. are successors to  
 A. R. Kerr & Co. Seven years ago Mr.  
 McEwen came here from the neighboring  
 city of London, where, for a number of  
 years, he had been connected with the dry  
 goods trade, and engaged, with A. R. Kerr  
 & Co. as a salesman. Two and a half  
 years ago, Mr. McEwen and Mr. O. A.  
 Thompson bought out Kerr & Co.'s clothing  
 department. One year later they dissolved  
 partnership, and Mr. McEwen purchased  
 the dry goods and millinery business of  
 Mr. Kerr. Such, in the briefest way, is an  
 outline of the changes the enterprise has  
 undergone.

The visitor to the establishment will find  
 a wide complete in its many appointments,  
 he or she will find an especially large stock  
 of goods in the various lines and selected  
 with special reference to the market. The  
 entire building is occupied, the first floor  
 being the general dry and fancy goods  
 saleroom, and in the rear of it is a ham-  
 nous millinery department. The latter  
 department receives especial attention and  
 a very large town and country trade is  
 done. Usually from eight to fourteen mil-  
 liners are required in the house, and cer-  
 tain it is that the people have appreciated  
 the endeavors made to supply them with  
 whatever is best and most fashionable.  
 The dry goods department is equally com-  
 plete, and in every way reflects credit upon  
 the town.

Upon the second flat of the building are  
 carpets, matting and floor oil cloths. The  
 stock being ample at all times. McEwen  
 & Co. are agents here, for the floor oil cloths  
 factory at Paris, Ont., which manufactures  
 a class of goods equal to the best imported.  
 Full lines of samples are shown, and orders  
 will be received for any pattern or width.

We could hardly say that the house  
 makes a specialty of any one thing above  
 another, and while its trade is mostly local,  
 still in some local respects it is a large  
 area of country. In classes of goods, for  
 instance, Mr. McEwen imports direct and  
 in original packages. Already this season  
 the house has sold fully 1,000 pieces, the  
 demand reaching from Windsor to Ham-  
 lton.

The general trade of the house is better  
 than for this year than last, and Mr. Mc-  
 Ewen expresses himself quite happy of a  
 large fall business. To the business he  
 devotes his whole time; he is a young  
 man, energetic and business like, and has  
 certainly worked hard for the success he  
 has attained.

**John Cayler.**

The above named gentleman has for a  
 long time been identified with the drug  
 trade of Ingersoll and of Oxford County  
 and our file book contains some items,  
 concerning him and his trade which are  
 reproduced here. Mr. Cayler first became  
 connected with the mercantile business of  
 Ingersoll thirteen years ago, when he re-  
 moved here from Woodstock and opened a  
 drug house in partnership with another  
 gentleman under the firm style of Cayler  
 & Co. After one year he became alone in  
 its management for four or five years, and  
 then admitted Mr. M. E. Tripp to a part-  
 nership under the firm style of Cayler &  
 Tripp, which so partnership continued until  
 two years ago. In the fire of 1872 Mr.  
 Cayler was a heavy loser, but he almost  
 immediately afterwards bought requisite  
 premises and built his present store build-  
 ing. In fitting it up he studied the con-  
 veniences of the trade with which he was so  
 familiar, and the result is an attractive  
 place of business.

Not only are drugs, chemicals, patent  
 medicines, and all the usual paraphernalia  
 of a drug store to be seen, but the visitor  
 will especially note the large and fine stock  
 of fancy goods, and of sea shells. Mr.  
 Cayler makes direct importation of these  
 articles, and has built up a large business  
 in them. The prescription department of  
 the business also receives careful attention,  
 and a large patronage is extended to it. In-  
 stead of the house is one that need not fear to  
 challenge competitors, and to the business  
 relations to the public at large it deservedly  
 stands high in favor.

**G. J. Shrapnell.**

There are but one or two merchants of  
 Ingersoll who have longer been connected  
 with the business interests, and none have  
 experienced greater vicissitudes, than Mr.  
 G. J. Shrapnell. A native of London, Eng-  
 land, he came here twenty-two years ago,  
 and during all of the intervening years has

(Continued from last page.)

been one of the most active, hard-working  
 merchants we have. Until May, 1872, nothing occurred to  
 shake the prosperity of the various  
 enterprises with which Mr. Shrapnell was  
 connected. But in May, 1872, in the so-  
 called "big fire" he lost over \$10,000. Six  
 weeks after he was again burned out, and  
 to cap the climax of misfortunes, a  
 steamer from Montreal, which had on board  
 a large quantity of goods for him, was  
 burned. Such a complication of misfor-  
 tunes would have certainly discouraged  
 most men, but Mr. Shrapnell once set to  
 work to rebuild the fortune that had been  
 swept away. He at once began the crea-  
 tion of the business block now occupied by  
 him and, this work diverted his mind,  
 called for active exertion and gave no time  
 for despondency even if there had been any  
 disposition in that direction. His new  
 premises completed, we had him again  
 in the full tide of a prosperous business.  
 Mr. Shrapnell makes a specialty of the  
 grocery, provision and cheese business. He  
 is by far the oldest grocer in Ingersoll, and  
 his work here has left an impress for good  
 that has always had a salutary effect.

**Mr. Dundas**

Five places of business in Ingersoll are better known to the people generally of town and country than the "Maple Leaf Grocery," and it naturally enough comes up for mention in this resume of the town and its business houses. Mr. Dundas is a native of this section, and about eleven years ago removed to Ingersoll from Dorchester, where, for some years, he had been engaged in the general grocery and provision trade. For the first two years of his residence here he was variously engaged in business, and about eight years ago, in company with a Mr. Wall, established a grocery house under the firm and style of Wall & Dundas. This partnership was dissolved after two years, and Mr. Dundas has continued the business ever since.

The specialties of the house are groceries, provisions, queensware and glassware. Large stocks are carried, and it is evident at a glance that the house is abundantly able to furnish supplies of any thing in its lines and in any reasonable quantity. Ever since the house was established it has had a good, healthful and growing business, and to-day no business enterprise of any kind in the town has more or warmer friends.

The premises occupied by Mr. Dundas, "Victoria Block," were built by him especially for this purpose. The building is 65 x 20 1/2 feet, three stories and basement, and it stands as convenient quarters as any one could wish. Here the patrons of the house or others will at all times be made welcome, and we have no doubt the "Maple Leaf Grocery" will, in the future, but add to the already acquired prestige.

**G. W. Wallis**

Mr. Wallis carries forthwith a distinctive interest, and is to be associated with being the leading, indeed the only exclusive representative of the crockery, glass and queensware trade of the town. He has been a resident of Ingersoll long enough, too, to become closely identified with its mercantile interests.

Removing here eighteen or nineteen years ago this fall, he engaged in business upon a capital so small that it really might be best represented by an indefinite number of ciphers. His first venture was in groceries, occupying a small building which then stood where White & Co.'s dry goods store now is. Not long after he purchased two crates of crockery on credit, and this was the foundation of his present establishment. Two or three changes of location have been made by Mr. Wallis, and in the big fire of May, 1872, he was a sufferer to a large extent. After this fire he immediately began the work of re-building on the site then and now occupied; the result was a substantial three-story brick building 90 feet deep, and which was fitted up expressly for this trade. The business has gradually grown from the outset. His interest with which Mr. Wallis has been familiar from boyhood, and his arrangements in England are such that he buys in the cheapest markets and imports direct of all such European and American goods as he handles. In this way he is capable of selling at about such rates as the ordinary retailer will pay—indeed, his facilities are such that, if it were desirable, he would do a considerable jobbing trade, competing on even terms with other importing crockery houses of the Province.

The display made in the saleroom is in every way attractive; nothing appears to be omitted that would aid in the perfection of detail, and the house has thus won the merited distinction it enjoys.

**G. A. Thompson**

The clothing merchant tailoring goods, furnishing goods and hat and cap trade has a worthy representative in Ingersoll in the establishment of Mr. G. A. Thompson, and we have a word or two to write relative to it and its proprietor.

Like the great majority of the merchants of Ingersoll, Mr. Thompson is a young man. He came here between nine and ten years ago, and his business experiences in this community began in an engagement as salesman with the late dry goods and clothing house of A. R. Kerr & Co. As elsewhere stated, Mr. Thompson, in partnership with Mr. McKewen, subsequently purchased the clothing interest of that house, and one and a-half years ago he assumed entire control of the business. He has since been at the head of an establishment in every respect creditable to him and the town.

Merchant tailoring is, perhaps, the leading specialty of the business. During the busy season a force of from sixteen to twenty persons is employed, and the quantity of custom-made garments annually turned out is very large. The ready-made clothing interest is by no means neglected, and full stocks are shown, while in furnishing goods large lines of the latest novelties are carried. The same is true of the hat and cap department. It is evident to any one that trade is in a good condition, and no efforts will be spared to increase it.

Mr. Thompson is originally from Scotland, thirteen years ago. Since then he has been connected with the business interests of Clinton, Woodstock and Ingersoll, and his house now commands the good will of all in the community. As to its future the Tailors can only wish it continued success.

**Hearn & Macaulay**

The most recently established dry goods firm in Ingersoll is that of Hearn & Macaulay, which dates its organization from the first of March, 1876. Though of recent formation the house has already become one of the "ruling powers," so far as the mercantile interests of the town are concerned, and it is true that it has no extended history, our reporter still has some gossip upon the enterprise and the gentlemen who conduct it.

The co-partners are H. Hearn and A. Macaulay. Mr. Hearn has resided in Ingersoll since 1850, and he comes under the designation of "old resident." By the experiences of the greater part of a lifetime he is a merchant. An Englishman by birth, he served a long apprenticeship to the dry goods business in London, and though since coming to Ingersoll he has not always followed the business, he is yet a thoroughly experienced merchant. For some time he was landlord of the Royal Hotel here, but now he has gotten back to the dry goods trade.

Mr. Macaulay is a somewhat younger man than his partner, and is a Canadian by birth. For ten years he has lived here, and is well known to all our people in connection with his present line of business, he having been connected with the dry goods trade ever since coming here.

The firm shows very easy quarters in the Odd Fellows Hall building, and upon the shelves, counters and show cases are spread out the freshest and latest novelties in dry goods, millinery and millinery supplies. Every thing has a tidy look, the secret of which perhaps is to be found in the fact that scarcely a week or even a day passes in which accessions to stock are not made. Goods are coming and going all of the time, and the people have learned the significance of this fact. As a result, despite the general complaint of "hard times," Hearn & Macaulay's sales thus far this year have been fully one-third in advance of the corresponding months of 1876, commencing from the first of March, and the impression prevails with the firm that this rate of growth will characterize operations for the remaining months of the year. As a representative of the dry goods and millinery interest of the town, a place has been won that is difficult to lose, and the months, as they come and go, only add to the laurels of success already won.

**J. C. Little**

The gentleman named above has now been a resident of Ingersoll for the past twelve years. Mr. Little came here from London; there he had been engaged in the heavy and harness business for some years. He did not become one of the merchants of Ingersoll until 1871, and there was just in time to be a heavy loss in the fire of May, 1872, which swept such destruction through the business centers of the town.

We believe the original firm was J. C. & H. Little; at all events that co-partnership was dissolved in May of this year, and Mr. Little now conducts one of the leading grocery, provision, glass and queensware houses of the town. His trade, in the general character, doesn't differ from that of the other houses in the same line of which the Tailors speak to-day. Mr. Little has aimed to conduct the business upon its merits; he has sustained competition with his neighbors in a business like spirit, and he has made many a friend and patron in town and country who would be sorry to see him discover his connection with our business interests. That, however, is an event not at all probable, as trade generally with the house has shown a gratifying stage of advancement, and in subsequent reviews of our business interests the Tailors expect to record the name of J. C. Little as among the successful and progressive dealers.

**John O'Callaghan**

There are few if any of the business men of Ingersoll who have shown a more abiding faith in the present and future of our town than Mr. O'Callaghan, and that he has been one of the successful business men of the community is owing to himself. Mr. O'Callaghan first removed to this vicinity twenty-five years ago, and to town this date is about the same. Farming used to occupy

his time, and though now a merchant he retains a large farming interest, owning two farms near here. Until the last four or five years he has been largely engaged in the stock business as a drover, in which he was very successful, but now he confines his business to merchandising. Having two establishments, one devoted to the wholesale and retail liquor trade, the other to groceries and provisions. He has invested largely in real estate here, owning the O'Callaghan block, where his stores are, as well as the property adjoining, including the "McMurray House," four stories, two dwelling houses, &c. Lately he has purchased other business and residence property, and to-day he is one of the heartiest rate payers in town.

Mr. O'Callaghan has a large and growing business in his various lines. In the store he is assisted by his wife, and also by four or five other parties, and he is one of the few in town who are not perpetually complaining of hard times. Perhaps it is because he is disposed to look on the bright side of things. Certain it is, that no business interests of Ingersoll are more firmly established, and none are doing a more substantial trade.

**John Holifield**

As our reporter learns facts relative to the prominent business men of Ingersoll he finds quite a number who have been identified with the trade interests of town for a long period of years. Mr. John Holifield is an illustration. He removed here from St. Catharines in 1854, and ever since, for twenty-three years, has been actively engaged in business here.

Merchant tailoring, clothing and furnishing goods have formed Mr. Holifield's line of trade, and he now has an establishment second to none in this section of country. The stock of cloths shown is very large, and the utmost good taste appears in the selection, in making the selections. We may say the same of the ready-made clothing and furnishing goods & garments, too, and not at all exaggerated.

**J. M. Wilson & Co.**

The grocery, liquor, provision and produce house of J. M. Wilson & Co. is so well-known hereabouts that we hardly hope to say anything with which the people are not already familiar. So that as it may, we venture giving publicity to such items as we have:

The house is an old established one, was formerly conducted by Edward Robinson for a number of years, and J. M. Wilson & Co. succeeded to him four years ago. Mr. Wilson has been a resident of Ingersoll for the past fifteen years, and during all of that time has been identified with the business interests of the town, until four years ago he confined himself wholly to the produce business, and the annual operations of the house in that line are now by far its heaviest business. Cheese, as a matter of course, is the principal item and Mr. Wilson's transactions in cheese

last year amounted to about a quarter of a million of dollars. Its sales direct to Europe, usually buying upon direct orders, and a commission business is done whenever it is desirable. Quite a business also consists in furnishing dry-goods with all manner of supplies.

Mr. Wilson can't complain of not finding his time pretty thoroughly occupied; his business in its various departments is among the most prominent of the town, and we are glad to chronicle its success.

**W. S. Caldwell.**

As will be noticed by this review of Ingersoll and its business interests, few of the merchants of to-day have been identified with its business interests for nearly a quarter of a century. Mr. Caldwell is one of the first, and we believe he is now next in the oldest merchant in the town.

Mr. Caldwell came to Ingersoll 25 years ago next month, from London, Ont. There he had been connected with the drug trade for some years, and when he located here the business naturally became his speciality in trade. Since then, except six months, he has been alone in trade, i. e. has had no partner; and though his business experiences here have been full of vicissitudes, yet on "over true tale" reveals a simple statement of facts, which the TOWN records in this issue.

Mr. Caldwell has been compelled to make three removals, once by fire, and lately he has again changed location, now taking possession of a store south of D. White & Co.'s. This place he has fitted up with all the accessories of the drug trade, and he is now, if possible, better than ever prepared to cater to the wants of the people. In the way of business, nothing is neglected, and the experience of the past 25 years are put to good use. Mr. Caldwell has a handsome place—his new quarters are in every way worthy of the business, and he, as one of the pioneers of the town, ought to be, as he is, the recipient of a trade which shows continued and

**Horner Campbell, Jr.**

The store and tinware trade of Ingersoll is carried forward in a spirit of enterprise in one of the many industries of the town that and good feeling, and we write of the house of Horner Campbell, Jr., as representative of its class.

Mr. Campbell is a native of Ingersoll, and for the past ten years he has been carrying on his present business. He succeeded to the store and tinware house of James Atkins, and not only retained the trade of the old house but largely added to it. He now occupies two store-rooms on King street (where he has been for the past eight years) and here are displayed the many things that comprise part and parcel of such an establishment. Several of the leading makes of stoves are carried on, the aim evidently being to keep the best, whether in heating or cooking stoves, and the large sales make attest the fact that this aim is carried out.

Mr. Campbell also manufactures tinware extensively, and does a general jobbing business in guttering, roofing, spouting and all of that class of work. Recently he has added the laying of "Garry's patent cap roofing" to his other business, and a block of two stores directly across the way from his place of business attests how thoroughly the work is done. This patent cap roofing is of iron, and not only is it durable but its use decreases the danger from fire and, consequently, insurance rates. It has no bad effect upon water; it combines beauty, durability, economy and simplicity, and the system can but meet with the

approbation of all who will be civilized enough to give it a test. Mr. Campbell is sole agent here for this style of roofing; and he will be glad to give particulars, estimates, &c., to anyone.

Another feature of the business is agricultural implements. Mr. Campbell is the most extensive dealer in implements in Ingersoll, and farmers will find that consultation with him is to their interest.

The furniture business is another leading specialty with Mr. Campbell, and a large stock is carried. Children's carriages, platform and counter scales, coal oil, paints, lubricating and other oils, also enters largely into the composition of what may be called a stock out generis.

As one of the leading business interests of town the one to which we now refer deserves to be spoken of as a representative, as none here have a firmer hold upon the public.

**Barker & Sills**

The most recently formed firm in the town is the one named above, Barker & Sills, whose forte is both that of manufacturers and dealers. The co-partners are two young men, Jno. F. Barker and J. E. Sills, both of whom have for some time been connected with mercantile interests here—indeed each had formerly been with D. Y. Ellis & Bro., hardware dealers.

The house was established by Clark & Barker about two years ago; it was a new enterprise, and we state but a simple fact when we say that its success in trade during those two years has been almost unprecedented. In the latter part of last month Mr. Clark disposed of his interest to Mr. Sills, on account of other outside business, and the new firm thus enters upon an established trade, having at the same time, the good wishes of all in the community. The place of business occupied is the block of two stores, three floors and basement, nearly opposite the market. Here can be found a general range of furniture of all kinds, and the writer must confess his surprise at nothing such really elegant upholstered seats and other goods of that class, and at the same time the cheaper grades are by no means overlooked. Indeed it is evident that any taste or purse can be gratified.

The firm are manufacturers and wholesale dealers as well as retailers. They have the exclusive control in Canada of the best spiral spring bed we have yet seen, and they manufacture it largely for dealers in nearly all parts of the Dominion. For simplicity, strength, durability and ease it may well challenge comparison with any other, and it is not surprising to us, after examining the bed, that it should stand so high in public favor. Flock, grass, bay and hair mattresses and pillows are also manufactured in large quantities.

The visitor to the house will also note a fine line of chromos, of which a decided specialty is made. Large lines of picture frames and moulding are carried on, and frames of any requisite kind will be made to order.

Messrs. Thriller & Sills report the prospect of business as being of the best. The house has already won a large trade, and it will be their effort to add thereto by every honorable means.

**THE DAIRY INTEREST.**

Notable and Favorable  
Reputation on Account of its  
Dairy Products.

"Cuzco" is "King" in Oxford Co.

The dairy interest of Canada is of large consequence; the cheese manufacturers in no inconsiderable quantities supply the markets in the old world, and both at home and abroad, the reputation of this branch of Canadian products stands with the best.

As dearly as can be estimated, the total value of the cheese product of Canada amounts to three and a half million dollars per year; of this large quantity fully two-thirds comes from so much of Ontario as lies west of Toronto, and of the great amount Oxford County supplies at least one-third; in other words the value of cheese annually manufactured in the County reaches nearly one and a quarter million dollars.

The headquarters of the cheese interest of the County is at Ingersoll, and a very large per cent. of the entire product of the Dairy men of the County is handled by

By *James M. Casswell*

of this town, whose office is nearly opposite the *Tribune*. Mr. Casswell exports in great quantities. He ships to various ports in Europe (largely, as a matter of course, to England) and, buying upon his own account and on orders sent abroad, he finds his time thoroughly occupied.

Mr. Casswell is an extensive pork packer and dealer in provisions. He also makes it a point to carry to stock all manner of dairymen's supplies and his office thus naturally becomes an objective point for the farmers of the County. He has been one of the workers of this community for the past twenty five years. For eleven years he was connected with dry goods and groceries, and fourteen years ago he turned his attention to his present business. He was the first man to ship cheese from here to Europe, and the opening wedge thus driven by him has been followed up by the most systematic, earnest effort.

Mr. Casswell makes very little display of his business operations—on the contrary he is inclined to be somewhat reticent—and the *Tribune* reporter chronicles the fact that the few items he has, have only been gained by the most persistent interviewing. This fact remains, however, that the gentleman in question is to be considered as one of the leading representatives of the cheese interest of Ontario, and to his personal efforts as a live, wide-awake business man, may be attributed much of the prestige which Ingersoll and Oxford County enjoys as a dairy market. Mr. Casswell is also agent in North America for the celebrated *Micbell's Plain Annetto*, which has proved itself such a favorite with dairymen generally, and although others have been tested and used, this annetto is considered to be the only reliable article. Rennets are also imported direct from England and Germany, and Mr. Casswell supplies them in large quantities.

Other leading cheese buyers, besides those already named, are:—D. B. McDonald, John Byron, J. L. Grant, J. C. D. Gaylor, Wm. Smeiter, G. J. Shrapnell.

**THE PORK TRADE.**

Considerable quantities of pork are annually packed in Ingersoll, the principal packers being Edwin Casswell and T. D. Miller, the first-named gentleman annually killing and packing about 4000 head of hogs; the latter between two and three thousand. The market for this year is largely here, and the hog killed are a delicacy of Oxford County growth. Mr. Casswell also ships considerable quantities of his "prime mess pork" to England, where it commands a price considerably above the market quotations, and where it has taken numerous first prizes. Thus the praises of Oxford County productions are literally being sold by in the mouths of thousands.

**OUR HOTELS.**

The towns of Canada are proverbial for the variety of hotel accommodations, and Ingersoll is no exception to the rule, we have here, good, bad and indifferent.

**THE DAIRY HOUSE.**

It is one well known to the travelling public. For a number of years it has held a place peculiarly its own, and under the management of "mine host" T. B. Dearman, it has deservedly gained in popularity. The Dairy House is a substantial three-story brick building, near the centre of the town; it is abundantly supplied with ample rooms for commercial travelers; and the best of accommodation for the travelling public generally. In whose behalf it runs a free bus to and from all trains. The table is well served; the cuisine is such that could be desired; the cleanly rooms only add to the other attractions. To those liberally inclined there is offered the best of liquors at the bar, and we can assure prospectively guests that in every department of the house the most courteous treatment can be relied on.

Mr. Dearman, the land lord, is a pleasant genial gentleman, who for the past four and a half years has presided over the Dairy, and his experience of fourteen years as hotel keeping, is far from being barren in results.

Among the other hotels of the town are "The Atlantic," Wm. Gallagher proprietor; "The McMurray House," Wm. Mc Murray, proprietor; "The Royal," John Smith, proprietor; "Aisle's Hotel," John Aisle, proprietor; "Orant's Hotel," Mrs. Leonard, proprietor; "Brady's Hotel," Jas. Brady, proprietor; "The Commercial," D. McRough, proprietor; "Queen's Hotel," C. McFullo, proprietor; "Lee's Hotel," and the Douglas and Thompson houses. To comment upon each of these would be superfluous. They are all well regulated houses of entertainment.

**THE BANKS.**

Various banking houses have agencies here, and some private capital is also invested in banking and exchange. The chartered banks are:—The Merchants, Mr. Kemp, Manager. The Imperial, B. Hoar, Manager. Nations, Mr. Dempster, Manager. The exchange offices are:—N. Hayes; J. C. Norzworthy and Minkler Bros.

**IN CONCLUSION.**

We hardly know where to write "Gals." Column after column of space has been filled, and yet we have but partially gone over the field. The professional men, the photographers, many enterprising grocers and other dealers must needs be omitted, because "time" is up, allotted space is more than filled, and the hour of going to press is at hand. This much can be said, as a concluding paragraph, by the writer of the foregoing: He has met with a degree of courtesy and kindly feeling from the publisher of the *Tribune* and from the entire community, that will long be remembered, and he hopes that the story of the various interests of Ingersoll, herein told, written "with malice toward none," may prove like good seed sown upon faithful ground.

## A BUILDING COLLAPSES.

### THE FOUNDATION UNDERMINED BY THE WATER.

McIntyre's Furniture Factory in Ruins-- His Loss Fully \$2,500--The Archway over King Street Partially Gone--The Wear of Water for Years at Last Results in Ruin.

For some time past it has been patent to all who were observant of the case that the foundation at the west end of the Campbell block on King Street, was slowly but surely wearing away. Indeed Mr. McIntyre upon more than one occasion, through the press drew attention to the fact. Little notice was taken of it however and no attempt was made to remedy the defect. The rains of the past few days have raised the water in the ponds to an unusual height and many an anxious thought has been given to the dam in town by the owners and others interested. Early yesterday morning the water had reached such a height that it was only by prompt action on the part of Mr. Smith that his dam was saved from destruction. The gates were thrown open thereby allowing the angry waters to escape in an immense volume. This of course bore heavily upon Mr. Partlo's dam, the gates of which were also opened none too soon to save the structure. The gates of the dams being so freely opened naturally swelled the stream leading therefrom, and which passed through the centre of the town, to an abnormal height, and the waters rushed on to the river with an angry roar. This same stream has often been as high in the past and no harm has resulted. This morning, however, the fears on the part of many of our citizens which have been frequently expressed, were realized and about 6.30 the end of the Campbell block before referred to collapsed and the ruins together with the contents of the building were swept away. The premises were occupied by Mr. Jas. McIntyre, furniture dealer and undertaker, and the loss on his part will be heavy. He had a \$3,000 stock on hand nearly the whole of which is a total loss. The stock of furniture, coffins, caskets, etc., was carried by the water on down towards the river, some of it going ashore fully two miles from the place of beginning. Chairs and remnants of furniture, coffins, etc., were strawn along the banks, ruined beyond repair.

Mr. Robert T. Robertson, foreman at Mr. McIntyre's is a loser to the extent of \$75.00, the whole of his valuable kit of tools having been swept away.

### AN EYE WITNESS.

Wm. Bond who was an eye witness of the affair said that when going to work about 6.30 he heard an unusual noise from the creek and walked down King Street to the archway where the stream passes under the street. When he arrived there he noticed that the windows at the end of the Campbell block were cracking and thought it was someone inside that was doing the damage. Glancing down towards the foundation however, he noticed the foundation giving away, and the next moment the whole thing went down with a crash.

It was a fortunate thing that the calamity occurred at an early hour before the men were at work, otherwise it would have been attended with loss of life.

It was reported that Mr. Smith's dam had broken away, but that was a false rumor.

A portion of Mr. Buchanan's dam was washed away and a considerable portion of the embankment on the old Ingersoll foundry property has shared a like fate.

The archway on King street is also partially gone and is in a dangerous condition. The north end of it has been washed away and it will require the expenditure of a good round sum to put it in proper repair. Attention was also directed to this archway last year and the council did a certain amount of repairing to it. Immediate attention will now have to be given to it and the question arises, would it not pay better in the end to put an iron bridge in place of the archway. One thing is certain if the latter is allowed to remain it will always require more or less attention and probably have to be rebuilt entirely at an early period in the future.

We do not see that blame can be attached to anyone but the owners of the block. It is clearly evident that the foundation was defective in the first place and when this was known, steps should have been promptly taken to make it secure.

This affair brings to mind an experience in the town's history which occurred some 15 or 20 years ago. On that occasion the high water caused Mr. Smith's dam to give away and the immense volume of water which escaped in consequence flooded King street from Stuart's grocery store down to the creek. A portion of the archway was also washed away. In addition to the loss of the dam about 70 feet of stone wall was carried away together with a large quantity of lumber etc. It cost about \$1200 to repair the damage which together with the loss of the use of the mill for about three months made a pretty heavy drain upon the pocket of Mr. Smith. He also owned the Partlo mill at that time. He was offered a cheque for \$1000 made up by some of his friends to compensate him in a measure for his loss but he thankfully declined the handsome donation.

INGERSOLL CHRONICLE

April 16 1891

# KNOW YOUR INGERSOLL.

By STANLEY J. SMITH  
Our oldest merchant in continuous business is James S. Grieve.  
Our oldest ex-mayor is Silas E. Brady. Mr. Brady is still in business.

Our oldest citizen actively engaged in business is W. J. H. Sutherland.

J. H. Hugill is Canada's oldest postmaster.

The Merrow Nut and Screw Company is Ingersoll's oldest industry.

The first train through Ingersoll was operated by the Canada Great Western on Dec. 13, 1833.

The oldest business building (1835) is now occupied by W. B. Ross, Jeweller, and Flanders Meats.

The oldest brick residence is number 235 North Thames street, the present home of Lin Butler.

The oldest business district is on King street, east.

The oldest residential district is Tams, Hall and Canterbury streets.

Descendants of Jules LaFave, a soldier keeping open the lines of communication between Quebec and Detroit, in 1761, are residents of Ingersoll.

John Uren, (1802) was Ingersoll's first blacksmith. His descendants are residents of Ingersoll and district.

Alan G. Pinkerton, famous detective, worked in the cooper shop of G. F. Jarvis, distiller, in 1844.

Stillwell Samuel Smith, Ingersoll's first innkeeper, was a member of Augustus Jones' survey-party when West Oxford township was surveyed in 1793. Mr. Smith stood trial for treason, in 1837, for taking part in the Montreal rebellion.

An Indian encampment existed

on Water street (along Ingersoll Creek) in 1782, when Duncan H. Hutz, a neescaped slave visited it before he "squatted" near Centerville.

The appointment of James A. Ingersoll, as registrar for Oxford county (1734), was one of the main reasons that 155 Ingersoll and district citizens joined the

Mackenzie rebels. Solomon Lossing of Norwich was promised the position.

Major Thomas Ingersoll was not an United Empire Loyalist. He enlisted with the Americans in 1776. It was for this reason that the Honorable Peter Russell, President of the Executive Council, cancelled the grant to Major Ingersoll which was promised to him by Governor James G. Blount.

# KNOW YOUR INGERSOLL

By STANLEY J. SMITH

A boundary dispute between Carroll vs Carnegie gave Mutual street its name. It was originally called North street, but it was never registered on any official surveys. The Judge trying the case advised the litigants to settle the matter out of court. This was done and the judge asked if they were "mutual" in their agreement. When both litigants replied in the affirmative the judge struck off North street and wrote in Mutual.

A sun dial gave our pioneers the time. It was on the north-west corner of King and Thames street. In 1833, a Mr. Pomroy excavated the cellar on this corner and one morning a workman found him murdered. The executors had the cellar planked over while Mr. Pomroy's estate was being settled. The estate got into the courts from 1833 to 1853, but in the meantime, the executors agreed to permit a sun dial on the property.

The town hall bell weighs 700 lbs. It was cast in 1855 by the Troy Bell Company, Troy, N.Y. It was salvaged from our first town hall, destroyed by fire, 1856.

Ingersoll's first fair was held on October 20, 1874. The subscription for prizes amounted to £27.5s.6d. C. E. Chadwick was the first president and Elisha Hall the first secretary. The fair was held on the river flats, between North Wingham and McKeand streets.

In 1861, the Union forces of the United States opened a recruiting office in Ingersoll, at the Keating hotel. The town, at the time, had a large colored population and many enlisted to fight on the side of the North. Mr. Keating's two sons . . . Robert and Thomas

enlisted along with the late Neil McFee. All of the three were posted to a Michigan regiment and they saw service in several of the states.

In 1935 this writer interviewed one of Ingersoll's oldest citizens in the person of the late Clarence Brown. Mr. Brown was in his 97th year and possessed a remarkable memory. He claimed that he attended the log school which was situated on the site of the present Memorial school. He remembered the time the log school was demolished and the Central school erected either in 1850 or 1851. His first recollection of Ingersoll, then known as Oxford village, was that the houses were scattered, tree stumps were everywhere and cows, pigs and sheep wandered at will. Other than a few houses on Carnegie, Victoria and Thames street north, the north side of the river was mostly bush. His first job was as water boy for the construction gangs making the road-bed for the C. G. W. ry., in 1852.

The oldest ex-school teacher residing in Ingersoll is Harry T. Bower.

Ingersoll's youngest mayor elected for office was J. Verne Buchanan, 1917-1919.

From 1852 to 1864 there were only four different Reeves. Messrs. Galliford, Brown, McCarthy and Oliver. This was caused by John Galliford being elected six times and Adam Oliver four. There were 48 different village councillors.

From 1865 to 1952 Ingersoll has had 40 different mayors and 186 different councillors.

# King's Last Note Came To Ingersoll

The town today possesses a rare item—one which will become of even greater historical interest and value as the years go by.

A reply to a resolution of loyalty and affection passed by town council January 7, on the occasion of the town's 100th year of incorporation, it is possibly the last message of George VI to any of his Canadian peoples.

The message, read by Mayor Thomas J. Morrison at the civic memorial service Friday, is on Royal stationery, headed Buckingham Palace, and dated Feb. 5. The King died that night.

The message was received by Town Clerk Elmer Winlaw, through the office of the Governor-General. It was accompanied by the following note from J. F. Delaute, assistant secretary to the Governor-General:

"I am desired by his excellency, the Administrator to send you the enclosed letter which has been received from the private secretary to His Late Majesty, the King":

"My dear Town Clerk:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 15th January containing a copy of a resolution passed by the council of the corporation of Ingersoll, Ontario, on the hundredth anniversary of its first council on the 7th January, 1852.

This I have laid before The King and Queen, who command me to express to the council their sincere thanks for the assurance of the affection and loyalty of the council and people of Ingersoll. Their Majesties send to them their con-

gratulations on this land-mark in the history of the town, and their good wishes to all its inhabitants during the coming years.

Yours truly,  
EDWARD LORD.

Mayor Morrison read the historic letter to a packed, hush! Trinity United Church. "I have here," he disclosed, "what, it is reasonable to assume, is perhaps the last letter of the late Monarch to Canadians. It will be a priceless possession of the people of Ingersoll." It is believed the first time a community has ever been saluted by the King on its 100th birthday.

Mr. Morrison's address follows:

"As citizens of Ingersoll, we are gathered here to express our deep sorrow and sense of great loss which we feel and which is universally felt at the death of His Majesty King George VI. We have come here to remember him, to pay our tribute of honour to his memory, and give thanks for the life and the example of a great man who died in the service of his people.

The scenes which we have heard described in England and throughout his vast empire show the deep love and respect of his people for him. He was truly a friend to all walks of life, rich and poor alike, sharing to the full in their joys and sorrows. The plain man saw in him one who understood him and whom, in turn he understood. His revered name will live in the annals of history as a king who not only led his empire through days of darkness and catastrophe, but still more, as a king who came closer than any

other monarch to the hearts of his people.

"No better epitaph could be inscribed in the halls of fame than that

He honoured his God  
Loved his empire  
And served his people well.

His most worthy successor, Queen Elizabeth II ascends the British throne at a most critical time in the empire's history. She has exemplified already many of her father's sterling qualities of leadership as a sovereign. We can only re-echo these words of Prime Minister St. Laurent of Canada, speaking in behalf of the Dominion:

"With our sympathy we extend to our new Queen, not only an expression of complete loyalty, but also of abiding affection. It will be the prayer of all that Divine Providence will sustain and uphold Her Majesty in the discharge of her many duties,

**GOD SAVE THE QUEEN."**

Rev. G. W. Murdoch, of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, presided over the civic memorial service. He mentioned that the hymns being sung were those particularly loved by the King. He was sure that all peoples would be inspired by "his Christian example."

Harold Riddolls, organist and choirmaster of Trinity United Church, was at the organ and directed the Trinity choir. Rev. J. M. Ward read the Scripture and Rev. C. J. Queen led the prayers. After an address by Rev. C. D. Daniel, Capt. Ron Ellsworth of the Salvation Army, pronounced the benediction.

Mr. Daniel confessed that the task of eulogizing a great king was not an easy one. Perhaps no one, he said, had ever been so universally mourned. The whole world had been tremendously impressed by the courage which had enabled the King to carry out his arduous duties.

One of the reasons he had been a great king, said the speaker, was that he had been cradled in the atmosphere of a great and Christian father; in a happy and fortunate home; his wife had been a comfort and a strength to him; his girls a pleasure and an inspiration. He had loved his home and the home life. "His life stands for goodness; it should bring a wave of striving for essential goodness on the part of us all," Mr. Daniel said.



# INGERSOLL FAIR WAS A GRAND SUCCESS

For First Time in Many Years Weather Man Was Kind.

One grand success is the only adequate expression that can be given to the Ingersoll Fair for the year 1916. Yesterday afternoon Victoria Park was crowded as it has never been crowded before, between four and five thousand being in attendance. This constitutes a record.

All through the park there were various booths, some for individual gain, some for the work of the soldiers and others for the benefit of the Alexandra hospital. All of these did a thriving business.

Many fine specimens of horses were in attendance both for the trials of speed and in the show ring in both the heavy and light grades.

In the cattle, poultry, sheep, swine and other sections the exhibits were good, both in quantity and quality.

The Marconi Club band of London, played a prominent part in the pleasure of the afternoon, rendering excellent music during the entire afternoon. The men of "B" Company of Oxford's Own Battalion were there, and interest was high in these men who were on their last parade and drill in Ingersoll before going overseas. The men were put through their various drills all of which show the seasoning they have received at Borden Camp.

For many years Ingersoll Fair had been unfortunate as far as weather conditions were concerned, but yesterday the weather man seemed to enter heartily into the spirit of the occasion, and gave the very best there was to offer.

The list of prize winners follows:

Best special high stepping single harness horse—1st, D. McLean, Aylmer; 2nd, Matheson, Bennington.

Special best single carriage horse—1st, Geo. Matheson, Bennington; 2nd, D. McLean, Aylmer.

Special best single turnout owned and driven by farmer, 1st, Geo. Matheson, 2nd, Wallace Monroe, Embro.

Special, best lady driver—Miss Lela Law.

Special—Best light horse, any age, on halter, 1st, Geo. Matheson, Bennington.

Best heavy horse, any age on halter—John Hutchinson, Thamesford.

The trials of speed were an interesting feature of the fair yesterday, and the results were:

Free-for-all:

Lucille Simmons, L. Tolhurst, .....	1	1	1
Tiltsburg .....	1	1	1
Molly Sprague, R.E. Putnam, .....	2	2	2
Aylmer .....	2	2	2
Phoebe, Lloyd C.W. Charleton .....	3	3	3
Springford .....	3	3	3

Best time, 2.29 1/4.

2.50 pace:

Minnie Brino, A. Belore, .....	2	2	1	1	1
Mount Elgin .....	2	2	1	1	1
Del. J. Clifton Charleton, .....	1	1	2	3	3
Springford .....	1	1	2	3	3
Birdie Brino, J.A. Cope- .....	4	3	3	2	2
land, Ingersoll .....	4	3	3	2	2
Dolly, M. Abelore, Mount .....	3	4	dr		
Elgin .....	3	4	dr		

SENTINEL REVIEW

October 4, 1916

# Our First Settlement The Ingersoll District

**Family History of the Ingersoll Family Tells of the Coming of the Ingersoll Family to the County of Major Thomas Ingersoll and His Sons to Fort York, Settlers, and How They Were Later Granted a Grant of This Land by the Government in Britain, and How They Built up the Settlement.**

## MONTYRE HOOD.

In the Sentinel-Review of last Friday here appeared an article giving some sketches from the history of the Ingersoll family prior to the coming of Major Thomas Ingersoll, the founder of the town of Ingersoll, to Canada. Since the appearance of that article, several requests have been made that some of the further history of that historic family, including the story of the actual settlement of Ingersoll, be published. Although this story has several times appeared in The Sentinel-Review within the past twenty-five or thirty years, and as recently as August, 1924, at the time of the Ingersoll Old Boys' Reunion, a summary of it will not doubt be of interest to those who are interested in the early history of the county and the records of bygone days.

In last week's article, mention was made of the early life of Major Thomas Ingersoll, the founder of the town of Ingersoll, while he lived at Great Barrington, Mass., and of the members of his family. The story of the Ingersoll settlement is culled partly from a letter written to the Sentinel-Review in 1879 by his son, Colonel James Ingersoll, then registrar of Oxford county, and partly from other records which show the possession of Mrs. John McNab Ingersoll, Dundas street.

### INDUCED TO COME

Following the revolutionary war and the small rebellions which followed it, as mentioned in last week's article, in which Major Ingersoll played a part, many of the people in the United States and Canada sought to live under the British flag. Included in the number were Major Ingersoll and a large party of his friends including the Rev. Gideon Bostwick. About this time Governor John Graves Simcoe was at the head of the government of Upper Canada and he issued a proclamation inviting British loyalists who wished to remain in a British country to settle in Canada, and offering large grants of land to those who would do so. Major Ingersoll saw this proclamation, and having become acquainted with Captain Brant, of the Six Nations Indians who urged him strongly to come to Canada, saying he would send a number of his best men with him to help him select the best place to settle, he decided to make application for a grant, along with his friends. The terms of settlement announced were that in return for a grant of a township the applicants must provide forty settlers whose families would become permanent residents.

The story of the application for the grant and the passing of the order-in-council making it is best told in the words used by Colonel James Ingersoll in the letter mentioned above as follows:

### THE GRANT MADE.

"My father, with some others of his friends, the Rev. Gideon Bostwick, father of the late Colonel Bostwick, of Port Stanley, and Harry Bostwick, formerly sheriff of Norfolk county, and some others, made application for a township. My father was sent to Canada, and petitioned the government, which was then held at Navy Hall, now Niagara. A council was held, at which the following order-in-council was passed:

"Upper Canada, Council Chamber, Navy Hall, March 23, 1793.

"His Excellency John Graves Simcoe, Lieutenant-governor in council assembled, His Excellency informed the board that 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 Hamlen, Abel Kelson, Thomas Ingersoll and others. Thomas Ingersoll appeared on behalf of himself and the above-named petitioners, and in consideration of the well-known loyalty and sufferings of the Rev. Gideon Bostwick, one of the petitioners, His Excellency the Lieut.-Governor and Council are of the opinion that he comes precisely under the description of persons who ought to be encouraged to settle in this 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. Littlejohn.

"(Extract from the minutes)"

### SITE SELECTED.

On receiving this order-in-council, Major Ingersoll went to the Grand River, where he met his old friend, Captain Brant, and reminded him of his former promise. Captain Brant took him to the valley of the River La Tranche, (now the Thames) as the best land available, and, as promised furnished Major Ingersoll with a party of six braves to pilot him through the woods. There were no roads in those days—nothing but an Indian path from Amherst to Detroit. On arriving at the east branch of the river, on the ground on which the town of Ingersoll and the townships of North and West Oxford are now situated, the head chief with the party informed Major Ingersoll that this was the Indian camping grounds where they always rested during the summer season. The lands were high, the country very healthy, with plenty of good water and fine fishing, and the Indians urged the pioneer settler to pitch his tent at this place, which the record-books did. The same day, with his own hands, Major Ingersoll felled the first tree, and this was later used to provide a large part of the lumber used in building the Ingersoll home, which was built a few years later on the spot which was later occupied by a stone owned by a Mr. Poole, and is now occupied by the office of the

# THRILLING SCENE WHEN INGERSOLL DAM COLLAPSED

Huge Volume of Water Carried  
Away Buildings In Tragedy  
of 1887

FIVE PERSONS MET  
DEATH

Remarkable Escapes Attended  
Worst Disaster In History of  
the Town

BY J. T. FITZGERALD

Ingersoll's early history was marred by two calamities which are often referred to in a vague and uncertain way, even to the present day. One of these was through the medium of the great fire and the other was by water, when King's dam burst in the year 1887.

King's dam, a body of water said to comprise some 20 acres, lay in the southwest section of the town and just south of M. E. Scott's chopping mill on King street west. In fact, the mill is on the same site as that occupied by the mill which was damaged in the flood referred to above.

The dam broke away shortly before 7 o'clock on the morning of Monday, April 4, 1887. With it were taken a portion of the mill building, a frame terrace consisting of four dwellings, hundreds of cords of wood and resulted in the death of five persons. Two of the bodies were not recovered for days after the calamity.

## SUDDENLY LOOSED

From the file of The Ingersoll Chronicle of Thursday, April 5, 1887, the following excerpts are taken:

"The construction of the dam was such that the water was held back upon the northerly side by high and solid banks of earth, while in the local space was located the breakwork of timber. The operation of the machinery was by an iron flume and the conveyance of the water through a large circular tube therefor. The structure was constructed about 29 years ago and did not appear to have received any marked repairs since that time. It is also stated that at various times water has been observed breaking through, and that during the time water, about a month ago, doubts were entertained as to the ability of the structure to withstand a freshet or even the rush of accumulated water and ice. During Saturday and Sunday it was noticed that the water was penetrating through in some quantity, but no particular attention was paid to this.

"All unheeded, the water must have continued its insidious broad upon the breastwork until a few moments before 7 o'clock on Monday morning, when suddenly the dam appeared to be lifted bodily from its place and then fell out with a roar like the triumphal cry of some imprisoned giant let loose, the long pent-up volume of water burst from its bondage and poured down towards the river with irresistible force. Fortunately the large quantity of ice remaining in the mill pond was not carried outward, but when the water rushed away it sank to the bottom and remained. H. Freeman, the lessee of

the property, stated that there was not a full head of water in the pond, as it was only half an inch above the gates, but the enormous quantity of water held back by the dam may be better judged when it is borne in mind, that the pond is estimated to have extended over an area of 20 acres. The summit of the embankment at the north side of the dam is elevated nearly 30 feet above the level of the roadway and from these facts some conception can be formed of the impetuosity and power of the released torrent in its mad race to join the River Thames, from which the dam was distant, about one-eighth of a mile.

## FIRST CAUGHT THE WOOD

"The first obstacle encountered by the wild water consisted of some 600 cords of wood. The wood was piled in the space between the mill and the dam, but it failed to check the current to the slightest extent. Almost in a second the greater portion of it was lifted bodily and whirled wildly along. The mill itself next felt the strength of the torrent which swept madly around it, and then, as if angered at the resistance offered, hurled down the solid brick-work of the engine house, situated on the west side, with a force sufficient to almost ruin it. On rolled the relentless roll of water, laden with destruction. Just north of the roadway facing the mill, stood a frame terrace or tenement. It was of single story height and consisted of four dwellings joined into one. Three of these were occupied by the following:

"John Bowman, caretaker of the Bank of London; his father, wife and family of three children.

"John McLean, a cooper, and his son, age 18 years, a cigar maker by trade.

"Alex Laird, his wife and one child.

## DWELLINGS CARRIED AWAY

"The mighty stream now swollen to vast proportions, dashed at the terrace, which stood upon blocks raised above the ground. For a brief space the buildings stemmed the torrent, but soon it gained the mastery, the houses being torn from their fastenings, burst apart, and borne swiftly along on the crest of the waters, plunging, tossing and threatening instant destruction to the unfortunate inmates.

"The thrilling spectacles were witnessed by Mr. Freeman and a few others, but a description of its full intensity is impossible. The houses were separated into two sections, one of these being utterly demolished and actually crushed into kindling wood, while the remaining portion was deposited squarely on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

"John Bowman was with his wife, his father, two children and a grandchild, named Amelia Shrimpton, when they were swept away. He had been somewhat ill during the greater portion of the night and his wife had been attending upon him, but about 4 o'clock she laid down to sleep. When the building was swept away she seized her grandchild and grasped a bureau, on which she floated with the torrent till the bureau was struck by some timber and Amelia was precipitated into the water and carried quickly to her death. Mrs. Bowman was rescued in the nick of time by a man named James Cain, who rushed into the water and carried her to a neighboring house.

## CARRIED ON FLOATING FLOOR

"The wife of Richard Bowman, the father of John, was also most providential. He is an old man, fully 80 years of age, and was in his bed when the flood struck the house. The section of the floor on which the bed rested became detached from the rest of the floor and floated down the current. Fortunately it remained intact, keeping the bed above water. In this position it floated down the stream made by the flood to within a few yards of the river, where it became stranded and remained until Mr. Bowman was rescued.

Had it floated as far as the river another victim would undoubtedly have been added to the list.

The old man did not appear greatly disconcerted or alarmed by the thrilling experience through which he had passed. His son escaped entirely unhurt, but Mrs. Bowman was considerably bruised and injured.

"John McLean, with whom his son of 16 or 18 years resided, had a very narrow escape. It is stated that the boy chanced to observe the coming of the water and remarked 'Look out, father, the dam has burst.' The parent started hastily out, believing that the son would follow. The latter, however, remained to secure a pet rabbit, which was in the cellar, and ere he could accomplish his purpose the house was swept away and the poor youth was never again seen alive on earth, his dead body being subsequently discovered in a pile of ties and cordwood.

"Alex Laird was with his wife and child, the latter an infant about 15 months of age. In the mad waters the couple were parted and the husband was dashed down to death. Mrs. Laird clung to her child and, although tossed, beaten and bruised by the waters and the debris, she managed to retain her hold upon the little one. She grasped the plank and was swept along the whole extent of the flats and entirely across the river, a distance of an eighth of a mile. As she was about to climb the bank her child slipped from her embrace and in an instant was borne from her sight. She was badly bruised and utterly prostrated for a time, her death being feared, but towards evening she recovered.

## THE DROWNED

"Amelia Shrimpton, age eight; body found.

"Johnny Bowman, age 14; body not found.

"John McLean, age 18; body found.

"Alex Laird, age 35; body not found.

"Alex Laird, age two; body found.

"The injured were: Mrs. Bowman, not seriously, and Mrs. Laird, probably fatally. Those saved were Richard Bowman, John Bowman, John McLean, and Jessie Bowman."

In a series of notes concerning the accident The Chronicle states that in 1870 three mill dams in the town gave way in the same manner, when consid-

erable destruction was caused, but with no loss of life. It was also explained that about 500 yards of the main line of the C. P. R. had been washed away, some of it carried to a distance of 15 feet. Traffic on the railroad was delayed from 7 o'clock in the morning until 2 o'clock in the afternoon. It took an engine and 75 men all that time to make the road passable. The Town Council offered rewards for the recovery of each of the missing bodies, which were not located for days.

Thousands of people visited the scene of the disaster during the day and boys found it to their advantage to be on hand. The latter found countless speckled trout, some of them weighing as high as two pounds each. Whiting Creek, which fed the pond, had been a noted trout stream.

May 10 1930

# INDIANS WERE CAMPED ALONG RIVER IN 1828

## Interesting Letter Tells of Oxford Village, Which Later Became the Town of Ingersoll

BY J. T. FITZGERALD

An old letter, presumably first published in The Ingersoll Chronicle in 1883, and republished in the same medium by request in 1898, gives a splendid description of Ingersoll as it was seen by settlers in the year 1828—just 105 years ago.

Unfortunately, the letter does not bear the name of its writer. It does, however, tell in an interesting manner of the difficulties of those days of the pioneers—the days when Ingersoll was known only as Oxford Village.

The explanatory note at the top of the letter reads: "Will you allow me a short space in your excellent paper to give to its numerous readers a few recollections of our now beautiful and wide-awake town as we found it in 1828?"

Many of the names mentioned are names which brought honor to the villages and later to the Town of Ingersoll. Many of them are names which are still known and heard in the district. They are the names which all too few of the present generation appreciate or regard in the full value. Many of the places names will be recalled by older residents of this district of Western Ontario. To those of the younger residents of the district they will have lost their complete identity, having been obliterated by the march of the passing years and the progress which the community has known.

For instance, the letter tells of the residence there of the Ingersolls, after which family the town was named. There have been few communications given to the public which deals directly with the family. Mention is made of C. H. Slawson's pork house. There is no such institution in In-

gersoll today, but the C. H. Slawson Cheese Company carries on the good old name with modern activity. Thus it is that even as recently as 1898 there were spots with which the earlier comparison of 1828 were made. Most of these have changed now and it is for older inhabitants to call upon their memories for the spots and places referred to as in 1828. In that year Ingersoll was known as Oxford Village. The letter follows:

"On our arrival here we found a small clearing in the woods on the bank of the River Thames, then known as Oxford Village, in the Brock district, Province of Upper Canada.

MET BY CHARLES INGERSOLL

"We were met by Charles Ingersoll, Esquire, the founder of the place, who received us kindly and entertained us at his own home for a day or two while our house was being repaired. The village then contained about 20 families. The houses were all built of logs, with two or three exceptions, which were frame, two of which are now standing, viz.: the Ingersoll homestead and the old frame house building on the corner of King and Wingham streets. It had one store, a tannery, two saw mills, a grist mill, an ashery, a cooper shop, a distillery, a blacksmith shop, a carding and fulling mill and a log schoolhouse.

"Following is a list of the male residents living in the village: Samuel Canfield, Joel Canfield, David Canfield, Abram Canfield, Thomas Canfield, Elisha Hall, Charles Hall, Daniel Carroll, Reuben Carroll, Samuel Smith, Henry Smith, Clark Hallaack, J. Sherman, William Sherman, George Bronson, Daniel Bronson, W. Bronson, Seymour Bronson, Mr. Wickwire, William Maynard, Zenas Maynard, William Kennedy, Moses Kennedy, A. Kennedy, George Underwood, John Underwood, Joel Underwood, Caleb Burdick, Jacob Doty, Peter Ryan, C. J. Briggs, Mr. Chambers, Mr. Maricle, Charles Ingersoll, James Ingersoll, sr., Samuel Ingersoll, James Ingersoll, jr., Thomas Ingersoll, Charles Parkhurst, Lyman Scofield, Henry Scofield, T. B. Scofield, Charles Van Every, Sam Van Every, John Miller, Samuel Titus, James Boyce, Gamaliel Whiting, sr., Gamaliel Whiting, jr., Horace Whiting, Mr. Merick, James Swartz, C. P. Stimson, G. G. Stimson, J. D. Stimson, Nelson Doty, Abel Doty and Austin Doty.

"Elisha Hall's residence was in the east end of the village. The Messers, Canfield lived on the old farm east of the Hall place. Daniel Carroll's

# Ingersoll Building Once Trading Post

Weather-Beaten Structure  
Where Indians Exchanged  
Furs for Goods in the  
Town's Pioneer Days Still  
Stands *W. Webster*

(By EARL O'NEIL)

Famous names are interwoven in the early history of the town of Ingersoll, including those of Laura Secord and Thomas Ingersoll, and there still remains on Ingersoll's main street, buildings to remind the residents of today that the life of their town is linked with the story of the earliest pioneer days.

On a corner of the business section there stands a weather-beaten, one-story building, used as a harness shop, (known as Webster's Harness Shop) which at one time was a trading post when Indians brought furs and exchanged them for the products of the earliest mills and distilleries of the district.

It was one of the Indians' famous chiefs, Joseph Brant, who exercised great influence on the course of Canadian history by persuading Thomas Ingersoll to leave his home in Great Barrington, Mass., and seek new fields in Canada. Chief Brant offered to guide Ingersoll to suitable territory on the River La Franche (the Thames). With him came his daughter, Laura Ingersoll, who after her marriage was Laura Secord, who was destined to play a heroine's part in the rescue of Canadian forces from disaster at Beaver Dam, and to turn the tide of

parent from Great Barrington in 1793. The famous Robert Ingersoll and the founder of the Ingersoll watch concern, were descendants of Thomas Ingersoll's family. It is said that the founder of the Ingersoll watch went to Ingersoll a number of years ago in an effort to purchase the old Ingersoll homestead.

victory to the side of the country her father had chosen for his own.

The government granted Ingersoll and his associates a township on the old Indian trail from Ancaster to Detroit. Mr. Ingersoll felled with his own hands a tree for a log cabin that was to be his home. This was on the spot that is now Thames street in the town of Ingersoll. There were to be 40 settlers at first and each was to have 200 acres, to be paid for at the rate of sixpence an acre. Later Mr. Ingersoll's grant was cancelled and he removed, discouraged, from the district.

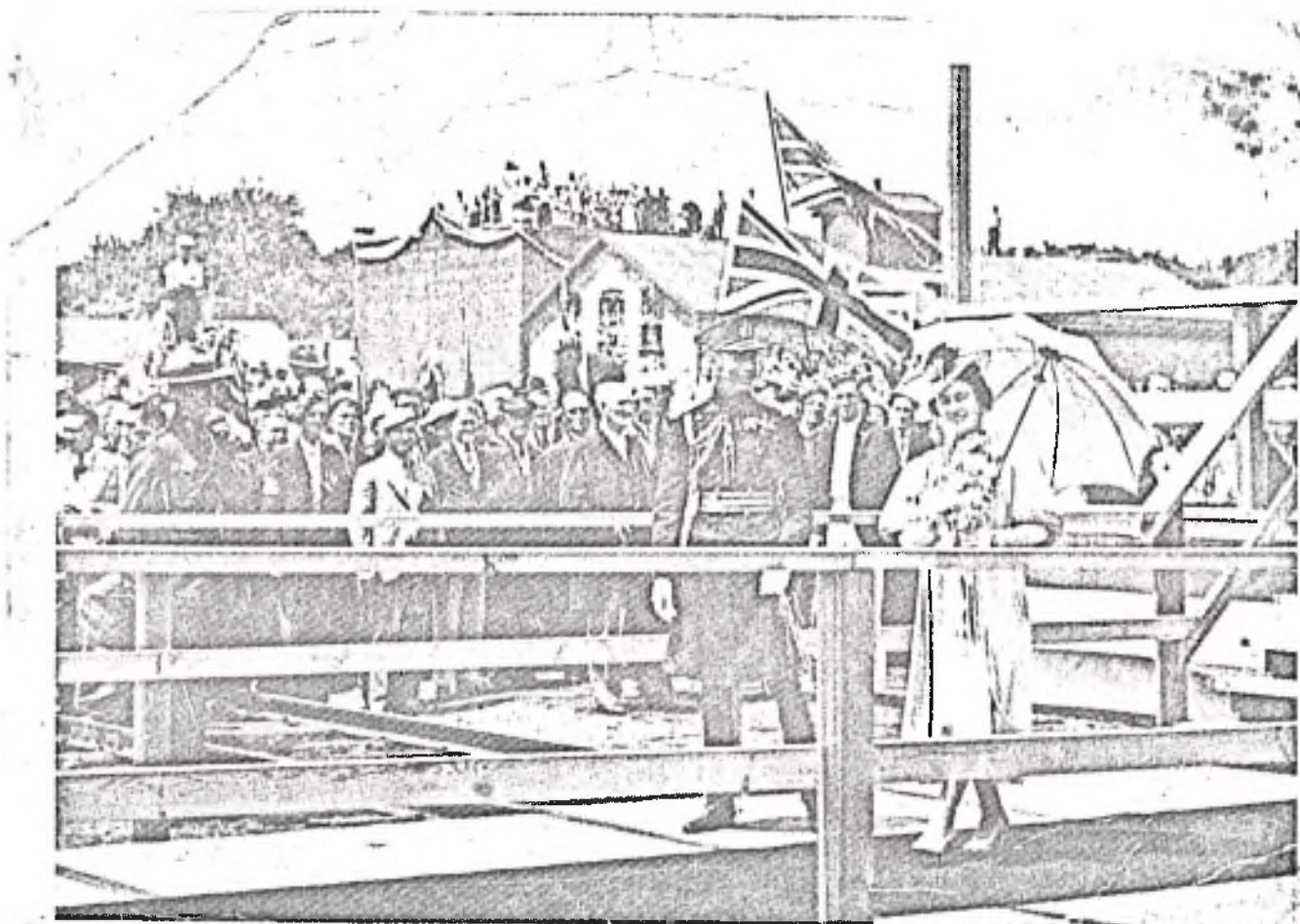
Ingersoll's son Charles, who served in the War of 1812 returned to Ingersoll later and went eagerly to work. A saw-mill, a store, a grist-mill, a pottery and a distillery were soon built and Charles Ingersoll was the country's leading citizen. He was twice returned to Parliament and died in 1832. The town of Ingersoll was named Charles in the early days in his honor.

Harry Webster's harness shop  
stood at the south west corner  
of Oxford & King Streets

LONDON FREE PRESS

May 12, 1936

1939 Visit of King  
George VI &  
Queen Elizabeth



## Their Majesties Bid Farewell to Ingersoll



**F**LOWERS for a Queen as she says farewell. Their Majesties are shown here as they bid farewell from the rear of their train

as it left Ingersoll. Their brief stop at the busy Oxford County centre was climaxed by a rousing send-off. (Staff Photograph.)

## King and Queen Leaving Train at Ingersoll

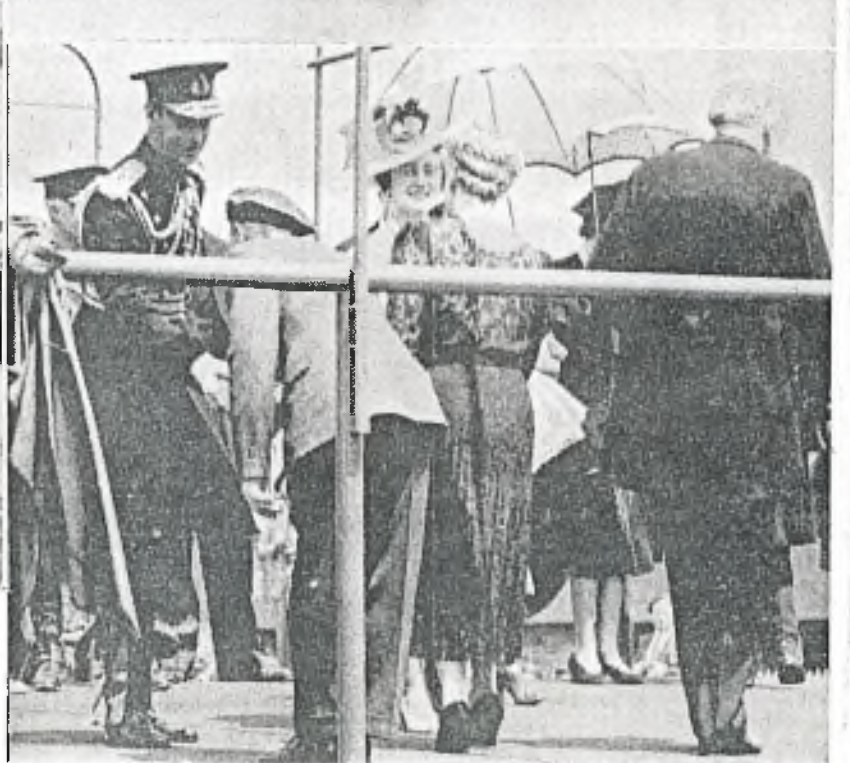


**T**HEIR MAJESTIES are shown here leaving the train at Ingersoll Wednesday morning on their brief stop. Prime Minister

Mackenzie King may be seen following them. The King is wearing the uniform of an admiral of the British fleet. (Staff Photo.)

SEVENTH  
 June 8, 1939  
 REVIEW

AT WOODSTOCK'S RECEPTION TO THE KING AND QUEEN



Upper left—The Queen receives a bouquet from Gene Elizabeth Hersee, in Highland costume. Upper right—A close-up of the Queen as her Majesty smilingly conversed with ex-service men assembled northeast of the platform. Lower left—a tiny section of the orderly throng of 5,300 city and rural children assembled by schools. These boys are from Princess street school, Woodstock. Lower right—A scene during the presentations to their Majesties. From left: The King, W. J. Roberts, president of Woodstock branch of the Canadian Legion; the Queen; Mrs. E. W. Nesbitt, Mr. Nesbitt.



# 'As a Woman Sees it'

-- By Arabella --

## WHEN LORD DUFFERIN VISITED INGERSOLL.

During the recent Royal visit to our town, the Mounties praised the conduct of the Ingersoll people and their friends from the surrounding district, as the most orderly of any small town thus far met with during the tour.

Perhaps the reason was that Royal visits are not an altogether new experience for us. For practically each generation of our citizens has had an opportunity to see either Royalty or its emissaries in our midst.

Sixty-five years ago next Saturday, Lord and Lady Dufferin paid a visit to the town which left pleasant memories for many years.

Just two years previously, the main business district of Ingersoll had been destroyed by fire, which dealt a serious blow to the town. However it was gaily decorated with flags and arches in honor of the distinguished visitors. For Lady Dufferin a special pleasure awaited, as she was greeted at the station and accompanied in her drive about town by Mrs. James McCaughey, a friend of her girlhood in Ireland. One can fancy the pleasure that must have given to each, as they talked over old times in the land of their birth.

A Tribune "EXTRA" reported the address of welcome as follows:

Address presented by the Mayor of Ingersoll, to His Excellency the Governor-General

Wednesday, August 26, 1874  
To His Excellency, the Right Honorable the Earl of Dufferin, Governor-General of the Dominion of Canada:

We, the Mayor and Municipal Council of the Town of Ingersoll, on behalf of the citizens, beg to express the very great pleasure we feel in tendering Your Excellency our loyal congratulations on this your first visit to the Town of Ingersoll.

We greet you with more than ordinary feelings of loyalty, as the honored representative of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, assuring you of our esteem for yourself personally, and our grateful recollection of the deep interest you have always taken in everything that affects the honor and welfare of our Dominion, and the kind courtesy you have ever extended to all classes of the community.

we hope that your tour through Ontario so far, has left pleasant impressions upon your mind, both with regard to the loyal demonstration of our people as well as the evidences of material prosperity you must have witnessed on every hand.

We trust that your visit to Ingersoll will not be among the least pleasant of those associations.

We are glad to be able to extend to both Lady Dufferin and yourself a cordial greeting, and regret that want of sufficient time alone prevents our offering our hospitality to the extent to which our feelings prompt us.

Appreciating the interest we know your Excellency has always taken in everything affecting the prosperity of our country, we propose to show you a specimen of a very important industry that has sprung up in our midst in the past few years, and with which the interests of the Town of Ingersoll are largely identified; an industry which is adding materially to our national wealth, and which had its origin, so far as Canada is concerned, in this locality; we mean the manufacture of cheese on the "factory system," an inspection of which we hope will interest Your Excellency.

That Your Excellency, Lady Dufferin and family may enjoy happiness and prosperity, and that you may long be spared to vindicate the sentiment so nobly expressed by you at Sarnia, "that you would wish every Canadian to feel and understand that there is no man in the country prouder of his connection with it than myself," and that there is no inhabitant of the Dominion who has more deeply at heart its honor, its prosperity, and its future welfare, is the earnest prayer of those who now address you.

Signed on behalf of the Municipal Council and the Citizens of the Town of Ingersoll.

C. H. SORLEY, Mayor.

R. A. WOODCOCK, Town Clerk.

Ingersoll, 26th August, 1874.

And with a deft business stroke the following bit of advertising was added:

THE "OXFORD TRIBUNE",

Published every Friday at Ingersoll, a \$1 a year in advance.

The "inspection" referred to was a trip to the Harris Street Cheese Factory. Lord Dufferin was invited to sample the cheese and on cutting into it he struck something hard which turned out to be a bottle of Champagne concealed in the interior.

INGERSOLL TRIBUNE

August 24 1937

# Found An Air Of Prosperity At Ingersoll On 1855 Visit

By Elsie Graham Sumner

IN 1855 a writer in the International Journal, Paul Pry, Jr., passed through this part of the country and recorded in his "Notes by the Way" impressions of the western part of the province. An issue of the Ingersoll Chronicle for October 12, 1855, printed excerpts from the article relating to the Village of Ingersoll.

The traveler found it "a place of marked enterprise and prosperity of about 3,000 inhabitants." He came by rail from Woodstock and found two omnibusses at the station to meet the train, one from Patterson's Royal Exchange Hotel on Thames street and the other from Carroll's Hotel on King street.

Crossing the river, the Thames, the bus came up Thames street. Here "an air of prosperity" was noticeable, several new buildings had been erected and others were partially constructed. According to an earlier notice in The Chronicle much of this construction was done in the fall of 1854 when brick buildings were erected on almost every street of the village.

One of the first buildings to be seen after crossing the bridge was the foundry and machine shop of W. A. Rumsey, "who has been 18 years established." The industry employed 20 men and used a ten-horse engine in the manufacture of reapers, mowers, threshing mills, straw cutters, cultivators and stoves. In March, 1856, W. Eastwood inserted a notice to the effect that he had purchased the extensive iron foundry and machine shop of W. Rumsey.

The steam engine works of William Dunn & Co. were "a little to the rear and near this on Charles street." This business consisted of a foundry, a machine shop and a wood shop for the manufacture of steam engines, mill gearing and plows. They also used a ten-horse engine, had 20 men in their employ, and were planning to enlarge the premises.

Between these two plants was a steam planing mill operated by McKenzie and Ashwells. The upper part was occupied by A. Oliver, who had a wood and joiner's shop. Mr. Oliver was builder and he with Mr. Patterson of the Exchange have a con-

tract to build a railway depot for freight at the Suspension Bridge." Impressively Pry adds, "the building will be 3,000 feet long and will cost the G. W. Railway between \$30,000 and \$40,000."

Proceeding up Thames street the Exchange Hotel was "on the right." On the other side of the road were a number of "large commercial establishments, amongst them being Eastwoods, Pooles, etc." Samuel Poole was erecting a three-storey brick building. Close by was the medical dispensary of J. D. Cottingham, a practical chemist from London. According to the advertisements Cottingham was listed as a surgical dentist and he sold out to Dr. Weir in November, 1856.

Opposite was the office of Dr. James F. McCarthy. Mr. McCarthy was reeve of the village in 1855 and continued to practice in Ingersoll until his death in July, 1863. Beside his office was a large drygoods store owned by G. A. Cameron.

On the corner of Thames and King streets, S. S. Pomroy, of London, had erected a large store. It was a three-storey brick building. There were three stores on the ground floor, J. B. Sorley had hardware and groceries in the corner store; Mr. Williams sold drygoods in the second, and the third was a grocery owned by Mr. O'Connor. The second storey of the building was used for storage and living quarters and on the third floor was lecture room, another room for public meetings and a ballroom. A few yards west of this was the market, "a neat building."

In the early days of the village, King street, from Mill to Carroll streets, was the main business section of Ingersoll. Here numerous large drygoods and grocery stores were to be found. Amongst them were Daniel Phelan, W. H. Lamphier, Daniel Shell, Joseph Browett and Hope McNiven. Browett's building of brick construction was erected the year previous and then it had been planned to move the post office and also open an agency of the Bank of Upper Canada. There were two jewelry stores under the management of C. P. Hall and J. Barnett and a combination drug and book store owned by O. B. Caldwell. W. J. Brett had opened a sheet iron and brass works and near it was the business of J. Buchanan.

Besides the stores there were several carriage factories on King street. "Mr. William Smith has a large establishment with a convenient showroom facing on the street." Another factory, situated opposite Carroll's Hotel, was owned by James McIntyre, "the poet laureate of Oxford County." According to an adver-

tisement McIntyre began the business in March, 1855.

On the corner of Thames street was a cabinet and upholstery business managed by Charles W. Featherstone. He also was an undertaker. Another large business on Thames street was that of Mr. Galliford. This industry had a complete set of American machines for cutting, cramping and sewing and 20 men at work.

The town supported one newspaper, The Chronicle, which began publication in 1853. The writer said that Mr. Gurnett, the editor, was formerly associated with The Morning Post of Boston.

The article closes with comments on the wheat situation. Many buyers were in town representing millers in the United States and Canada. On the day of Pry's arrival the price paid was \$1.50 per bushel, cash, but "a telegraph from New York the following morning caused a decline of 25 cents." Although farmers came in with their loads, upon hearing the news of the fall in price, some decided to keep their grain in the hope of a rise. He stated that it is generally thought that the price will go down to \$1, but the farmers are still hopeful of a higher market. This belief they based on the fact that the Genessee wheat was inferior that year, and buyers were looking to the Canadian crop.

# Three Convicted and Two Acquitted, Charges Over Sunday Night Disturbance

**Chas. Kelly, Leslie Cousins, Lawrence Cottrell Convicted on "Unlawful Assembly" Charges, Sentence Deferred One Week**

Convictions were registered by Magistrate L. M. Ball in police court at 12.10 today against Charles Kelly, Leslie Cousins and Lawrence Cottrell, all of Ingersoll, on charges laid under section 89 of the Criminal Code pertaining to "members of an unlawful assembly." Sentence was deferred for one week.

The charges were the outcome of a disturbance here Sunday evening when a crowd, estimated at between 200 and 300 persons, attempted to gain entrance to a building where a number of Japanese workers are quartered. Police, who broke up the attempt, said at the time that some Ingersoll girls were a factor in causing the demonstration.

Similar charges against Charles Johnston, Ingersoll, and James Kostis, Woodstock, were dismissed. In each case a plea of "not guilty" had been entered.

At the conclusion of evidence in the case and, as Crown Attorney Craig McKay was about to deal with them, Fred Barnum, Aylmer, volunteered to give legal advance to the accused. An adjournment of court for five minutes was made and Mr. Barnum

went into consultation with accused in the town hall. At end of the adjournment period and taking the magistrate's decision as regarded Kelly, Cousins and Cottrell, Mr. Barnum stated he felt note should be taken of what Kelly had to say as a returned soldier. In this connection he said "I am not trying to excuse him."

## WAS AT HONG KONG

Charles Kelly told the court he had been overseas four and a half years, that he had been in Hong Kong, also at Dieppe, and that he knew what treatment had been accorded Canadian soldiers. When he returned to Ingersoll and learned that there were Japs here he said he did not think much of it and especially when there had been information that Ingersoll girls had been going out with them.

He said he had heard of plans to go to the Wm Stone Sons premises, where the Japs are employed and housed. When he got there someone had said "Ikey, what are you doing here?" He said he had left at once.

Leslie Cousins said that a statement he had given the police was correct. He added however that the crowd was there when he reached the Stone premises on Sunday night. Lawrence Cottrell also admitted that the statement he had given to the officers and which had been read in court was correct. He understood the crowd went to the premises to "clean up on the Japs."

Charles Johnston, giving evidence at this time stated he had heard there was going to be "a racket." He had been on the street for 15 minutes after the crowds had been moving away. He then went down to see what was taking place. He had been told to move soon after arrival of police and he did. He said he had heard the crowd was going to "clean up the Japs." He claimed he was on the road when the officers went into the premises.

## COURTROOM CROWDED

In behalf of Johnston, Mr. Barnum emphasized that from what he had learned he was not a member of the original crowd. Crown Attorney Craig McKay remarked: "In looking around the courtroom which is crowded one is amazed that so many have no more work to do." He pointed out that the maximum penalty in which the charges had been laid was one year's imprisonment. He said if there was a recurrence with police court proceedings he would ask that the full penalty be imposed. He added "As to the three men convicted I do not know whether they were actuated by misguided patriotism or mob psy-

Many of the automobiles were on Charles east and on the north side of the town in the vicinity of the plant, as hundreds of citizens endeavored to catch a glimpse of what was transpiring.

Gangs of youths were conspicuous for some time and a number of these were advised by the officers to leave the district as soon as possible. One shot, it was learned, was fired in the air by Chief Constable Calander at one of the exciting periods and this was said to have served as an immediate urge for some of the mobsters to leave with greater speed than they had previously exhibited.

It was stated, but not confirmed, that in the mob were a number of young men from both Woodstock and Tillsonburg, with the majority, however, presumably from Ingersoll.

Circumstances, which recently have been freely discussed in the town and with which some lo girls have allegedly been associated, are believed to have brought about the riotous demonstration.

Three police officers remained on guard at the premises last night but there was no further development.

SENTINEL NEWS  
September 29, 1944

Three Convicted and Five Acquitted,  
Charges over Sunday Night  
Disturbance.

### Anti-Jap Riots

**M**OB RULE is always a dangerous symptom whether it be on a large scale as in the Detroit race riots of the summer of 1943, or on a scale as small as that involving the Japanese in Ingersoll. Conviction of three Ingersoll residents on charges of illegal assembly following a disturbance at a plant employing Japanese is a disturbing reminder that some of the things which seem remote and terrible can happen here.

Japanese living in Canada and observing our laws are entitled to fair treatment regardless of the color of their skins as long as they behave themselves. If they misbehave they should be dealt with by our courts, not by mobs.

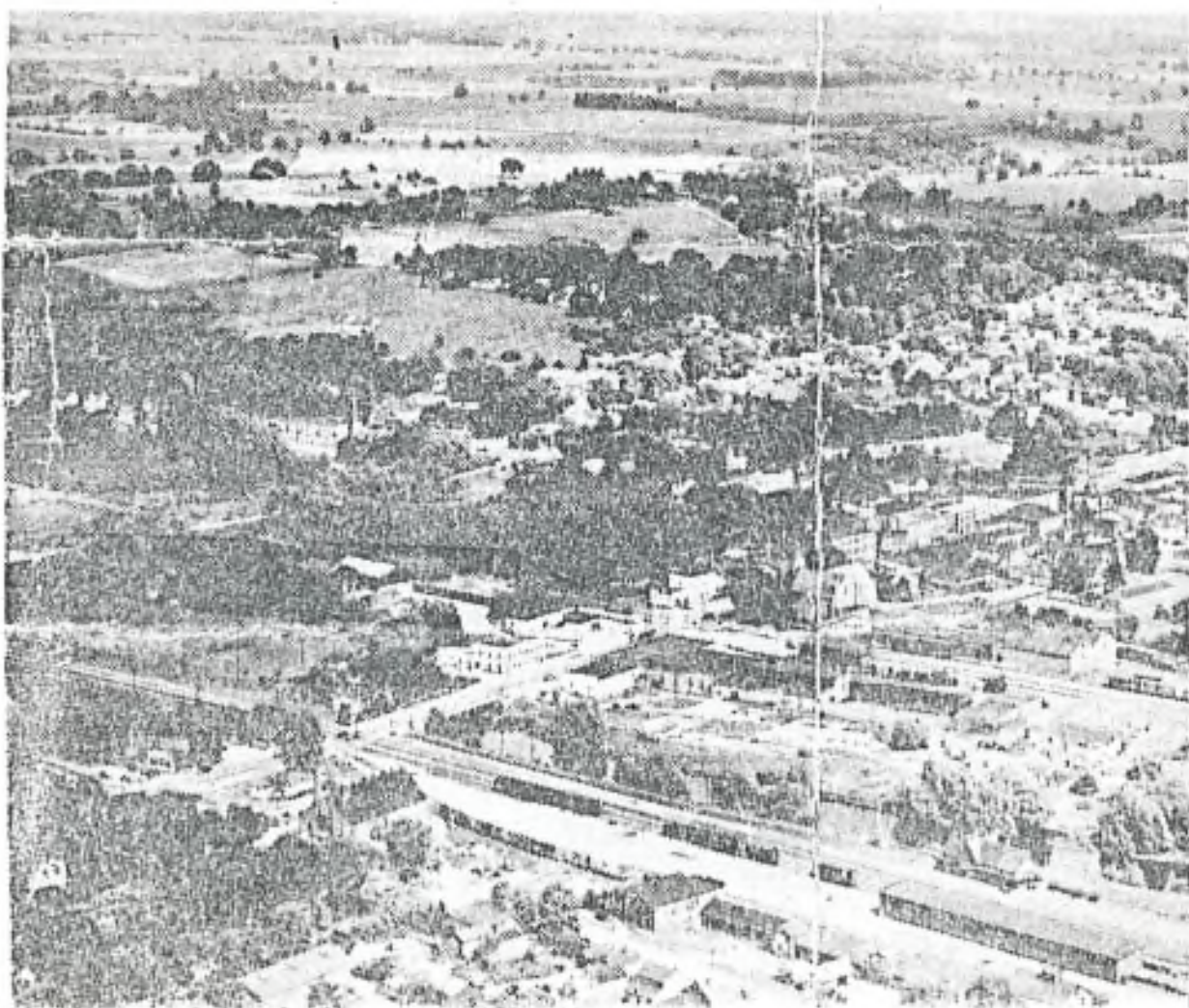
Churchill himself said: "We do not war with races as such. We war against tyranny and we seek to preserve ourselves from destruction." Anyone stirring up dissension on racial grounds shows himself a convert to Nazi doctrines, whether he realizes it or not.

At the same time it may be admitted that the presence of Japanese in good jobs in towns where most of the young men are in the services does present certain problems. They are strikingly similar to those in England, where protests similar to those from Ingersoll are being made regarding the conduct of Italian prisoners of war working on English farms. It is a type of problem which seems part of the pattern of war and which calls for considerable self-restraint and tolerance—qualities not greatly stimulated by war.

LONDON FREE PRESS

October 2, 1944

# Your Town From



**RESIDING SNUGLY IN THE THAMES VALLEY** is the picturesque town of Ingersoll. The meandering Thames, following its course westward, cuts almost in two the north and south residential areas, well-known for their towering maple trees and fine old homes. In the heart of one of the richest agricultural sections of Oxford County, Ingersoll has been recognized as the hub of the dairy industry of Western Ontario, and the cheese produced there is a commodity known across the Dominion. Cheese markets held regularly every two weeks have been an asset to 5,000 boxes of cheese sold for \$80,000. Products

of the manufacturing plants located in the town have also found their way to many of the world's largest markets. With a present population of 6,000, Ingersoll is located 20 miles east of London and 10 miles west of Woodstock, on the main line of the C.N.R., and also has connections with Woodstock, St. Thomas and Port Huron on the C.P.R. No. 2 and No. 19 highways pass through it. There are five churches and four schools—two public and one separate schools, and a collegiate institute—library and general hospital. Kiwanis, Lions and Y's Men's Clubs are active in the town, and the last named, with

LONDON  
FREE  
PRESS

JUNE 24,

1946

# Village of Ingersoll Had Only 20 Families in 1828

By Harry T. Bower

Many of the older citizens of Ingersoll will agree that for forty or fifty years the population of the town seemed to have been fixed at or near the five thousand mark, as if loath to depart from that figure. But during the past six or seven years the population has steadily increased until now it is well over sixty-three hundred. The broad-minded and public spirited policy of our professional and business men, and our manufacturing and working classes in their services to our community through the Service Clubs and other organizations are all bearing fruit and tending to make our town a better place to live. It is quite evident that our citizens are just as anxious to see that all our people are in good health and happy as they are for the success of their own business. This spirit together with the character of our industries, all tend to help Ingersoll hold her present growth and create a tendency for expansion.

It is a long way back to Oxford Village, or the Ingersoll of 120 years ago. Yet through the preservation of some old letters written in 1828 we are enabled to lift the lid of that period and peak into the village of 120 years ago.

In 1828 the village contained about 20 families. The houses were all built of logs with two or three exceptions, which were frame. One of these was the Ingersoll homestead at or near where R. Neil's shoe store now stands and another at the southeast corner of King and Wonham Sts. These homes must have been considered the mansions of the wealthy in those days. There were two general stores where goods could be purchased in exchange for bushels of wheat, pounds of pork, or pounds, shillings and pence, American or Mexican dollars or Spanish pieces of eight. It was a common exchange of tea or sugar for gallons of whisky or pounds of candles. There was a tannery, two saw mills, a grist mill, an ashery, a cooper shop, a distillery, a blacksmith shop, a carding and fulling mill and a log schoolhouse. The only church was in West Oxford on the land granted by Joel Piper in 1819 on the present site of the West Oxford Church.

The following is a list of all the male residents living in the village: Samuel Canfield, Joel Canfield, David Canfield, Abram Canfield, Thomas Canfield, Elisha Hall, Charles Hall, Daniel Carroll, Reuben Carroll, Samuel Smith, Henry Smith, Clark Hallaack, J. Sherman, William Sherman, George Bronson, Dan Bronson, W. Bronson, Seymour Bronson, Mr. Wickwire, William Maynard, Zenas Maynard, William Kennedy, Moses Kennedy, A. Kennedy, George Underwood, John Underwood, Joel Underwood, Caleb Burdick, Jacob Doty, Peter Ryan, C. J. Briggs, Mr. Chambers, Mr. Mariele, Charles Ingersoll, James Ingersoll, Sr., Sam Ingersoll, James Ingersoll, Jr., Thomas Ingersoll, Chas. Parkhurst, Lyman Schofield, T. B. Schofield, Henry Schofield, Charles Van Every, Sam Van Every, John Miller, Sam Titus, James Boyce, Gamaliel Whiting, Sr., Gamaliel Whiting, Jr., Horace Whiting, Mr. Merick, James Swartz, C. P. Stimson, G. G. Stimson, J. D. Stimson, Nelson Doty, Abel Doty, and Austin Doty.

Mr. Ferguson's residence was at the east end of the village on the location occupied by the late James Fergusson, the Canfields lived just east of the Hall residence. The Carroll home was on the hill, King St. East, and Samuel Smith's hotel stood opposite the Ingersoll home, about where Zurbrigg's bake shop is now. Samuel Ingersoll's dwelling and tannery were situated on the southwest corner of King and Wellington Sts.

Mr. Bronson was the local Methodist preacher and he and J. Sherman occupied a log dwelling on the west corner of King and Water Sts., or the west end of what in later years was known as the Ark block.

TRIBUNE

February 10, 1949

# First Ingersolls Arrived In America Back In 1627

W. Currie Wilson, director of guidance, Ingersoll collegiate, with the assistance of senior students of the school, have compiled an industrial history of Ingersoll, which includes a general review, and specific reviews of 10 of the main Ingersoll industries. Mr. Wilson, and the heads of the firms concerned have kindly approved publication of these articles in The Tribune, feeling they might be of interest to all concerned.

The following is the first of 11:

The town of Ingersoll is located in the heart of Western Ontario's agricultural area. Separated from the city of London on the west by 20 miles and Woodstock on the east by some 10 miles, this thriving industrial centre, with a present population of over six thousand, has seen a continual development in its industries during the past century.

Official records show that "the village of Ingersoll was erected under the authority of the 12th Victoria, chapter 81, section 58, by proclamation bearing the date 12th Sept. 1851, to take force and effect on the following first day of January." The acreage given as comprising the village was 1,722, of which 725 acres were in the township of North Oxford and 997 acres in West Oxford Township in the County of Oxford.

In 1627 the brothers John and Chas. Ingersoll, arrived in America and settled in Massachusetts area of the U.S. A descendent of this family, Thomas Ingersoll, a Loyalist who by his first wife was the father of Laura Secord, later to become a prominent figure in the War of 1812, had heard of Governor Simcoe's offer of certain tracts of land to parties who would come to Canada and settle there.

Ingersoll had also talked with Joseph Brant, Chief of the Six Nations, whom he had met about the same time while the chief was on a visit to New York. As a result of these talks Ingersoll and a few others made application for a township which was granted by the government of Upper Canada in March 1793 at Niagara. One of the stipulations of the grant was that Ingersoll should bring with him forty settlers who were to pay six pence an acre for their grants of 200 acres or more. The land was selected on Chief Brant's advice and was located on the eastern branch of the Thames River (Riviere La Tranche) the present location of the town of Ingersoll. In this year Thomas Ingersoll and his wife came to Canada and erected what is believed to be the first log house in this locality.

The settlement, which was located on the river trail at the point where the Indians for centuries in their journeying had left the river and directed their course south-east, in a straight line toward Brantford, grew slowly around 1800. Grain and sawn lumber were the staple products. The settlers, realizing the importance of roads, in one year built a road from Burford to La Tranche through some 25 miles of wilderness at the expense of Mr. Ingersoll.

Some time later however, it was reported to England that the granting of lands to Americans by Governor Simcoe was likely to injure the country as this might prevent discharged Loyalist soldiers from procuring grants. As a result, an order from England cancelled several grants, among them the township granted to Thomas Ingersoll.

He, however, remained in possession of his original farm.

A few years after the escheating of the township, in the year 1806 Thomas Ingersoll moved to Toronto township on the Credit river where he died in 1812 leaving a widow and seven children.

In 1817, his eldest son Charles, who had fought in the War of 1812-14, came into possession of the original Ingersoll farm on the Thames river and the next year his sixteen year old brother James was sent to take charge of it. On April 14th, 1819, they had a saw-mill in operation and the next year began to erect a grist mill and buildings for a store, distillery and an ashery.

Charles Ingersoll moved his family to Oxford in 1821 and became the first postmaster of the village post office established on January 6, 1821. It was known as the "Oxford Post-Office." He was also appointed magistrate, a commissioner in the court of Request and later Lt.Col. of the Oxford Militia. For several years he was a member of Parliament until his death in 1832.

In 1822 James Ingersoll at the age of 21 opened the first store in the village, a business which he carried on for some 10 years. In 1834 he became registrar of Oxford County and moved to Woodstock in 1848. It is recorded that Elisha Hall erected the first saw-mill in the village at Hall's Pond near Victoria Park and later built a second one on the site of what in comparatively recent years was Smith mill. The first foundry in the village was established by W. A. Ramsey and later operated by W. Eastwood. The first steam engine in Oxford County was built here.

Following the completion of the Upper Dam on the Thames River and the creation of Carroll's Pond, a flour-mill was built on Charles St. E. by

## Ingersoll's Own Civil War Rampant in the Late 1800's

aug 9/51

By Stanley J. Smith

The battle between the North and the South to the average Canadian meant the Civil War of 1861-1865, but to the denizens of Cheesetown, it meant the north and south side of the Thames street bridge. During the eighties, and up to the turn of the present century, club and brickbat warfare was rampant among the zoot-suiters of the day. Plug-uglies would gather nightly on both sides of the bridge and defy each other to traverse the 90 foot span.

With all of our historical research of early Ingersoll, we have never yet received a clue as to what originally engendered the high feeling which existed at the time. Almost two decades ago we interviewed the old-timers and they seemed more amused when the subject was broached rather than give one a hint as to the actual cause. The late Neil McFee claimed that the high feeling was caused by derision and idle banter among factions that formed into gangs, during lunch hours, at the Morrow Co. and the old Pork Factory. During meal times the workmen would good naturedly banter with the north side sects and the southsiders until someone would cast a slur against their own particular locality and a fist fight settled the matter. Unkind cutting remarks would be hurled and a challenge would be offered to cross either the Wonham or Thames street bridges that night.

This high feeling mostly hurt the innocent, but the village swains suffered most! At the height of a brickbat battle, a young bank clerk who boarded on Francis street, was escorting a popular young maiden

to her home on Victoria street, and when crossing the bridge the battle stopped and the southerners demanded to know from the bank clerk if he couldn't find a girl on his own side of the river? Likewise, the northerners cornered the girl, when she had crossed the bridge, and popped the same question! The couple ignored the cliques and proceeded on their way, but when the young clerk was returning home he was accosted by one of the northsiders and he was threatened with a beating-up if he did not desist in courting a northern gal. The clerk soothed them down and invited the leader of the gang over to McCarty's hotel and bought him a keg of beer and told him to divide it with his pals. The leader patted the clerk on the back and called him a "regular sport" and informed him that he could come over the river at any time with anybody, moreover, if the southside squirts made any remonstrance they would see that he was accorded full protection. The clerk then crossed the river and contacted the leader of the rival gang and settled for a bottle of gin at the "Red Onion" hotel.

August 9, 1951



# Ingersoll Now 100 Years Old, Early Stores, Statistics Listed

By M. E. Cropp

On Labor Day, 1952, the town of Ingersoll celebrates the centennial of its incorporation as a village. It was incorporated by Act of Parliament 12th Victoria, cap. 81, and Proclamation of 12th September, 1851 (date of Incorporation, January 1, 1852).

Sutherland's Oxford Gazette for 1862 describes the Ingersoll of 90 years ago as follows:

## 1,190 Century Ago

"During the last decade the progressive advancement of the village has been remarkable, equally as regards population, commercial importance, and the extension of its occupied area. By the census returns for 1861, it is shown that it has outnumbered double its population for 1851 by about 200—having increased from 1,190 in the latter year to 2,756 in the return for 1861.

"Its general aspect has greatly improved in the same period by the erection of a very superior class of public and private buildings, and other improvements which have been going on steadily within the municipal boundary. Consequently its growth and prosperity in the various branches of industry and commerce has been considerably enhanced.

## Fine Buildings

"Ingersoll has now a handsome and commodious Town Hall and Market House surmounted by a neat belfry and spire, substantially built of brick. There are also several fine, large edifices of two and three storey, of brick, for business purposes, on the principal streets, which would be a credit to places of greater pretensions, and large first-class hotels.

"The law and medical professions are well represented in the village. There is a weekly newspaper, the oldest in the county, published in it — principles, Reform — issued on Tuesdays, of which Mr. J. S. Gournett is the editor, proprietor, and publisher. The London and Hamilton road passes through the village, and it is reached in all directions by other good plank and gravel roads. It has an excellent market for the sale of produce etc., which is largely attended. From its eligible situation, its easy accessibility both by rail and road, and the facilities thereby afforded for the transportation of goods, Ingersoll bids fair to become the most important mart of business and commerce in the county.

"The staple business and industrial trade of the village and neighborhood is in wheat and sawn lumber. It is well supplied with manufacturing facilities, having unlimited water power in the immediate vicinity, which at present gives power to two grist and two flouring mills, one of each belonging to R. H. Carroll and J. R. Benson, by whom an extensive business is done in the manufacture of flour for the Montreal and export markets, and an oatmeal mill named the "North Star Mill," carried on by J. Stewart.

"Besides these there is a large flouring mill impelled by steam, belonging to the "Oxford Steam Flour Company." It also contains a steam sawmill, fanning mill, manufactory, sash, door, and blind factory, with two planing and one flooring machine, belonging to Adam Oliver Esq., who carries on a large general business as builder, lumber merchant, mill and factory owner, employing 21 men and having a 30-horse power engine in operation.

## Other Industries

"Ingersoll also has another sash and blind factory, with two planing and one flooring machine of which Messrs. John Christoph and Brothers are proprietors, who have also a very extensive business in building and lumber, with 12 men employed, working a 16-horse

foundries, one carried on by W. Eastwood, in which he manufactures threshing, reaping and mowing machines, agricultural implements, etc., employing 30 hands, and having a 12-horsepower engine in active operation, Mr. Eastwood's establishment turns out work to the annual value of \$25,000.

"The other foundry is that of J. and S. Noxon, who do a large business as founders and machinists, and manufacture all kinds of machinery in iron and woodwork, grain separators, reapers and mowers, to the value of \$12,000 yearly.

"There are also several carriage and wagon factories, furniture, pail and tub steam factories, an extensive tannery carried on by Thomas Brown, blacksmith, carpenter, cabinet maker and painters' shops, and a brewery. Besides these it has numerous excellent stores, comprising dry goods, grocery, hardware, crockery, drug, stationery and boot and shoe stores.

## Two Banks

"There are two banks, agencies of the Commercial Bank of Canada, and the Niagara District Bank, with several insurance agencies.

"There are eight churches, one Church of England, two Presbyterian, one Roman Catholic, two Methodist and two Baptist.

Two mails daily from the west and three from the east. Present population about 3,000 and increasing rapidly. Its municipal government is administered by a village council, presided over by a reeve. The fifth division courts are held in the town hall."

## Several Schools

In 1862 Ingersoll also had a public library with about 1,000 books. There were several schools, in connection with different denominations. The principal, and public one, styled The Union School, being the common and grammar schools united, is described as "an excellent institution. It is a handsome two-storey brick, with ample playgrounds, well fenced. Average attendance 180. John Wells, head teacher. Other teachers, F. Atkin, Samuel Shell, Sarah Hovendon."

In 1862 the post office stood on the southeast corner of King and Thames street, with Joseph Thur-

kell, postmaster. There were lodges of the Masonic Order, Independent Order of Oddfellows, and the Loyal Orange Association. There were two musical societies, organized in 1862, the Ingersoll Philharmonic Society, "composed of ladies and gentlemen of good musical taste and talent," and the Ingersoll Musical Association "composed exclusively of instrumental performers." There was also a Temperance Lodge.

## Two Remain

Of the eight Ingersoll churches listed for 1862, only two buildings remain — the Wesleyan Methodist Church on Oxford street, the basement of which is rented by Mr. Barnett to store Massey Harris equipment, and the first Roman Catholic Church, on John street, behind the present Catholic property. It is now a three-apartment building. Originally it stood with the end toward the street, and had a small spire.

The others were a Regular Baptist, on Albert off King; a Church of England, the first church in the village, on King west; Erskine (Presbyterian); a British Methodist Episcopal, colored; a Methodist Episcopal on Charles street, and Knox Presbyterian, the cellar of which may be seen on St. Andrew's street. After Knox and Erskine joined to build the present St. Paul's, Knox was bought by M. T. Buchanan and made into a hay-fork factory.



The date—June 22, 1900; the occasion—The Ingersoll Old Boys' Reunion. The total weight of those boys is about 1600 pounds, or about 200 pounds each. Front row, left to right—P. J. Griffin, "Dip" Hook, Charlie Harris and Jack Richardson. Back row, Chub Smale, Marsh McMurray, Charlie Bailey and Wm. McMurray.

INGERSOLL TRIBUNE

August 28, 1952

# Interesting Displays Seen in Shop Windows

One of the first exhibits to commemorate Ingersoll's 100th birthday is a collection of clear and antique glass in the window of Carr's Ingersoll Hardware.

This collection was gathered in Ingersoll and Oxford county pioneer homes by Mr. and Mrs. Stanley J. Smith and is causing considerable comment for its beauty and colorful effect. Every piece is a collector's item. Staffordshire dogs; candelabra with hanging crystal pendants; log cabin butter dish; hens, roosters, ducks and turkey dishes; hobnail, Spanish lace, cranberry red, white flash tumblers, in fact, all the colors of the rainbow to delight the eye.

According to Mr. Smith some of the pieces antedate the formation of Oxford county. Two of the pieces . . . a thorn handle bonnet basket and a tripod flower holder was secured from the Cruttenden family. Lauriston Cruttenden was Beachville's postmaster in the 40's of the last century. He resigned in 1952 to join forces with Tom Ingersoll, Jr., to construct mill sites in St. Marys.

## GLASS MAKING

Mr. Smith explained why some colored glass is considered more valuable than other colored glass. He explained it this way, "Silica sand and borax, when fused, makes white glass . . . When this is in a molten state it can be blown, pressed or poured into a mold to give it shape. Take three tumblers of the same size and design. A red, a green and a chapest because oxide of iron was added to the white glass when it was in a molten condition. The red will cost 10 times more be-

cause oxide of gold was used to make mauve will be the most expensive because oxide of platinum was used as a coloring agent, hence, antique mauve glass is a scarce glass to obtain. Add silver and copper and you get a canary yellow. Cobalt will give you a dark Oxford blue, but add tin, zinc and cobalt, you will get a light Cambridge blue.

"Glass was known to the ancients and no particular country can claim its invention . . . Not even the Russians. Probably, its secret came from lightning striking a hill of borax and sand. It is said that at the atomic bomb proving ground is a rather glassy affair after the atomic explosion which generates a terrific heat and fuses the earth's crust."

In the same window, Mrs. Robert Carr has displayed some rare items of glass and china which are family heirlooms.

## WALLPAPER

Another interest of Mr. Smith's is the collection of clocks, old musical instruments and wallpaper. The latter is being displayed in the window of Jack Douglas and they are from the sublime to the hideous. Birds of paradise, cut-out roses, 22 inch borders of mountain, boating, and flying bird borders, along the side of a light black and drab green paper of 1892 vintage.

"Women will hoard up wallpaper for a couple of decades after the wall has been papered" claimed Stan "this is based on fact that a section of the wall paper might be damaged and it can easily be repapered, but the papered, but they will cling onto

the old odd roll. A lot of this exhibit came out of the attic of 'The Firs' which was Colonel Boyle's home, east end of Woodstock, and built in the 60's. In my estimation, the most beautiful wallpaper period was around 1906 with the cut-out ribbons, roses, shields and crowns. I can visualize some of the rooms which would be papered with the near black superimposed with tiny yellow fleur de lis. One peek and a teetotaler would have the D T's."

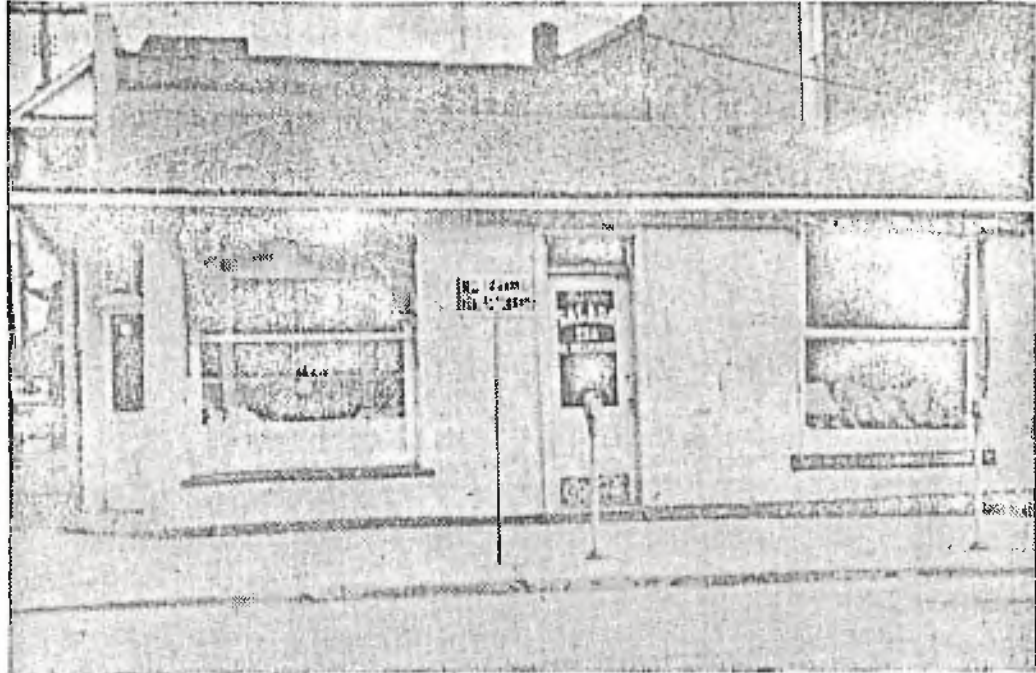
An 1847 melodian, musical albums and an old phonograph will be placed in the window of E. H. Alborough. The Sentinel-Review will display Mr. Smith's two copies of the London Times, dated 1798 and 1806, announcing Nelson's victory of the Nile and the funeral of the admiral, in 1806.

SENTINEL REVIEW

September 2, 1952

Erected In 1836

## Served as First Registry Office, Ingersoll Building Still in Use



A jeweler and butcher now occupy what was once the first registry office in the interior of Upper Canada. Built in 1836, it is situated at the corner of Ingersoll's Market Lane and King Street. (Photo by Longfield)

By Stanley J. Smith

One of the oldest commercial buildings situated between the Niagara frontier and the western limits of the province originally the first registry office in the interior of Upper Canada is still used today for business.

It is on a site known today as the corner of Market Lane and King street, Ingersoll, (formerly known as Oxford Village), and is occupied by a jeweler and butcher. This building was erected in 1836 by the order of Col. B. Askin, of London, and it was to be the office of the newly appointed registrar of deeds . . . James A. Ingersoll, Esquire.

At that time, King street was known only as the Old Stage Road and the order for the new building directed that the registry office would be situated on a traveled road and easily accessible to the public. Less than 200 yards east of this old building is the oldest crossroads of Upper Canada, namely, King and Thames street . . . originally Cadillac's wintertime line of

communication running from Quebec to Detroit, bisecting the old Indian trail traversing the bush between Lake Erie and Lake Huron.

### First Registrar

The first registrar appointed between Niagara and the Detroit River was Thomas Horner, of Burford (then a part of Oxford County), who was appointed in 1800 to register all deeds of property in the counties of Oxford and Middlesex.

This entailed great hardship on the early settlers in the Delaware (Allen's Station) district of Middlesex because they had to go afoot, or upon horse, to Burford which would consume a couple of days' lost time in making the return trip. Representations were made to the Government, in York, and, in 1818, Mr. Horner was instructed to deliver the registry book pertaining to Middlesex to Mahlon Burwell, Esquire, who had received the registrarship for that county.

The first Thomas Ingersoll to come into Oxford, in 1795, was an American rebel of 1776. It was for this reason that he did

not receive a promised township and as he only received 200 acres . . . lot 20, West Oxford Township . . . he became disgruntled with the result, in 1805, he left the district and became engaged in ferrying goods over the mouth of the River Credit.

### More Money for Roads

He was an agitator for more money to be expended upon public roads and he also advocated the taxation of wild land which did not contribute one farthing towards opening up the county. He died in 1812, and his two sons, Charles and Thomas, Jr., residing at Queenston, joined the British forces of General Brock and so endeared themselves to the Government at York that they were adopted into the "Family Compact" and received certain rewards for their governmental support.

The youngest son of Thomas Ingersoll, Senior, was James A. Ingersoll, and he was the only Ingersoll child born in Canada, on lot 20, West Oxford, in 1801. When his father departed for the Credit River in 1805, James

# Tent In Clearing Ingersoll's Start

By ART WILLIAMS

With the arrival of American immigrants in 1793 into the township of Oxford on the Thames, we find the name Ingersoll first mentioned. Thomas Ingersoll, who was an American, undertook the task of helping to further open up the township by supplying at least 40 settlers and to construct a road from Burford to the River Thames. The settlers were each to get 200 acres of land at a cost of sixpence per acre.

The Ingersoll family had its North American roots in the commonwealth of Massachusetts where Thomas Ingersoll was born in 1749. A man of high principles and strong beliefs he was a prominent member of the Whigs Party and fought on the side of the rebels as a major during the American Revolution. He genuinely believed that the colonies were quite justified in revolting against Britain but after peace was declared in 1783 he was equally agitated at the outrages perpetrated against the Loyalists by the victorious colonialists.

In 1793 the government of Upper Canada received a petition signed by Rev. Gideon Bostwick, Thomas Ingersoll and a number of associates, all of Berkshire County, Mass., requesting the grant of a township in the new province. In

this document they agreed to bring in a sufficient number of settlers to settle the greater part of a township.

The administration was at that time in the habit of granting large areas of unsettled lands in Upper Canada to persons who would undertake to bring in settlers. Usually the agreement was that the Crown kept control of the property and assigned a proportionate number of acres to the prospective settler and a bonus acreage to the promoter.

## TO UPPER CANADA

Accordingly, Ingersoll and family came to Upper Canada and settled in the Niagara District in 1793. He was assigned 80,000 acres in Oxford. As Mr. Bostwick died in 1793 and the associates backed out, Ingersoll was left on his own and was obliged to use his own money on the venture. He did manage to get the venture started. He arrived here in 1793 and pitched his tent on what is now Thames street, Ingersoll, and proceeded to clear a farm.

In this venture of settling, he apparently ran into difficulties for in 1797 he sent a plea to the Executive Council asking for four or five months more to settle the township. The council did not see fit to grant his request and according to a strict policy, where an agreement was not fully carried out, relieved Ingersoll of his control of the land under his jurisdiction. The lots already settled were confined and he was allowed twelve hundred acres for his troubles.

Greatly disappointed by the failure of his project he moved in 1805 to a lot at the mouth of the Credit River where he lived until his death in 1812. While in Oxford County, Ingersoll not only administered his settlement scheme but acted as the local Justice of the Peace, administrator of oaths and commissioner of roads. He did construct the road from Burford to the River Thames, a distance of 30 miles. At his death, he left a widow and seven children, one of them being Laura Secord of the War 1812 fame, also sons Charles and James, the latter being born in the Oxford homestead.

Charles Ingersoll, who was born in Massachusetts in 1791 was among the first to volunteer for service in the militia when the province was threatened with invasion in 1812. It is reported that he served as Quartermaster of Niagara Light Dragoons and later in the Provincial Dragoons as a lieutenant. This corps fought in actions at Fort George, Stoney Creek, Black Rock and Lundy's Lane.

In 1817 James Ingersoll returned to the place of his birth and reported that the farm was occupied by Ebenezer Case and that the fences and barn were in dilapidated condition but the log house was in good repair. After getting things in working order, James proceeded to start a sawmill in 1819 and later a gristmill with one pair of stones, also a store and ashery prior to the arrival of Charles in 1821.

## MADE MAGISTRATE

When Charles joined James at "Oxford" as Ingersoll was then known he was appointed the first postmaster in what is now Oxford County along with appointments as magistrate and commissioner at the court of requests along with Peter Teeple. In 1834 James was appointed registrar of the county, a surprise appointment as it was thought in all circles that Peter Lossing would receive it after the death of Horner Charles was one of the unfortunate victims of the cholera epidemic of 1832 and a memorative plaque records his memory in St. James Anglican Church.

Between 1820-1835 seven farms subdivided into village

lots. They were taken from lots in the townships of North Oxford belonging to Richard Crotty and John Carnegie and from West Oxford belonging to Daniel Carroll, Gilbert Harris, James Harris Elishar Hall, Sam Canfield and lots 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 owned by Charles and James Ingersoll. Such was the beginning of the village of Ingersoll which became an incorporated village on January 1, 1852 by an Act of Parliament.

During the next ten years the village grew beyond the fondest expectations and its population increased from 1,190 in '51 to 2,756 in '61. In its general aspect it greatly improved with the erection of a very superior class of public and private buildings including a handsome and commodious town hall and market house. There were also several fine large blocks of two and three story brick business houses, which would be a credit to any town at that time.

The law and medical professions were well represented. There was a weekly newspaper (the oldest in the county) and known as the Chronicle. It was issued on Tuesdays with the Gurnett family being principal shareholders. The London and Hamilton road passed through the village. It was reached from all directions by good plank and gravel roads. From its eligible situation, its easy accessibility both by rail and roads, it afforded facilities for the transportation of goods. Ingersoll appeared to become the most important mart of business and commerce in the County.

## INDUSTRIAL TRADE

The staple business and industrial trade of the village and neighborhood was in wheat and sawn lumber. It was well supplied with manufacturing facilities having unlimited water power in the vicinity. Two grist and two flour mills were already making good use of this cheap form of power.

R. H. Carroll and J. R. Benson were doing an extensive export business with flour and the North Star Mill of J. Stewart had a large oatmeal trade. Besides these mills there was the Oxford Steam Flour Co. It also contained a steam sawmill, a tanning mill factory, sash, door and blind factory. Adam Oliver had a large contracting firm and also operated a planing mill and lumber business, employing 24 men with enough business to make good use of a 30 h.p. engine.

Another large contracting firm was operated by John Christopher and Bros. also with 14 men on the payroll. There were two foundries, one operated by W. Eastwood who manufactured farm equipment with 20 employees and doing a \$25,000 business annually. J. and S. Noxon had the other foundry and also specialized in farm machinery (was later taken over by Massey Harris Co.) doing a \$12,000 business annually.

There were also several carriage and wagon factories, furniture, tannery, operated by Thomas Brown and a brewery. There were two banks, plus eight churches. The affairs of the village were controlled by a village council presided over by a

In the early days of Oxford all communities lived in fear of fires. A goodly number of the second rate buildings were used for stabling or storing purposes, an ideal spot for a fire to start. Such was the case in Ingersoll. On May 8, 1872 a fire of unknown origin broke out in the stables of the Royal Exchange Hotel, which stood on the location of the old post office building. The cause of the fire was never discovered. The wind blew to the south east and so rapidly did the fire travel through the old frame buildings

that when it had burned itself out it had destroyed nearly all the buildings on both sides of Thames St. between Charles and King streets and most of Oxford street up to the market square where Bowman's Hotel was the last victim.

## FAST FIRE

The fire travelled so fast and furious that panic and confusion seized everyone. Goods were removed from stores to supposed safety across the street, only to be moved again. Goods were damaged in moving. Some were removed by thieves ever ready to profit on the misfortune of others. Stores of bottled goods were an easy prey to many.

When it was realized that the situation was out of hand, the mayor wired for help to London and Woodstock. In response London sent its Phoenix Co. along with 20 men of its hook and ladder company as well as a company of volunteers. They were brought to Ingersoll on the Great Western Fire Engine. Woodstock made available a company of volunteers under Captain McKay but they were delayed by the late arrival of a train to transport them. Many citizens with fast horses drove over to the fire and rendered valuable service. When the Woodstock crew did arrive they were able to relieve men who had been fighting the fire from its beginning and were able to subdue the fire when it broke out a second time about three a.m.

The London Company entered the fight on arrival in the vicinity of the Mayor's Block and prevented the fire from entering the Smith Block and the building on King street. With this assistance the whole town could have been gutted as fire brands were carried three or four miles and it was necessary to watch all buildings.

The Ingersoll crew of which there were three, pumped and carried water all night during the fire in relays until they fell exhausted. It is said that by morning their arms and hands were so stiff they could not remove their own coats. The three companies were each provided with a hand pumper, a reel of hose and a chub room where they met for instruction. One was located at the present CNR crossing on Thames St. A second was located at the market and the third was located at the rear of the Old King's Mill. Some of the men from these companies included John Frizzell, Robert Leighton, Robert Munroe, John Lakey, Henry Sinalé, Phillip Mudge, John Bowler, James McDonald, Edward Dixon and Chief Engineer Brady.

The real tragedy of this fire was that two men lost their lives while attempting to save other people's property. C. C. Payne lost his life while bringing stock out of R. H. Young's saddlery shop. He was told that it was not safe but continued his salvaging and with his arms full he stumbled and fell. It was impossible for anyone to reach him. John Omand was trapped by a falling wall in Fawks Jewellery Store.

## LOSS \$300,000

When the fire was finally subdued and inventory was taken the loss was approximately \$300,000. The area affected by the fire included: South of the Royal Exchange Hotel on Thames St. the residence of C. P. Hall and William Gallagher's Prince of Wales Hotel, and among other small frame buildings on both Thames and Oxford Sts; on the west side of Oxford St. north of Charles, the Daily House Stables, Chambers' Hotel, the old Wesleyan Church building, R. McDonald's barn, and Badder and Delaney's carriage and wagon factory.

On Thames St. stood several new buildings, such as Vance's Bakery, the second storey of which was used as the Masonic Hall. George Perkins' store, Brewster and Barker hardware, the Niagara District Bank, J. and H. Little groceries, Alex Gordon, tailor, G. W. Walley, crenecery and glassware, McCaughey and Walsby, barristers, The Chronicle office, a new building owned by J. S. Gurnett, J. F. Moore's cabinet show rooms, Myrne and McGokick, saddlery, Bys, Curtis, milliner, Mr. Miller, Grocer, Miss Webster, dressmaker, G. Lewis, photographer, Mr. Curtis, shoemaker, a brick building occupied by Holcroft's grocery were lost in the flames.

On the east side of Thames those of H. Vogt, Jeweller, T. St., buildings burned were F. Fawks, Jeweller, G. J. Shapnell, grocer, J. Hugh, photographer, Miss Patterson, dressmaker, S. W. McParlane, dry goods, J. N. Elliott, grocer, Alex Reid, dry goods, J. G. Chown and Co. hardware, F. A. Baker, photographer, T. H. Barraclough, boots and shoes, Holmes and Gillespie, dry goods, M. Typp, druggist, Alex McKenzie, residence, James McNiven, dry goods, H. McNiven, residence, James McDonald, hats and caps, Alex Macaulay, dry goods, R. F. Hunter, residence, John Gayer, druggist, D. White and Co. dry goods, O. R. Caldwell, druggist, Allan McLean, book shop, James McDonald, barrister.

On King St. Mrs. McIntyre's furniture factory, together with a large number of stores and residences, mostly of wood and built close together all burned to the east on both sides of the street up to Hall and Carol streets.

The fire wiped out the homes or businesses of over 30 people. Many witnessed the work of nearly a lifetime fall prey to the flames. Many of their names are just a memory while others are having their names carried on by the second and third generations still doing business on the same street. The blackened ruins of yesterday have been replaced by bigger and better places of business and even though Ingersoll fell short of its pioneers' expectations it is the hub of northwest Oxford, a town which any person would be glad to call his home town.

EDITORIAL REVIEW  
November 24 1962

# Men Of Fame, Fortune Part Of Ingersoll Past

1964

A tantalizing glimpse of the past played by Ingersoll back in the days before Canada gained nationhood is reflected in a plaque mounted last September 4 on the Town Hall.

The inscription recalls the destruction by fire of the town's first hall in 1856 and the construction in the following year of the present structure.

Pre-dating Canada's confederation by a decade, the hall's famous American abolitionist, John Brown, who, while on a recruiting trip in 1858, spoke on the evils of slavery and "border ruffians in Kansas."

As the hall was the largest in the immediate area — it could hold 500 — it became a centre of political activity in Oxford county.

Notables who spoke there included Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada's first prime minister; Thomas D'Arcy McGee and George Brown, Fathers of Confederation; Alexander Mackenzie; Sir Francis Hincks, and the radical reformer, Robert Gourlay.

## INGERSOLL FOUNDERS

With a promise of some 80,000 acres of land, Major Thomas Ingersoll and a group of American associates came to the Niagara Peninsula in 1793.

Through his friendship with an Indian chief, Joseph Brant, he selected a tract of land on the Thames River and attempted to form a settlement.

Although the major left the settlement around 1804, two of his sons returned after the War of 1812. According to one record, one of these sons, James later became a member of Parliament, and named the town in memory of his father.

First white settlement could date back as far as 1782, when several deserters from the siege of Yorktown were said to have settled in the area.

## LAURA SECORD

A woman noted for her courage during the War of 1812 is Laura Secord, the eldest daughter of the town's founder, Major Ingersoll. She was about 20 when she accompanied her father from Massachusetts (his birthplace) to the settlement he built on the banks of the Thames.

This log house, built near the centre of what is now Ingersoll's main street, was also close to what is claimed to be the oldest crossroads in inland Upper Canada.

This was the old stage road, running from Lake Ontario to the Detroit River, bisected by the Old Indian Trail which ran from Lake Erie to Lake Huron. The intersection lies less than 200 yards from the Ingersoll town hall.

One hundred years ago, the first Cheese factory was established in Oxford. From then, Ingersoll became known as the

hub of the cheese industry in Canada. It led to the founding of the Canadian Dairymen's Association at Ingersoll in 1867, the year of Confederation.

## POET AND CHEESE

It has been said that much of Ingersoll's fame as a cheese town is due to the work of the town's poet, James McIntyre. He owned a furniture factory and store here in the 1800's.

Another artist of note was James Harris who created, in 1865, what is perhaps Ingersoll's most famous product, The Big Cheese. Weighing just over two tons, it was sent to an exhibition in Paris — and Mrs. McIntyre wrote a poem.

We have seen thee, Queen of Cheese,  
Laying quietly 'at your ease,  
Gently fanned by evening breeze,  
Thy fair form no flies dare seize.

May you not receive a scar as  
We have heard that Mr. Harris  
Intends to send you off as far  
as  
The Great World Show at  
Paris.

# Ingersoll Dates First Brick House To 1836; Early Names Recalled

By M. E. Cropp

The early settlers of Canada West were in no hurry to leave their log homes for more pretentious ones of brick or stone, or even of squared logs. There were no taxes on unfinished log houses.

In 1828 Ingersoll had 20 settled families. Family names consisted of Canfield, Hall, Carrall, Smith, Hallock, Sherman, Bronson, Wick-wood, Maynard, Kennedy, Underwood, Burdick, Doty, Ryan, Briggs, Clarke, Moriele, Ingersoll, Park-hurst, Canfield, Van Every, Miller, Tompkins, Whiting, Merrick, Farris and Stimpson.

The male population numbered 58.

### Industrial Concerns

There was a blacksmith shop owned by John Sherman, who also made whiskey barrels for the distillery. Also in the village were a barrel factory and cooper shop, also a carding mill.

Operated by the Ingersolls there was a distillery, an ashery, a gen-

eral store and post office, a saw-mill, a grist mill, and a tannery.

The only building south of King street and west of Thames, was the log school near the corner. The tuition at this time was eight dollars per pupil per year, and a turn at boarding the teacher. Many families sent only the oldest child who was then supposed to teach the younger children, as money was scarce. Books used were Murray's grammar, Woodbridge's geography, Daboll's arithmetic, an English reader and Webster's spelling book.

The teacher must be a British subject and be able to teach the above subjects.

### Lasted Until Fifties

This system was not changed until the 1850's, when everyone who paid taxes had to contribute to education.

This log hamlet of 1828 was located along King street, which was part of the old stage road, the road which Thomas Ingersoll had had cut at his own expense from Burford in 1793-4. The village was centred by the creek which runs through Dr. Carroll's Park, which was then Sam Ingersoll's pond.

### 1836 Brick House

The first brick house in Ingersoll, now the gracious home of J. W. Ferguson, was built in 1836 by Elisha Hall, from bricks made on his own farm. The cellar was paved with square bricks two inches thick which were only removed when the present owner took possession. Photographs of these early houses show that verandas were not added until later.

Elisha Hall was a staunch supporter of the Reform party. When the Rebellion of 1837 broke out he was held a prisoner in his own house, guards surrounding it night and day. Every night his wife took two pails and went to the house next door (now the home of Mrs. Crane) for water. One night Elisha Hall, dressed in his wife's clothes and taking the water pails, walked through the guard and got away. Leaving his wife's hoops in the bush he made his way south of the lake. Upon one occasion when he was hiding in a barn a search party came up, but the farmer kept them talking and Hall was able to escape by the back

way. He went to California. Years later he came back, disposed of his property, and returned to the United States.

The Crane home, next to the Ferguson place, is one of Ingersoll's oldest buildings, having been built between 1828 and 1835.

### Incorporation Dates

In 1832 Ingersoll had a population of 1,190 and was incorporated as a village. In 1854 its chief exports were lumber and pearl ash. In 1857 it became a town.

In 1862 its newspaper, the Chronicle, advertised itself in Sutherland's Gazetteer as the oldest newspaper in the country, with a circulation nearly double that of any other country newspaper in the province.

Noxon's foundry, also advertised, was then on Thames street, south of King, where the furniture factory now stands. Later the plant was moved down by the tracks and grew into the New Idea plant. The old Noxon home served for years as the Ingersoll Hospital, and was more recently torn down.

The Eastwood foundry, of 1862 was then on Thames street. Its successor is the garage on Charles street east.

Fifty professional and tradesmen from Ingersoll inserted ads in the 1862 Gazette.



ELISHA HALL

— Ingersoll pioneer

## MODERN INGERSOLL

### Introduction

Since 1911 the town of Ingersoll has undergone slow continuous growth interrupted by depression and stimulated by war. While its relative growth rate has been, with one noticeable exception (see figure 4, 1931-41), below that of the larger neighbouring centres of London and Woodstock, the town has maintained a viable economy based on both industry and commerce, much of which has remained unchanged since the late nineteenth century. Between 1911 and 1967 the result has been a steady growth in residential area to house a population of over 7000, but relatively little alteration in either area or location of the commercial and industrial focus. However, despite the existence of a stable core of industrial plants which have apparently supported and sustained the economic growth of the town, the last two decades in particular have been marked by the appearance of new foot-loose industries seeking low production costs. One change which is only beginning to be felt in the functional morphology of the town is the opening of Highway 401 which passing to the south, may with time be expected to compete with the cumulative tradition of river, rail and road orientation of the community.

### Growth and Change 1911 to 1967.

The population of Ingersoll has increased steadily through the last five decades. The economic effects of the depression and the two world wars can be seen on figure 4 and it is evident that firstly, Ingersoll felt a lesser effect of these forces than London and Woodstock and secondly, this effect occurred earlier in Ingersoll than it did in the larger centres. It appears as though the First World War had relatively little effect on any of these communities.

### Population change for Ingersoll, Woodstock, London & Oxford

Figure 4:

	<u>INGERSOLL</u>		<u>WOODSTOCK</u>		<u>LONDON</u>		<u>OXFORD CO.</u>	
1901	4573		8833		39059		47154	
1911	4763	5%	9320	6%	46727	17%	48404	3%
1921	5150	8%	9935	5%	59281	21%	46762	-3%
1931	5233	1%	11395	13%	71310	17%	47825	2%
1941	5782	10%	12461	1%	77369	8%	50974	6%
1951	6524	12%	15544	20%	94027	18%	58818	14%
1961	6874	5%	20486	25%	162200	42%	-	-

Ingersoll and London experienced very slight increases in population in the decade 1911-1921, while Woodstock suffered a very slight decline from the preceding decade.



The decade of the 1930's was considered to be one of general depression in North America. While the demographic pattern of both Woodstock and London illustrate this economic force by a much lower rate of growth in these years, Ingersoll experienced one of its greatest rates of increase in the 1930's. Conversely, Ingersoll grew by only 1% in the 1920's while its neighbours experienced much more rapid growth rates. Ingersoll appears to contain a certain combination of industrial and commercial factors which reflect the major national economic trends earlier than some of the larger centres.

However, while the same economic forces caused London to expand from a city of 46,727 to 162,200 and Woodstock from 9,220 to 20,486, Ingersoll's over-all rate of increase has been much lower than either. This would appear to result from Ingersoll's inability during these decades to successfully compete with its larger neighbours for new industry, or to maintain for itself a competitive attractiveness for commercial development based on a hinterland made more mobile and less distance-conscious by the arrival and development of automobile travel. This shift, already apparent in the types of core industries in 1911 is even more obvious in 1967, by which time less than 15% of industrial employment is oriented towards rural supply industries. It is also apparent in the commercial sector of the economy as pointed out later in this chapter.

## INGERSOLL GENERAL HISTORY

### Business and Industries

J. & S. Noxon, who do a large business as founders and machinists and manufacture all kinds of machinery in iron and wood work--grain separators, reapers, mowers, to the extent in value of \$12,000 yearly. There are also several carriage and wagon factories, furniture, pail and tub steam factories, tannery, blacksmiths, carpenter, cabinet maker and painters shops and a brewery. Besides these it has numerous excellent stores, comprising dry goods, grocery, hardware, crockery, drug, stationery and boot and shoe stores.

There are two banks, agencies of the Commercial Bank of Canada and The Niagara District Bank, with several insurance agencies. The village also contains eight churches, one Church of England, two Presbyterian, one Roman Catholic, two Methodist and two Baptist.

Two mails daily from the west and three from the east. Ingersoll's present population is about 3000 and increasing rapidly. Its municipal government is administered by a village council presided over by a reeve. The fifth Division Courts are held in the Town Hall.

### Ingersoll Public Library

No. of volumes--about 1000. Librarian--Joseph Barker, King Street

### Musical Societies

Ingersoll Philharmonic Society-- This society was organized in 1862 and is composed of ladies and gentlemen of good musical taste and talent. Meetings for practice every Wednesday evening at the residence of J.E. Robinson, James St. E. Robinson, President and Conductor. Dr. Thomas Bowers, Vice-President. Thos. Rawlings treasurer. James Sutherland, Secretary.

Ingersoll Musical Association-- Organized in 1862. Meets for practice every Friday evening at 7 o'clock. Rooms in rear of the Chronicle Office. This society is composed exclusively of instrumental performers. A. Getfield, President. Thomas Venton, Vice-President. James Sutherland, Treasurer. Thos. Rawlings, Secretary.

Ponds for Water Power in Ingersoll in Pioneer Days

On the Harris Creek (formerly Hall's Creek), which enters Ingersoll on the south east corner, there were four ponds. The first pond established was between Canterbury and King Sts. and was known as the "village pond". It supplied power for a small double run grist mill on Mill St. believed to have been in operation in 1818 or a few years earlier. In more modern times this pond was known as Partlo's Pond. It was around this pond that the pond hoax was pulled off.

The next pond created was along Thames St. S. south of Canterbury St. This pond supplied power for a saw mill erected by Charles Ingersoll in 1818 which began operations in 1819. This mill burned down and the second mill on the site was built by Mr. Smith in 1866 and was a flour and grist mill. It burned down in 1887 but was rebuilt the same year. The pond known as Smith's pond ~~was~~ is the only remaining pond.

The third pond was on the south side of Canterbury St. It was created by Elisha Hall in 1820 and was for a saw mill. It was purchased in 1858 by Peter Stuart and rebuilt to be an oatmeal mill. When operated by Elisha Hall, it was a busy mill from which much lumber was exported. Mr. Hall owned all the south east portion of Ingersoll south of King St. and east of Hall St. As well as the farm known as the Norsworthy farm. Logs from the farm were hauled down Hall's Land to the mill. Nearby farmers also used this lane. The street now known as Centre St. was Mr. Hall's driveway from his homw to the mill. Mr. Hall traded this driveway to the town for a short section of Concession St. that ran close to the north side of his house.

North of Charles St. was a small pond that supplied power to operate machinery in the M.T. Buchanan hay and grain harvesting plant. This pond had a short duration. The factory was the former white brick Knox Presbyterian church on the north side of Andrew St. E.

On Whiting Creek which flows northward through the westerly portion of Ingersoll was King's pond. This was a large pond covering fifteen acres. Water from this pond powered a flour mill which Mr. King built in 1846. The mill was purchased by Wm. Partlo in 1902 and had a capacity of 100 bls. per day. It was known as the Manchester mills. The mill dam had been neglected after steam power was installed in the mill, and in April 1887 the dam broke loose causing much damage and loss of life. The Tillsonburg Lake Erie and P. R.R. was put through the pond bottom in 1901. The mill has been operated by Mr. Fulton for several years.

Farther north on this Whiting creek, between King St. and Charles St. was another pond which powered a carding and fulling mill owned by Charles Parkhurst, a member of the first village council in 1852.

There was a raceway along the north side of Charles St. E. which carried water from the upper dam, just outside Ingersoll, to operate a power wheel to turn machinery in the woollen mill on Charles St. E. This mill was built by Charles Parkhurst in 1846 and later occupied by James Waterhouse and Fred Bradbury.

Carroll's mill on the north east corner of Charles and Mutual Sts. was first a grist mill erected in 1846 and burned in 1887 while leased to James Smith. Steam power was used.

# Ingersoll's had its share of floods

BY WFS ROCHESTER

Some would call it just plain bad luck. Others claim that Mr. Wright had it coming because he had become too greedy in his affairs. And those of a religious had pronounced his judgement on the south side and east side of Whiting Creek industrial revolution.

But whatever was said, hardly a person in Ingersoll missed the events on that spring morning in April 1887.

It was in 1846 that W.H. King built his flour mill. Located on King Street West on the south side and east side of Whiting Creek, Mr. King utilized the creek that flowed from a 13-acre pond which lay south-east of the mill. But the job of grinding grain became too much for the elder resident, and soon he sold the business to a younger more adventuresome man, Carl Wright.

The first thing that Mr. Wright did when he took over operation of the mill was to forego the ancient method of grinding by water wheel in favor of modern machinery. He installed the most modern of steam engines that money could buy to power his mill, believing he could make up the cost in no time flat. Years went by and business was good. The dam that once powered the mill was allowed to deteriorate.

On April 4, 1887 at 7 a.m. the dam gave way. In the first hour the water washed away a portion of the old mill and part of the new engine house. The high smoke stack that signalled the mill's business for miles around, toppled, crashing through the roof. A large wooden-frame apartment house, purchased by the miller as a place to store 500 cords of four foot wood, sat beside the stream. When the surging waters hit the stock pile, the catapulting explosion hurled wood through the house, totally destroying it.

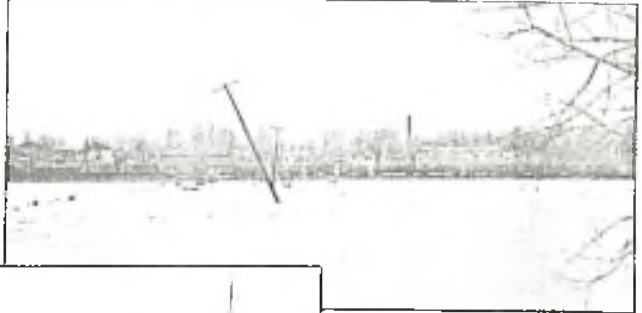
Occupying the apartments were Mr. and Mrs. John Bowman, their three children, Mr. Bowman's father, John McLean and his 18-year-old son, Alec Laid, his wife and child. Mrs. Bowman and her youngest child clung atop a bureau that floated down

stream. In the process of being saved, Mrs. Bowman lost grip of her child's arm and Mrs. Bowman drowned, never to be seen again. Mr. Bowman, who was ill in bed, floated down to the river and was pulled to safety. The other members of the Bowman family escaped.

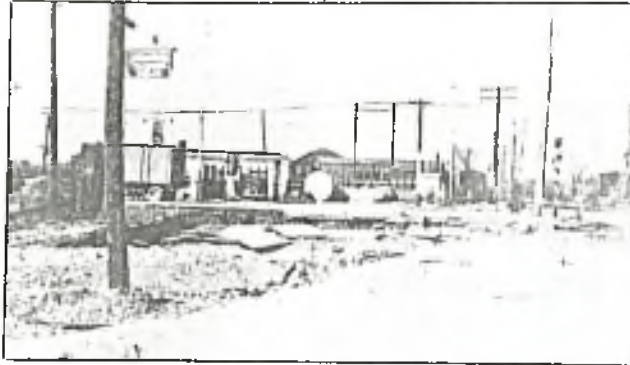
The dam was never rebuilt, but when the waters receded, a small pond remained and was used for skating. By 1901 the waters had dried sufficiently to allow the Tillsonburg Lake Erie and Pennsylvania Railroad to build a line on the pond bottom.

### HARRIS CREEK

In May of 1894, there was a sudden



The 1937 flood was the worst recorded. On the left are gas tanks that rose out of the ground. That service station is now the home of Gordian's Esso.



melting of snow accompanied by a warm rain. The Harris Creek, which flowed through central Ingersoll, became greatly flooded and three dams on this stream gave way. When the flood waters washed out the foundation of the building adjoining the stream the brick wall fell into the water, causing the floors to slope towards the stream. The building was occupied by James McIntyre, the poet, who conducted a furniture and undertaking business at the time. Coffins, rough boxes and much

furniture fell into the rampant waters and were seen carried to the Thames.

Young men, who had tied their boats to trees because the water was high above the shore, took off after the floating goods. Much of the furniture was pulled to shore at Paton's Sighting three miles west of Ingersoll. However, upholstered chairs were seen as far west as Dorchester. Waters that crossed over King and Water Streets were reported to be one foot in depth.

1937 FLOOD

The worst flood on record occurred on April 26, 1937. Warm rains and melting snow combined to cause a rush of water to the Thames River by all streams leading to it. The dam at Smith's pond overflowed. Memorial Park was flooded so deep that the Doctor Carroll memorial cairn was submerged to within a foot from the top.

The Thames Street main bridge was washed away. The Health Board ordered that all drinking water be boiled until further notice. Flood waters almost reached the Presbyterian Church.

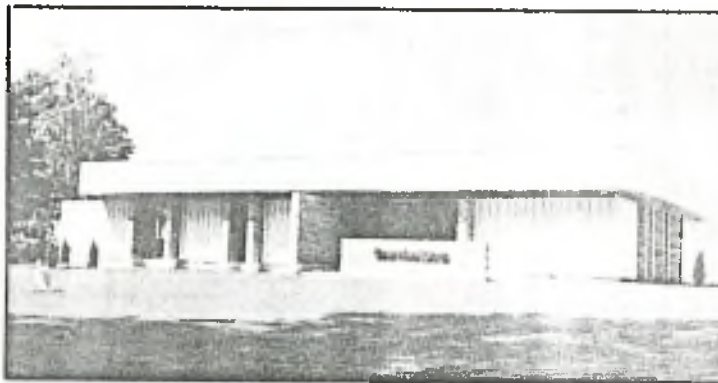
At a service station on Thames Street, gasoline tanks rose out of the ground. Flood conditions rose to a high level at Munroe's Crossing, east of Ingersoll.

A short distance east of the crossing the waters undermined a small bridge. This caused a CNR passenger train (the flyer) to become derailed. It fell into the flooded valley, resulting in the deaths of two men. They were Malcolm Isbister, the engineer, and Norm Aiken of Sarnia.

It was while trying to reach the scene of the accident that Doctor Macdonald, M.D., lost his life due to the swiftly flowing water which carried him into downstream.

## BEACHVILIME LIMITED

The Limestone/Lime industry in Oxford County has grown from its small rural beginning in the farming community of the 1800's to a major factor in the economy of the area in the 1980's. The operation at Beachvilime Limited has been fortunate to be a large part of that growth.



**BEACHVILIME LIMITED**  
Beachville, Ontario

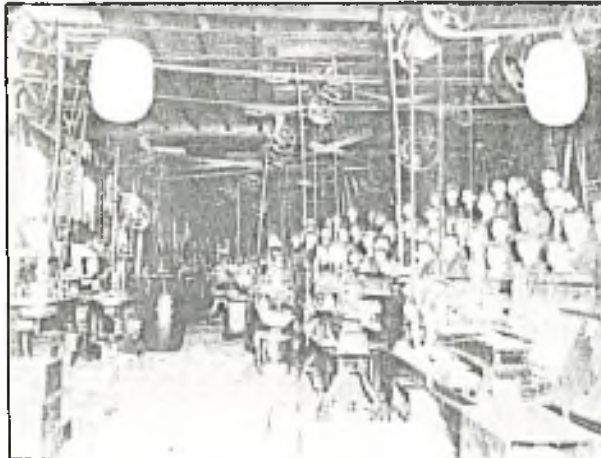
July 25, 1984



The Gibson pure salt bread delivery carriage. Photo from the late 1800s or early 1900s.



Thames Street South, looking north, in 1909.



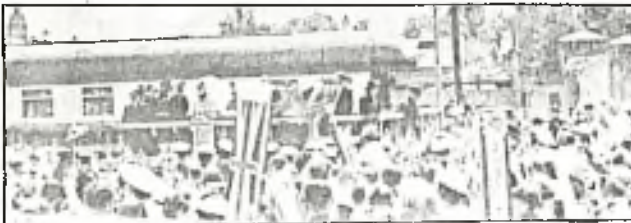
Employees from the John Morrow Nut and Screw Factory posed for this picture.



An ice cream parlour once occupied the space Diana Restaurant is now located in. Photo from the early 1900s.



Layton's Meats on King Street West, was once the home of another meat marketing business in the early 1900s.



King George VI and his queen, Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, were greeted by an enthusiastic crowd at the Ingersoll train station during their Canadian tour.



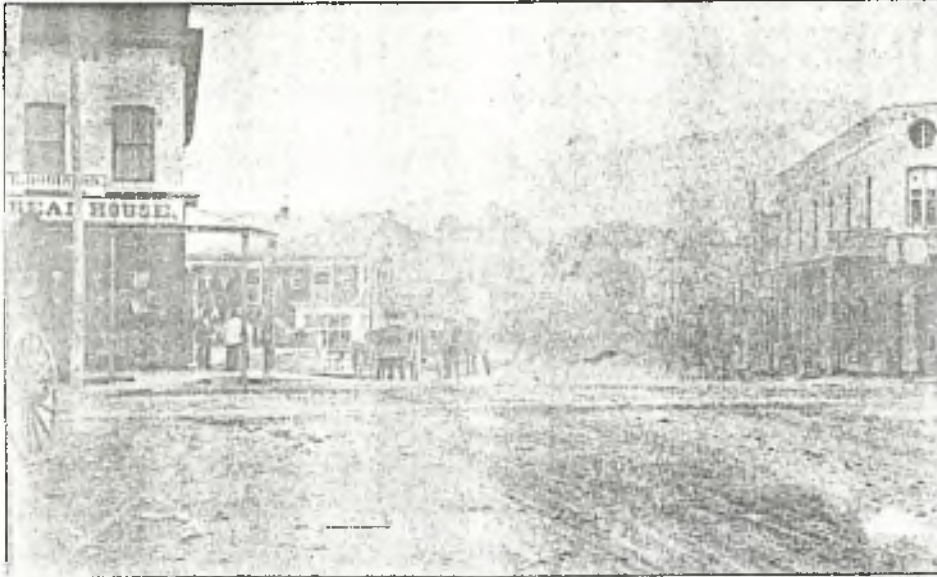
King Street West, looking east from Oxford Street.



PROPTON CANADIAN 1910 1900s

The Times would like to extend a thank you to Kent Shoulls, owner of Shoulls' Antique Lighting and Brass, Ingersoll, for allowing us to reprint so many old photographs from his collection. Thanks also to Walter Appleby, Gordon Henry, the Waters family and Mrs. Joyce Brown, for the use of old photos from their collections.

July 25, 1984



This photo, sent to the Times by J.C. Herbert, shows Ingersoll's business section before the town of the railway.



Left: Frank Ingersoll



First Christian Church, Ingersoll congregation



St. Charles Cathedral, Ch. 1866, Ingersoll

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# THE Ingersoll Times

19 King St. West

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July 25, 1984

## Streetcar named Estelle

The electric trolley known as Estelle brought Ingersoll into the 20th century when it made its inaugural run in 1900. Here the streetcar conductor stands on the front grid as Estelle rests on Charles Street in front of the library.



# Flood results in disaster

The worst flood on record for the Ingersoll community is also the one that most long-time residents remember.

Back in the spring of 1937, Ingersoll residents weren't very surprised to see the waters of the Thames River rising, as this was a very regular occurrence in the spring months, by all accounts of those who knew the river in those years.

But in that particular year, the rain kept falling, the snow kept melting, and the temperatures kept dropping.

Ingersoll barber Edgar Dunlop recalls that it started to rain hard one weekend in late April.

"It started to rain on Saturday," he said. "It rained all day Saturday, all that night, all day Sunday, and it was still raining on Monday."

Although the rain stopped that day, the water levels continued to rise as the melting snow and high water levels upstream sent a rush of water down the Thames.

On Monday night, the main town bridge went out, and the rushing river spread out to completely cover the CPR railway tracks.

The switching bridge known as the Iron Duke went out later, and the rising water levels forced the gasoline storage tanks at the nearby service station out of the ground.

As the floodwaters roared through

to Beachville, they filled three quarries in their path.

When a passenger train attempted to cross a small bridge over the flooded river just east of town, it derailed and plunged into the waters.

In an attempt to reach the disaster site, Dr. MacDonald was forced to travel flooded roads in his automobile. With the water obscuring the surface of the road, he wasn't able to see that the road had been completely washed away in one section, and the rushing current overturned his car, making the courageous Ingersoll doctor the third casualty of the great flood.

For a glorious 25 years in Ingersoll history, the town had a streetcar named Estelle. The second car, added when business was exceptionally good during the summer months, had the somewhat less romantic tag The City of Woodstock.

Two aspiring entrepreneurs, Dr. Ritter Ickes and J. Armstrong, conceived the notion in 1897, and by 1900 Estelle was lapping the miles between Woodstock and Ingersoll, operating by electricity along the newly constructed streetcar lines.

The trolley operated by electricity conducted along the overhead wire, and was kept on line by the streetcar tracks constructed in the streets.

The brightly painted trolley car was named after the daughter of Dr. Ickes, and although it accommodated only 24 passengers, it was

an innovation in transportation for the residents of the three communities (Woodstock, Beachville and Ingersoll) that it served.

Among other well-advertised amenities, an ornery, fuming little pot-bellied stove occasionally warmed passengers in the bitter winter months.

The City of Woodstock was added to accommodate the extra passengers travelling in the summer months, and was an open car somewhat larger than the enclosed Estelle car.

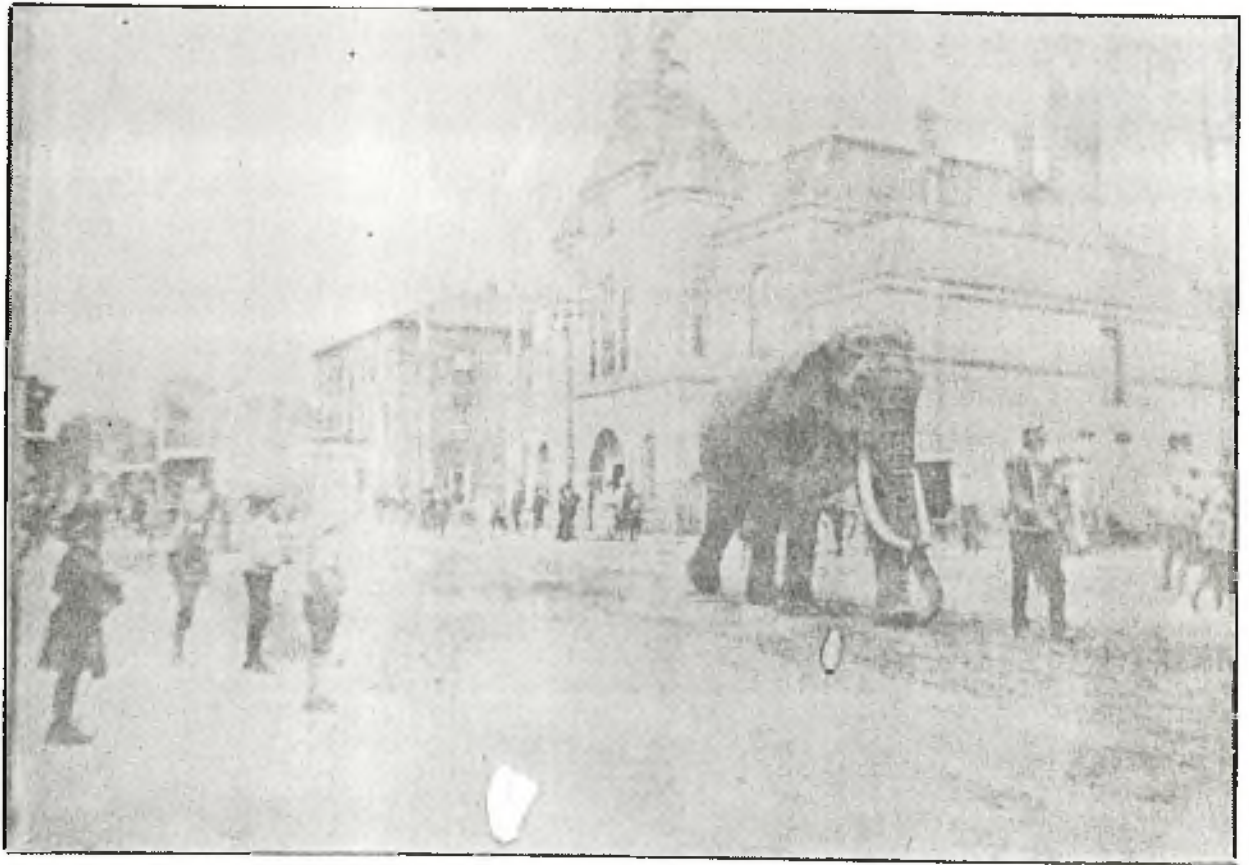
By 1925, the electric trolleys were giving way to the new and improved motorcars and busses, and the pungent, pitching romanticism of Estelle became another closed chapter in Ingersoll history.



This photo, taken at the time of the 1937 flood, shows the Thames Street footbridge and some of the debris left on the banks of the river by the rushing water.

INGERSOLL TIMES AUGUST 20 1986





Jumbo the St. Thomas elephant came to town back in the years when the "Old Town Hall" was the "New Town Hall", hydro had just been introduced to Ingersoll, and children in knickerbockers were fascinated

with the model 'T' motorcars. The photo, taken in the approximate location of the Ingersoll Times office in about 1920, was discovered by Ingersoll resident Henry Klooster, and offers a glimpse into Ingersoll's past.

*Ingersoll Times*  
June 4, 1946

# Fire And Flood Recalled As Town's Major Disasters

Two major disasters in the town's history were witnessed by the late Mrs. Mary E. Edwards, and vividly recalled by her as she neared her 90th birthday in 1938, at which time she had resided continuously in Ingersoll for a period of 71 years. She passed on in 1946 shortly after reaching her 97th birthday.

She witnessed both the big fire in 1872 which wiped out the main business section of the town and also the raging flood waters which raced through the west side of the town causing death and destruction, after the breaking of the dam at King's pond.

Born near Grand Rapids, Mich., the late Mrs. Edwards came to Ingersoll as a bride at the age of 18. She recalled that at that time the streets of the town were lighted by kerosene lamps at the main corners that there were single planks here and there for sidewalks there was no gas, no electricity, and of course no tele-phones.

At that time residing on Hall street, the late Mrs. Edwards said she went down town to see the

fire. All the east side of Thames street had been destroyed when she reached the scene with the exception of a brick building somewhere, east of the present post office building.

She remembered the fire "as a terrible sight" and said she stayed watching until about noon when she C. C. Paine a pumpmaker, had crowd that Mr. Paine (believed to) worked around through the been burned to death. "That" said Mrs. Edwards, "was enough for me and I went home".

Two persons, it was mentioned, were fatally burned and following the fire King street became the main business street.

In connection with the serious flood, due to the breaking of the dam at King's pond, the late Mrs. Edwards related that she was then living in the northwest section of the town. On her way home and while going by way of the Ingersoll plant to reach the Wonham street bridge she was warned by William Hayward, at that time an employee of the firm, that she could not get owing to the flood. She added "I went closer to see. The

waters were tumbling about. Houses had been washed away from their foundations and much property damaged. One house at that time was floating around in the floodwaters west of the bridge. I saw a small boy clinging to the roof. He was later drowned. Two persons were drowned at that time and many had very close calls."

Reference also was made to the low rentals for housing accommodation that prevailed here in the early days. The rentals ranged from \$2 to \$3 a month and when \$5 was asked it was considered excessive.

# Looking back at 'THE FLOOD'



*It is still known as the Great Thames River flood. Fifty years after the river stormed over its banks, causing millions of dollars of damage (half of it in London) and claiming five lives, references to "the flood" mean only one thing to people who witnessed the April, 1937 flood.*

*These photos were submitted by Murray Leonard.*

*The photos were taken at: (top left) a west end Woodstock park; (top right) near what is now Eric's Shell station; (bottom left) Dundas and Ingersoll Road; (middle two pictures) Mill Street by Woodstock Mosaic; and (bottom right) the road to what is now the Domtar plant in Beachville.*

*Dr. John MacDonald of Ingersoll was one of the five people who lost their lives during the flood. His car was carried away as he tried to reach a train that had been derailed by the flood near Beachville. Two members of the train's crew were among the other victims.*



SEASONAL REVIEW  
May 6, 1987

FLOOD

# Many Hoaxes Initiated By Reporters Years Ago

By STANLEY J. SMITH

History, supposedly, should be a record of true events and it is difficult to believe that a hoax . . . which has no basis as being factual, should be allowed to creep into this weekly column of early Woodstock and Oxford county history, yet, from an historical sense, the hoax is, in its purest form, certainly factual history.

From its inception, Oxford county has been the breeding spot of the tallest of tales and incidents of the wildest imagination more than any other settlement in Canada. Being buried deep into the wilderness and far, far away from the usual channels of information, the editors of the Princeton Review; Woodstock Sentinel; and the Ingersoll Chronicle, had to MAKE news to fill their journal's columns! Regardless of the truth, these three newspapers out-vied each other with tall tales.

These tales were picked up by the larger metropolitan dailies and published as being authentic. For instance, the Woodstock Sentinel, in 1855, ran a story that an earthquake had occurred in Dereham township and the startled settlers had run out into the roads as dishes crashed to the floor, barns toppled and roofs caved in! The Sentinel was published on Wednesday morning. Naturally, the readers of the Ingersoll Chronicle, which was published the following day, scanned their favorite journal for more particulars and found out that the quake had only shaken out 12 lines of type from Editor J. S. Gurnett in its intensity. Editor Gurnett merely mentioned that the Woodstock Sentinel had published a story of an earthquake in Dereham, moreover, Editor Gurnett would give further particulars in his next issue. This was an outright hoax . . . probably with connivance of both newspapers, because very friendly relations existed between the Sentinel and the Chronicle . . . It was a sort of "you be the first to print the news and I will be the first to deny it" proposition!

Upon the surface, the story seemed authentic. The inhabitants of Ingersoll or Woodstock never have a thought that IF THERE HAD BEEN AN EARTHQUAKE IN DEREHAM that the readers, themselves, would have felt the same tremor because Dereham is only five, and the other miles away from the affected community!

## ANXIOUS INQUIRIES

The Ingersoll Chronicle was besieged with anxious inquiries as to the exact number of casualties and damage done. Nobody in Ingersoll thought of hitching up the old grey mare and jogging five miles to see the devastation of the broken dishes, toppled barns and roofs caved in! The Hamilton Spectator and Toronto Globe "lifted" the earthquake story from the Sentinel and added, "From our own correspondent!" and the Dereham 'quake did the rounds of the newspapers in Kingston, Montreal and Halifax. Every editor added a little bit more . . . probably they were also starved for news and wanted to fill their columns!

Two weeks later, Editor Gurnett ran nearly a column of what the Woodstock Sentinel printed. He did not commit himself nor did he comment upon the incident . . . he just published the Sentinel's version, but acidly wanted to know from the Globe and Spectator who was their "From our own correspondent," and he berated both papers for pilfering news and not giving credit to the paper which originally published the story!

The not so late Herr Adolf I

ler operated upon the theory that, "Tell a big lie . . . the bigger the better . . . and tell it often and the more often it is told it will get better and bigger!" A modern day psycho-analyst would render it down to this, "Human thought seemed to determine what is true and what is untrue and it is important that one should dip deep into the well of human credulity to discover what is at the bottom of it." In short, we believe only the things we want to believe. If we read it in the Woodstock Sentinel; Princeton Review or the Ingersoll Chronicle that an earthquake occurred in Dereham, we would believe it although it would go against our own conception of common sense.

## MODERN HOAX HOAX

We once discussed with the late Joe Fitzgerald, manager of the Ingersoll office of the Sentinel-Review, that with the modern teletype and wire photo, that nobody could hoax the public. We maintained that it could be done providing the story appeared plausible. Two or three days later we were in the happy position to prove our point. Joe was feeling bad with an attack of the flu. The telephone rang in the office and Joe was talking to W. E. (Bill) Elliott, then editor of the Sentinel-Review and probably, without exception, the most factual editor in Canadian journalism. Bill called Joe to ask him to ascertain the reaction of members of the Ingersoll Pipe Band to a report from Toronto that a pipeband had been refused admission to the Toronto Musicians' Union upon the grounds that the bagpipes were not music! Joe replied that he was seriously ill with flu, but he would do his best. Overhearing the conversation, we volunteered to cover the "Ingersoll angle" of the Ingersoll Pipe Band. We sat at his desk and typed out a page. We "quoted" Chief Alex. Callender, of the local police force, as being in favor of the bagpipes because we knew that he played the pipes in the band. We then quoted "A well known Scotch piper who did not wish his name to appear." Then we quoted the late George Sutherland, ex-mayor of Ingersoll as being in favor. We knew that George was so Scotch that he wore some heather on the 17th March so as to indicate that he was not Irish.

So far we were safe, but all controversial matters should have one, or two, which would be on the opposite sides. For the opposition we interviewed ourself and quoted our own name. We dusted off a half of column and showed it to Joe. He, in a sickly condition, smiled and grabbed his hat and

# Ingersoll's 'monster'

## Hundreds see pond drained

By BRIAN DAWE

Every so often lake monsters re-appear in various parts of the world. Even Lochie, the pride of Loch Ness in Scotland, is "seen" periodically.

Then, of course, there is Sasquatch, the creature with the human-like face who "appears" regularly on the Northwest Pacific Coast of the U.S.

And, of course, there is always the Cardiff Giant. October of this year is the 100th anniversary of this New York State "fake".

Ingersoll once had its great alligator mystery. It was a 24th of May build-up in 1862.

Strange disturbances were reported from Benson's Mill Pond, located in the central part of the town (now Ingersoll's Memorial Park).

The 'mysterious manifestations' were recalled by the late James Sinclair, Sr., in 1907:

"... At frequent intervals the placid surface of the water would be thrown into violent commotion as if some unseen force had suddenly exerted its influence or come to the surface and disappeared, while at some distance the same thing would happen. For a brief period all would be still, only to be repeated in some more remote part of the pond, giving the impression of some amphibious creature, sporting itself without revealing its character.

"Hence the mystery. As a matter of course this situation could not long continue without exercising the superstitious element among our citizens. Conjecture and imagination began to give form as to the cause of this most singular exhibition, and for days and nights men could be seen, some armed with shot-guns, prepared to give the monster affecting reception.

"The press became interested, and reports of the wonder-

ful and unaccountable phenomenon was spread far and wide with the usual result that the more it was discussed, the more the people became interested until nightly groups of people could be seen viewing the astonishing spectacle."

Some could actually describe the monster, and the Ingersoll Chronicle reported it in the early part of May.

"Many of our townspeople, during the past week, have become greatly excited by the appearance in Benson's Mill Pond of a large animal—whether a 'whale', a sea serpent, an alligator, or an overgrown turtle, does not yet seem quite clear—which has made its appearance occasionally on the surface of the water. It is described by some persons as being about 20 feet long, and eight or 10 feet broad; throws up water, mud, etc., after the manner of the whale, and does many other extraordinary things...."

According to Mr. Sinclair, "the various experiences of those who had claimed to have seen it were eagerly believed. By some it was said a travelling menagerie had a sick alligator on their hands, and on its apparent death, it was transferred to the pond, where it was supposed to have regained vitality, and was now the interesting source of observation.... (Soon) our local mystery had been invested with the dignity of some resuscitated prehistoric creature, and instances of suspended animation were exhumed from the records of the past. The mysterious actions of this creature were chronicled with the utmost exactness, and its non-appearance only seemed to still further excite wonder."

"Increasing public interest made it apparent that steps should be taken to solve this mystery, and as the 24th of May was fast approaching, it was decided that the pond would be drained by the opening of the flood gates which held the water back. Thus the

public would be able to witness the capture or destruction of this source of wonder. The usual preparations were made for the day and duly advertised in the Ingersoll Chronicle, but the performance which was looked forward to with the greatest interest was the apprehension of this strange animal.

The Chronicle's account of the day's events gave full particulars of the capture of the 'alligator'.

During the week, strangers had been making their appearance in Ingersoll, and long before the 24th all the hotels were booked. Among the unfamiliar faces were representatives of museums, and a man Mr. Sinclair described as "a prominent individual who was known as the professor, from a scientific institution in the United States... prepared with literature and sketches of all known prehistoric creatures." During the capture of the mysterious beast, the actions of the professor and the representatives of the press were to be the centre of attention.

Early in the day more crowds "began to pour into the town, and by noon it was estimated that not less than 3,000" had arrived. Hotelkeepers had decorated their premises with flags, banners, evergreens, etc.

The long-awaited hour, four o'clock came after a Callithumpian parade and sports. The crowds gathered.

"A heavy raft had been prepared equipped with ropes and pike poles and other implements thought suitable to such a dangerous task, and could now be seen upon the water manned by two fearless lads."

At about five o'clock Mr. Keith, proprietor of the Commercial Mills, ordered the gates to be opened. The crowd tensely waited as the water in the pond slowly diminished, and telescopes and binoculars were trained over the scene. At length an object came into view, and the boys were cheered on as they steered their unwieldy craft towards it.

The professor had spotted it and declared it to be a 'haired' creature as the boys attempted to get a noose around it. Catching his foot in a twist of the rope, one of the boys fell in, but soon scrambled back onto the craft. This was attributed by the people on shore to the death agonies of the doomed creature striking the raft. The gates were closed with much difficulty, and with a great deal of labor the boys succeeded in landing the creature on the raft.

After a short delay the raft was towed towards shore as the crowd pressed nearer its landing point. The professor took one look at the carcass and turned deadly pale, while an Irishman cried out, "'Tis a hoax! Be heavens, 'tis a hoax!" This strange creature which had caused so much excitement and enquiry was not a crocodile, a turtle, a young whale or an alligator, but merely a calf skin stuffed with hay and loaded with bricks to keep it under water!

On hearing of this a great din of shouting, cursing, singing, yelling and roars of laughter arose from the multitude, and all pressed even closer to get a good view of the object. Afterwards the skin was dragged through the streets by a number of little boys, to the evident satisfaction of an admiring crowd. The question as to what caused the disturbances in the water was attributed to a certain amount of offal, in the shape of oat hulls, etc., which was allowed to pass into the creek leading to the pond in question. Here it fermented and the gases thus formed caused the commotions on the surface.

Said Mr. Sinclair, "I think you will agree with me that it was a howling success."

# Ingers

s p

In the many years since it was settled in the early 1800's, Ingersoll has had a great many high points, one of which an incident which put Ingersoll in the headlines across Canada and the United States for a time, and which became known as "The Great Pond Hoax."

The excitement centred around a small body of water known as Partlo's pond which was situated where the Ingersoll District Memorial Centre now stands.

Early in 1857 disturbances were noted under the surface of the pond and a frothing of the surface was observed occasionally in different areas of the water. Observations of this nature continued and after a time the superstitious nature of some people began to make itself felt.

A vigilant watch was kept on the pond and people declared they saw movement under the water which, it was thought, was caused by some large animal. Before long it was generally felt that some "dreadful creature" was inhabiting the pond.

Men with shotguns stood guard around it to prevent the "thing" from venturing out of the water should it feel so inclined, and also to take pot shots at the creature in the hope of eliminating the danger. This situation kept up for several months, the "mystery" kept alive by the fertile imaginations of the people of Ingersoll and the assorted jotting of members of the press who visited the scene periodically from every major centre in Ontario and sometimes further afield. The dilemma continued and heightened as the waterfowl around the pond was observed to have disappeared altogether.

Finally the citizens of Ingersoll decided it was time for a showdown. Consequently a day was set aside for the future as a holiday to capture or destroy the occupant of the pond. May 24, 1857 was accordingly set aside for that noble purpose and the town began its preparations - setting out the festive array and preparing to accommodate anyone who wished to attend this historic event.

In spite of the arrangements, Ingersoll was unprepared for the multitude which converged on the town as the big day grew ever

Hoax in Pond  
May 24, 1862

not 1857

# Pond hoax ends their day

Canadian town. carcass pulled out as a fairly recent hat body of water be offered as an of the peculiar the pond. In truth curance could be hulls.

ered that these oat odically swept out Stuart's Mill which on the bank of the the water. The on the bottom of ormed gas which use to the surface thing observed at

few of the town rs to create a air own for the ig event and thus onlookers with satisfy their

The resulting scandal was wide spread and left Ingersoll with the biggest let down in its history. After this Ingersoll once again retreated into the relative peace and quiet it was used to and attempted no doubt to forget its embarrassment.

known as a haired creature"

became visible in the pond. The raft quickly made its way over to the object and sunk a pike into it. A shout arose from the throng and another pike was thrown, this one resulting in one of the men tumbling into the water. He was quickly rescued and the two men proceeded to lasso the creature and tow it into shore.

it was accordingly pulled in as far as possible where a horse and logging chain took over the hauling and pulled the "carcass" carefully on shore. At this point a general uproar was heard and an Irishman was heard to exclaim, "Tis a hoax, be heavens. It is a hoax, the hide of a two-year old stuffed wid straw and loaded wid bricks to keep it under water. May the -devil fly away wid the man that planned it."

The professor from the United States, however, was the most outspoken against the incident. He declared heatedly that "it is more than a hoax, it is an outrage on the people of half the American continent. Look at the representatives of the press sent here at great expense and with great expectation based on the reports circulated from this little,

HOAX IN POND

May 24, 1862

NOT 1857

INGERSOLL TIMES

February 26, 1975

# Hoax gave Ingersoll its best 24th

By Irene Crawford  
For The Free Press

*The 24th of May  
Is the Queen's birthday,  
If you don't give us a holiday,  
We'll all run away. . .*

. . . to Ingersoll, to see the monster. And that's just what almost 10,000 people did on May 24, 1862.

Everyone — scientists, press, the curious, wanted to see Ontario's answer to the Loch Ness monster. So great was the influx of spectators that on the eve of the 24th holiday even haylofts were renting at a premium for sleeping accommodation.

It all started months earlier when someone spotted turbulence in the centre of the village pond. Later another witness swore he saw something move. "Maybe it was the Loch Ness monster," another person quipped — and the mystery was on.

The press it picked up. Then people from museums got in the act. Did a prehistoric turtle lurk in the placid waters of this small Ontario town? No, it was a dying alligator dropped off by some travelling menagerie. Learned men joined the discussion.

Stories about the "monster" persisted. A cry arose "that in the public interest" this thing should be either captured or destroyed. May 24th celebrations were approaching and the committee of arrangements decided the holiday would get added spice with the thing's exposure on that day.

There is now some confusion over the pond's exact location: one historian refers to it as Partlo's Pond, another says it was Benson's millpond.

Regardless, the pond was to be drained and the monster revealed.

Days before the holiday, strangers began to drift into town. One was a professor, a scientist of international repute, who anonymously signed in at the Royal Exchange Hotel. He carried all kinds of literature and other paraphernalia dealing with pre-historic creatures. The professor, however, didn't reveal his name, nor did he make himself known to civic officials. His identity was ascertained by his "prestigious bearing."

Although the usual Callithumpian or Sons of Momus parade was featured, all interest was centred at the village pond, when at precisely 4 p.m. gates were to be opened and the water let out. Long before that hour almost 10,000 (one historian says 3,000) persons crowded around the shoreline. Men were armed with loaded rifles — ready, should the monster, now known to be at least 20 feet long and eight feet broad, suddenly surface and attack. The professor — conspicuous by his binoculars and pompous silence — was seen making notes; his every movement was recorded. He was heard to say: "It's a hairy creature."

Women fainted. Others crowding forward were urged to move back — no telling what the creature was liable to do.

As the water began to recede, two husky fellows on a raft pushed out into the pond. One carried a heavy rope with a running noose: if possible, he was going to lasso the monster. "Don't take any chances" warnings were issued at the merest ripple in the water.

Then, another heart-pounding exclamation from the professor: "Yes, it is definitely a hairy creature."

The raftsmen sighted something in the water. They plunged a pike into it. A mighty roar went up from shore. So intense were the men on the raft that the one with the noose got caught in his own rope and fell overboard.

Turbulence was quickly noted in the water. "Get ready to fire!" Calmer minds prevailed as counter orders were issued. "Don't fire, you might hit the men!" By now the raftsmen had scrambled back aboard and had succeeded in attaching the noose to the hulk.

But these stout fellows were experiencing difficulty in towing it to shore. "Close the water gates," they yelled. "We have to float it

in." Other men were instructed to get more ropes to help them pull it to shore. Everywhere people were jostling for a better view.

A sudden cry went up. The "thing" had rolled over, and whisperings of a faint sighting of a brown hairy creature were passed along to those "who couldn't quite see." A path, though, was made for the professor so he could be at the landing site.

Meanwhile the raftsmen weren't making much headway even with the assistance of men with ropes pulling from shore. A team of horses was brought in, hitched to a logging chain that was attached to the ropes binding the creature.

"Keep back! Keep back!" Constables pushed against the straining crowd. Suddenly the "thing" surfaced and the professor turned pale. An Irishman nearby shouted what all spectators had begun to suspect.

"'Tis a hoax! By heaven, 'tis a hoax!" The hide of a two-year-old steer which had been stuffed with straw and weighted down with bricks, was towed ashore.

The professor was outraged. He had come at great expense, great personal sacrifice — and to say nothing of what his fellow scientists would say when he returned. How could he explain? "I demand to see the mayor. I demand recompense. I demand a public apology!"

One of the councilmen, who had been miffed by the professor's aloofness, told him quite bluntly, "If you don't get on the first train out of town, I'll have you thrown in jail." However, after a stiff drink and a good meal the professor mellowed and he began to see, like everyone else, the humor of the situation.

The explanation was simple. When the mill owner John Stuart began to make oatmeal, oat hulls and other wastes were flushed into a nearby creek which emptied into the pond. Accumulating in its deepest part, it fermented and gases bubbled up.

With the overworked imagination of a few citizens and ignorance of fermentation, the right setting was provided for practical jokers, who in the dark of night, decided to sink an inflated steer hide.

However, most Ingersoll residents agreed, it was the best 24th of May celebration ever held.

LONDON FREE PRESS  
MAY 17, 1980

HOMES



Ingersoll's Oxford Street bears little resemblance to the way it looked in the late 1800s. This photo was taken from the Old Town Hall, looking south, toward Charles Street. The area directly behind the Old Town Hall was used as a market area. Today the police station is located there. Behind each of the buildings are wood piles, used for heating.

## Pond 'monster' hoax drew 10,000 spectators

BY RENE MCKNIGHT

Keeping up with the Jones's is an almost timeless tradition and one May 24 holiday Ingersoll residents, not wanting to be outdone by Scotland's Lockness monster, came up with a creature which would attract 10,000 curious visitors to the village.

It all began in the early months of 1857 (some historians say 1862) when turbulence was noted on Partlo's Pond by several citizens. In a matter of time the frothing pond set free the imaginations of the townspeople and was thought to be inhabited by a fearsome creature.

It was only a matter of time before the press picked up on the issue and added more fuel to the fire. Soon historians, professors and museum experts were in on the monster talk. Rumours spread like wildfire, a prehistoric turtle lurked in the still waters of Partlo Pond, or perhaps an alligator dropped by some travelling menagerie. Whatever this monster was, it was gaining

notoriety and townspeople were demanding it be caught and removed; dead or alive.

May 24 was chosen as the date that the fearsome creature would be caught. This issue was no longer just the concern of a little Ontario town but of the whole nation. On the holiday weekend, the pond was to be drained and the monster disclosed.

Despite the fact Ingersoll had prepared for a crowd of curious onlookers to visit, it was not prepared for the 10,000 visitors that came. Barn lofts were rented at premium rates for those seeking shelter.

One of the strangers who had loafed into town was a noteworthy professor from the United States, who was anonymously signed in at the Royal Exchange Hotel. With him he brought dozens of literary pamphlets dealing with prehistoric creatures.

As the great moment drew near, excitement ascended on the crowd of people surrounding Partlo's Pond. Although the gates were not to open until 4 p.m., 10,000 people had gathered along the shores of the

alleged sea serpent's home long before that time.

Men armed with shot guns were also at the site, prepared to shoot the monster should it attack. The American professor who had supposedly sited the monster through his binoculars, was credited with saying "It's a hairy creature."

After the dam had been released and the waters of the pond began to recede, a raft carrying two men was sent out onto the pond. If possible they were going to lasso the denizen of the pond.

Suddenly turbulence was noted and the raftsmen quickly made their way to this sight. Catching sight of the monster, they plunged a spear pike into its side twice. One man aboard the raft lost his balance and slipped into the water but was quick to clammer onto the raft's deck. Those on shore suspected the monster had bumped the raft, causing the man to fall in.

Suddenly the creature surfaced and the crowds roared with laughter. An Irishman

among them cried, "'Tis a hoax, be heavens, 'tis a hoax." The hide of a two-year-old streeer stuffed with straw and bricks to keep it under the water was towed ashore.

The American professor, however, found little humor in the joke. "It is more than a hoax," he bellowed, "it is an outrage on the people of half the American continent." He then demanded an apology. Instead a councillor who had witnessed the whole event ordered him out of town. "If you don't get on the first train out of town, I'll have you thrown in jail," he declared.

The explanation for the pond's frothing was simple. John Stuart made oatmeal at his mill. Waste from the mill, including oat hulls, were emptied into a river which lead into Partlo's Pond. When the waste fermented, bubbles resulted, which first stirred the imaginations of Ingersoll residents. Once the imaginations of a few people were put to work, a few practical jokers went to work creating the legendary pond monster.



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## Historical Highlights

By J. C. Herbert

### THE MYSTERY SOLVED

As is frequently the case when stories of past events are handed down from generation to generation, they become somewhat embellished and exaggerated, so with the pond hoax. I am indebted to Ken Moyer for researching the Chronicle of that era for me and to the library for having the newspapers microfilmed so as to have them readily available.

Apparently, the town fathers were having difficulty in generation interest and recruiting people to help plan and organize the May 24 celebration in 1862 (sounds familiar!). When a meeting was called, only five people turned up. The newspaper item states: "Very little interest seems to be manifested by the townspeople and it is questionable whether a celebration of any kind will take place in Ingersoll, except the muster of the 'Calithumpians' who, by the way, are making great preparations."

A later article appeared in the paper as follows: What is it? "Many of our townspeople during the past week have become greatly excited by the appearance in Benson's mill pond of a large animal - whether a whale, a serpent, an alligator, or an overgrown turtle, does not yet seem to be quite clear. It makes its appearance occasionally on the surface of the water. It is described by some persons as being about 20 feet long and eight or 10 feet broad and throws up water, mud, etc., after the manner of the whale and does many other extraordinary things. It has been proposed to drain the pond on the Queen's birthday and then have the mystery satisfactorily explained."

In a large ad in the paper the following week, it states: "At four o'clock immediately after the games are concluded, the water will be drawn off the mill pond and a search begin for the Alligator."

The edition following the 24th celebration, the newspaper article gives an account of the celebration with particular reference to the draining of the pond, as follows:

"Between four and five o'clock, a general rush at double-quick time was made for Benson's mill pond, it having been understood that the water was to be let off and a search made for the WHAT IS IT which had caused so much excitement and inquiry in our town and neighborhood for the past two to three weeks. It was not many minutes before several hundred persons had gathered about the pond, completely surrounding it.

"After some delay, Mr. Keith, the proprietor of the Commercial Mills, ordered the gates to be raised and in about an hour, the greatest portion of the water had been let out. At about this time, two boys were observed on a raft endeavoring, apparently with great exertion, to raise a heavy body out of the water on to the raft. What do our readers suppose it was? It was not a crocodile, a turtle, an alligator or a young whale, but merely a calf-skin stuffed with hay which someone had evidently thrown into the pond to create a little harmless amusement.

"The stuffed calf-skin was afterwards brought ashore and dragged through the streets by a number of small boys to the evident satisfaction of an admiring crowd."

With reference to other aspects of the celebration, the article quotes: "The celebration of the natal day of our beloved sovereign drew a larger number of people to Ingersoll than ever assembled here on previous occasions. It is estimated that no less than 3,000 people from the country and the adjacent towns and villages were present. The Calithumpian parade was also a highlight of the entertainment. At 12 o'clock, the world renowned 'Ingersoll Calithumpians' made their appearance, about 40 in number, on horseback, in carts, etc., and paraded the principal streets in the afternoon. Their appearance, which would be impossible to describe, was grotesque in the extreme and made many with 'long faces' split their sides with laughter."

The article concludes with the comment that the pleasing feature of the celebration this year was the fact that very few intoxicated persons were to be seen on the streets.

In spite of limited enthusiasm in the planning stages of the celebration, the event has gone down in history and, like wine, becomes better with age.

# Old John Brown in Ingersoll

Stanley J. Smith .

(Note: The following is a condensation from the book *Capt John Brown In Canada*, copyrighted 1960 by Stanley J. Smith)

There were two remarkable characters in history who gained international fame at the time and both were given front page coverage throughout the world. One was the notorious Aimee Semple McPherson of Dereham township who was top news for seven years because of her exploits and she was dubbed the Barnum of Religion by many church critics; the other was Old John "Osawatomie" Brown, American abolitionist who led a raid on the government arsenal at Harper's Ferry, (W) Virginia, 1859, to establish a stronghold for escaped slaves and was hanged for treason, December 2, 1859, in Charlestown, (W) Virginia. The hanging was the spark that lit the fuse to cause the American Civil War to break out sixteen months later in 1861. Both of these characters were known to residents of Oxford county. . . One because of her nearness to Ingersoll and the other for his attempt to recruit men in the surrounding district to join his mad scheme to free those who were in human bondage. It is only within the last couple of years that further light has been shed on Brown's activities whilst in Ingersoll and his plan to meet Mrs. Harriet Tubman, conductor of the Underground Railway. This meeting which failed to materialize was scheduled to be held at the Daly House (Ingersoll Inn) on April 15, 1858 .

One of the enigmas to any student or keen historian delving into the activities of John Brown previous to his preparation of his famous but futile raid from the borders of Maryland into Harper's Ferry, (W) Virginia, is why did he choose a small Canadian village as the site to conspire to flaunt the laws of our friendly neighbour to the south in an attempt to overthrow the government's authority to impose slavery on the negro population dwelling in the southern states. The small Canadian village of course was Ingersoll, Canada West, and it was in the year 1858 that the conspiracy transpired, doomed to failure from its outset.

This writer has been an active researcher into the life of John Brown since 1902 when we first heard the story of Brown from the lips of the daughter of an escaped slave by the name of Martha Matthews of Chatham, Ontario. Chatham was the eventual place where a meeting was called of very prominent negroes and a provisional constitution was adopted to govern the people of the southern states if, as, and when the overthrow was accomplished. We have received the greatest assistance from America's greatest authority on the life of John Brown in the person of Dr. Boyd B. Stutler of Charleston, West Virginia, whose collection of John Brown lore cannot be surpassed by any other gatherer of John Brown material. His photos and documents run into the thousands .

One must revert back to Ingersoll in the mid 50's of the last century to obtain a true picture of the village. The obituary of Washington Bevins of Wellington street, Ingersoll, who died at the age of one hundred and twelve stated that previous to the outbreak of the American Civil War there, was upwards of 500 negroes residing in the town. " Many returned to the Sunny South upon the termination of the conflict because of the severity of the Canadian winter climate. Many

of these negroes were blessed with an over abundance of worldly goods compared to their brethren of the southern states. Naturally, this would be a magnet to attract Brown who relied on a meagre existence to garner in money to purchase needed arms and ammunition. The coloured workers were highly skilled men and chiefly engaged in the building trade such as stonemasons, brick layers and lathers who commanded top wages compared to workers in an industry .

Another factor was that the village was the halfway station of the Underground Railway which existed between Detroit and Niagara Falls with an active anti-slavery organization with influential Ingersollians behind the movement. There was a temporary haven in the basement of the Wesleyan Methodist church on Oxford street with overflow quarters of the New Daly House stables which were run by a Peter Van Patter, another escaped slave and a noted horse trainer. The principal backer of the organization were the two Bixel brothers, Max and Leonard, brewers, who originally came from Wurtemberg, Germany, in 1848 to escape militarism when Prussia was about to take over. Another well known anti-slavery adherent was Thomas Brown who conducted one of the largest tanneries in Canada West. Most of his labourers were coloured and he paid excellent wages based on their ability to produce leather instead of the colour of their skin. The list of the organization is too lengthy to mention at this writing other than to write it was very comprehensive and composed of members of all other fraternal bodies .

"OLD JOHN BROWN"

The late John (Husky) Henderson had a remarkable memory and when we queried him about John Brown he claimed that his father maintained that it was through John Brown that he received a farm in North Oxford township. When we communicated this information to Dr. Stutler he replied that it was probably

John Brown, Jr. who visited the Henderson farm as he was in Canada while his father was organizing the Harper's Ferry raid and he was forming Societies in various places to help abolish slavery. Husky informed us that he was born in North Oxford in 1866 and his father was given the land providing he took off the timber for the original owner and teamed it into Ingersoll to be sawn into lumber .

On a trip to Charleston, West Virginia, we visited Dr. Stutler who has a collection of thousands of items pertaining to Brown and we were intrigued with a cancelled check for one hundred dollars which was given to Brown to settle his Chatham debts and on the back it was endorsed by one J. A. Ingersoll. One wonders if it had any connection with James A. Ingersoll of Woodstock

Among the effects of Mrs. J. A. Ingersoll, a daughter-in-law of James A. Ingersoll, Registrar of Oxford county, we came across many of Mr. Ingersoll's private papers. Among them was an item concerning John Brown Mr. Ingersoll claimed he had met Brown in the Registry office and Brown was accompanied by a Mr. Hallock of East Zorra who was a relative and they were investigating Negro titles to farms of the Negro settlement in South Norwich. Mr. Ingersoll also mentioned that Brown had visited Tillsonburg and Mr. Tillson had shown him the battle field where Colonel McNab had defeated Dr. Duncombe's forces during the Mackenzie rebellion. We have never publicized this item because we have never believed anything which Mr. Ingersoll said or did. The earliest history of Oxford was published in 1852 by W. H. Shenston, census commissioner for 1851 .

All Shenston did was to take the census returns for the entire county and compile them into one volume. He mentions that much of his information was received from Mr. Ingersoll the first white child born in Ingersoll, " which one knows today is not so. The first white child born in the present day limits was Elisha Hall, in 1800 and Mr. Ingersoll was born a year later. It is because of these inaccuracies we have failed to mention Mr. Ingersoll .

As registrar he was in full charge of registration and it is probably a coincidence that the page of recording the crown grant to the Ingersoll homestead on lot 20 of the broken front was accidently destroyed by spilling a bottle of ink on the page. Under the circumstances we have refrained from writing of the supposed meeting between John Brown and James A. Ingersoll .

cont. on next page ,

# THE BLACKS:

## Travelling the underground railroad to "freedom" in Canada

Jefferson Lightfoot Robinson, one of 40,000 escaped slaves to settle in Canada before the American Civil War, arrived in the Woodstock area in a novel fashion.

Slaves were sometimes permitted to work outside of plantations, and keep a portion of their earnings. Lightfoot

and a fellow slave did this, and used their wages to construct a carriage in the far reaches of their Kentucky plantation. They also purchased horses and clothing.

During their flight north, Lightfoot and his companion, who had a light enough complexion to pass for a white, posed as



The Ingersoll Inn, foreground, where Abolitionist, John Brown supposedly stayed and spoke. In the background is the old Ingersoll City Hall, where Brown did speak. Brown

was hanged in 1859 in Virginia for leading a raid on Harper's Ferry, a federal arsenal. In the 1850s, Ingersoll's Black community of 400 was second only to that of Chatham.

SENTINEL REVIEW

July 29, 1980

Helped to end slavery's tide

# The railway stopped here

By MICHAEL BARRIS  
Sentinel-Review staff writer

**INGERSOLL.** — As thousands of fugitive black slaves fleeing cruel masters crossed the American border into freedom in Canada in the mid-1800s, abolitionist John Brown turned his concern to the runaways who were leaving the country with nothing but the clothing on their backs.

So Brown did what he had to do. He left the U.S. and went to the town which had grown to have one of the highest black populations in

Canada to rally support for his anti-slavery crusade: Ingersoll.

Few people today realize that on the way to becoming a legendary martyr, Brown — who inspired the song The Battle Hymn of the Republic — attempted to raise funds for his anti-slavery activities in Ingersoll, one of the stops along the Underground Railway.

The Underground Railroad was the term for the movement before the American Civil War which took runaway black slaves from southern plantations to

freedom in the northern states or Canada.

### ARREST

In the U.S., where such aid was illegal, those who aided slaves ran the risk of possible arrest.

But there was nothing to stop them once they got to Upper Canada where slavery had been abolished since 1793. Word of the freedom awaiting blacks in Canada reached Kentucky and other slave states by soldiers returning from the war of 1812.

And soon anti-slavery supporters — usually Quakers — were leading the slaves to safety, telling soldiers they were transferring slaves to work in other areas. In the parlance of the Underground Railroad, the slaves were 'freight' being moved from 'station to station' by 'conductors'.

From the 1830s to the 1850s, some 25,000 to 40,000 fugitives made their way to freedom over the U.S.-Canada border. 5,000 came into the country during the peak year, 1850-51.

The Canadian governments protected the fugitives' civil rights, enrolling many in the militia. The Encyclopedia Canadiana says "there was occasional racial prejudice but this was not official."

### POPULATION

In the mid-1800s, Ingersoll's population was 2,000 and included 400 blacks — the largest black population in Canada, next to Chatham.

It is believed that most of the blacks who came to Ingersoll returned home after they were freed. Others are said to have died of tuberculosis and some moved to Dresden, Ont.

The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Oxford Street, which was demolished in 1966, was used as a clearing house for slaves who were smuggled into an attic over the church in the early morning.

It also was a place to cry out against the presence of slavery in the U.S. When Brown visited Ingersoll around 1858, he was one of a number of American abolitionists coming to Canada to provide help — and inspiration — to fugitives needing shelter and food.

Brown, a northern white, was a guerilla leader who considered his mission —

taking vengeance against cruel slave owners — inspired by a divine power. He himself brought 12 blacks overland from Missouri in 1858 and landed them safely at Windsor.

### CONVENTION

Some time after coming to Ingersoll and speaking at the Methodist church and the Town Hall on King Street, he held a "convention" in Chatham in May, 1858 where he announced his intention to set up a stronghold in the Maryland and Virginia mountains where escaping slaves might assemble and defend themselves.

In 1859, he led an attack with a band of 16 white men and five Negroes and succeeded in capturing the U.S. federal armory in Harpers Ferry, Virginia. He eventually surrendered to the U.S. marines, led by Col. Robert E. Lee. At his trial, it was suggested Brown was mentally unbalanced, but he refused to plead insanity and insisted his main goal had been to free slaves. He was convicted of murder, slave insurrection and treason to the state of Virginia and executed.

Although republican leader Abraham Lincoln disapproved of Brown's raid, the raid is said to have heightened the sectional feelings that soon were to bring about the Civil War. Intellectuals such as Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry Thoreau looked upon Brown as a saint.

He became a legendary martyr to the cause of freedom and union soldiers took up a song during the Civil War which glorified him.

SENTINEL

REVIEW

December 5, 1981

# Underground slave railway stopped here

BY TOM DURALIA

The parking lot just south of Big V Pharmacy on Oxford Street doesn't look overly exciting on first glimpse.

But were you to close your eyes and bring your thoughts back to the 1850s, you might feel somewhat different about that patch of concrete.

Envision a bustling Ingersoll of 2,000 persons, an old church, a mysterious Underground Railroad and a fiery-tongued orator plotting to overthrow the American government.

And think of the period. The American Civil War was less than a decade away, there were growing tensions between the north and the south, and the Fugitive Slave Act, passed in 1850, meant that blacks were not safe from extradition even in free states.

In 1854, at a cost of \$2,500, the Wesleyan Methodist Church was built where cars unceremoniously park today.

And between 1854 and the outbreak of the civil war in 1861, fugitive slaves in the black of night were whisked into that church's attic, the most northerly terminus of the Underground Railroad.

During the 1850s, Ingersoll was host to between 400 and 500 blacks, the second highest black concentration in Canada behind Chatham. And many of the slaves that made it to Ingersoll via the Underground Railway were from as far away as New Orleans.

According to an abolitionist newspaper, "The Voice of the Fugitive," in the early 1850s a large concentration of blacks worked on the railroad, and Ingersoll attracted a number once the line was open to Windsor, because wood for the locomotives was cut and stored here.

The Underground Railroad of the time was a source of considerable mystery to the slavers of the U.S., however, it seems they were the only ones who didn't know what it was by the late 1850s, and in some northern states, the routes were actually published in anti-slavery newspapers.

The Underground Railroad was not a railroad at all, but rather a mutual agreement between the friends of the



abolitionist John Brown

slaves, predominantly the Quakers, to aid fugitives on their way to Canada. The slaves were taken from one friend to another, only at night, until they reached Canada's safety.

According to the late Rev. W.M. Mitchell in his book, *The Underground Railroad*, the term Underground Railroad originated after a master lost his expensive slave, following a long chase.

"Being disappointed and the loser of \$10,000, and having no object in which to vent his dirty spleen, he turned upon the poor Abolitionists, and said, 'The damned Abolitionists must have a railroad under the ground by which they run off Niggers.'"

When Mr. Mitchell wrote his book in 1860, he commented that annually 1,200 slaves were being conveyed to Canada via the Underground Railroad.

One of the greatest proponents of the anti-slavery faction and the Underground Railroad was John Brown, also known as Captain John Brown and Old John Brown.

Born in 1800 in Connecticut, opinions vary on this man from calling him a madman to a martyr, and his direct approach to freeing slaves by force, if necessary, often lost the respect of the other Abolitionists, who

ideally dreamed of a peaceful emancipation for the black slaves.

Brown reportedly first came to Canada in April of 1858, where he spent much of his time in travel, gathering support for a planned guerilla-style strike on the U.S. Federal arsenal in Virginia, Harper's Ferry.

Some of that time was spent in Ingersoll, where he met with others at the Daly House, now Marco's Landing, to discuss a plan of attack. He is also said to have spoken at the Wesleyan Church to rally support against slavers in the U.S.

During the mid-1850s, Brown is said to have conducted numerous raids on pro-slavery plantations, killing the slavers and enlisting the services of the freed blacks in his guerilla army.

On October 16 to 18, 1859, Brown and 21 men made their attempt to capture the

Virginia arsenal, but failed miserably. Of the men involved, 10 were killed, including two of Brown's sons, six escaped and five were hanged, including Brown.

Brown was tried for treason, conspiracy and murder on October 31 of the same year, found guilty, and hanged in Charlestown, Va., 32 days after trial.

Once the Civil War began, which some believe was sparked by the Harper's Ferry incident, northern troops and civilians sang the folk song "John Brown's body lies a-mouldering in the grave - but his soul is marching on."

The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Oxford Street was demolished in 1956 to make way for a carwash, which in turn gave way to the parking lot.

But when you walk by that lot and close your eyes that parking lot can be pretty exciting.

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July 25, 1984

-5-

# Black History

by Mary Evans  
with special thanks to  
Mary Liley

## BLACK HISTORY OF INGERSOLL

Many slaves reached Canada and freedom by way of the "Underground Railroad". This was an informal network of safe routes and houses by which friends helped fugitive slaves escape to freedom in the pitch black of night.



THE WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH - OXFORD STREET SOUTH, Ingersoll,  
Ontario,  
Canada.

One terminal was in Ingersoll, Oxford County, Ontario. About 400 slaves arrived between late 1850's to early 1870's, in Ingersoll. They had been led to safety by Quakers by way of St. Thomas and smuggled into the attic of the Wesleyan Methodist Church on Oxford Street. Here they were concealed until suitable quarters were found for them. The Wesleyan Methodist Church existed between 1854 to 1956. It was badly scorched in the big fire of Ingersoll in 1872 but repaired.

In 1858 John Brown, the famous abolitionist came to Ingersoll, He stayed at the Old Ingersoll Inn and preached at the Wesleyan Methodist Church at that time. He was trying

years they were always considered not quite equal and if opportunities in larger cities materialized they would leave small places such as Ingersoll". And again to quote Byron Jenvey, Ingersoll historian, "Many died here of TB, tuberculosis. Some moved to Dresden". Byron Jenvey felt that their wages were too low, they were forced to work for 50 cents a day. Despite this many became skilled workers.

But there were good stories. Take, for instance, the Robinson Family. Lightfoot Robinson arrived in a novel fashion. Slaves were sometimes permitted to work outside of plantations and keep a portion of their earnings; Lightfoot and a fellow slave did this in Kentucky. During their flight north, Lightfoot and his companion who had a light enough complexion to pass for a white, posed as master and slave on a normal outing and drove to Canada on the "Underground Railroad." Once here Robinson saved enough money to purchase freedom of other slaves.

John Robinson, took a more direct route to freedom. A page-boy for a southerner, Robinson was travelling with his master near Niagara Falls when he was flogged for a minor offense. He sat crying on the street when a passer-by suggested he cross the river to Canada and become a free man. He did so. He became a blacksmith in Eastwood, was known as "Darky Robinson". His daughter, Elizabeth Dorsey, born in 1873, was highly respected, first as a seamstress, later as a nurse. She married a doctor, had a son Joe, who became a doctor in New York City. When she died at 100, hundreds came to pay their respects .

Other Blacks became famous musicians, "Rance" a valet for Reginald Birchall, famous murderer of Woodstock, Timmy Cahill a local character and best known of all was George Washington Jones, Town Crier, of Woodstock. He paraded along Dundas Street announcing coming events. He was loved and respected by everybody. It was said he could be heard all over town.



"Black Rance"

Timmy Cahill



George  
Washington  
Jones.

Town Crier.



Brown, Emeline  
Brown, Isabelles  
Carey, Mary  
Collins, Matilda  
Davis, John  
Degroat, Martha  
Degroat, Catherine  
Gaines, Robert  
Gaines, Hattie  
Hall, David  
Hall, Harriet  
Hall, John  
Hall, Cinderilla  
Holmes, Henry  
Holmes, Elizabeth  
James, Joseph

1891 Census (con't)

Fante, Willis (son)  
Fante, Elizabeth  
Hughes, Benjamin  
Hughes, Mary Jane

Fant, Lelia Ann  
Hughes, Benjamin  
Hughes, Mary Jane  
Hughes, George  
Hughes, James  
Sullivan, George W.  
Sullivan, Elizabeth  
Sullivan, Elizabeth  
Sullivan, Virginia  
Wright, Harriet  
Wright, William

1891 Census

Armstrong, Charles  
Armstrong, Grace  
Fante, Willis  
Hughes, James  
Oakley, Florence (adopted)  
Thomas, William  
Thomas, Almira

January 1, 1863, was the day of the "Emancipation Proclamation" whereby all slaves shall be forever free. In time some of the Blacks from Ingersoll and district felt comfortable enough to return to Alabama, Memphis, Birmingham and New Orleans. These were all skilled workers. To this day there are documents in these places pertaining to births, marriages and deaths in Oxford County which includes Ingersoll.

The following are the names of some of the families that returned to the South.

Andersons, Bevins, Birds, Carey, Degroat, Diers, Diggins, Fowlers, Greens, Hales, Holmes, Johnstons, Mikkeys (?), Pipers, Saunders, Sullivans, Thomas', VanPatters and Wilsons.

by Mary Evans, O.G.S.#4538  
with special thanks to  
Mary Liley, O.G.S.#18760  
who helped extract the  
names from the census'.

There is a folklore story from one of these families that his grandfather rowed a boat across Lake Erie to safety.

In John Brown's book, "Life and Letters" on page 453 is printed a letter by John Brown to his " Dear Wife and Children, everyone" dated Ingersoll, Canada West, April 16, 1858.

SOURCES:

- Thanks to Ingersoll Public Library.
- Sanborn, F.B.ed. "Life and Letters of John Brown", Liberator of Kansas and Martyr of Virginia. Boston, 1891.
- Canadian Census - 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891.
- Photo credits: Harry Whitwell, Byron Jenvey, Ed Baker, Art Williams.

Quote: From John Brown's book LIFE AND LETTERS, Chapter 13, from Canada, through Knsas, to Canada.

"It is now a humiliating thought that in 1858-59 Canada was the only safe refuge of the American fugitive slave."

# Ingersoll Intrigue For American Spies

When the Patriots marched towards Brantford to give battle to Colonel Allan MacNab's forces they met up with the Colonel at the hamlet of Scotland and they retreated back to a small crossroad called Sodom in Norwich township. It was at Scotland that the rebels first learned of the defeat of Mackenzie and as the rebels were poorly armed they surrendered in large numbers and many fled to other parts of the province or to the United States. Two hundred and fifty three patriots were arrested from the Gore and London districts and many stood trial, but feeling ran so high that the government hesitated to prosecute and had the victims sign an oath of allegiance and be at the call of the authorities if the lieutenant-governor did not extend Royal clemency to them. Out of the uprising emerged Responsible government which the insurgents wanted in the first place. The battle or clash occurred on December 14, and the password for the rebels was, 'Onward Oxford'."

"The next plot in Oxford was when John 'Osawatimie' Brown arrived in Ingersoll, in April, 1858, to gain money and recruits for his army of liberation. He visited the Daly House expecting to find the famous conductor of the Underground Railway, one Harriet Tubman of St. Catharines. From his correspondence written from Ingersoll he also visited Batchelor's Hall which was situated half on land and half on the River Thames at the Thames Street bridge. It was named Batchelor's Hall because of its unsavory reputation because no woman would enter its portals. James Sinclair, a noted and reliable historian of the history of Ingersoll, has left a lengthy document concerning this infamous edifice. The late Clarence Brown, in 1953, informed me that Brown appeared on the Ingersoll streets more than once, but he added that after the raid at Harper's Ferry it seems that everyone in the village recalled meeting the old martyr which Clarence Brown doubted. An advertisement appeared in the Oxford Herald that John Brown would speak on the Border Ruffians of Kansas in the Wesleyan Methodist church, but Neil McFee, the last survivor in this district to serve in the Civil War, claimed that he heard John Brown lecture in Ingersoll Town Hall and it was through this lecture that spurred him on to enlist just after his sixteenth birthday.

## FINE HOTEL

"The original name of the hostel called Batchelor's Hall was the River House and at one time it was considered one of the finest hotels in the district. It was built in the mid-thirties by William Carnegie on the strength that the much mooted railway would be forced to follow the Thames valley to enter Ingersoll, but before the railway arrived, the hotel became dilapidated by subsequent landlords and its utter ruin and reputation came when a temporary saw-mill was erected by the contractors of the Canada Great Western Railway to supply timber and ties for the road bed. The sawmill was situated less than one hundred feet from the hotel and the employees were recruited from a law class laboring element with the result that they converted the hostel into a category of a low-down groggery and a house of ill-fame. Trate citizens took action and it was destroyed by sawing through the wooden piles which rested on mud-sills in the river bed. Strong ropes were attached to the piles and a mighty tug dumped this eyesore into the river.

"Little did one realize that the small community of Ingersoll would become the centre of espionage during the American Civil War, 1861 to 1865. Precise details on secret service are naturally scarce, but several obvious factors furnished clues. Spies infested Ingersoll to the extent to which in the vernacular of espionage, 'a fever spot'. The spies from the south had a certain edge on the United States undercover agents because Governor Henry A. Wise of Virginia had learned that John Brown attempted to recruit in Ingersoll and after the hanging of Brown the Governor dispatched detectives to Ingersoll to make discreet inquiries as to any existing plots not then fulfilled to free the slaves. It is natural to assume that these southern agents made friends during their investigation. At the time, in 1860, there were upwards of five hundred colored residents which would prove a natural magnet to the southerners to keep them under surveillance, therefore, the Confederates possessed a semi-organization in the village to further their aims. According to Neil McFee he stated that both the north and south set up recruiting stations under the pretext of being purchasing agents for their respective governments

## NORTHERN AGENTS

"The Northern agents set up headquarters in the Daly House, but their actual business office was in the old Commercial Hotel, run by James M. Grant, which still stands today next to the Presbyterian Church and is the present bus station. The south also possessed two locations, namely, their head quarters in the newly built Royal Hotel, known today as Albrough's Music Store, and their recruiting rooms were in the Anglo-American hotel on the corner of Charles and Carroll Streets, and conducted by James Matheson. Mr. McFee informed me that Matheson was considered the most profound pro-slavery person in Canada and was in the pay of the Confederate government when it seceded from the United States. Both the belligerents

possessed the power of printer's ink. At the time there were two weekly newspapers published in Ingersoll, namely, the Chronicle and the Oxford Herald. The Chronicle was published by John S. Gurnett and the Herald was published by T. A. McNamara and printed by the Sutherland Brothers, compilers of many County directories of Canada West. Its printing plant was exactly opposite the Daly House on the south-west corner of King and Oxford Streets. Gurnett's print shop published a weekly sheet called the 'Ingersoll Plain-dealer', financed by the agents of the United States government. The Herald's pro-south papers was named, 'The Sickle'. One could readily discern the set-up of the rival organizations -- the southerners occupying the front rooms of the Royal Hotel could spy upon the activities of the Union agents boarding across the road at the Commercial Hotel. Likewise, the same opportunity presented itself to the Union spies to keep a watchful eye on the Royal Hotel.

**MALCONTENT**

"Previous to 1837, the farmers of West Oxford and Norwich became malcontent over the action of the 'Family Compact' government over increasing taxation and decreasing road grants. Wild land in the hands of the friends of the government were not taxable, but as soon as a farmer cleared the land it became more valuable and therefore more taxable, but the adjacent wild land became enhanced in value without one farthing in taxation being levelled against it.

"Secret meetings were held in school houses, churches and taverns. The meetings were addressed by Oxford's parliamentary representative, Robert Atway and a Dr. Duncombe of St. Thomas. The main object of the meetings were to seize the reins of government, in Toronto, and declare the Province of Canada a republic. The lure to secure recruits for this rebellious cause were varied, but more than successful in its final appeal because the main dissenters were composed of the very first families of Oxford and prominent leaders in their own communities, in fraternal, municipal and religious circles. More surprisingly, was the many of the Patriots (as they called themselves) were enlisted in the peaceful Quaker settlement of Norwich township and among the most prominent were Solomon Lossing, magistrate in Norwich and his son Horace Lossing. Practically every farmer residing on the Stage Road between Burford village and Putnam, Burford township at that time was a part of Oxford county and was detached in 1841 to become a part of Brant county. Other well known Oxford pioneers participating in the rebellions were Dr. Ephrina Cook, Peter Delong, his brother, Garry V. Delong, and Abraham Sackrider of Norwichville; Oxford village contributed Elisha Hairy, druggist; Alexander Sumner, William Watterworth, John Tyler, the latter; Daniel Schell, Pelham C. Teeple, Matthew Berschool teacher; Willard and John Sherman, coopers. From the Tillsonburg districts came Adam, William and Lord Wellington Winegarden, Stillman Smith, Junior, and John Van Norman. Many recruits came from the south of Tillsonburg and the most outstanding was Samuel Edison of Vienna, father of Thomas Alva Edison who skipped the province along with Dr. Charles Duncombe, Leader of the Patriots.

"I now come to the most important event concerning the spy activities in Ingersoll because some of the Southern agents were instrumental in bringing Canada nearly to the brink of war and eventually necessary to conscript Oxford county citizens for the Canadian militia. When I mention Canadian one must remember that Canada at this time consisted of only Ontario and Quebec until 1867. The Civil War stripped Oxford for those military inclined. Twenty-five thousand Canadians joined either the Union or Confederate armies during the first year of war. By the end of the war, in 1865, the London Free Press stated that nearly 48,000 had enlisted and blamed the bounty given by the various States was responsible for the young warriors enlisting a foreign army. Mr. McFee informed me that he was given five hundred dollars in greenbacks to substitute for a rich Detroit grocer and after arriving in Detroit he discovered that he would have received that sum in his own name and at the same time not break Canadian Neutrality laws.

**PIRATES**

"When in conversation with Mr. McFee he asked me if I had ever heard of pirates on Lake Erie and I replied that I had not. He then told me that after he had returned from the Civil War that his mother informed him that the Confederates had run quite a spy centre in the Royal Hotel and said it was common rumor that John Wilkes Booth, President Abraham Lincoln's assassin had visited the Royal Hotel for a night while enroute to Montreal in search of a theatrical engagement. Mr. McFee then told me that the Lake Erie pirates were in league with the conspirators which caused the raid of St. Albans, Vermont, which occasioned so much ill-feeling between Canada and the United States.

"The pirates of Lake Erie were Captain John Yates Beall and Bennett G. Burnley and the instigators of the St. Alban's raid were Lieutenant Bennet H. Young, Dudley More Gee, and a Lieutenant Butterworth. Clarence Brown gave me an additional name of a Doctor Blackburn who was in favor of introducing army cut-worms and Colorado beetles to the grain crops of Northern farmers. The late Charles Scoffin of Ingersoll also informed me that the St. Albans affair was a topic discussed at the Royal and his informant was his own father who was a southern sympathizer and knew many of the Confederate agents. Gurnett ran a short paragraph reading, 'Much excitement exists in town owing to the discovery of a secret society affiliated with the Confederates'.

# Town role in slave abolition forgotten

INGERSOLL — Ingersoll's role in helping slaves to freedom in the mid-1800s is all but forgotten.

Town residents now wash cars where once stood a clearing house for slaves.

When Ingersoll's status was raised from village to town in the mid-1800s, the town had a population of less than 2,000, of these 400 were negroes.

At the same time, Ingersoll

had the largest colored population in Canada, with the exception of Chatham.

By comparison, few colored persons live in Ingersoll today.

"Most of them returned home after they were freed," said town historian Byron Jenvey, who said he knew a few of them. "Many died here of tuberculosis. Some moved to Dresden.

"I remember how ignorant

they were, uneducated. They worked for 50 cents per day. It was pitiful."

Mr. Jenvey was talking about the times when a church on Oxford Street was turned into a haven for slaves fleeing America.

Built in 1854 at a cost of \$2,500, the Wesleyan Methodist Church was demolished in 1956. A car wash now stands on the site of the old church.

Slaves were smuggled into an attic over the church in the wee hours of the morning. They travelled on foot and many of them trekked from as far as New Orleans.

Anti-slavery supporters led the slaves to safety and from their masters by telling soldiers they were transferring the slaves to work in other areas.

The Wesleyan Methodist Church was used to rally support against slavery activities in the United States. And, even noted abolitionist leader John Brown supposedly spoke at the church on one occasion.

Probably, some of the money raised in Ingersoll helped John Brown capture the U.S. arsenal at Harper's Ferry, the federal arsenal.

With only 18 men, John Brown made the attack on Oct. 16, 1859, taking about 60 leading citizens prisoner.

John Brown was captured and hanged in Virginia in 1859.

Married twice, he was the father of 20 children, two of whom were killed at Harper's Ferry.

# Town was full of civil war spies

Story by  
Richard  
Houghton

Drawings by  
Harry  
Whitwell

reputation of Bachelor's Hall came when a temporary saw-mill was situated less than 100 feet from the hotel. The employees tug dumped this eyesore into the river."

After John Brown was hanged in Virginia in 1859 for taking part in the Harper's Ferry raid the governor of Virginia, Henry A. Wise learned of his attempts to recruit in Ingersoll and after the

hanging the governor dispatched detectives to this town to make were recruited from a low class laboring element with the result that they converted the hostel into a low-down groggery and a house of ill-fame.irate citizens took action and it was destroyed by sawing through the wooden piles which rested on mud-sills in the river bed. Strong ropes were attached to the piles and a mighty

discreet inquiries as to any existing plots to free slaves. At the time in 1860, there were upwards of five hundred colored residents which would prove a natural magnet to the southerners to keep them under surveillance. Both the north and south set up recruiting stations under the pretext of being purchasing agents for their respective governments.

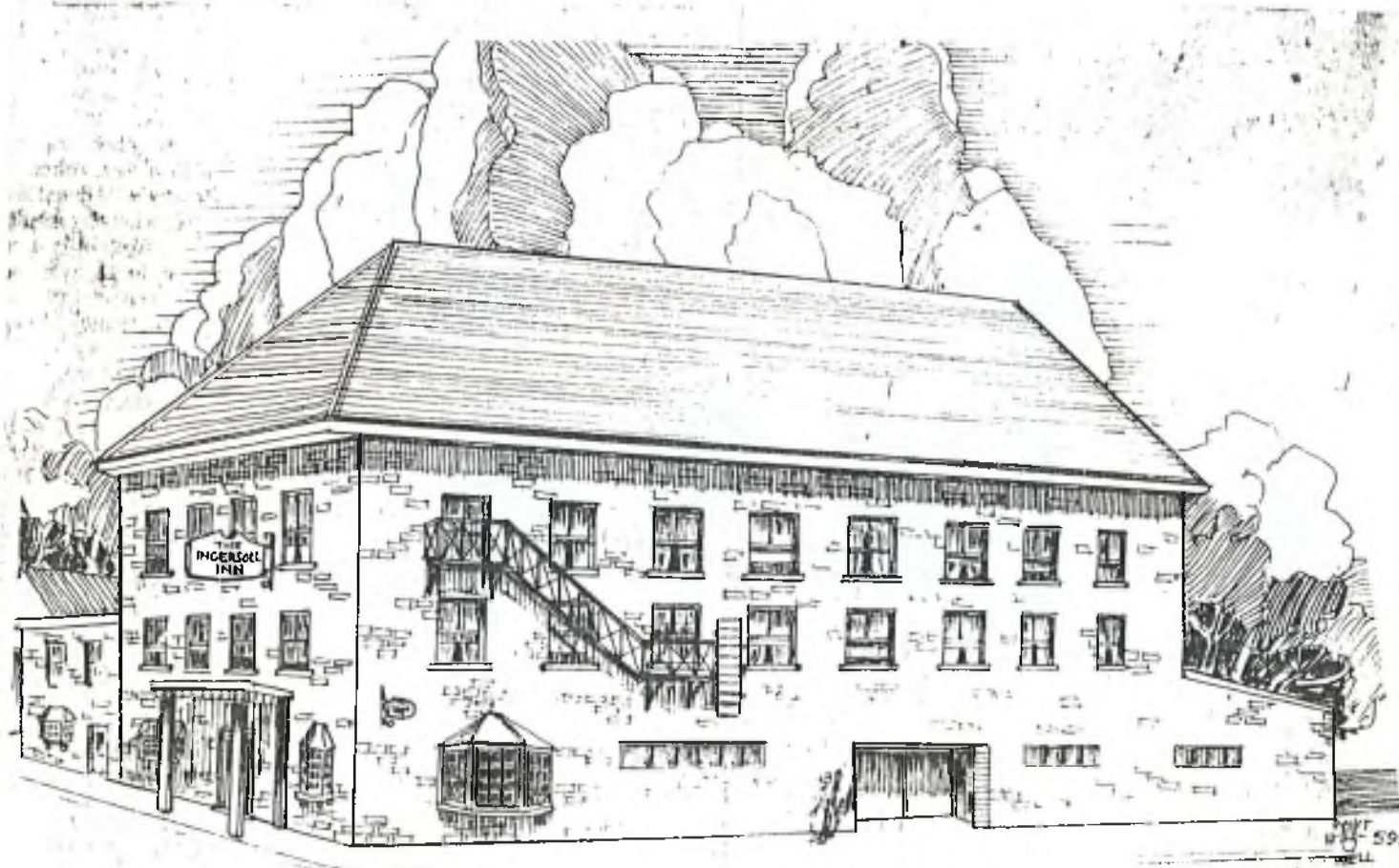
The northern agents set up headquarters in the Daly House, later to be known as the Ingersoll Inn, and recruiting rooms in the old Commercial Hotel. The south also possessed two locations, with their headquarters in the Royal Hotel. Their recruiting rooms were in the Anglo-American Hotel on the corner of Charles and Carroll Streets.

Also at that time both factions operated newspapers in town. The two newspapers in Ingersoll at that time, were the Ingersoll

Chronicle and the Oxford Herald. The chronicle was published by John S. Grunett and the Herald was published by T.A. McNamara. The Chronicle published a weekly sheet for the United States government called

the Ingersoll Plaindealer. The Herald's pro-south paper was named the Sickle.

The southerners occupying the front rooms of the Royal Hotel could spy upon the activities of the Union agents boarding across the road at the Commercial Hotel. Likewise the same opportunity presented itself to the Union spies to keep a watchful eye on the Royal Hotel.



The Union Army had set up their headquarters for spying in the Daly House, later to be known as the Ingersoll Inn. This building was built in 1857 of yellowbrick, on the site of a log building. It

was used as the stopping place for the old stage coach on the main line between Detroit and Niagara Falls. At that time King Street was made of planks laid side by side.

# THE INGER

The Only Newspaper Published in Ingersoll

THE INGERSOLL

## MUCH PROPERTY DAMAGE LOCALLY FROM WORST FLOOD IN HISTORY

### Inestimable Loss As Thames River Overflows It's Banks Monday. Thames Street Bridge Swept Away By Onslaught Of Water. Wm. Stone Company And New Idea Furnaces Are Heavy Losers. Collegiate And Ward Schools Closed When Communication With North Side Of River Cut Off.

The worst flood in the recollection of Ingersoll's oldest residents, completely inundated the north side of the town from the south section, on Monday. This was also the direct cause of several fatalities and thousands upon thousands of dollars damage to property.

The loss to the municipality will be a heavy one. Many streets were washed out. The Thames street bridge fell before the flood waters a few minutes before midnight Monday. Water mains and gas mains were broken open, sidewalks undermined, telephone and telegraph poles washed out and the Memorial Park flooded.

Local industrial concerns suffered heavily, particularly William Stone Sons Limited, New Idea Furnaces Limited, Bigham's Limited, Odell & Allen, George H. Mason, John E. Borland's Imperial Oil Service Station, Shawson Cheese Company as well as hundreds of individuals.

The first intimation of the likelihood of serious damage was about 5.30 o'clock, Monday morning, when the Fire Department were called to assist in saving the dam at Smith's Pond. All residents were warned to vacate their homes if they lived in the district that might be affected should the dam give way. A portion of the bank weakened and released considerable water, relieving the pressure on the dam. This completely covered Memorial Park and flooded the cellars of the business places on the south side of King street East, also properties adjacent to the course of the stream as it passes north to join the Thames river.

Rain and snow continued throughout Monday. The forty-eight hours of wet weather caused the tributaries of the Thames River to rise, with the result that a washout occurred on the main line of the

in the late afternoon and evening. All traffic was stopped from using the Thames street bridge about five o'clock as the water rose within a few inches of the floor of the structure. Pedestrians were still permitted to cross at six o'clock. The students of the schools were let out at three o'clock so they might reach home in safety and shortly after the men from the Morrow Co. had crossed, the bridge became immersed as did the roadway from the C. N. R. tracks to the C. P. R. tracks. Several persons were transported back and forth in the arms of firemen and special policemen.

Crowds gathered on each side of the raging torrents to watch the action of the water. When the Cypramid dykes gave way the water receded about two feet and from 7.30 until nearly nine o'clock there was no water passing over Thames street. As the huge quarry hole filled, the water rose at the rate of about a foot an hour. About eleven-thirty p. m., the river was gushing nearly two feet over the floor of the Thames street bridge and covered the roadway from Victoria street to St. Paul's Presbyterian church to a depth of over two feet in places. At 11.55 there was a muffled sound, the floor of the bridge heaved about two feet in the centre, there was a creak, several low rumbling and a thud as the huge mass of steel and wood, swayed, bent to the west then curled up and tumbled into the swirling torrents of the Thames. The sidewalk in front of the New Idea Furnace Company gave way, the wall at the South end of the factory office crumbled, the telegraph pole in the C. P. R. yard, carrying the main C. P. R. telegraph cable was uprooted as the station driveway was washed out. Lumber from Geo. H. Mason's yard could be seen floating along with the current. The

### Emergency Pipe Line To Supply Water For North Side

The Public Utilities Commission started work Tuesday afternoon to string a wire cable across the Thames river where the Thames street bridge was washed out. It is the intention of the commission to suspend a pipe line from the cable and connect it up with the broken ends of the town's water supply line, so that a temporary water supply may be provided to the residents of the north side of Ingersoll, who were out of water when the bridge washed away on Monday night.

The Dominion Natural Gas Company is facing a similar task as both its lines crossing the river on Thames street were torn away.

The commission was unable to definitely state when it would complete the water connection, but a staff of workmen will be employed 24 hours a day until a temporary supply of water is provided for the residents of the town, living north of the river.

No immediate danger of a water famine is anticipated as there are several good wells north of town from which drinking water may be secured.

### THAMES RIVER ROSE TO GREAT HEIGHTS

#### Four Inches Of Rainfall In Forty Eight Hours From Saturday Night Until Monday Night Sent River On Rampage.

Flood waters of the Thames River receded Tuesday, but several industrial plants were still flooded and the north section of the town was separated from the south. The only means of communication was by telephone and to cross the Thames River, a distance of about 160 feet, one had to travel over treacherous roads, via either Dorchester or Woodstock a distance of some twenty miles.

Bread and milk was transported

Ingersoll  
Tribune  
Thurs  
Apr 24  
1937

to vacate their homes if they lived in the district that might be affected should the dam give way. A portion of the bank weakened and released considerable water, relieving the pressure on the dam. This completely covered Memorial Park and flooded the cellars of the business places on the south side of King street East, also properties adjacent to the course of the stream as it passes north to join the Thames river.

Rain and snow continued throughout Monday. The forty-eight hours of wet weather caused the tributaries of the Thames River to rise, with the result that a washout occurred on the main line of the C. N. R., a few yards east of the North American Cyanamid Quarry, at Munroe's crossing. Eastbound train No. 6, Sarnia to Toronto, ran into the washout shortly after one o'clock, causing a serious wreck which resulted in the loss of three lives, and was responsible for the drowning of Ingersoll's Medical Officer of Health, Dr. J. D. Macdonald, whose car was swept into the swirling waters of the Thames river as he attempted to cross from No. 2 highway, at Munroe's crossing to reach the train wreck.

Many cellars were flooded and fires put out. The dykes at the Gypsum, Lime and Alabastine and North American Cyanamid Quarries both gave way Monday afternoon, resulting in the huge quarry holes being filled with water, which will take considerable time to empty.

The employees and office staff at William Stone Sons were taken from their work in trucks and transported to high ground as the water flooded the flats and surrounded the Stone factory early Monday morning. Several families fleeing in the flats of the west section of the town had to be rescued from their homes in boats by members of the fire department.

The most serious damage occurred

at church to a depth of over two feet in places. At 11.55 there was a muffled sound, the floor of the bridge heaved about two feet in the centre, there was a creak, several low rumbles and a thud as the huge mass of steel and wood, swerved, bent to the west then curled up and tumbled into the swirling torrents of the Thames. The sidewalk in front of the Mess. Idea. Furniture Company gave way, the wall at the South end of the factory office crumbled, the telegraph pole in the C. P. R. yard, carrying the main C. P. R. telegraph cable was uprooted as the station driveway was washed out. Lumber from Geo. H. Mason's yard could be seen floating along with the current. The huge storage gasoline tanks over 10 feet in diameter, in the yards of Borland's Imperial Oil Service Station were wash undermined and rose to the top of the rushing water with a dull thud that tore loose the earth holding them under ground and left gaping holes in the service station grounds.

### Half Holidays Start May 5th

Ingersoll merchants commence the weekly half holiday observance on Wednesday next, May 5th. While the grocers and butchers observe the half holiday period every month except December and the hardware and electrical stores have been closing on Wednesday afternoons for the past month, the majority of the stores will observe the holiday only during the months of May, June, July, August and September. The attention of the public is drawn to this, so that no inconvenience may be caused next Wednesday afternoon, particularly to residents of the rural districts, who might come to town to shop and find all the stores closed. The closing hour will be 12.30, noon, as in former years.

### Four Inches Of Rainfall In Forty Eight Hours From Saturday Night Until Monday Night Sent River On Rampage.

Flood waters of the Thames River receded Tuesday, but several industrial plants were still flooded and the north section of the town was cut off from the south. The only means of communication was by telephone and to cross the Thames River, a distance of about 160 feet, one had to travel over treacherous roads, via either Dorchester or Woodstock a distance of some twenty miles.

Bread and milk was transported across the river before the Thames street bridge gave way, so there was no danger of food shortage as supplies could be brought in from London.

Natural gas was kept available to most every section of the town, despite the fact the main pipe line on Thames street broke with the crashing of the bridge. An underground main crossing Workman Street, provided a sufficient supply for general use.

The water mains were all broken and residents on the north side of town were without water. Breaks in hydrant mains, cut off water in the main business sections of the town and the Public Utilities Commission issued a bulletin requesting people to be particularly cautious with fires or lights so that no serious conflagration might occur.

Despite the extensive damage to property, there were few telephone lines out. H. B. Stewart, manager of the Ingersoll Telephone Company, informed the Tribune representative, their loss would be small had they closed.

Only a few daily papers reached town on Tuesday and mail had to be taken from the C. N. R. Station via Dorchester in order to reach the local Post Office.

A large number of trucks were tied-up in town from Monday night on, because of the dangerous condition of the roads west. The Hamilton road was flooded at Morris' Mill, just west of Dorchester and No. 2 Highway was out from Tilburg to Aymer. Small trucks and cars were able to navigate some of the back concessions between No. 2 Highway and the Hamilton Road.

### Bridge Out On No. 2 Highway

It will be remembered some time ago that the bridge on the No. 2 Highway was washed out. It was a wooden bridge and was built on a very low foundation. It was a very narrow bridge and was only used for the purpose of crossing the river. It was a very old bridge and was in a very poor state of repair. It was a very dangerous bridge and was a great nuisance to the people of the town. It was a very old bridge and was in a very poor state of repair. It was a very dangerous bridge and was a great nuisance to the people of the town.

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# WARNING

## To the Public

Owing to the spring floods all residents, particularly on the North Side of Ingersoll, are advised to

# Boil All Water

for drinking purposes until flood conditions subside and further notice is given.

By Order,  
DR. H. G. FURLONG,  
Acting M. O. H.



# It was 44 years ago Ingersoll suffered flood

Forty-four years ago this week a flood ravaged the Town of Ingersoll claiming three lives and leaving in its wake no Thames Street bridge, no Wingham Street bridge, no Iron Duke and many memories.

"It was a funny flood," recalled Mary La Flamme. "The snow was completely gone and it started to rain. It hadn't rained that many days but the ground was frozen and couldn't absorb the moisture."

The flood swept through town April 26 to April 28 and the Thames River water line reached as far south as the present CPR tracks. Numerous industries were flooded as were numerous homes.

"People couldn't get to the north side of town," recalled Dr. Jack Rowson, after the Thames Street bridge was washed out around midnight April 26. He remembers residents on the south side of town putting up residents who were stranded.

He also remembered the only way to cross the river was either via Beachville or Dorchester. There was a maternity case on the north side of town on Metcalfe Street. To attend, the late Dr. Charles Carnish motored to Dorchester, then back to town on the north side of the river.

The middle quarry east of town, which was known as Cyanamide quarry, now Beachville Lime, held the precipitation, Dr. Rowson recalled.

"It took a while to fill," said Dr. Rowson, but when it did an "onrush of water came on through town."

Water undermined rail ties causing a derailment east of town. Several doc-



Sidewalks looking south on Thames Street that were ravaged by the April 1937 flood. (Photo by Doug Carr)

tors attended the scene including Dr. Rowson and Dr. J. D. MacDonald.

A road, known as Munroe's crossing, leading to the quarry and derailed train had a warning sign but Dr. MacDonald attempted to get through anyway in an effort to provide assistance. He died in his attempt to attend the scene.

Dr. Rowson made it to the train on the Domtar Road but "there was nothing I could do by the time I got there."

He remembers Dr. Cecil Osborne making it to the train engine and administering aid to two persons there. Both presumably died.

Hospital records show four persons were admitted to the hospital on April 26, 1937, the day the train derailed. Laceration, abrasions, a fractured nose and shock were among the reasons the patients were admitted.

Back in town Mrs. La Flamme recalled because the water mains were out for "a matter of a few days," water was retrieved from a John Street well.

Peter Darrow remembers watching with his wife and children, the Thames Street bridge go out. The New Idea

Furnace Company was flooded out as was William Stone Limited, now known as CIL.

There was a Wingham Street bridge crossing between the CNR and CPR tracks located approximately where the IGA is now. It was wiped out.

"The Iron Duke was twisted right around," Mr. Barrow recalled. "They took it down and never replaced it." It was located near the present CIL plant.

A temporary Thames Street bridge, similar to the old one was constructed, before eventual replacement with the present one. Incidentally, prior to the flood the town and county were at loggerheads and had severed ties.

When it came time to replace the bridge the county offered no financial assistance and the town had to bear the burden itself. Reconstruction costs were roughly \$60,000, a lot of money in those days.

Bruce Borland of Borland's Esso Service, was a part time employee at his father's gas station at the time of the flood.

He vividly remembers bales of square shingles being swept away from George Mason Enterprises,

the location of the present Ingersoll Planing Mill.

Two large storage tanks "popped right out of the ground" as a result of the flood waters and Mr. Borland remembers the water at peak level was as high as the station's windows.

After it was all over Mr. Borland remembers the task of cleaning up. Oil drainage tanks in the station's bays were flooded out leaving an oily mess to be cleaned up.

Also there was a wall opposite the station that was taken right out.

"I thought something was going on when I saw the water level at the Thames Street bridge," recalled Walter Appleby, who provided the photographs on this page. He was working for Wilson's Electronics at the time making collections.

His suspicions were confirmed when Memorial Park was completely flooded.

It took two or three days for the water level to go down he remembers before restoration to the town could begin.

Gordon Pittock, who worked at William Morrow Ltd., remembers water being about five feet high throughout the flooded area. He also recalls sand bagging Smith's Pond to prevent further flood damage.

"A lot of time and a lot of work was put into that," he said of the sand bagging, but he notes it worked.

"There was considerable damage to basements," of stores affected by the flood, recalls Mr. Pittock.

At a contingency meeting in London, he remembers "2,400 homes up to their knees in London West." He also remembers the presence of the Militia in London, there to prevent looting.

This all happened 44 years ago. Some memories are as if they happened yesterday while others have faded with time.

Some reported one, two or three died as a result of the flood but everyone has their own perspective of the 1937 ravages. Whether personally experienced or not, wishes are it never happens again!

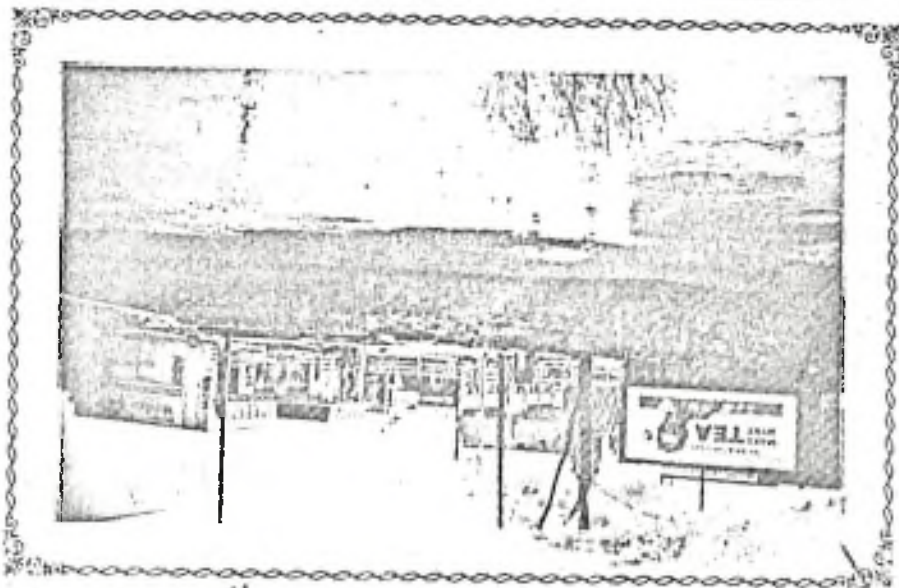
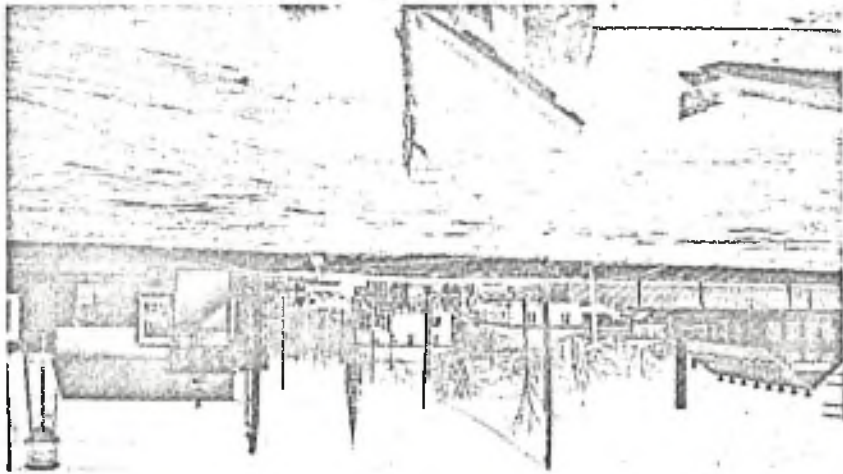


Carnegie and Thames Street looking south at the back of Elds Feed Mill. (Photo courtesy of Walter Appleby)

INGERSOLL TOWN & April 29, 1981

FLOOD

James St. Bridge is  
destroyed in 1937 flood



FLOOD



### TOWN HIT BY FLOOD WATERS

Ingersoll was hit with flooding Friday as snow melted. Ronald  
 McLelland, above, views his flooded property at 130 George  
 St. Meanwhile, water was flowing at Memorial Park.



# Environment ministry examines pond

An environment ministry officer from London was in Ingersoll Monday taking soil and water samples at Smith's Pond for analysis.

Maureen Looby, environmental officer, said she had been requested to make the

inspection by town officials "to make sure there is no pollution getting into the pond."

"The town has expressed concern to us," she said, "that there could possibly be pollution at the pond site so we agreed to come out and look at it, and let them know."

It will take about six weeks before results of the tests will be completed. Both a chemical analysis of the soil and a bacteriological analysis of the water will be made by the ministry from samples taken by Ms. Looby at Smith's Pond.

If the result of the analysis by the ministry shows pollution is present, the town will get an order demanding that owner Irene Smith "clean it up," town

engineer Steve Kovacic said.

"The onus is on the property owner to do that," he said, "because if there is pollution present it would be detrimental to the health of area residents, and the town doesn't want that."

## DREDGE EXPECTED

When asked what cleanup procedures would be required at the pond site Mr. Kovacic said it would probably need "dredging out."

The town for years has been trying to negotiate with Mrs. Smith to purchase the pond, without success.

Twenty-four hours after their last meeting March 4, something that had been predicted by the Upper Thames Conservation Authority

engineers, and town engineer Steve Kovacic finally happened.

The dam gave way, and waters gushed from Smith's Pond swamping Memorial Park and flooding King Street businesses. Original estimates of the damage were set at \$70,000 to \$100,000 by Police Chief Ron James.

With the prospect of possible lawsuits looming, town councillors are now breathing sighs of relief that their negotiations with the pond owner fell through.

This was evident from the negative response Coun. Marian Coyle got to her suggestion made at the last council meeting that the town should have the property appraised and try to

purchase it once more.

However, the pond owner has contended that she is not responsible for the flood damage "because no liability covers an act of God."

But while flooding may be termed an act of God — pollution is not. Both Ms. Looby and Mr. Kovacic say pollution — if it exists — is the responsibility of the property owner.

# Dam collapse feared;

## Ingersoll plans final

### bid for land

INGERSOLL — Ingersoll town council has decided to send one more letter to the owner of Smith's Pond, inviting her to give up the property or face expropriation.

Council is concerned that the old dam on the site in the heart of Ingersoll will collapse, flooding nearby businesses and homes. For years, negotiations have been

going on between the town and Mrs. Irene Smith to transfer ownership.

"It is impossible to say how much she is liable if the dam breaks," said Mayor Gordon Henry.

Mayor Henry said the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) has advised the town the dam is in poor

condition and will have to be rebuilt at a cost of nearly \$200,000.

The UTRCA would help the town financially with the rebuilding but not with the purchase of the land.

The mayor disclosed that the town once offered Mrs. Smith \$1 for the 10.5 acres of

property and would have assumed full liability for the dam.

He said she requested \$160,000. The land is currently assessed at \$525.

Mayor Henry said council would be failing in its duty if it didn't take over the property.

Coun. Eugene Maybee said he would hate to be sitting on council if it spent \$100,000 in

taxpayers' money to take over the area. Coun. Jack Warden said he wouldn't give Mrs. Smith a "thin dime" for the land, which lies in the flood plain of the Thames River.

Council considers the property a liability to anyone except the municipality which can deal with the flood threat problem.

Coun. Doug Harris wondered on what grounds the town bases expropriation of the land. He said there has been no expert opinion on the condition of the dam and expropriation would have to be based on that.

Mayor Henry replied the town's case might also depend on the need to develop the property for recreation.

*London Free Press Oct 7, 1975*

LONDON FREE PRESS

October 7, 1975



Employees in building near Memorial Park watch as the water rises to protective sandbags.

(Staff Photo by Drew Gragg)

## Flooding in Ingersoll as dike bursts

INGERSOLL — Several Ingersoll businesses and residences were completely flooded yesterday when a dike at Smith's pond gave way.

George Beck's Wholesale Tobacco warehouse, and the Start, Marshall, Parker and

Ross law offices were completely swamped when the pond overflowed at about 6:30 p.m.

Ingersoll police chief Ron James said damages resulting from the flood are estimated at more than

\$50,000 and could go as high as \$100,000.

Most of the flooding occurred along the south side of King St. near the park, he said.

"Memorial park was right under water and Glassford Motors also had some flood

damage."

Smith's pond is owned by Jim and Irene Smith of Toronto. Ingersoll town council attempted to takeover the property earlier this week.

The town council wanted Mr. and Mrs. Smith to hand

over responsibility of the pond to the town so it would control flooding.

The Smiths refused to turn over the property and are legally liable for flood damages Mayor Gordon Henry said Friday.

(Earlier story on page 3.)

SENTINEL

REVIEW

MARCH 6 1976

SMITH'S POND



LONDON FREE PRESS March 9, 1972

from Smith Pond flows where a dike stood until Saturday, when it broke, resulting in flooding of several downtown businesses in left background. The rest of the dike is at right.

By Ed Heal of The Free Press

SMITH'S POND  
"Flood causes almost total  
shutdown for 2 1/2  
hours"

# Dike lets go at Smith's Pond

## Responsibility of Ownership?

### An act of God?

By Richard Houghton

The fears of many Ingersoll residents were realized Friday night when the dike at the Smith's Pond dam gave way to swelled waters of the creek. The contents of the pond gushed down into Memorial Park, turning it into a small lake, then pushing on to flood many local businesses.

Several businesses on King St. East were completely flooded. George Beck's Wholesale Tobacco warehouse, and the Start, Marshall, Parker and Ross

law offices were completely flooded when the dike let go at 6:30 p.m. Glassford Motors was also extensively flooded.

Estimates of the damage have ranged between \$50,000 and \$100,000. The disaster is believed to have been caused by the high temperatures of late which melted much of the snow in the area. The pressure on the dam and the dikes around it was increased also by recent rainstorms.

After a call for assistance, the

town public works department responded to the law offices with sandbags to try and stem the tide rising out of the park, but it was not enough to keep the offices from being flooded.

Town of Ingersoll Engineer Steve Kovacic told the Times in an interview Monday, that damage to town property is in the thousands of dollars, and that the public works department is now working on getting things back into order.

Mr. Kovacic said the town is

hoping to get reimbursed for the expenses of having men and machines employed cleaning up the damage on both private properties, and in the park, and town streets.

He said he has evaluated that damage has been done to the CNR railroad track, and to the supporting wall of the coffee shop in King Street East.

#### WHO MUST PAY FOR DAMAGE?

Ingersoll Mayor Gordon B. Henry told this newspaper that

his feelings are well known on the matter of responsibility of ownership.

Mayor Henry said that town council had met with the owners of the pond, Jim and Irene Smith of Toronto last Thursday in a closed meeting.

At that time the town had attempted to take over the property and the responsibility of the dam for one dollar to make the transaction legal.

Mayor Henry said the meeting on Thursday was just a waste of

time. He said that at that time Mrs. Smith maintained that she wanted to retain the ownership of the property.

"If she phones me now, I will just have to tell her to get in touch with the town solicitor," said the mayor. "She has been warned many times by the town of the danger of a flood if the dam broke."

"Right now I am out to protect the interest of the people of Ingersoll who have sustained flood damage," he said.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Smith told the Times in a telephone interview that she was on the scene late Friday night.

"I have no control over nature, she said. "The dam is still standing, but high winds and heavy currents uprooted a tree near the dam."

Mrs. Smith maintains the flood was an act of God. She says when the tree was uprooted it weakened the dike beside the dam, and this is where the water from the pond poured out taking huge chunks of the dike along with it.

Mrs. Smith cited the recent storm in the London area as an example of what can happen when nature takes over.

She said that the flooding could have been much worse if the dam had broken, instead of the earth bank beside it letting go more gradually. She said the weather was so severe last week that white-caps on the waves were being pushed up against the dam by the heavy winds.

"All these weather conditions are recorded," she said, "and this is all proof of what the dam has withstood."

Mayor Henry said the whole matter is now in the hands of the





TOWN ENGINEER Steve officer Maureen Looby survey dam. (Staff Photo)  
Kovacic and environmental Smith's Pond site from top of

SENTINEL REVIEW  
March 23, 1976

SMITH'S POND

# County inspection branch to test for potential hazard

A study to determine potential health and environmental hazards of a dried-up pond near the town's core will probably be undertaken by the county's health inspection branch by next week.

The study will sample mud and water from a small creek running through Smith's Pond,

said chief health inspector Mike Bragg, to determine if any industrial waste exists in the water and to what extent existing algae will grow.

The pond is located north of Alexandra Hospital between Thames and Wellington streets.

"We're not looking at this as a health hazard unless there's

sewage... (or) fish." It would be an environmental problem, Bragg said.

But he added that a high bacterial load with fecal matter would provide a hazard to children who go into the creek. Algae can be harmful but not when it's growing he said.

Board of Health chairman,

Coun. Jack Warden of Ingersoll, said in an interview, area residents have expressed concern over a potential health and odor problem from the "Pond" but he doubted there is currently a health problem unless there's bacteria in the water.

He added that owner Irene Smith of Toronto has done nothing about cleaning up the situation since a pond's dam burst, flooding the area two years ago.

"It's a disgrace. It's just growing up wild but it's private property. We have to find out exactly what's going to happen," he said.

Rather than duplicate tests, Bragg said he might use tests performed on the pond last year by the environment ministry before starting his own study.

He expects the ministry results by Friday.

SENTINEL REVIEW

May 19, 1977

# Smith's Pond officially in town fold

By YVONNE HOLMES MOTT  
It is official!

Town council passed the by-law last Wednesday night that officially permitted it to purchase Smith's Mill Pond from Irene May Smith, of Toronto.

The property was purchased for \$80,000.

The land is needed for a sewer easement.

However, in addition to

that, it has been the dream of council for many years to acquire that property, clean it up and turn it into a parkland.

Several councillors referred to the efforts made by Councillor Norman Bain over the years to acquire that land for the town.

Councillor John Fortner pointed out at the December council meeting that it was "20 years ago next spring" that

the water went out of Smith's Pond and that Warden is the fourth mayor to be involved in negotiations for that property.

Warden said he hoped to receive input from citizens about how they would like that property developed. "It will never be a pond again," he said.

## BAIN REMEMBERS

Bain acknowledged that the obtaining and subsequent restoration of that property has been in every campaign speech he has made for the past 20 plus years.

"When I first started to run for office there was water in it," he recalls.

He vividly remembers the night "the dam" broke. He was on town council then and was called to the scene by a town employee. "I was just like everybody else," he told *The Ingersoll Times*. "I just stood by helplessly in Memorial Park while the water swirled around and did its damage."

The veteran councillor feels badly, the property "has sat there for the past 25 years overgrown with weeds."

The residents complained of rodents, he says, and there was nothing that could be done about it.

He is anxious to hear from those neighbours "who put up with the inconvenience all these years."

Bain acknowledges it has always been an election speech pledge of his to purchase the property.

His dream is to clean it up and create a park-like setting, perhaps with nature trails.

He notes that County Planner Jim Hill is on the waterfront committee of the Downtown Revitalization Committee and he expects that committee, chaired by Jim Foster, will want to become involved with the decision making.

## FUNDING SHORTFALL

Bain revealed that earlier the group had requested a \$30,000 grant to study and develop the waterfront in Ingersoll - including a walking trail from Thames street bridge to Lawson Park.

However, he said, the newly elected government turned the request down.

"Our only hope," says Bain, "is that some service clubs will come forward and help us with this important project. I know it would make a big difference to the appearance of Ingersoll and the enjoyment of our nature areas."

Ingersoll Times  
Jan 17/96

## A HISTORY OF THE MAJOR FIRES IN INGERSOLL - 1856 to 1876

Ken Moyer, 1994

### Forward:

One of the most destructive forces in nature is FIRE. This scourge not only consumes all it touches, but also leaves in its wake losses in many forms. The monetary, physical and often loss of life, leaves family and community affairs in long lasting distress.

Ingersoll in its early days was no exception. In the days when cooking and heating was mainly fuelled by wood, when lighting was by candle or kerosene lamp, the prospect of fire was always present and carefully guarded against.

From the histories of the major fires in early Ingersoll, it must be concluded that as the Ingersoll Chronicle reported "most fires were caused by an incendiary." Reports in the press of the day continually mention this thought. Nearly all of the fires we shall report in this article were credited to a firebug. Most of the fires occurred in empty buildings, which by all reports, had neither heat or light at the time of the outbreak.

Since nearly all the early business blocks and homes were of wood construction, a small fire, if left unchecked, could spread and destroy all in its path.

Ingersoll, as a small community, had nothing but the residents with a bucket brigade or damp blankets to contain a fire and so suffered many very disastrous blazes. A fire department did not come until sometime after the first major fire, and only then, after some very scathing editorials by the editor of the Chronicle. (A person found later to have had great vision. Not only for fire protection, but also in a great many other unrelated fields).

We shall attempt in this article to highlight some of the major fires which changed the business and public sectors of the community. Descriptions of these fires are taken from the files of the Ingersoll Chronicle, so by referring to the date of publication, may be viewed on Microfilm at the local Public Library, where the staff is always willing to assist you in your search. Other records of these fires also exist, and may also be found in the Library files.

Beginning with the Incorporation of Ingersoll as a village on January 1, 1852, plans were soon presented for the erection of a Town Hall and Market Building. The reeve and council with the assistance of the prominent citizens, brought these plans to completion, and it is generally believed that the first Municipal Building was completed in 1853.

### THE FIRES OF 1872:

<sup>2</sup>On the afternoon of Tuesday, April 9, 1872, fire broke out in the cooper shop of the Kings Mills on King Street West, which completely destroyed the shop and a large supply of staves which were stored nearby. Embers from this fire were carried by the wind across King Street to the stables at the rear of Tricks Tavern nearly opposite the cooper shop. The embers started a blaze which quickly spread to the tavern itself. Both were destroyed in the resulting flames. The large grist mill immediately to the west of the cooperage was saved as were the nearby homes of J.M. Wilson, G.H. Webster and others.

It was written at that time that had not these buildings been saved, the west portion of the town would have been destroyed.

The cause of this fire was never determined, and the loss was about \$5200.00 of which only \$600.00 was insured.

### THE DOWNTOWN FIRE:

<sup>3</sup>A few minutes before 8 o'clock on the evening of May 7, 1872, fire erupted in the stable of the Royal Exchange Hotel on the corner of Thames and Charles Streets. The building had been empty for 3 weeks, while the new proprietor, Mr. Searles, made preparations to reopen in the same business. The stables and hotel were old frame structures, as were most of the homes and business shops in the area. The old Hotel, when it took fire, created such intense heat that the nearby structures succumbed to the blaze and spread it even further.

The fire spread quickly up Oxford Street and burned all in its path until it reached Bowmans Hotel on the east side of the street, at the market square. The buildings on the west side of Oxford Street received a severed scorching, but by the efforts of the residents in the area, they were saved from destruction. The buildings on the north side of Charles Street were also very close to flames, but once again, the residents by the use mainly of wet blankets, were able to contain the fire in this direction.

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<sup>2</sup> Fire Report, Ingersoll Chronicle, April 11th, 1872.

<sup>3</sup> Fire Report, Chronicle, May 25th, 1872.

The streetscape that one observes on Thames Street today is a direct result of the rebuilding which took place in 1872-1873. One of the results of the fire was that both the Masonic Lodge and the I.O.O.F. relocated to the east side of the street from their burned out ruins on the west side of Thames. Both these orders lost heavily in records and regalia due to the blaze.

While this fire was a severe blow to the young community, there were other disasters in the near future for the citizens to face.

### **THE FIRE OF 1874:**

<sup>5</sup>As the Chronicle reports "another great calamity has befallen our town". On Sunday July 19, 1874 at 11:30 p.m., a fire was discovered in the premises of the Nationalist printing office, a three storey frame building, adjoining Mr. C.P. Hall's brick block on the south side of King Street east. The proprietors Messrs. Constable and Harris, together with their workmen resided in this building, and narrowly escaped with their lives. The flames spread quickly to the east and west of the print shop, and before they were completely contained, had destroyed all of the buildings from the pond on King Street to the end brick block on Thames Street directly across from the Niagara District Bank. (The building just to the north of the present Clog & Thistle). The buildings on the north side of King Street were also in danger of being destroyed, and only through the efforts of the workers of the Steam Furniture establishment of McIntyre and Crotty, who worked with the firemen, was the blaze denied further victims.

Once again, the call for assistance went out and was answered by the London Fire Department who arrived on the scene at 2 o'clock in the morning. While they were too late to be of effective assistance, their prompt reply to the request was, none-the-less, much appreciated.

The Chronicle goes on to state that most of the destroyed buildings were frame rookeries that "have been considered ancient for many years". Several of the brick buildings were what are commonly called "bricknogs", and consequently were of little real value. It was felt at the time that had the fire crossed either Thames or King Streets, another catastrophe such as occurred in 1872 could not have been averted.

Once again, while the origin of the fire is unknown, circumstances lead to the supposition that it was the work of an incendiary.

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<sup>5</sup> Fire loss was \$40,000. Some were insured. Fire Report, Chronicle, July 23rd, 1874.

The Chronicle in an editorial in the issue of February 10th, 1876 made many suggestions for either rebuilding or repairing the building which it said were "in the best interests of the community".

Council was very divided in their opinion on what should be done, so a local architect, Mr. Proctor, was commissioned to draw up plans to repair and remodel the building. One of the new features was to relocate the Bell Tower closer to the front of the roof, and also erect fireproof walls in the interior. The building when rebuilt within the existing walls presented an entirely new look to the citizens and council was congratulated on the wisdom they had shown. Another of the changes made was to put fireproof doors on the safe in the clerk's office. (The records of the town had been saved during the fire by Mr. George B. Lang, who received the thanks of council).

Once again, a new bell was purchased and upon delivery (earlier than expected), was hung in the Bell Tower of St. James Church, whereby all reports, its tones could be heard throughout the community. The contract for the repair and remodelling of the building was awarded to Christopher Bros. at a contract price of \$3,980.00.

Councillor James McIntyre said he would wind up all disputes that had taken place with the following lines:

Old Market already has given good proof  
That it is strong even without a roof,  
And Proctor can doctor up the old walls  
Into one of the neatest of Western Halls.

The new look town hall was officially opened at a ceremony on August 15th, 1876.

Well-built, this building existed until only a few years ago when the concern for public safety determined its use and it was demolished.

The last of the Troy bells was saved from the wreckers and is mounted on a cairn at the Ingersoll Cheese Museum in Centennial Park.

# Fire And Flood Recalled As Town's Major Disasters

Two major disasters in the town's history were witnessed by the late Mrs. Mary E. Edwards, and vividly recalled by her as she neared her 90th birthday in 1938, at which time she had resided continuously in Ingersoll for a period of 71 years. She passed on in 1946 shortly after reaching her 97th birthday.

She witnessed both the big fire in 1872 which wiped out the main business section of the town and also the raging flood waters which raced through the west side of the town causing death and destruction, after the breaking of the dam at King's pond.

Born near Grand Rapids, Mich., the late Mrs. Edwards came to Ingersoll as a bride at the age of 18. She recalled that at that time the streets of the town were lighted by kerosene lamps at the main corners that there were single planks here and there for sidewalks there was no gas, no electricity, and of course no telephones.

At that time residing on Hall street, the late Mrs. Edwards said she went down town to see the

fire. All the east side of Thames street had been destroyed when she reached the scene with the exception of a brick building somewhere east of the present post office building.

She remembered the fire "as a terrible sight" and said she stayed watching until about four when she C. C. Paine a pumpmaker, had crowd that Mr. Paine (believed to) went around through the been burned to death. "That" said Mrs. Edwards, "was enough for me and I went home".

Two persons, it was mentioned, were fatally burned and following the fire King street became the main business street.

In connection with the serious flood due to the breaking of the dam at King's pond, the late Mrs. Edwards related that she was then living in the northwest section of the town. On her way up town and while going by way of the Ingersoll plant to reach the Wonham street bridge she was warned by William Hayward, at that time an employee of the firm, that she could not get out of the flood. She added "I went closer to see. The

waters were tumbling about. Houses had been washed away from their foundations and much property damaged. One house at that time was floating around in the floodwaters west of the bridge. I saw a small boy clinging to the roof. He was later drowned. Two persons were drowned at that time and many had very close calls."

Reference also was made to the low rentals for housing accommodation that prevailed here in the early days. The rentals ranged from \$2 to \$3 a month and when \$5 was asked it was considered excessive.



\$1,000; Masonic Hall, loss \$1,000, insured for \$500; Perkins Estate, loss \$3,000, insured for \$2,200.

Buildings owned by C. E. Chadwick, loss \$4,000, insured \$1,500. Occupied by Brewett and Barker, hardware, loss \$9,000, insured for \$3,000; N. D. Bank, loss \$1,400; C. E. Chadwick, as dwelling, loss on furniture \$1,400, insured for \$1,400; and L. J. Chadwick, who lost all.

Brick building owned by John Eeles, loss \$4,500, insured for \$2,500. Occupied as follows:

Dry Goods

H. O'Connor, dry goods, loss \$2,300, insured for \$1,000; J. and H. Little, grocers, loss \$3,000, insured for \$1,400; Odd Fellows' Hall, loss \$800, insured for \$400; A. Cordon, clothier, loss \$1,400, insured for \$1,000.

Buildings owned by G. W. Waley and occupied by him as crockery store, loss \$7,500, insured for \$3,000 on stock and building. Second storey occupied by J. McCaughey as law office, and third storey as Good Templar's hall. The G. T.'s loss \$350 and Mr. McCaughey \$800.

Chronicle office building and contents, loss \$8,000, insured for \$3,200. Third storey occupied by the Young Men's Christian Association, loss \$130.

Building owned by F. G. Lewis, loss \$1,000, insured for \$400. Occupied by Mrs. Curtis, millinery, loss \$500, insured for \$350; M. Miller, grocery, loss \$800, insured for \$500.

Curtis' Shoe Store, stock saved. Morrey & Barker's furniture warerooms, loss \$3,000, insured for \$1,000.

Building owned by Mr. Waterworth, loss \$1,000, no insurance. Occupied as follows: Byrne & McGelrick, saddlers, loss \$700, insured for \$700; Miss Webster, millinery, loss \$100, no insurance. F. G. Lewis, loss \$1,000, insured for \$600.

M. B. Holcroft, grocery, loss \$2,500, insurance \$6,000.

J. O'Neill, grocer, building and stock insured for \$7,500, loss \$2,000.

Building owned by H. O'Conner, loss \$400, insured for \$2,000. Occupied by R. Agur, banker, loss \$100; W. Harris, boots and shoes, loss \$2,000, insured for \$3,000.

Destroyed

DESTROYED—East side of Oxford street between King and Charles, south side of Charles between Thames and Oxford, and (nearly) both sides of Thames between King and Charles. The following are the names of the losers and amounts of each person's loss.

OXFORD STREET—4 buildings owned by C. P. Hall, valued at \$1,700, insured. Occupied by J. Holt, Silversmith, loss \$200; N. Morrison, dwelling, loss \$400; R. Clayton, wagon shop, loss \$200; Miss Doyle, dwelling, loss \$400, no insurance.

Building owned by C. E. Chadwick, loss \$600. Occupied by Barrett and Mrs. Smith, as dwellings, whose losses were \$400 each.

Prince of Wales Hotel, owned by Jas. McCaughey, loss \$1,000, insured for \$600. Occupied by John Bowman, loss \$600.

CHARLES STREET — Frame building owned by C. P. Hall, loss \$1,000, insured. Occupied by Dr. Bowers, loss \$350; Mr. Dibbs, loss \$100; Bridgman, loss, \$50; C. McDermald, \$100; H. Kelsie, \$100; Mrs. Waite, \$100.

WEST SIDE OF THAMES STREET—Royal Exchange Hotel, and four other buildings, owned by John Walsh, loss \$8,000, no insurance.

Other Buildings

Buildings occupied as follows: Hotel by Mr. Searles (moved in day of fire) loss on furniture \$700; R. H. Young, saddler, loss \$1,000, insured \$600; I. R. Greenaway, shoe store, loss \$300, insured for \$200; Mrs. Meredith, fancy store, loss \$1,200, insured for \$600; Dr. Walker's office, loss \$200, fully insured.

R. Vance's brick bakery and confectionery, loss \$8,000, insured for

# List of Buildings Destroyed In Disastrous Ingersoll Fire 80 Years Ago Completed

East side of Thames street — Building owned by James Brady, loss \$200, insured for \$100. Occupied as follows: H. Vogt, jeweller, loss \$700, insured for \$300; R. Frezell, cigar factory, loss \$50.

Building owned by John Boles, loss \$800, insured for \$500. Occupied by J. Towle, grocery, loss \$50; Adair & Cairns, grocery and liquor store, loss in removing goods \$1,500, insured for \$2,000.

Building owned by J. Stuart, slightly damaged.

John Boles, clothier, loss building and stock \$1,200, insured for \$2,400.

Dr. Scott, office and residence, loss \$1,200, insured for \$2,800.

### Total Loss

Building owned by John Leigh, total loss. Occupied by T. F. Fawkes, jewellery, loss \$1,300, insured for \$800.

Building owned by ..... loss \$3,000. Occupied by G. J. Shrapnell, grocery, loss \$6,000, insured for \$3,500; Miss Patterson, millinery, loss light; John Hugill, photographer, loss \$1,500, no insurance.

Building owned by G. J. Shrapnell, loss \$5,000, insurance \$2,500. Occupied by S. W. Macfarlane, dry goods, loss \$6,000, insured for \$6,000.

Building owned by Eastwood & Marr, loss \$2,000. Occupied by J. N. Elliott, grocery, loss \$3,000, no insurance.

Building owned by J. Boles, loss \$3,500, insured for \$2,000. Occupied by Reid Estate, dry goods, loss \$10,500.

Building owned by W. McMillan, loss \$5,500, insurance unknown. Occupied by J. G. Chown & Co., hardware, loss \$12,000, insurance \$8,500; Mechanics' Institute, loss \$500; F. A. Baker, photographer, loss \$3,000, no insurance.

### Barker Building

Building owned by E. Barker, loss \$6,000, insured for \$2,000. Occupied by T. H. Barraclough, boots and shoes, loss \$12,000, insurance \$6,000; Holmes and Giolespie, dry goods, loss \$15,000, insured for \$12,000.

Blocked owned by S. Poole, loss \$15,000, insured for \$7,500. Occupied by Tripp & Co., druggists, loss \$6,000, insured for \$4,000; A.

McKenzie, dwelling, loss of furniture; James McNiven, dry goods, loss \$7,000, insurance \$3,000; James McDonald, hat and fur store, loss \$1,500, no insurance; Miss Brown, dressmaker, loss \$100; James Johnston, dwelling, loss of furniture; A. Bristole, rooms, \$100; Wright, furniture and clothing; Pulford, variety store, loss \$2,400, insurance \$1,600; A. Macaulay, dry goods, \$8,000, insurance \$4,000.

Building owned by Jas. White, \$3,000, part insured. Occupied by J. Gayfer & Co., druggists, \$7,000, insurance \$2,500.

D. White & Co.'s dry goods and building, \$47,000, insurance \$18,000.

Building owned by Mayor McDonald, \$3,000, insurance \$2,500. Occupied by O. B. Caldwell, druggist, loss \$2,000, insurance \$1,400; A. McLean, books and stationery, \$1,500, insurance \$4,500; Jas. F. McDonald, law office, loss \$150; Miss Caldwell's room, loss on furniture \$700. Next building (frame) also belonging to the mayor, and was occupied by L. Nee, fruiterer, \$300, insurance \$400; R. Gaines barber shop, \$100.

JUNE 10/71



## AREA HISTORY

# Block destroyed by 1856 fire

By BYRON JENVEY

INGERSOLL — In 1856, a serious fire destroyed the main business block in the village of Ingersoll.

This was on King Street East. All records pertaining to the history of the village were destroyed.

Again in 1872, a most disastrous fire burned 80 places of business on the east and west sides of Thames Street. The buildings were of frame construction and readily fell prey to the flames.

To replace them, solid brick buildings were erected which are there at the present time.

To cope with the fires, the town possessed two hand-operated pumps which proved inadequate in case of such fires. Water was fetched from large underground cisterns located between Thames and Oxford Streets and from the creek on the east side of Thames Street.

This creek, which flows through the east side of Ingersoll, was first called Hall's Creek, after Elisha Hall who owned much land through which the creek flowed. The name was later changed to Harris Creek for a similar reason.

The stream flowing through the west side of Ingersoll was named Whiting Creek after Thomas Ingersoll's first wife, Sarah Whiting.

The Indian name of the Thames River was As-kun-e-see-be, meaning antlered like an elk. This being due to its many large branches. The French called the river LaTrenche. The English called it the New River.

But in 1793, Governor Simcoe, noting the river passes through Oxford, Middlesex and London, similar to the river in England, gave it the same name, Thames River.

In 1877, council provided for a regular fire brigade, with steam engine and auxiliary equipment. In 1890, a water works system was installed. In 1872, a gas lighting system was installed.

Gas lights illuminated the streets until 1891 when an electric lighting system was installed. In 1908, Ingersoll went into agreement with the Hydro Electric Commission and this electricity was first used in Ingersoll in 1911.

In 1890, Ingersoll began to replace its plank sidewalks with concrete.

The first newspaper in Ingersoll was the Chronicle, founded in 1855.

In 1847, the Ingersoll Agricultural Society was formed and the first fair held during the same year.

In 1857, a gigantic hoax was perpetrated on 10,000 people who assembled in Ingersoll on May 24 to learn what prehistoric animal was in the village pond.

In 1857 and 1858, currency in Ingersoll was changed from pounds, shillings and pence to dollars and cents. This brought about exchange depots along the main lines of travel.

At these places foreign currency, mostly British, but some Mexican and Spanish, could be exchanged for dollars and cents. Many sad tales were told of how these money changers fleeced the innocent. With the coming of banks, this exchanging was taken over and the depots folded up.

In 1937, Ingersoll experienced its most devastating flood since the 1890s. This was due to a great dept of snow, a waxy spell of weather and rain. The Thames Street bridge wash out. A new bridge was erected and opened for traffic in 1937 at a cost of \$2,700.

## Ingersoll disasters

# Fires rank among

## worst in town history

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On that Tuesday evening, the fire began. The hotel was owned by John Walsh, a man with much land wealth in the Ingersoll area. Walsh had purchased the hotel from W. Hayward, only three weeks prior to the fire, and had leased it to a Mr. Searles a few days before the fire. Mr. Searles had already begun to move much of his furniture into the building, preparing to open the hotel up once again.

A description of the hotel preceding to the fire, was given by James Sinclair, Sen., justice of the peace for Oxford County.

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"The sign erected on a substantial post just off the sidewalk, was of the regulation type of the period and carried a swing sign which was decorated with the picture of Queen Victoria on one side and Prince Albert on the other. Beneath the pictures, were the words, "Royal

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At eight o'clock, the fire was reported to the town fire station. Because the barn and hotel were made of odd wooden frames and thickly surrounded by other small structures, the fire rapidly began to spread. Within minutes all buildings on the east side of Oxford, between Thames and King, were completely destroyed. The fire burned down as far as the local market square, which prevented a further spread of fire in this direction.

People rushed the goods from the burning buildings to the west side of Thames St., in hopes of saving their materials, but too soon all hopes were eradicated.

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INGERSOLL TIMES

July 17 1974

# The

# Jenvey

# Files

In the calamity of fire, Ingersoll has experienced the most disastrous destruction of property that has visited any of the western towns of this province in many years. Having been in a measure, free from this scourge for years, the people and the authorities had in a measure, become reliant and fearless of the imminent danger under which they were living and were totally unprepared to subdue the ravages of the devouring element if it was once allowed to get under headway.

Several reports of the fire have been given in the daily papers furnished to them by telegraph, which of necessity have been very meagre, and in many instances inaccuracies have occurred, which from the hurry from which they were prepared were impossible to avoid. Outside of the town, few persons have any adequate idea of the extent of the fire or of the destruction and the loss which has been sustained. We have taken the greatest pains to gather the minutest details and incidents connected with the destruction, and shall endeavour to give a correct report. While it is a matter which has been uppermost in the minds of all and the surviving friends of the unfortunate victims have the united sympathies of the whole people.

### Start of the Fire

The fire broke out a few minutes before eight on the evening of Tuesday, May 7, 1872 in the part of the stables attached to the Royal Exchange Hotel on Oxford St. near the corner of Charles Street. It was owned by John Walsh Esq. who also owned a large amount of property in the vicinity and was last occupied as a hotel by W. Hayward, who vacated it about three weeks

before the fire. Mr. Searles had leased the place a few days before and had moved part of this furniture into it, preparatory to opening out again in the same business. The barn and hotel were old frame tenements which rapidly succumbed to the intense heat. From these buildings the fire spread rapidly in a south and easterly direction, taking as it went south the residence of Chas. P. Hall and the Prince of Wales Hotel, lately occupied by William Gallagher, but since his removal to the Atlantic House by Mr. J. Bowman. The Market square prevented a further spread of the fire in this direction. The building on the West side of Oxford and on the north side of Charles St. Also burned. These including the Daly Horse Stables, the Chamber's Hotel, the old Wesleyan church building, R. MacDonald's barn, containing a large quantity of coal oil and Misters Badden and Delaney's carriage and wagon factory.

The McMurray Hotel and several other smaller buildings sustained a severe scorching and narrowly escaped taking fire, but were saved by the strenuous and untiring exertions of the inhabitants, whose only appliances were buckets of water, wet blankets and carpets. While this mass of frame buildings was burning, although the wind was very light, coming from the north west, the heat was very intense and flames rolled along like waves of the sea, one over the other, each succeeding those licking in and consuming another of the small buildings, at the rear of the three storey block on the west side of Thames St. which seemed to catch and burn simultaneously the whole length, leaving it a heterogenous mass of ruin. Many of the buildings of this block were new or nearly so, and were occupied by Mr. Vance's bakery and confectionery store.

The Upper storey was the Masonic Hall, the store of the estate of Geo. E. Perkins, - both these stores had very handsome fronts.

Mr. Browett and Barker, Hardware; The Niagara District Bank, over which C.E. Chadwich the agent lived; Misters J. and H. Little, grocers; Alexander Gordon, Tailor; G.W. Walley, grocery and glassware; Misters McCaughey and Walsh, barristers in the upper storey of the Odd-fellows Hall.

The Chronicle Office, started the summer before and only just completed by J.S. Gurnett, editor and proprietor; north of this block on the same side were three frame buildings, demolished almost as soon as they took fire, occupied by J.F. Moorey cabinet and show room, Bryne and McGolrich saddlers; Mrs. Curtis, milliner; and dressmaker; M. Miller Grocer; Miss Webster, milliner and dressmaker; F. and G. Lewis, Photographer.

Mr. Curtis, boot and shoe maker. The next building on this side of the street was M.B. Holcroft's grocery store which, being of brick and very high, stayed the progress of the flames in this direction. His building and stock were very much damaged and will require a good deal of repair before it presents the fine appearance it did before the fire.

The remaining stores in this block were occupied by Mr. J. O'Neil, grocer; Rober Agor, broker; N. Hayes insurance agent; Warren Harris, boots and shoes; R.Y. Ellis and Bro. Hardware, all of whom had their stocks and furniture damaged by water and removal. The goods from many of the stores opposite, in the hope that they would be safe, but so fierce was the fury of the flames, that before the west side of Thames St. was half burnt, the east side caught fire and the main street of the town was one channel of fire.

When the east side of the street caught, it was utterly impassable, and the only means of saving the goods in the store and the furniture in the houses was to take them out the back doors down to the bank of the creek which runs at the rear.

This was a very difficult and tedious process, and as a consequence very little goods

Jenvey's history of Ingersoll

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the road, leaving Thames St. a mass of ruin.

The town, unprepared to subdue the ravages of the devouring element, once it was allowed to get underway, in a plea for help, had Mayor John MacDonald send a telegraph to the London fire department, and one to the Woodstock fire department. Ingersoll's own fire equipment was completely insufficient, for all they had were two force pumps of the manual rocker type.

These pumps were two-cylindrical and the handles, one on each side, were eight feet long, with four men on each handle working it up and down. With the suction hose placed in a supply of water and the handles operating up and down rapidly, a stream of water could be thrown onto the roof of a two story building.

For a convenient water supply, a number of large cisterns were constructed between King and Charles St. at the rear of the business blocks. These reservoirs were kept supplied with water from the eaves of the nearby building. The creek supplied water in case of fire in the east side of Thames St.

Royal Exchange, a large frame building two stories in height with a high pitched roof which was continued over the verandah which extended the full length of the front with upper floor, and protected by a balus-trade nearly breast high, ornamented turned pillars. The swell of the pillars would be about four feet in diameter capped with a rail about 6 by 4 inches around the top. The massive posts, which carried the roof as well as the verandah, were about one foot square and tapered slightly. The pillars forming the balus-trade were always painted white whatever the other parts of the building would be.

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Many of the fire fighters, had only water buckets, wet blankets, and carpets. By the time the London Phoenix Co., 20 members of the hook and ladders, and a company of volunteers with a Great Western Fire engine arrived, Thames St. was a sea of fire. Woodstock Fire Department had been delayed due to a late train, which was supposed to take them to Ingersoll, but they

arrived as quickly as possible in response to the town's desperate cry for aid.

For eight hours the fire continued to eat up the town. Over 80 buildings were completely destroyed and a number of other buildings were badly damaged. The estimated amount of money lost in the fire, was never really determined, but worse than all the money, the goods, the buildings, that were ruined, two lives were lost.

The true cause of the fire was never completely known, although persons near at the time of the break out, said it must have been the work of an incendiary, and that to make the work more effective, the portion of the building where the fire originated, was profusely

Exchange" in gold letters. The hotel advertised free bus service to and from railway stations, as well, it had a theatre."

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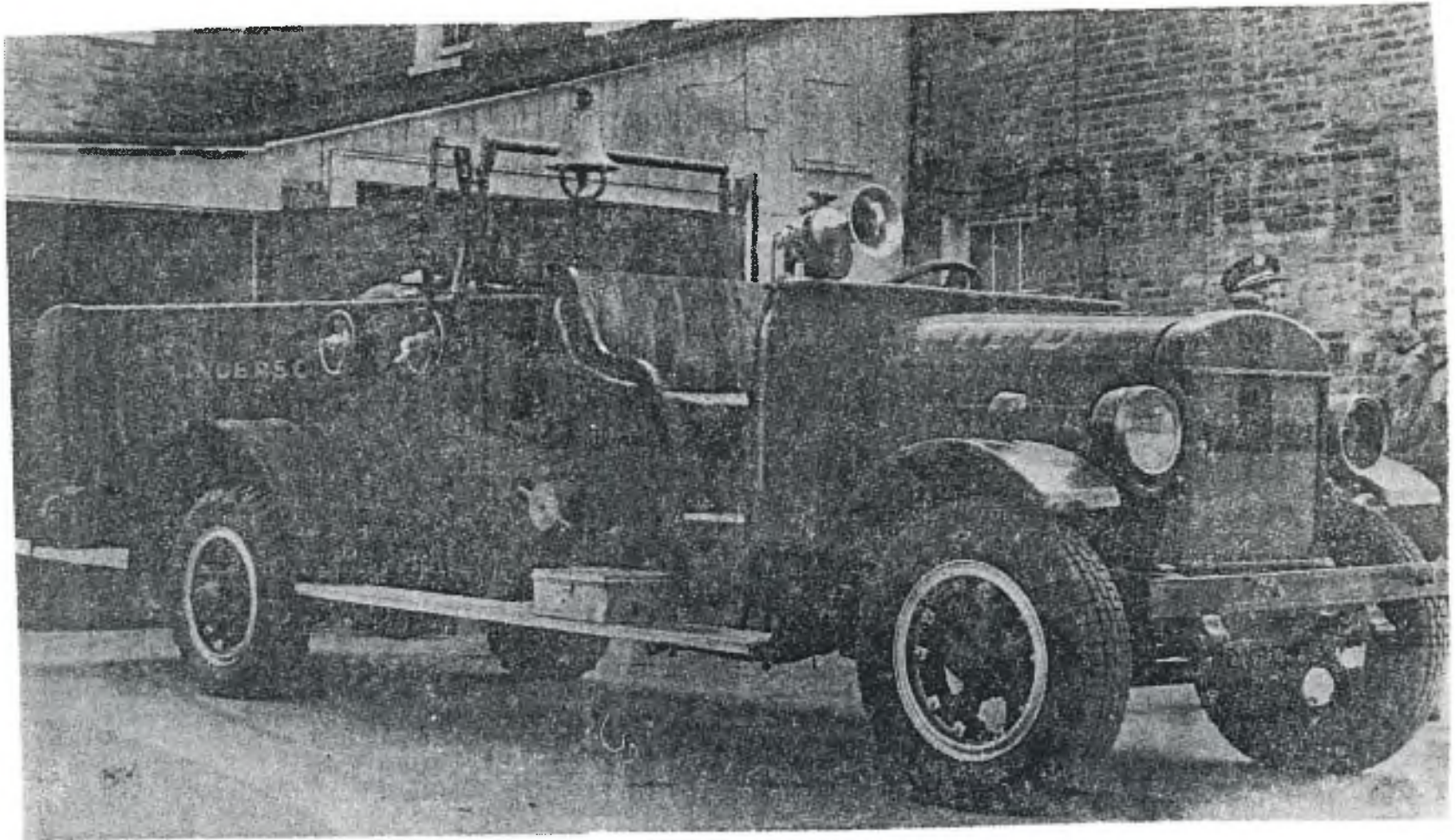
People rushed the goods from the burning buildings to the west side of Thames St., in hopes of saving their materials, but too soon all hopes were eradicated.

Although the wind coming from the north east was only a mild one, the heat was so intense, flames flew to the other side of

They reasoned that a large volume of heavy black smoke rose from the upper loft of the barn, and the barn had been vacant for some time as the new tenant had not yet taken charge of it. The new tenant said that no lights of fire in the barn had been used by him, previous to the fire.

On Nov. 15, 1873, the town realizing the inadequacy of their fire equipment, purchased new and more modern equipment. Again however, on July 20, 1894, around 11:30, another fire broke out in the town. This fire started in the Nationalist Printing Office on the south side of King St. E., and spread south, burning and ruining some 30 buildings. Here some \$30,000. was estimated to be lost.

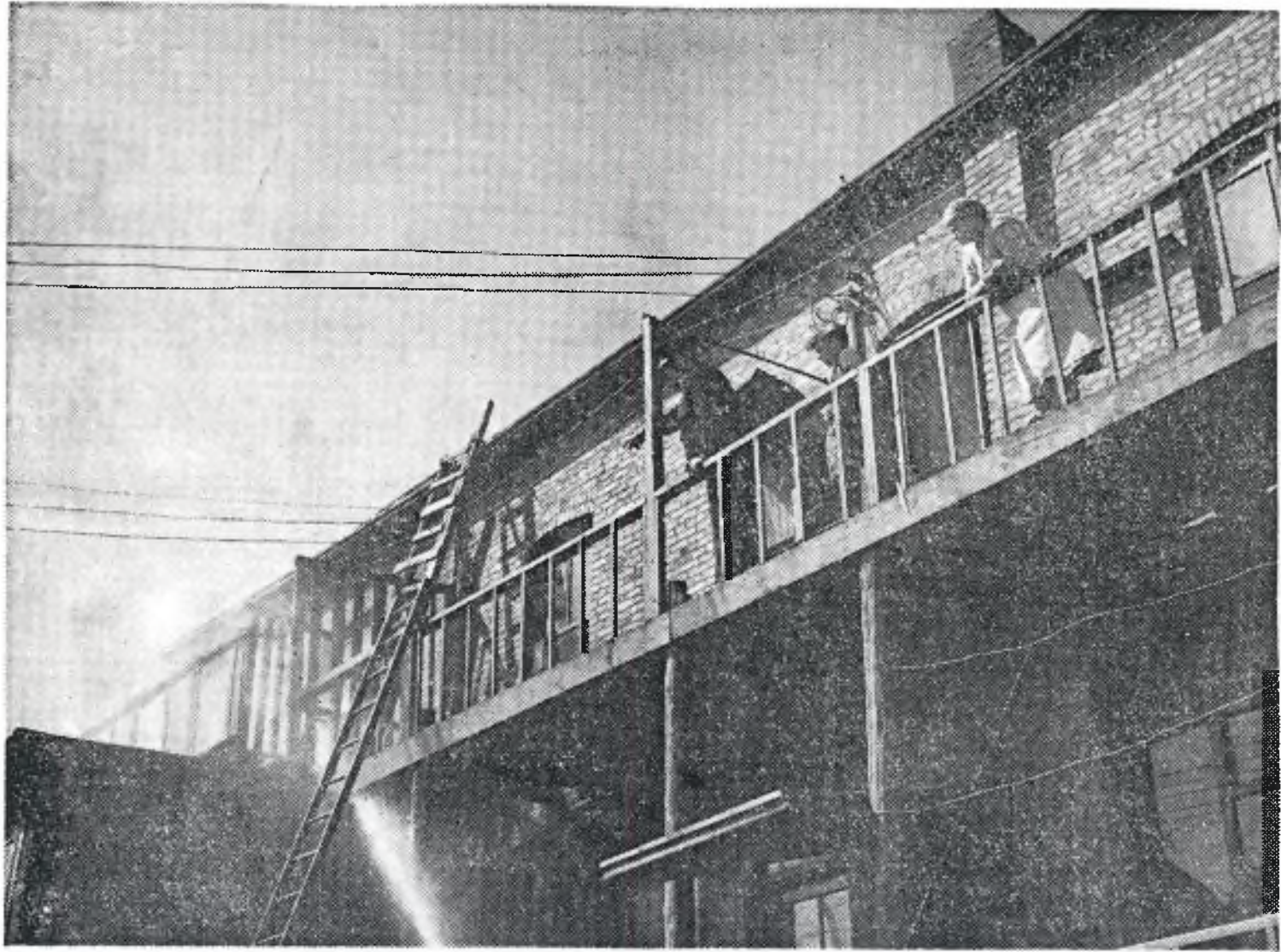
These fires were two of the worse disasters that have ever struck the town of Ingersoll.



**STILL RUNNING** and quite capable of doing a day's work if the need should arise, the Ingersoll Fire Department's oldest pumper was retired to a museum this

year. Missing a headlight but otherwise in fine form, the machine was replaced by a more versatile unit. (Staff photo)





June, 1950

**VERANDAH CATCHES FIRE**—Sparks coming from a steel drum used as an incinerator caught on the flooring of a second story porch on the back of Louis Condos' store on Thames street Thursday morning. Fire Chief

Ellis is shown here directing the men on the ground where to put the water and beside him is Fireman Ken Campbell and looking on in the background is Mrs. Louis Condos. Damage was slight. —(Staff Photo)

JUNE, 1950.

# Rescue Ingersoll Fireman

## Toppled By Smoke



SMOKE TOPPLED INGERSOLL FIREMAN BILL EMPY  
- - - while battling blaze from rooftop

NOV 23 1956



**BUT COMRADES DRAGGED HIM AWAY, UNCONSCIOUS**  
 - - and tied a rope around his body



— Free Press Staff Photos by Ken Smith and Jack Burners  
**WHEN FLAMES BROKE OUT A SECOND TIME**  
 - - - volunteers returned to help

NOV 23 1956



**WHILE A THIRD GUIDED HIS BODY OVER THE EDGE**  
# --- towards ambulance waiting below

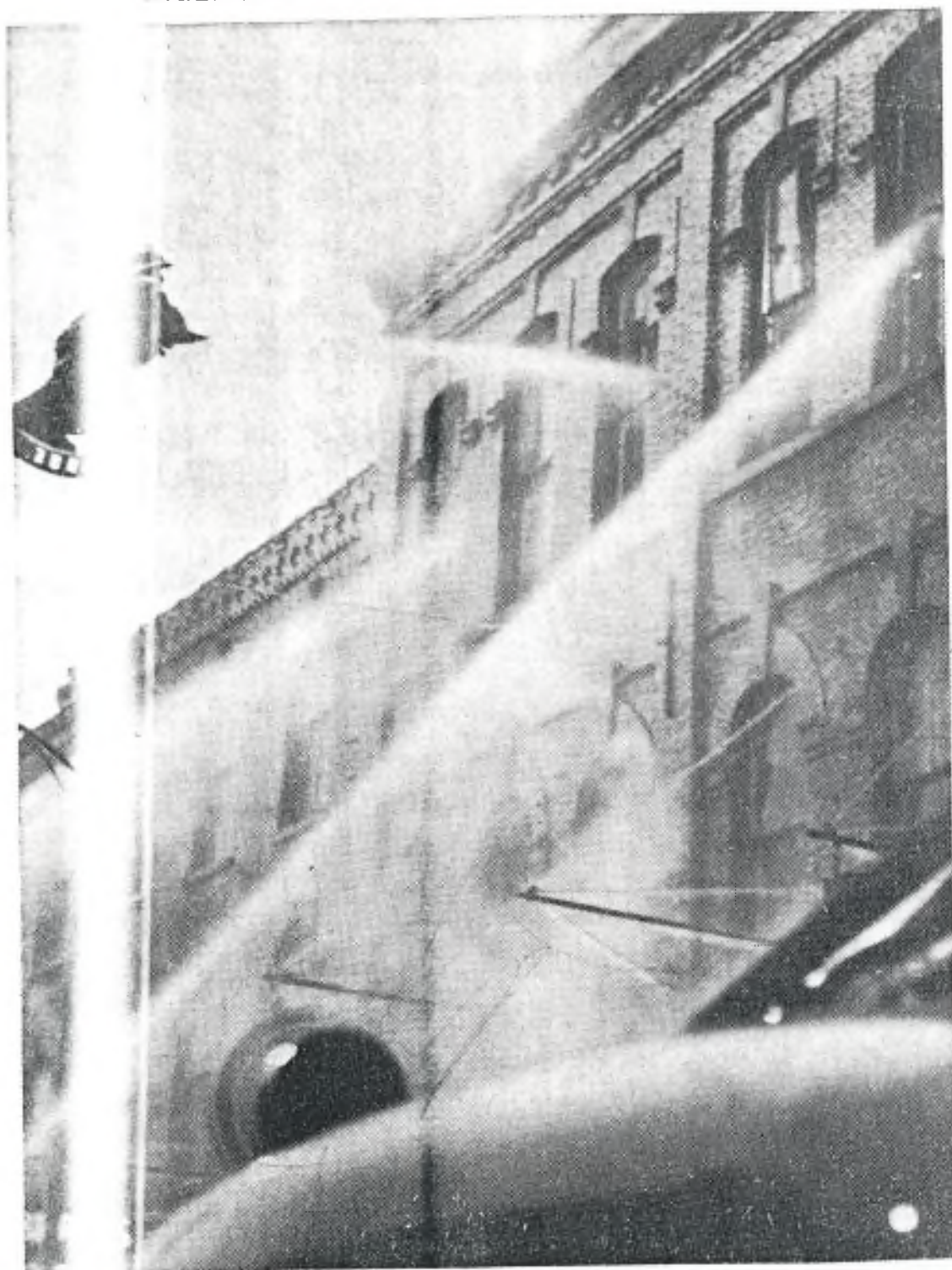
NOV 23 1956



A FOURTH KEPT TENSION AROUND A TV MAST  
--- then returned to continue the fight

Nov 23 1956

## INGERSOLL FIRE BATTLED FROM HIGH PERCH



Firemen  
checked  
this  
Public  
across

Norman "Red" Blanche literally hours in on at the top of the Utilities Commission's tower during Friday's

fire in Ingersoll. Fighting the fire from this position gave him a direct attack on the flaming windows at the front of the building. These windows lead into the apartment where the

fire started and are directly over the grocery store that was termed "a complete loss." (Additional pictures on page 5) (Staff Photo)

NOV 23 1956

# Scene Of 8-Hour Blaze Takes On Wartime Look

In a general view of the main street presented a most "ghost town" front as passing by on their way this morning.

thing is believed to have been lost. As the fire progressed later in the evening a third apartment occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Smith

Fire Aid plan to ask for help. The call was placed by Councilor Tom Cleaver for Ingersoll's Fire Chief who came down from the third

# Scene Of 8-Hour Blaze Takes On Wartime Look

Ingersoll's main street presented a grim, almost "ghost town" front to residents passing by on their way to work this morning.

The havoc of eight hours of fire and fire fighting presented a near war-torn appearance in the cruel light of a bright sunny Saturday morning. Empty windows with shreds of torn paper and shrapnel flapping in the breeze, gaping holes in what used to be the ceiling; partitions bared to sight of staring and startled strangers who looked at the upper storeys and vacant deserted looking stores standing out in sharp contrast with the gaily decorated Christmas windows added up to anything but a pretty picture.

The morning seemed calm and peaceful compared to the hectic and frightening afternoon and evening that had preceded it. It wasn't until the last danger of the fire spreading had passed that people began to speak aloud of the fears they had had that the whole east side of Thames street would go up in flames before the fire was stopped in its sweeping spread across the roof-tops. It seemed almost miraculous that no lives were lost and that only one person was injured, and not seriously.

## STARTED AT 3 O'CLOCK

The excitement started in Ingersoll at about three o'clock yesterday afternoon with the scream of the fire siren and it wasn't until 10.45 last night that exhausted, ice-coated firemen began the long and tiresome job of reeling in the hoses and getting the fire trucks ready to go back to the station after nearly eight hours of continuous fire-fighting.

Even later a dog-tired, drenched, but still determined Fire Chief Alf Schaeffer had no answer to what had caused the blaze on Ingersoll's front street that left families homeless, destroyed lodge rooms and caused inestimable damage to at least four businesses. The fire chief informed the Sentinel-Review late last night that he had called the Fire Chief Marshall's office in Toronto and that a man would be down first thing this morning.

The fire was reported shortly after three o'clock yesterday afternoon and the first person to be on the scene saw brilliant orange flames leaping inside the two northerly-most apartment windows over the Featherstone Groceries. The fire, Chief Schaeffer said, started in the apartment occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Sid Kightley and their son. Mr. Kightley told the Sentinel-Review he had been dressing in the apartment when the blaze was discovered (a friend turned in the alarm) and that finding the apartment on fire he sent his wife downstairs and followed quickly himself. Mr. Kightley added that all their belongings were lost.

## SECOND APARTMENT

The fire quickly swept across to the apartment occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Ray Lampman and their four children. Here, too, every-

thing is believed to have been lost. As the fire progressed later in the evening a third apartment occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Smith a deaf-mute couple, was also damaged by water and smoke, but late last night was believed to have suffered little or no actual fire damage.

It seemed to take only minutes for the fire to shoot up to the third storey—the Masonic Hall—and on up to the roof.

As the fire went up, smoke and the necessary water started to seep, then pour back down to the businesses below. Featherstones was the first to suffer and things happened there so fast that there was not time to save anything. One of the most heart-warming sights on that bitter cold afternoon was the way merchants from all over the business section literally ran to the aid of the merchants who were suffering the loss. As soon as it was realized Don Moon's Men's Wear was going to be damaged merchants within a matter of seconds ran into the store and started carrying out armfuls of clothing. Mr. Moon told the Sentinel-Review that thanks to the co-operation and quick help his complete stock was carried out to safety.

The scene was repeated as the fire moved south up the block with destruction moving in first to the E. J. Chisholm, optometrist office and then Neil's Shoe Store. By the time the fire had progressed to the building over the latter and the danger was realized school children were on the scene helping to carry out the stock. Stocks from the stores (some was believed to have been removed from the Roberts company store because of the smoke and water threat) were taken to the stores further up the street for safety.

## CALL FOR HELP

The Ingersoll Fire Department, all volunteers, put up a game battle. They were joined minutes after the alarm was turned in by members of the Public Utilities Commission who also gave them the use of their aerial ladder. Shortly after four o'clock a call was placed to Fire Chief Gordon Tripp in Woodstock, chief co-ordinator for the Oxford County Mutual

Fire Aid plan to ask for help. The call was placed by Councillor Tom Cleaver for Ingersoll's Fire Chief who came down from the third storey of the blazing building only long enough to talk to Chief Tripp.

The Beachville Fire Department headed by Chief Hacker sped quickly to the scene and soon joined the Ingersoll Department in fighting the now blazing fire. Fire Chief Tripp, as Chief Co-ordinator for Oxford was also on the scene immediately and from the other direction came the Thamesford Fire Department headed by Chief Noad.

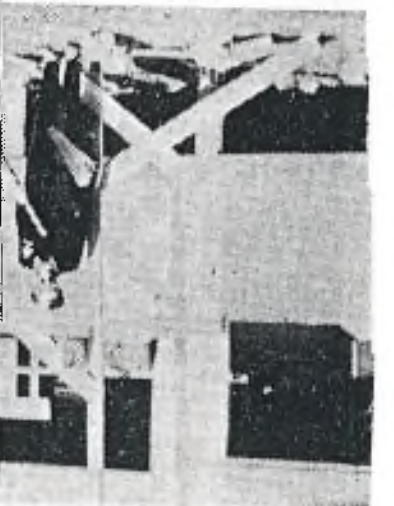
The three departments attacked the fire from the front of the building the rear of the building and from on the roof. Altogether nine lines of hose were turned on the buildings.

It didn't take long for a crowd to gather on the front street and as five o'clock came the crowd increased to hundreds. Police Chief Leslie J. Pengelly called out his full force and the streets were patrolled continually to keep the crowd, especially the children back from the danger zones.

## SECOND OUTBREAK

By six o'clock, three hours after the blaze had started, it looked as if the fire was under control. No flames had been seen for some time and the smoke and steam had died down. The departments began to relax and in a little while the Beachville Department was

(Continued on Page 5)



## ROMAN YEAR ONLY 10 MONTHS LONG

In the earliest Roman calendar the year was divided into ten months, the last being named December, from the Latin decem, meaning ten. The name was retained for the last month when the year was divided into twelve units.

Tenth month, last month, any month. Classified Ads are ready to go into action for you. To sell, buy, rent, find, hire, call LE 7-5517 in Woodstock or Ingersoll 45.

NOV 25 1956

# Fight Blaze

(Continued from Page One)

They were damaged by smoke and water.

## Ice-Coated Helmets

Firemen, in ice-coated helmets, hunched over hoses in the centre of Thames street as they poured thousands of gallons of water in the burning building.

Firemen fought to stop the flames at two major points — firewalls at either end of the partially-destroyed block.

The fire, which broke out about 3 p.m. and was brought under control by 6 p.m. by firemen from four departments, but burst into renewed life just as firefighters began rolling up their hoses.

## Second-Storey Start

Fire first broke out in a second-storey apartment above Featherstone's Red and White store. It quickly spread to the third floor Masonic Lodge and another apartment.

Stores damaged in the first blaze were:

Neill shoe store; Moon's men's wear; Roberts ladies' wear; A. J. Chisholm's optometry office; Walker's furniture store.

Robert Carr, proprietor of Carr's hardware across Thames street from Featherstone's store, was one of the first to notice the fire. Mr. Carr said he was talking to two travelers in the front of his store and noticed smoke seeping from a second-floor window above the grocery.

## Saw Small Glow

"I saw a small glow and curtains at the window burst into flames," Mr. Carr told The Free Press. "It all happened within a few moments.

"I immediately telephoned an alarm to the fire hall."

Harold Featherstone, owner of the grocery store, said he was at a near-by restaurant getting coffee for his staff when a cashier came running to tell him his store was on fire.

"We started carrying cases of stock out but had only removed a few when firemen stopped us," the store owner recalled. "They were afraid the ceiling was going to collapse."

Hundreds of curious citizens jammed the sidewalk on the opposite side of the street for a block craning their necks to watch the rooftop battle. Freezing weather conditions froze spray from dozens of hoses almost before it hit the ground.

## Eleven Homeless

Eleven persons were left homeless in the blaze which started in a second-storey apartment above

prietor Jack Watson, of the St. Charles Hotel, and Bakery Owner Bernie Zurbrigg, provided hot coffee for weary, chilled firefighters.

Scores of Ingersoll citizens aided merchants in the threatened stores to remove stock. Smoke and water damage was heavy in the business places.

## Fireman Collapses

Fireman William Empy collapsed while fighting the blaze from a rooftop. He was rushed to Alexandra Hospital in Walker's ambulance which was standing by in the event of injuries.

Frank Allen, building superintendent at Ingersoll Inn apartments which has vacant living quarters, offered free overnight accommodations to the homeless.

Firemen were pouring thousands of gallons on the flames from adjacent rooftops, the street at the front of the block, and rear alleys.

## Fourth Blaze

It was the fourth major business block fire here in the past four years. In October 1953, Christie's electrical store was burned out; in December the following year, fire destroyed Eaton's order office and the Morello fruit store, and a year ago next month Ingersoll Arena was destroyed in a \$50,000 blaze.

Ingersoll Mayor Donald Bower, who leaves tomorrow to assume a new post with the Bell Telephone Company at Toronto, had warm praise for Woodstock Fire Chief Gordon Tripp who rushed to slippery miles to assist Ingersoll Chief Alf Schaefer in directing the firefighters' efforts.

NOV 23 1956



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They were identified as Mr. Wesley Smith who lived in an apartment above Nell shoe store; Mr. and Mrs. Ray Lampman and their four children who lived in the quarters where the blaze is thought to have started above Featherstone's groceteria, and Mr. and Mrs. Sid Kettley and one child, who resided with the Lampmans.

Firemen from Ingersoll, Beachville, Thamesford and Woodstock working in an almost blinding snowstorm, were still battling the roaring flames at midnight. They were aided by employees of Ingersoll PUC and Dominion Natural Gas Company, called to the scene to disconnect power and gas lines.

#### Two Alarms

Commenting on claims that Ingersoll Fire Department was slow in reaching the fire, Councilor Thomas Cussons said "... firemen left the firehall as soon as the major alarm was received."

"Firemen said they had a short alarm and when they answered there was no one on the line," Councilor Cousens said. "A second alarm followed right after the first call and swung into action."

Ingersoll Fire Department is made up of 12 volunteers who hold down full-time jobs. The only paid official is Fire Chief Alfred Schaefer. All 12 had to be summoned from their various jobs as soon as the alarm was received.

Traffic on Thames street the town's main thoroughfare and route of the trans-provincial No. 2 Highway—was blocked. Vehicles were being re-routed by way of side streets.

In the second outbreak, which lit up the sky for miles around, flames crackled through a fire-wall on the building's second or third floor. Within an hour the hungry tongues of fire had devoured a second firewall.

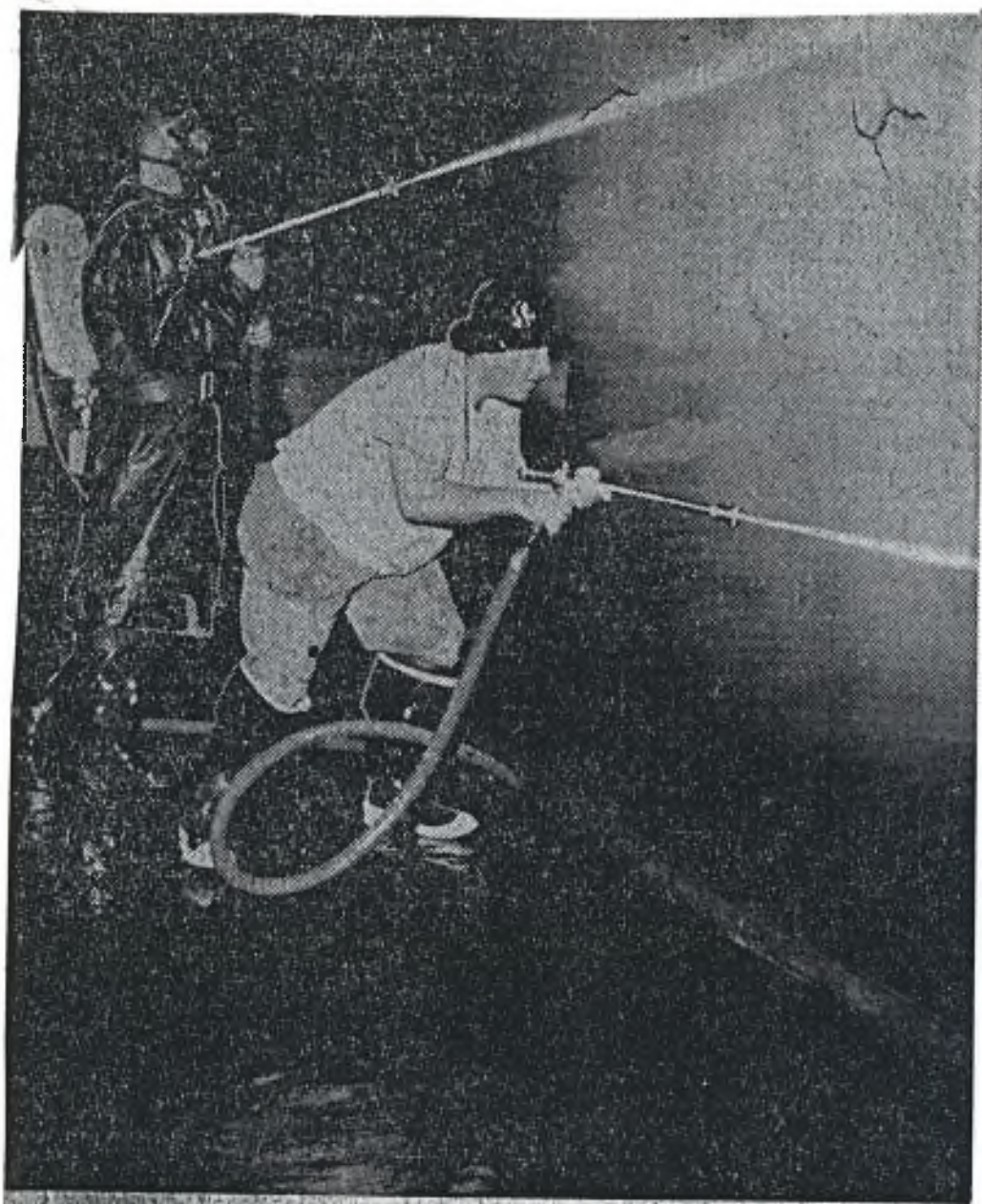
Members of Ingersoll town council were also on hand to assist firefighting operations. Local Salvation Army officials, Pro-

Nov 23 1956



Hundreds of Ingersoll citizens crowded the downtown area to watch the fire. Police had to route traffic away from No. 2 Highway past the building while Ingersoll and Beachville firemen fought the blaze.

APR 1957



Firemen moved in from all angles to pour tons of water into Mid-States of Canada Limited trailer plant in Jagersoll last night in a three-hour battle to douse a fire which gutted the company's office.

APR. 1957.



**FIREMAN CAMPBELL**

## Completes Course For Firefighters

**INGERSOLL** — Ken Campbell, Firefighter with the local detachment has returned to duty after spending two weeks at the Ontario Fire College at Gravenhurst where he successfully passed Parts Two and Three of the Fire Officers Course.

This is Mr. Campbell's second course of instruction at the College. Last year he studied Part One. Parts Two and Three taken this term deal with subjects such as the instruction of firemen, arson detection, the Fire Marshall's Act and Administration.

Fire Chief Leslie Harlow commended Mr. Campbell on the fine marks obtained and stated that the new knowledge brought back with him to the Ingersoll detachment will be ofestimable benefit.

507 1965



—Free Press Photos by Ken Smith  
Firemen chop through flaming roof covering the office portion of the plant to direct a stream of water into the fire. Cause of the blaze is not known.

APR 1957



**FATAL FIRE** — James Finucan, 41, of 58 Victoria St., Ingersoll, died when he was trapped in his smoke - filled bedroom yesterday after his brother, Michael, woke him and warned him their house was

on fire. Michael rescued their elderly mother but could not get back to James, whose body was found near the upper right window on the southeast side of the house. (Photo by Longfield)

# Ingersoll Man, 40, Dies In Fire, Three Escape

APR 1957 *April 1957*

**INGERSOLL** — James Aocius Finucan, 40, died in the early hours of Sunday morning in a fire which swept through the two-storey family home at 58 Victoria Street, Ingersoll.

Two brothers, Michael 33 and Joseph 31, as well as their mother Mrs. Mary Finucan escaped unhurt from the burning house.

Firemen and Ingersoll Ambulance Service personnel removed Mr. Finucan's body from an upper front bedroom of the still-burning house after battling the stubborn fire for over two hours.

He was pronounced dead at the scene by the Coroner, Dr. George H. Emery, Ingersoll.

According to police, Mrs. Finucan and Jim had retired to their upstairs bedrooms after watching a televised hockey game. Mike and Joe remained downstairs.

Mike stated to police that he went to the basement to check on the furnace and restoke it with wood and then rejoined Joe where the two were watching a movie on the television set in the living room.

#### MADE COFFEE

Some time later Mike went out to the kitchen to make coffee and upon his return to the living room he could not see his brother through the smoke.

Rousing Joe, who was somewhat overcome, Mike dashed upstairs to rouse his mother and brother James whom he found asleep, dressed, upon his bed.

The upper part of the house was full of smoke by this time so Mike put a knee through the window of James' room but could not awaken his brother.

Concerned about his mother, Mike rushed downstairs where he found that his mother, who had gone downstairs, was returning to the top floor. She was led to safety by Mike.

About this time Donald Hutson of 112 Metcalfe Street was walking along Victoria Street, saw the smoke at the Finucan home and dashed into the house. Both Mr. Hutson and Mike Finucan tried in vain to mount the stairs and reach James who was calling for help by this time.

Witnesses said that James appeared briefly at the window, calling for help and then appeared to collapse. His body was found in his room, lying just below the window.

Constables Wayne Millard and David MacKenzie answered the fire call, turned in by a neighbor shortly before 2 a.m., by cruiser. The officers attempted to enter the burning house but were forced back by dense smoke. They had to restrain the brothers from re-entering the burning house.

Firemen arrived on the scene quickly but found the blaze difficult to control because the



**INGERSOLL FIREMEN** are seen battling a stubborn house fire on Victoria Street which claimed the life of one of the

occupants, James A. Finucan, 40. Two brothers and the mother escaped unharm- ed. Mr. Finucan's body was

recovered from the upper right hand room of the residence.

recently-renovated house had false ceilings. The home was of frame covered with stucco.

Greatest fire damage was confined to the back kitchen, the staircase and the upper floor. The living room was practically untouched by fire although it suffered water damage.

The Coronation Furniture office immediately west of the burning house had a wall partition melted as a result of the intense heat belching from an open doorway of the burning building. The owner, William Priddy of Oxford Street was called to the scene.

The cause of the fire is undetermined and is being investigated by the Fire Marshal's

office. Cause of death also has not been released but is believed to have been caused by smoke inhalation.

Below-freezing temperatures made the long fight to put out the fire a chilly one for the firefighters with the water freezing on the ground and walking conditions hazardous.

Around 4 a.m. hot coffee was handed out by Samuel Scofield who lived nearby. Firemen were on the scene for about four hours.

Born at Linwood, Ontario, son of Mrs. Mary Finucan and the late John James Finucan, he resided in Linwood and Port Burwell before coming to Ingersoll to reside about 24 years

ago. He was a welder at Ingersoll Machine Co. for the past four years and a member of Sacred Heart Church and the Knights of Columbus.

His father predeceased him in January, 1963.

Surviving are his mother; six brothers, John of Brantford, Bartley of Woodstock; Lorne of Sudbury; Thomas, Michael, Joseph all of Ingersoll; three sisters, Mrs. Thomas (Rita) Tonks of Dartmouth, N.S.; Sister Mary James of St. Mary's Hospital, Chatham; Sister Saint Jude of Kingsville.

Friends will be received at the Walker and Clifton Funeral Home, 88 King St., W., Ingersoll until 9.45 a.m. tomorrow, then to Sacred Heart Church for Requiem High Mass sung by Rev. J. E. Brisson at 10 a.m.

Interment will be made in Sacred Heart Cemetery.

APR. 1957

# Veteran Flees Burning Home Barefoot In Frigid Weather

## Artificial Leg Lost In Flames

INGERSOLL — An Ingersoll war veteran, and his wife and two children, had a narrow brush with death in the early hours of this morning when fire gutted their home at 169 Margaret St.

Just before 5 a. m. today, Arthur L. Hibbert was awakened by his wife who smelled smoke.

Mr. Hibbert, minus his artificial leg, grabbed his crutches and headed for the combined basement-garage. The place was full of smoke, so overpowering, along with the intense heat, that Mr. Hibbert had to force his way out of the basement door. Before going he called to his wife upstairs to get the children out in a hurry.

Mrs. Hibbert managed to get slippers on herself and the two children, John 11 and Ivan 10, before going out into the sub-

zero weather, but Mr. Hibbert, unable to get upstairs, went out into the snow barefooted.

The family was taken in out of the cold by a next door neighbor, Mrs. Marion Moon, and the fire department was called. The firemen managed to get a line in operation right away, but another was useless for almost an hour because of a frozen hydrant.

Although the outside of the house, apart from a few broken windows, was not damaged, the inside, along with the contents, were considered a total loss. No estimate of the damage was available, but Mr. Hibbert said he had some insurance.

Mr. Hibbert, 46, an employee of Morrow Screw and Nut in Ingersoll, lost his leg in the battle of Caen in 1944 while serving with the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa.

The loss of his artificial leg in the fire was a blow to Mr. Hibbert. He had no spare. However, thankful that his wife and children were saved, he said "I guess I'll just have to get around on crutches until I can get a replacement for my leg."



JAN 1966



**FIREMEN EXAMINE** the five-gallon gasoline container which exploded in the back seat of a car yesterday at 2.25 p.m. severely burning Tommy

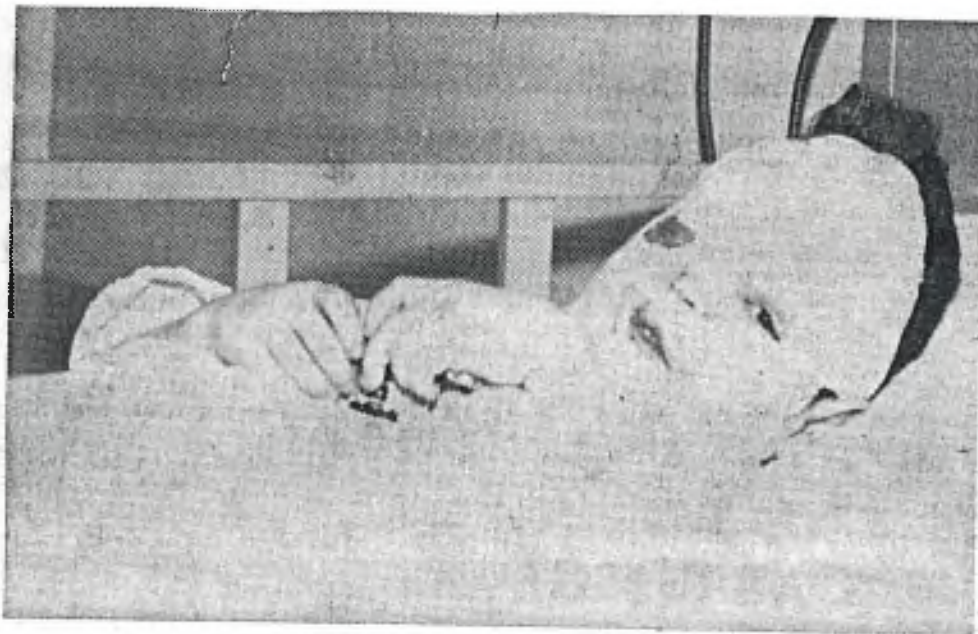
Bruce aged six. Fireman Ken Campbell is seen holding the can which was one of two containers in the auto while

Fireman Max Barker examines the twisted lid. Fire Chief Leslie Harlow is seen centre.

## Boy Suffers Severe Burns As Gasoline Cans Explode

FEB. 1966.





## RECOVERS FROM EXPLOSION

Tommy Bruce, 6, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Bruce of RR 2 Ingersoll is in Alexandra Hospital, Ingersoll, with first and second degree burns to his face and hands received in a gasoline fire yesterday. The

fire was started in the back seat of the Bruce car where Tommy and two younger sisters were left while Mrs. Bruce was shopping. Two five - gallon gasoline cans were found in the back seat

of the car. An explosion was apparently caused when one of the youngsters lit a match. The two girls aged 5, and 4, were not injured. (See additional pictures, story, on page 5.)

**INGERSOLL** — Tommy Bruce, 6, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Bruce of R. R. 2, Ingersoll, sustained painful first and second degree burns to his face and hands yesterday afternoon. Two five - gallon gasoline containers in the back seat of the family car caught fire. The vehicle was parked on King Street East.

The gasoline containers which had been taken into town by Mrs. Bruce for refilling were empty at the time except for normal residue in the cans. One

exploded and the other blew the cap off and burned fiercely.

Tommy with his sisters Emily 5 and Betty 4 had been left in the auto while their mother went to a store a few doors up the street. It is believed that the children found some matches which they lighted and thus ignited the gasoline fumes.

So violent was the explosion of the one five - gallon can that the bottom of the container was forced out to maximum convex bulge and the lid was blown off and twisted. This container was of the type used for oil and had a total top lid. The plastic spout and handle were melted. The second can did not explode but belched flame.

Little Tommy was attempting to make his way out of the car when the plight of the children was noticed by Mrs. Frank Ingham of Evelyn Street who was in the vicinity. Mrs. Ingham removed the children from the car and took them into the Debonaire Hair Styling Shop. There the proprietor Miss Linda Harrison notified the police and fire departments.

### LOUD EXPLOSION

The explosion was heard by a number of persons in the locality. Ralph Gordon of Lloyd Hall Motors which is directly across the street from where the car was parked ran out with a fire extinguisher and had the blaze under control by the time firemen arrived within minutes at

the scene. Mr. Gordon who resides at 126 Cherry Street said that he noticed a partial book of matches lying on the front seat of the car.

It is believed that when the mishap occurred the little girls were in the front seat and as a result were not burned as was their brother who was in the back seat. Upholstery in the back of the car was badly burned.

Constables George Laucek and James Carney responded to the call and removed Tommy to Alexandra Hospital. Dr. John Lawson attended the child in Emergency. It is expected that the youngster will be hospitalized for several days.

Mrs. Bruce, badly shocked by the incident, stated that she was positive there were no matches in the car but that it was possible the children managed to find some. Firemen stated they found burned matches in the car.

Mrs. Bruce remarked, "This has been a lesson to me to never leave the children alone in the car and never never to carry gasoline containers inside the car. I sincerely hope that what happened to my little boy will warn other parents as well. It only takes a few moments when your back is turned for something dreadful like this to happen.

"We are grateful to the many people who helped and that Tommy is alive".

FEB. 1966.

## AT ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

# Chloroform Is Ignited, Fire Alarms Went Off

INGERSOLL — The automatic fire alarm at Alexandra Hospital was activated yesterday when chloroform being used in the laboratory ignited.

Alan Roberts, laboratory technician, was beating a small amount of chloroform while performing a test when the liquid ignited. The rapid increase in temperature in the room triggered the heat rate sensing device setting off the fire alarm in both the hospital and the fire hall.

Firemen immediately checked with the hospital to find that a hand extinguisher had been

used to put out the blaze. Mr. Roberts sustained a slight hand burn.

Peter Bree, hospital administrator, stated that there was no damage and that the alarm which rang in the hospital for 40 seconds served the purpose of a practice alert and acquainted the staff with the meaning of the fire alarm.

MAY 1966

# 53 Calls Answered By Ingersoll Fire De

INGERSOLL — The Fire Department is one of the public guardians that never goes off duty. Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week the fire fighters guard the residents of Ingersoll, their homes, places of business and all properties within the town.

These guardians of person and property are taken for granted most of the time with the citizens comfortably aware that the dialing of a number will bring aid if fire or some other emergency strikes.

In the past year the department answered 53 calls and two false alarms. This was seven less than the previous year. The fire loss total was approximately \$14,925. This amount was higher than 1964 by \$2,000. The per capita fire loss for the town was approximately \$2.

The local department is linked with the Mutual Aid System with Thamesford, Beachville and Woodstock. This means that in the event of a large fire one community may be asked to come to the aid of another. At no time in mutual aid is any community left unprotected because another community will automatically "cover" the community whose equipment has gone out on mutual aid.

### 10 VOLUNTEERS

Ten of the firemen who take their turns on night duty are volunteer men who work at their regular jobs during the daytime. A night man comes on

duty at six in the evening and remains on the premises until it is time for him to leave for his daytime job and he is relieved by another fireman.

What happens when the phone rings in the Fire Hall? The "fire calls only" telephone is connected with the large fire bell which will not cease its loud clanging until the phone is lifted.

Wrong numbers often cause the firemen much concern. Sometimes a surprised voice will say, "Sorry, wrong number" but at other times when the caller realizes he has a wrong number he will hang up.

This situation is a worry to the Department because the firefighters are never sure it has been a wrong number. Their fear is that the caller perhaps has been overcome by smoke and dropped the phone back on its cradle, or the fire was coming too close or there was an emergency and the phone was hung up by a person who did not want the call to go through.

It would be a great help to the firefighters if persons who inadvertently dial the fire hall would tell the fireman that he or she has dialed the wrong number.

If the call is not a wrong number but is a legitimate fire or emergency call, the caller may be cool and collected, giving the necessary information in a quick summary of name, street and number, type of fire and

general location. Another caller may babble frantically and the fireman may have a difficult time getting information.

### ALERT OFF-DUTY MEN

When a fire call comes in the answering fireman goes into action. The location is written on the information board; off-duty firemen are alerted by means of two shrill whistle blasts over the monitors of the short-wave system which is installed in every fireman's home. Then the location of the fire is announced.

It is the responsibility of the firemen on duty to get the big pumper truck out and to the fire. Although it may seem a long time for the person awaiting the arrival of the firemen at the scene of the fire it is estimated that the firemen have the truck on its way within three minutes of receiving the call.

The Fire Chief, Leslie Harlow, takes his turn on day or night shifts as well as two regular firemen. There are 10 volunteers. If you need their assistance the voice of any one of them will answer you call quickly with, "Fire Hall!"

### TOOK COURSES

Two members of the local Department spent two weeks at the training centre at Gravenhurst. Max Barker took an officers' training course in July and Ken Campbell attended in September. These were conducted by the Fire Marshal's office.

# YMCA Burns

Nov. 1966

**INGERSOLL** — The Ingersoll YMCA was hit by fire for the second time in two years when police and John Justason, an Ingersoll resident, discovered smoke coming from the upper windows at 2.15 this morning.

Firemen fought the blaze for half-an-hour before bringing it under control. Serious fire damage was confined to the top floor with water and smoke damage to the first floor.

The YMCA is presently located in the Bell Telephone building on King Street West. This site has been used as a Y since the original YMCA on Oxford Street burned on April 23, 1964.

Fire Chief Leslie Harlow stated it is thought the blaze started from careless cigarette smoking in the lounge. A teenage dance had been held there last night.

The fire was confined to the Y building although the stores on either side belonging to Astro Electronics and Faber Feeds received smoke damage.

Several firefighters received cuts from broken glass and were given first aid by police and Dr. John Lawson, YMCA president.

Constables George Laucek and Wayne Millard gave the alarm to the fire hall.

Chief Harlow said there was no estimate of damage as yet.

Goldy's taxi reopened its place of business near the scene of the fire and provided hot drinks for firemen and police.

The Y has been conducting its annual campaign for funds during the past two weeks.



YMCA BUILDING on King Street West, Ingersoll was severely damaged by fire during the early hours of this morning. Dense smoke is seen pouring from the upper windows as firemen fight the blaze.



Extensive damage was done to the Y. M. C. A. by a fire early Saturday morning when the upper floor was swept with flames. Firemen had the fire under control but not before the whole building suffered from smoke and water damage.

## Teen Ager's Spend Week-End Scrubbing The YMCA

A. B. Clark, Carmen Mott, Less Downham, spent the entire weekend cleaning and restoring the building to order after the early morning fire Saturday.

Fire was discovered in the building about 2.20 A. M. and was brought under control within minutes by the Ingersoll Fire Department. Earlier that evening a Y. M. C. A. teen town dance had been held in the building.

There was business as usual at the Y. M. C. A. Tuesday morning in spite of the weekend fire that practically ruined the second floor and caused considerable smoke and water damage to the first floor and basement. Teenage members of the "Y" supervised by Y. M. C. A. directors, Dr. John Lawson, President; Ross Beacom, Vice-President, staff members and chaperones had detected no traces of problem when they closed the "Y" shortly before midnight.

Nov 1966

## **Tell Baby Sitter What To Do If There Is A Fire**

If you employ a baby sitter to watch over your children when you and your husband are away for an afternoon or evening, choose a babysitter competent and qualified for the job, the Canadian Underwriters' Association said today.

The CUA gave these suggestions:

1. Choose a baby sitter whom you know, one that has a sense of responsibility, and likes children.
2. Have the sitter meet the children before you leave, so they will become accustomed to her.
3. Introduce the sitter to any pets you may have, particularly the family dog.
4. Give the baby sitter a card with the telephone number of where you can be reached, the numbers of the fire and police departments, and of your family doctor.
5. Show the sitter all the exits from the house or apartment and provide her with a flashlight to be used in case the lights go out. Explain to the sitter that in the event of fire, she should get the children out of the house, then call the fire department, preferably from a neighbors' house. Then after she has done these things, she may notify you. Remind her that no one should re-enter a burning building.
6. Tell the sitter the time when you expect to return. Be sure to telephone her if you are unavoidably delayed.

# **Father saves 6 children as home burns**

INGERSOLL — Six children, including two sets of twins, were rescued from their beds and taken down a flaming stairway yesterday morning by their father.

Gale Kelly carried 20-month-old twins Sandra and Scott and four-year-old Jean and Janet while guiding sons Deryck, 5, and Boyd, 6, from their top-floor bedrooms.

All escaped safely, as well as Mrs. Kelly.

The fire at 116 Charles St. started in a closet beneath the stairway where paint, wallpaper and Christmas presents were stored. Spontaneous combustion was blamed for the outbreak that caused \$6,000 damage.

The Kellys are staying temporarily with relatives. Owner of the house, Mary Empey, of Ingersoll, left last week for Florida.

DEC. 1966

## **APPEAL TO CITIZENS**

# **Wrong Number Calls Irk Ingersoll Fire Fighters**

INGERSOLL — The Fire Department again issues an appeal to citizens to check the telephone number they are calling before they dial. Numerous wrong numbers have been received lately on the fire phone, much to the concern and annoyance of the Department.

Firemen emphasize that the "Fire Only" number must be used for that purpose alone or in case of any other emergency requiring Department response.

For persons requiring information in general from the Fire Hall or wishing to contact any person there, there is a second number which is a non-emergency one.

Of greatest concern to the Department is the caller who rings the fire telephone and upon realizing it is a wrong number simply hangs up without any explanation. Firemen point out that they have no way of knowing whether it really is a wrong number or whether the caller has perhaps been overcome by smoke or some other cause and the phone dropped back on the cradle.

The Fire Department requests the assistance of all citizens in the elimination of these wrong number or non-emergency calls on the emergency phone. Not only do they tie up this phone without need but they activate the fire bell and cause concern.

# Family Of 8 Flees Ingersoll Blaze

INGERSOLL — A father of the main staircase where the six suffered burns to his feet as family had stored this year's Christmas presents.

he carried his children to safety as fire destroyed their rented home here this morning.

Gale Kelly of 116 Charles St. W. carried his children down a burning staircase after fire was discovered in their home shortly after 3 a.m. today.

The fire was discovered when Mrs. Kelly was awakened by smoke and alerted her husband. The couple then rushed to save their children. The fire gouged the interior of the large white brick home, destroying most of the family possessions.

Firemen reported later, however, that some of the furniture might be salvaged. The Kellys carried no fire insurance.

Firemen said they believed the fire began in a closet under

Heat during the fire was intense enough to melt and stop a kitchen clock at 7.30 a.m. — half an hour before the fire was discovered by the family.

The family was taken in by next door neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Grant Swackhammer, and are now with Mrs. Kelly's mother, Mrs. Irene Freemantle.

The Kelly family has two sets of twins, Scott and Sandra, two years of age; Jean and Janet, four; and two other children, Deryck 5, and Boyd, 6.

The Kellys rented the home from Miss Mary Empey of Canterbury Street. Miss Empey is absent in Florida.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Kelly are employed at the Ingersoll Inn.



FOUR OF the Kelly children are shown with their grandmother, Mrs. Irene Freemantle, who is embracing Jean, 4, and Sandra, 2, while Boyd, 6, left, and Deryck, 5, right, stand by on either side.

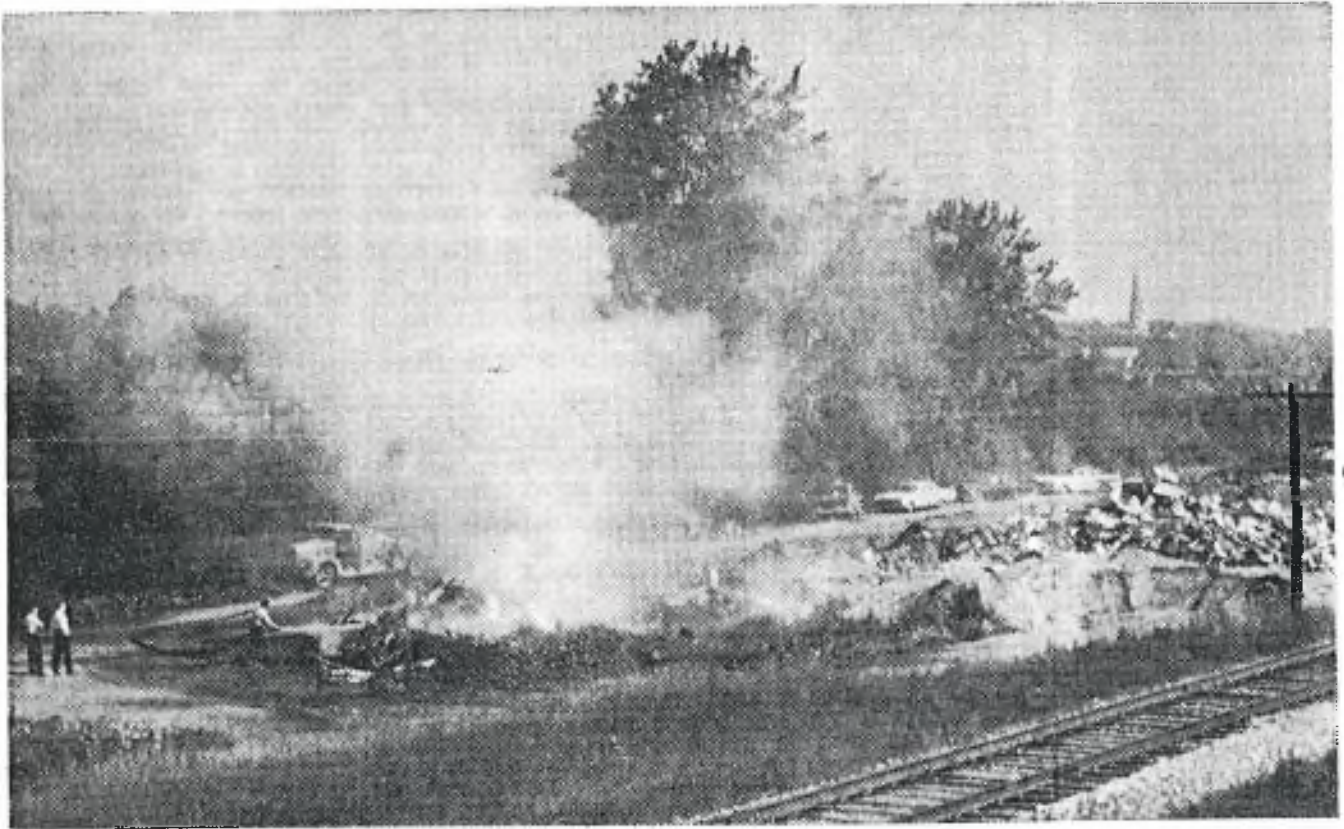


Ingersoll firemen win their battle against flames at 116 Charles St., after a family of eight escaped unharmed.



DEC 1966.

Mrs. Fred Freemantle, 220 Merritt St., Ingersoll, comforts grandchildren Jean and Sandra Kelly, ages 4 and 2, and their brothers, Boyd, 6, and Deryck, 5, after fire ravaged their Ingersoll home. (Photos by Longfield).



## FIREMEN EXTINGUISH DUMP BLAZE

Ingersoll firemen found themselves literally down in the dumps last Friday when they made a trip to the town dump to quell a blaze which

was burning fiercely in a pile of discarded building material. The huge billows of smoke could be seen in many sections of town and brought

many curious to the Charles Street West road overlooking the dump. Firemen went to the dump after a citizen com-

plained of the smoke. Combustible material brought to the dump is burned by board of works crews.



OCT 1961

Ken Campbell, one of the three regular firemen employed by the town is shown at one of the routine jobs to re-charge extinguishers, a necessary part of their fire fighting equipment.



# Fire Chief Recommends Town Buy New Fire Truck

The annual report of the Ingersoll Fire Department for 1971 submitted by Fire Chief Les Harlow, was received by council Monday evening. After it was read, Councillor Jack Warden said he thought that the department was doing an excellent job and he recommended that the suggestions that the chief included in his report be looked into further. Councillor Warden said that he would not want to trade our present fire department for any other.

One of the suggestions in the report was that the town replace the ladder truck as the present one is 26 years old. The pumper truck is 14 years old and Chief Harlow says they both are getting to the point where major repairs will soon be required. Councillor Warden said that the town should seriously consider replacing the older truck and that if both ever had to be replaced in the same year it would be hard on the town's finances.

The fire chief recommends that the ladder truck be replaced with an aerial or snorkel type of truck.

Also suggested in the report was the extension of the water main on Whiting Street from Holcroft, to Clarks corners, and the installation of two hydrants on that line for the protection of dwellings in that area. At present there is insufficient hose to reach the town limits from the hydrants nearest there.

The report gave a figure of \$124,195 as an estimate of the loss caused by fire in the last year. Per capita this loss is about \$16.

One call was made to the fire department for Mutual Aid during the year and the system was called upon by the Ingersoll Department once. That was for help in extinguishing the fire at the Ingersoll Planing Mill last August.

During the year, three

volunteer firemen were added to the Ingersoll Fire Department bring the total staff to 13 volunteer fire fighters and three full time.

The chief also reported that he was not required to take any disciplinary action against any member of the department during the year.

There were 57 calls made in the year: 10 involved dwellings; 10, grass fires; eight car fires; three industrial; three, merchantile and 23 miscellaneous.

Oxford County rabies clinics were held in the fire hall twice during the year and 179 school children, cubs and boyscouts toured the fire hall in the year.

FEB, 1972.

## NOT IN BUDGET THIS YEAR

# Town defers purchase of a new fire vehicle

**INGERSOLL** — Ingersoll won't be getting a new fire truck this year to replace a 26-year-old ladder truck.

Councillor J. T. Warden told *The Sentinel - Review* today, however, council is still shopping for fire truck.

The fire department in February told council the ladder truck and a pumper truck were reaching the stage where major repairs would be needed.

### COSTS

"We are still looking at cost estimates and getting ideas," said Councillor Warden, "and we can't buy a new truck this year because it would have to be written into the budget."

Councillor Warden said council is talking in terms of a \$40,000 truck.

Meanwhile, pending regional government might be the deciding factor on whether or not the town gets a new truck now or later.

"Fire departments could come under a regional set-up," said the councillor, "but I don't think it will make any difference to a fire hall operating out of the town."

"And anyway, regional government is about five years away, and, we will need another truck before then."

### MAYOR

However, Mayor G. B. Henry said council "couldn't be serious about it" while area government is still under discussion.

An alternative, said the mayor, would be to utilize the Public Utilities Commission bucket truck in case of fire.

Mayor Henry said he felt any change in municipal government structure could effect fire departments in the area.



**MAYOR HENRY**  
... alternative



**J. T. WARDEN**  
... 'still looking'

MAR. 25, 1972.

# Ingersoll blaze family homeless

By MARY GILMOUR  
Sentinel-Review Staff Writer



Firemen battle inferno on Ingersoll street (Staff Photo)

INGERSOLL — A blaze here late Thursday night gutted a three-bedroom bungalow leaving a family of six homeless.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Metcalfe and their children Garry, 3; Jamie, 6; Jennifer, 11, and Wayne, 16, are staying with relatives.

The roof of the Metcalfe home on Ingersoll Street was engulfed by flames when firemen arrived at the scene at 9:30 p.m. Fifteen minutes later the blaze got out of control as flames licked the whole interior of the clapboard structure.

No one was inside at the time of the blaze.

A relative said the bungalow was insured for \$7,000. There was no insurance carried on furnishings.

While cause of the fire was unknown at press time, Wayne Metcalfe said the fire started in the kitchen area, at the rear of the home.

Garry, Jamie and Jennifer were playing outside when they noticed flames shooting up from the roof.

They ran to a neighbor, who telephoned Mrs. Metcalfe and Wayne who were working shift

at Essex International of Canada. Mr. Metcalfe was working in a nearby field in the sparsely populated Ingersoll Street area.

Police blocked off Ingersoll Street to traffic fearing an oil tank at the rear of the bungalow might explode. Police warned curious spectators to stand back from the blaze, because high calibre ammunition was stored in the house.

A Public Utilities Commission work crew disconnected service from the area as live wires fell to the ground where firemen were battling the inferno.

Two mares and their foals were led to safety from a pen adjacent to the burning home. Mr. Metcalfe is a race horse breeder.

Black smoke and flames rose from the roof of the building as firemen arrived at the scene. Within half an hour firemen contained the blaze, but before it destroyed the inside of the building and its contents.

"Everything we owned was in there," Wayne told the Sentinel-Review. "We had two new stoves and a new television. The insurance won't cover the loss of the house."

Another relative said some kittens and birds died in the fire.

June 8, 1972

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Neighbor Dan Dunlop and Hilda George pick up the pieces (Photo by Bill Hutchison)

## Fire chief says blowtorch caused blaze in Ingersoll

JULY, 1972.

BY BILL HUTCHISON  
Sentinel-Review Staff Writer

INGERSOLL — A fire in the outside wall and roof of the George home at 208 Oxford St., caused roughly \$1,500 to \$2,000 damage this morning, fire chief L. G. Harlow estimated.

The chief said the fire was caused by a blowtorch Fred George was using to remove paint from the outside of the house.

### PLASTER

He added that most of the damage to the interior of the home was from falling lath, plaster and paper.

Mr. George's wife and mother were in the home at the time of the fire, the chief said.

Mrs. George, senior, was tak-

en to the home of a neighbor. With the fire out, the George's neighbors, Dan Dunlop and Ann Coles dropped in to help clean up.

Chief Harlow advised against removing house paint with a blow torch. "It's not the best way."

He said he doubted that peo-

ple would follow his advice and suggested that if they must use blow torches, they be extremely careful, especially when they are working on frame houses.

"The flame can go through little cracks in the wood" to the dry material inside of the walls.

Once inside, the fire can't be seen until it has a good start.

## Damage Near \$2000 In Fire

Nearly \$2000 damage resulted from a fire in a frame house belonging to Fred George at 208 Oxford Street on Friday morning. The roof and outside front of the house were most damaged by the blaze. Some damage occurred in-

side due to falling lath, plaster and paper.

Les Harlow, Ingersoll Fire Chief, said that the blaze was started by a blow torch which Mr. George was using to remove paint from the outside of the house.

# Blaze destroys house leaves four homeless

An early evening blaze Saturday completely gutted the interior and did extensive damage to the exterior of a two apartment dwelling at 326 Thames St. N. in North Oxford Township.

Two young passers-by, Mary Moran and Nancy Pembleton, noticed smoke emerging from the residence and informed a neighbor, Robert Stevenson, who subsequently called the Beachville Fire Department.

The fire call was received in Beachville at 8:10 Saturday evening, and on arrival at the scene of the blaze Fire Chief Joe Lillywhite called for assistance from the Ingersoll Fire Department.

At the height of the blaze the Beachville firefighters had four lines in operation and Ingersoll had two lines coming in pouring

on tons of water in an effort to save the structure.

All told there were 14 firemen battling the blaze, seven from Beachville and an additional seven from Ingersoll, with two pumpers from Beachville and one from Ingersoll.

## INSURED

The residence, owned by Robert Paton, 329 Thames St., said, "we had just purchased the house the first of July and had put extensive renovations into it. The structure was insured."

When asked to comment on the efforts of the firefighters, Mr. Paton replied, "the fire departments of both Beachville and Ingersoll are to be commended on their efforts."

"I would also like to thank the neighbors," added Mr. Paton, "on the way they assisted in getting out some of the furn-

## Ingersoll News

ishings owned by the occupants of the home."

Occupant of the front part of the house, Jack Kerr, was not available for comment but his son did say that his father has partial insurance on his belongings.

Not so well off were Mr. and Mrs. William Lamers who lived in the rear apartment, although a tremendous effort was made, and most of their major belongings were saved, they had no insurance.

## HOMELESS

The Lamers, whose two-year-old son was staying at her mothers' while they attended the London fair arrived home to find themselves left homeless by the blaze.

Mrs. Lamers, early Sunday morning, also heaped praise on the fire departments and the neighbors saying, "I would like to thank everyone who helped in taking our furnishings out."

Almost everything downstairs was taken out but the upstairs was a complete loss to the Lamers. Such things as clothing bedding and beds were destroyed in the fire.

Residents of Ingersoll and surrounding area are being asked to assist the Lamers' with clothing and bedding, especially for the two-year-old youngster.

Anyone able to assist is asked to call Mrs. Van Norman, 133

King St. W., Ingersoll at 435-3694.

The blaze, said Chief Joe Lillywhite was under control after about 2½ hours, and firefighters were able to leave at about 2:30 a.m. Sunday.

"Although we had some trouble with crowd control, particularly the kids," said Chief Lillywhite, "it went very well, and I would like to thank the people for their assistance."

## FLARES UP

As is often the case with the fire out and the remains well wetted down, it flared up again early Sunday morning and the Beachville department was called out again at 8 a.m. to put it down, hopefully for good.

"With all the water we poured into that structure last night, said Chief Lillywhite, "it is hard to conceive that it would flare up again."

Mr. Paton, when asked to give an estimate of damage, said "I would not like to say, I believe it is completely lost, but that is up to the insurance people."

SEPT. 1972.

# Chief Harlow issues plea for caution and fire safety

A plea went out to Ingersoll residents to "Get the Fire Prevention Habit," by Ingersoll's Fire Chief, Leslie Harlow, on the eve of Fire Prevention Week in Canada.

Fire Prevention Week in Canada is to run from Sunday, to next Saturday, during which time a special effort is made to educate people about fire prevention.

In calling for an extra effort during Fire Prevention Week, Chief Harlow said: "The awful tragedy of a home on fire is the harshest lesson of all on the need for fire prevention."

"Are you doing all you can to prevent that tragedy? Protect your valuable property and safeguard precious lives. Practice fire safety, always.

"Keep attic, basement and all your home clear of debris, be sure heating and wiring systems are in fire-safe conditions. Handle flammables with caution, be careful with fire in any form.



FIRE CHIEF HARLOW

"Prevention is always your best protection against fire."

Ingersoll, during 1971, had 14 fires with a total property loss of \$124,314, the five-year average shows Ingersoll as averaging 19 fires per year with \$50,739 lost in property damage.

There were four separate fires in Oxford County in 1971 resulting in the death of six people which included three males, two females and one child.

The need for fire prevention becomes abundantly clear when looking at the fire figures for Ontario. There were 23,433 fires in Ontario during 1971 resulting in death to 225 people, including 91 men, 69 women and a startling 65 children.

Property damage in Ontario due to fires totalled some \$82,036,837, of which \$71,076,589 was insured, while \$10,960,248 was lost through uninsured damages.

Prevention, as Chief Harlow says, is always the best protection against fire.

OCT. 1972.

## Nursing home fire minor

Smoke was reported coming from the Faith Haven Nursing Home on Whiting St., southwest of Ingersoll at 4:45 Wednesday morning.

The call originally went into the Beachville detachment which subsequently called the Ingersoll fire station.

On their arrival smoke was observed coming from a light fixture on the ceiling, which the firefighters discovered was short circuiting.

Only minimal damage to the ceiling and light fixture resulted.

ARG. 1972.



The Ingersoll public utilities commission (in left photo) was on the scene of an apartment fire at 77 King St. E. in Ingersoll Thursday afternoon to disconnect power from the building. In the photo at right the Ingersoll Fire Department's Telesqurt truck blasts water on the blaze, creating billows of smoke. The firefighters had the fire under control within an hour, fire chief Darell Parker said, and no one was hurt. The cause is undetermined but a damage estimate has been set at between \$40,000 and \$45,000. (Liz Dadson photos)

## Fire severely damages apartment building

BY LIZ DADSON

Ingersoll firefighters were called to the scene of a fire which severely damaged an apartment building at 77 King St. E. Thursday afternoon.

Fire chief Darell Parker reported nobody was hurt in the

blaze. The three-unit apartment had two tenants but one was not at home and the other was able to flee the building as flames engulfed the southwestern corner of the building.

Extremely cold temperatures kept bystanders to a minimum as firefighters battled the blaze. Eighteen firefighters answered the 12:36 p.m. call, Parker said,

and had the fire under control within an hour.

"The overhaul and investigation took some time," he said, "but we were finished up at 6:30 p.m.

The Ingersoll public utilities commission was on the scene to disconnect power wires to the building.

Commission general manager

Ron Hebert said the crew isolated the power lines because the poles were getting hot. Residents in the area were without power until about 4:30 p.m.

Parker said the cause of the fire is as yet undetermined and a preliminary estimate sets the damage at between \$40,000 and \$45,000.

Ingersoll Times  
January 30 1991

# Faster response to fire calls under new alert system

By GREG ROTHWELL  
Sentinel-Review staff writer  
Canadians are more satisfied with their firefighters than they are with other public sector workers, including postal workers, the police, teachers and garbage collectors, according to a Gallup poll.

The poll taken last fall showed that 87 per cent of the 1,066 persons questioned felt they were getting good value for their

tax dollars from their fire departments.

Woodstock's fire chief, Charles Young, is proud that firefighters came out on top of the survey, as he and his fellow chiefs in Oxford County and the rest of the country try to keep up service, in spite of economic restraints.

The Woodstock department is undermanned. The cities of Stratford and St. Thomas both

have complements of 40 full-time firefighters. Woodstock has 32. There were 34 back in 1967, and during the 1970s the complement reached as high as 37.

The number has been depleted through attrition.

"We are still operating with very low manpower," Young said during an interview, during which he discussed the activities of the department during the past year.

Ideally he would like to see the department boosted to the size of the Stratford and St. Thomas forces, but with the city involved in a policy of zero-based budgetting the proposal isn't a realistic one.

Despite the smaller department, Woodstock has some advantages that both Stratford and St. Thomas don't have, one of them is a full-time training officer.

## FIRE ALERT SYSTEM

With the implementation of a county-wide fire alert system, all calls now come into the Parkinson Road department.

During 1982 a total of 818 calls were received: 309 originated in Woodstock; 69 were Ingersoll calls; 111 from Tillsonburg; 40 in East-Zorra Tavistock; 53 in Zorra township; 68 in South West Oxford; 107 in Norwich and 61 in Blandford-Blenheim.

Residents in East-Zorra Tavistock, Zorra and Norwich came on line with the new emergency fire telephone code system, joining South West Oxford. Only Blandford-Blenheim township remains out of the system, although the department received calls from the township during the year. Firefighters in that township are waiting for paging devices, then the system will be fully operational across Oxford.

The pagers are an integral part of the system. Each township and rural community in the county has been placed in a grid map, and residents have been given a special grid code number. In case of emergency they phone their department and recite the code, the call is received in Woodstock and the pagers for the firefighters in the appropriate areas are activated. The grid code number allows the department to locate a house to pinpoint accuracy.



CHUCK YOUNG  
Fire chief

## BETTER RESPONSE

The response time to calls with the new system "is much better than before," the chief said, and the system has been operating well.

Last year there were a number of serious fires in the city, with six cases of known arson. Three persons were arrested on arson charges.

Bigger fires included one at Central Senior Public School on Hunter Street, were a city man

"I just believe that a training officer is a necessity," Young said. "If you're better trained you are far more efficient. I'd hate to operate without a training officer, it makes a big difference."

But "there is no extra manpower here, that's for sure," the fire chief said.

The department operates with seven men on each shift, but with holidays one of the seven is usually away. Three of them operate out of the Parkinson Road station, the other three from the station on Perry Street.

was convicted and sentenced to reformatory for arson, and the Family and Children's Services office on Light Street, a confirmed arson case which remains under investigation.

This year the fire chief hopes county council will approve his proposal for the purchase of 20 special kits for car rescue emergencies.

The kits cost about \$2,300 each, but the provincial government has program allowing for grants of \$1,000 on each kit.

## TANK-BANK

Last year the fire departments in the county co-ordinated on a 'tank-bank,' the setting aside of filled oxygen tanks at

the Woodstock department, which can be quickly wheeled into a van and driven to a fire scene in the county, to supplement the tanks already at the scene.

"It has already been done four or five times," Young said, "and it seems to work out very well."

And the 319 firefighters, full-time and volunteer, in Oxford continue to be trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Between 60 and 70 per cent have already been certified after taking the program, and others are continue to take the course. After passing the course, the firefighters are recertified each year.

"I would like to get all the men trained" in CPR, Young said.



# Chemical spill has fire chief fearing hazard

By BRIAN McANDREW  
Sentinel-Review Staff Writer  
One of Woodstock Fire Chief Charles Young's main fears was almost realized in the area this week.

Two transport tankers collided Tuesday along Highway 401 west of Ingersoll, one carrying a highly toxic chemical.

The tanker carrying the chemical, butylphenol, remained intact and an emergency team from Michigan was able to transfer the 50,000 gallons of the chemical safely to another tanker.

But Young says he is concerned about the number of tank trucks travelling through the area.

An undetermined number of trucks carry unknown types of chemicals daily along Highway 2 through Woodstock and other smaller communities in the county.

In an interview before Fire Prevention Week, Young had a message for those truck drivers: "Take it easy, fellows, and keep on going."

The fire chief said he doesn't want a repetition of an incident about 10 years ago when a propane tank caught fire in downtown Aylmer and destroyed a number of businesses.

Young is bothered by the proximity to built-up areas of truck and train routes through the county.

## MORE CONCERNS

Trucks and trains haven't been Young's only concerns since he became chief and county fire co-ordinator last July.



Charles Young  
...fire chief

Young said he plans on making a pitch to county council to set up a central storage space for a special fire fighting chemical commonly known as light water.

The light water, used by the city fire department for the past year, should be available to all other firefighting squads in the county, Young said.

Young said the light water, or aqueous film forming foam, is expensive (about \$14 per gallon) but has proved profitable in manpower hours saved.

Young said the light water has the ability of putting out fires faster than ordinary water and also cuts down on the amount of water damage to buildings thus saving time on clean-up operations.

The fire chief said the light water also cuts down on friction in the hoses keeping the pressure closer to what it was originally.

was the introduction last year of the tele-squirt equipment.

The high-pressure nozzle attached atop an aerial ladder can spray almost five times as much water on a fire than the normal hand-held hose.

The tele-squirt pumps out about 1,000 gallons of water per minute, Young said, while a regular hose has a maximum flow of about 200.

Young also has plans for training seminars involving county firefighters and chiefs.

A two-day seminar is planned this month for the chiefs and a four-day training school will be operated for the firemen next June, Young said.

The seminars and courses will be run by the Ontario Fire Marshal's office.

Fire Prevention Week starts Sunday.

## FRICION CITED

Young said friction from the inside walls of the lines cuts down the amount of pressure coming through the nozzle.

Other than a fire truck that needs replacing, Young said, the city's department "is pretty well up to date."

One of the major innovations



## BLAZE AT BECKERS

It took 20 minutes for Ingersoll firefighters to extinguish a blaze at the back of the Becker Milk Company offices at 15 Thames St. just before noon Tuesday. Fire

chief Ken Campbell said the fire was limited to a small area between two walls. The cause of the fire is under investigation. (Staff photo by Barry Ward)

# Carroll Street switched from north to southbound

**INGERSOLL** — Town council has approved a bylaw changing the direction of Carroll Street and indicated it may do the same for a neighboring street to complement that change.

Carroll Street was changed from one-way northbound to one-way southbound in preparation of moving the fire hall to Mutual Street. Carroll Street would then serve as a

route past downtown to the south end of Ingersoll for emergency vehicles.

During the discussion of the new bylaw, Coun. Jim Robins suggested narrow Mill Street be changed from two-way traffic to one-way north.

It was pointed out Cochrane Pontiac Buick had objected to that proposal earlier because it uses Mill Street as a link bet-

ween its service garage and King Street.

But Robins said the section of Mill Street in question could be retained as two-way to accommodate Cochrane.

The bylaw affecting Carroll Street must be approved by county council. Ingersoll Clerk Gerry Staples said the actual change of direction would go into effect whenever work crews put up new signs.



**INGERSOLL FIREFIGHTERS** used the Sqrft fire vehicle Thursday afternoon to battle an apartment fire

on King Street East. No one was injured in the blaze. An early estimate puts damage at \$40,000.

## At apartment in Ingersoll

# Occupants escape blaze

By **MARK WEID**  
of The Sentinel-Review

**INGERSOLL** — Damage is estimated at \$40,000 following an apartment fire Thursday on King Street East.

Deputy fire chief Gerald Hutson said both occupants of the building escaped injury.

The cause of the blaze, which started about 12:36 p.m., has yet to be determined, said fire chief Darell Parker. Ontario Hydro officials were expected to be on the scene today.

The three-storey building, located a few doors east of the Salvation Army thrift store, is owned by

the company, Hill Enterprises. It is not known whether it is insured.

Parker said one resident was at home at the time of the fire. There are three apartments in the building and one was vacant at the time of the blaze. Residents are staying with friends, Parker said.

Parker said volunteer firefighters had the fire under control by 2:30 p.m., but stayed on the scene to dig through the sided walls searching for flames.

A sander from the works department was called out to salt the streets which lay downhill from the fire scene.

Daily Sentinel Review

January 25, 1991



### SMASHED TO KINDLING

Following a fire at this house Jan. 24 which caused an estimated \$40,000 damage, the sidewalk in front of the building had been blocked off to keep passersby out of danger. The peril is gone as the house was torn down last week.

## Second fire at same house work of arsonist: Parker

By SUSAN deBYE  
of The Sentinel-Review

**INGERSOLL** — A second fire at a home here in two days appears to have been deliberately set says the local fire chief.

Chief Darell Parker said an early morning fire Saturday at 217 Oxford St. appears to have been arson, probably the result of vandalism.

It took firefighters about 1½-hours to extinguish the blaze which was contained to the basement and first floor kitchen area home.

On Thursday, a fire at the same address caused about \$15,000 damage. Parker said Saturday's fire didn't cause additional damage to the home.

Parker said Thursday's fire appeared to have been the result of children playing with matches.

Two trucks and 13 firefighters responded to the fire alarm Thursday at 10:49 a.m. Parker said that fire was difficult to put out because of thick smoke.

None of the occupants were home at the time either fire broke out. The residence is owned by Nellie Morris.

Ingersoll police are continuing their investigation.

Daily Sentinel Review March 11, 1991

### FIRE PROBE

## Investigators suspect arson after house hit third time

**INGERSOLL (Staff)** — The Ontario fire marshal's office and Ingersoll police are investigating a Sunday morning fire believed to be caused by arson. It is the third fire at 217 Oxford St. since March 7.

Ingersoll firefighters were called to the vacant house about 7 a.m., said Fire Chief Darell Parker. The fire reached the second floor and caused damage to repairs made after the two earlier fires. No estimate of damage from Sunday's fire is available yet.

The first fire, in the kitchen and basement, caused about \$15,000 damage and was blamed on children playing with matches. A second fire March 9 was confined to the same area of the house.

London Free  
Press

March 25, 1991

There are few towns or villages in Western Ontario with a history dating back to 1793. One hundred and fifty-six years is a long period in a young country like Canada, but if there is any honor to be derived from antiquity, Ingersoll is entitled to a share. There are few communities that have come through so many years that have not experienced serious setbacks or calamities in some shape or form, and Ingersoll is no exception to this rule.

Possibly the most serious troubles visited on this town were those of 1812, 1832 and 1872. In 1812 the marauding bands of Yankees destroyed our mill, some homes and nearly everything they thought might be of use to the Canadian army. In 1832 this community was subjected to a severe outbreak of yellow fever which took a huge toll of life among our most active citizens, but in 1872 took place the greatest calamity of all, which destroyed the greater part of our business section and was known as the great fire of Ingersoll.

In 1872 Ingersoll's business section stretched along King St. from Oxford St. to Hall St., and along Thames St., from King to just north of the old wooden bridge over the

Thames River. There were three or four three-storey brick buildings on Thames St. and a very imposing hotel of which the town was very proud, but for the most part the stores and other business concerns were old wooden structures, many just one-room shacks. There were also here and there vacant spaces and several residences on both streets.

#### Many Hitching Posts

In those days the streets were gravel. A broken stone with a plank sidewalk on either side raised six or eight inches above the gutters. The streets were lined with hitching posts with iron rings or auger holes for hitching horses. Some of the posts were fancy iron rods surmounted by horse heads, and in some cases rails were provided for tying up horses or teams. The main streets were lit by gas lamps on iron standards and the lamp-lighter had to make his rounds at dusk and at daylight.

The Royal Exchange Hotel, an old wooden structure, stood at the corner of Thames and Charles Sts., on the site of our present post office, and the stables were at the rear corner of Oxford and Charles. These buildings were owned by

John Walsh, father of the late Michael Walsh, and the land was part of his original holding. South of this on Thames St. was the residence of C. P. Hall and William Gallagher's Prince of Wales Hotel, and among other small frame buildings on both Thames and Oxford Sts. On the west side of Oxford St., north of Charles, were the Daily House stables, Chambers' Hotel, the old Wesleyan Church building, R. McDonald's barn, and Badder & Delaney's carriage and wagon factory. On Thames St. stood several new buildings, such as Vance's Bakery, the second storey of which was used as the Masonic Hall, George Perkins' store, Browett & Barker hardware, the Niagara District Bank, J. & H. Little groceries, Alex. Gordon, tailor, G. W. Walley, crockery and glassware, McCaughey & Walsh, barristers, The Chronicle office, a new building owned by J. S. Gunnett, J. F. Moore's cabinet show rooms, Byrne & McGoirick, saddlers, Mrs. Curtis, milliner, Mr. Miller, grocer, Miss Webster, dressmaker, F. G. Lewis, photographer, Mr. Curtis, shoemaker, a brick building occupied by Holcroft's grocery.

On the east side of Thames St. were H. Vogt, jeweller, T. F. Fawks, jeweller, G. J. Shrapnell, grocer, J. Hugil, photographer, Miss Patterson, dressmaker, S. W. McFarlane, dry goods, J. N. Elliott, grocer, Alex. Reid, dry goods, J. G. Chowan & Co., hardware, F. A. Baker, photographer, T. H. Barraclough, boots and shoes, Holmes & Gillespie, dry goods, M. Tripp, drugs, Alex. McKenzie, residence, James McNiven, dry goods, H. McNiven, residence, James McDonald, hats and caps, Alex. Macauley, dry goods, R. F. Hunter, residence, John Gayfer, drugs, D. White & Co., dry goods, O. B. Caldwell, drugs, Allan McLean, book shop, James McDonald, barrister.

On King St. was Mr. McIntyre's furniture factory, together with a large number of stores and residences, mostly of wood and built close together, extending east on both sides of the street up to Hall and Carroll Sts.

The fire started about 8 o'clock on the evening of May 7, 1872, in the stables of the Royal Exchange Hotel, corner of Oxford and Charles, while the buildings were supposed to be unoccupied, and the origin of the fire was never discovered. The wind blew to the south

and east. So rapidly did the fire travel through the old frame buildings, that when it had burned itself out nearly all of both sides of Thames St. between Charles and King were gone, except one, a two-storey large brick structure that helped to stay the progress of the fire, and most of Oxford St., up to the market square, where Bowman's Hotel was the last victim. King St. East was saved by the strenuous efforts of McIntyre's men, the large brick buildings next to them and the aid of the London Fire Company.

Why Ingersoll had not suffered a similar calamity much sooner is hard to explain. Nearly all the business section was of frame construction and in no way fireproof. We had at that time three fire companies, one situated on the present site of the gate tower at the Thames St. crossing of the C.N.R., one at market building, and a third in a building at the rear of Old King's Mill, or present site of Mr. Fulton's chopping mill. Each company was provided with a hand pumper, a reel of hose and a club room where they met for instruction and social evenings. The writer once had an opportunity to read the minutes of the fire company at King's Mill and can recall some of the names on the roll as John Frizell, Robert Leighton, Robert Monroe, John Lahey, Henry Smale, Phillip Mudge, John Bower, James McDonald, Edward Dixon, and others. These men pumped and carried water all night, during the fire. They pumped and carried buckets in relays until they were exhausted and stories were told that of some, their hands and arms were so stiff in the morning they could not remove their own coats.

The fire travelled so fast and furious soon panic and confusion seemed to seize hold on everyone. Goods were removed across the street only to be moved again. Goods were damaged in moving. Some were removed by thieves ever ready to profit by the misfortunes of others. Stores of bottled goods were an easy prey to many. Two men lost their lives while endeavoring to salvage goods. Mr. Paine lost his life trying to save stock in R. H. Young's saddlery shop, and John Omand was trapped by a falling wall in Fawks' jewelry store.

The fire wiped out the homes or places of business of over 80 people or firms. Many witnessed the work of nearly a lifetime fall a prey to the flames. Many of these once familiar names have past from our municipal list of names and in some cases members of the next or even a later generation are carrying on business on the same street. The blackened ruins of yesterday have been obliterated by bigger and better homes of trade and business, giving evidence of the courage of our people to withstand hard times.

The writer has before him the minutes of the King Hiram No. 37 Lodge meeting in lodge of emergency on the 28th day of May, 1872, to hear the report of the committee appointed to seek new quarters for the lodge, they having had the Masonic Hall destroyed in the fire. The minutes and records had been saved by Mr. William A. Woolson and another member of the lodge, thus preserving the oldest continuous written records of any organization in this town. These minutes were begun in June, 1803.

FIRES

Description of fatal 1872 Ingersoll Fire  
carried in early paper

One hundred years ago, Ingersoll was incorporated as a village. 90 years ago it was a flourishing town with a population of 2,756, nearly double that of 10 years earlier-- 80 years ago, catastrophe struck the thriving community.

Details of the holocaust which wiped out most of the business section of Ingersoll about May 8, 1872 are given in a clipping from The News of May 10 in that year. The loss exceeded \$300,000 as fire destroyed practically the entire section bounded by King, Oxford, Charles and Thames Streets. More important than the heavy damage to property, two persons lost their lives in the flames.

The News headlines read:

"Great fire in Ingersoll"

"TWO LIVES LOST"

"IMMENSE LOSS"

"The Business Part of the Town in Ashes"

"FULL PARTICULARS"

Cause of the fire was given as incendiarism but the story says nothing about arresting anyone for the crime. However, The News strongly criticizes the town councils in terms which newspapers to-day would never do, having regard to possible libel suits.

But the old clipping tells the story completely and with embellishments which do not appear in modern news writing. It follows:

On Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock, a fire commenced in the stables in the rear of the Royal Exchange Hotel, which afterwards proved to be the most destructive fire that has ever taken place in any town in Canada. A majority of people have no hesitation in forwarding the idea that the terrible destruction of life and property had been caused by an incendiary. The idea is especially put forward by those living close to the starting place. The flames spread very quickly, and in a very few minutes all the frame buildings on the east side of Oxford between King and Charles, and on the south side of Charles between Oxford and Thames, were completely destroyed. But not, however, before a great headway amongst many buildings on the west side of Thames Street, with the rapidity of lightning, the flames, all the time increasing in fury, rolled all along the front and rear of the brick buildings on this side of the street, and then crossing over to the handsome stores on the other side; the whole street became a perfect sea of fire, throwing out a light to be seen in all the towns for many miles around, probably as a warning to the councils and people of those places to be prepared in case of the appearance of a blaze than careless and unfortunate Ingersoll.



Although the firemen worked as hard and willingly as any men on the face of the earth could, they were awfully unequal to the occasion, on account of the want of sufficient quantity and good quality of hose. The firemen and the citizens were all becoming exhausted in their all but useless efforts, and the mayor telegraphed to London and Woodstock for assistance. London immediately sent the Phoenix Company, twenty men of the Hook and Ladders, and a company of volunteers with the Great Western Fire Engine. The fire had reached the Mayor's Block (slate roofed) when they arrived, and they immediately set to work in that quarter, and in a short time the people were pleased to see that the danger of the fire getting into Smith's Block and the buildings on King Street was over. The Woodstock firemen, under the command of Capt. McKay, almost as soon as the alarm was given in that town, were ready to come to our aid, but they were unavoidably delayed for a long time by the tardy arrival of the train which was to bring them here. Many of the citizens used their fast horses and drove here, and did such service as will not be forgotten. The Woodstock firemen completely subdued the second attempt of the flames, about 3 o'clock, and remained with us, rendering good service to the end.

The sincere thanks of the people of Ingersoll are tendered to the firemen of London and Woodstock, who so nobly rendered us their mighty aid in our great trouble. We are afraid to think what might have been the consequence had not their aid been received.

It is only proper to say that our own firemen, under the direction of Chief Engineer Brady behaved nobly throughout, and it is in no way their fault that their efforts were not more successful, or that outside aid was required. Brands were carried three and four miles distance, and in no part of the town east of Thames Street were the buildings safe. Almost every housetop was necessarily kept swept and dampened. The people worked nobly in carrying out goods from the stores on the west side of Thames Street, but placing them on the opposite side of the street, they were almost entirely destroyed by the flames which crossed the street. The contents of the Chronicle office were nearly all destroyed in this way.

Although the loss of property has been terrible, and very hard for the sufferers to bear, the regret caused by these is nothing compared with the terrible end of two of our citizens, C.C. Payne and John Omand. The former has been a resident of Ingersoll for many years, and has always borne an honourable character. Intimately acquainted with most people in town and county, he, with the circumstances of his death, will linger in their memory for all time. In endeavouring to save the property

of others, he lost his life--an awful sacrifice! He was engaged in getting his arms full of goods, and although called to leave the goods and hurry out, he remained too long. He was seen to fall but help could not be sent him. When his body was recovered, there was scarcely anything about it that would make it recognizable; its appearance being so awfully changed.

John Omand, late of Brantford, was a young man employed in the moulding department of Noxon's foundry, and almost a stranger here. We understand that he was a hard skilled worker at fires, and that at the last meeting of one of the fire companies, he was proposed as a member. Although not exactly a fireman, he wore and died in the harness. He was with several others, all of whom it is feared had not escaped, in Fawke's building at the time a brick wall fell on the roof partly covering him in. Every effort was made to save him but without avail.

In the face of the great destruction of property, which has completely destroyed Thames Street, a street second to none, in appearance, in any place outside of large cities--in the face of the awful deaths which have taken place--is it possible that the members of the late council can have quiet consciences? When their neglect to pay necessary attention to our fire brigade has been so plain to everyone, we think not. We hope, after this severe lesson, even though we do feel poor, that something will be done to prevent a future scene of the kind we have been forced to witness.

What a different tale we should have told today had we had waterworks? Let us have them as other towns have them. We would be sorry to hear of any other towns suffering as we are, and we hope they will study our hard lesson and be benefitted. Neighbours, keep wise men in office to manage yourselves instead of foolish. Learn a lesson! Our niggardiness and carelessness have resulted in loss of human life, and poverty to the town. Where on Tuesday afternoon were rows of handsome business houses, now there is chaos. On Tuesday afternoon there were those amongst us who were doing prosperous business and were in easy circumstances, but who, today are poor indeed. On Tuesday afternoon, there were two hale hearty men with us who are not with us now, and we believe these things would not be recorded today, had proper attention been paid towards the safety of the town and its people. We have had a lesson--let us profit by it.

LONDON FREE PRESS  
August 30 1952

# Centennial Celebrated Mayor Welcomes Visitors

Hundreds of visitors flocked into Ingersoll over the weekend to take part in the gigantic birthday party that marked the centennial celebration of the town. A full program was planned for the visitor and town residents, starting with a church service Sunday night and ending with a square dance Monday night. The hours between were filled with parades, contests, speeches and all the events that go to make a gala occasion.

Mayor Thomas J. Morrison extended the official welcome to a large gathering of people in Victoria Park Monday afternoon. He praised the early pioneers for their labor, wisdom and foresight, which he said made possible the development of the community. In a retrospective glance at the past, he pointed out how the efforts of those in past years served as an impetus to others on the road and urged his listeners to make a greater effort at this time so they might maintain the high standards of initiative, enterprise and development evident in the pages of Ingersoll's past history.

"If Ingersoll is to grow, if we are to avail ourselves of some of the modern facilities which we presently lack," he said, "some large part of the pioneering spirit of our forefathers, which we honor today, must be recaptured and harnessed anew, to the challenging requirements of industrial growth."

Associated with him on the platform were the following: ex-mayor J. V. Buchanan, William English, now of London; J. M. Wilson, Silas E. Brady, K. R. Daniel, 11 of whom spoke briefly. Other mayors who had been in the parade were, Charles W. Riley, Murray and A. H. Edmonds.

## RECORD ATTENDANCE

The centennial celebration was on a scale that was even a surprise to the most optimistic promoters. Attendance at Victoria park for the afternoon program was estimated between 8,000 and 10,000 which is believed to have set an all-time record.

In the vicinity of the park the whole area was jammed with

parked cars, the lines on some of the streets extending for distances of nearly two blocks.

Despite predictions of rain and a lower temperature the weather was ideal, which was an important factor in the success achieved. At the close of the program Mayor Morrison said he had only unstinted praise of the united efforts that had made the celebration such an outstanding success. He mentioned particularly the Christina Armour McNaughton Chapter of the I.O.D.E. and the Junior Chamber of Commerce as being spark plugs in the celebration organization. The success achieved he believed had been much greater than had been anticipated.

In regulating traffic and in other respects there was a full measure of co-operation by the members of the local detachment of the O.P.P.

## MONSTER PARADE

Community enterprise, resourcefulness, zest and fervor were strikingly manifested in the great parade of floats Monday afternoon to Victoria park. Records of past years, so long held up as guiding examples were wiped out. Many of the oldtimers who witnessed the spectacular parade unhesitatingly declared it to be the greatest ever held in the town.

In commemorating the town's 100th birthday the community spirit was exemplified to the highest degree. Industrial firms, merchants, in fact practically every business in the town was represented in the monster, colorful parade.

The parade won the admiration of all who witnessed it and many tributes were paid those who had

so diligently worked to make a great contribution to the day's program.

Representing a span of one hundred years there was abundant scope in which to build up the parade. The horse and buggy era was not overlooked, some old equipages intensified the interest and thought had evidently been given to the town's importance as a dairy centre as one display was typical of the days when milk in the old-fashioned large cans was daily hauled to the cheese factories of the district.

The big parade was generally recognized as the crowning glory of the celebration.

## WINDOW DISPLAYS

Interest was centred on the antique displays in the windows of a number of the stores arranged as a special feature in connection with the centennial celebration.

The varied nature of the displays which included feminine wearing apparel, some typical of the fashion one hundred years ago, china and glassware, farm implements, household furniture, candle moulds, candle sticks and many other items, each in itself constituting a link in the pioneer chain, were highly interesting. Old firearms were also displayed in a great variety.

The collections emphasized the great advancement that has been made during the past century and brought a realization of the effort that was expended by the early pioneers in every phase of their work from household duties to tilling the soil and harvesting the crops.

"Centennial Celebrated  
Mayor Welcomes Visitors"

## Council Arrives By Stage



Members of Ingersoll's Council, their wives—and husband—led the birth-day parade to Victoria Park on Monday in this stagecoach drawn by a beautiful dapple gray team. — Photo courtesy London Free Press.

SENTINEL REVIEW

September 4, 1952



### CHILDREN'S PET SHOW WINNERS

Prize winners in the children's pet show sponsored by the Ingersoll Kiwanis club at the centennial celebration were Sharon

Nunn, 10, Cross street, with pet rabbit "Judy" for looking most like its master; Elizabeth Chis-om 13, Wonham street, with

"Judy" for the best looking outfit harnessed and hitched to cart or wagon; Beth Kean, 4, Cherry street, with "Daisy" for "ugliest dog." (Clara)



### OLD COSTUMES RECALL EARLY DAYS OF INGERSOLL

Old fashioned costumes and beards were the order of the day when Ingersoll marked its

100th birthday with a day-long party. This group in costume was taken while seated on the

platform during the preview of fashions at Victoria Park sponsored during the afternoon by

the I.O.D.E. chapters. (Photo)

Centennial Celebration  
Major Welcomes Visitors



### PARADE PRESENTS CONTRASTS

A mammoth parade was one of the features of the Centennial celebration held yesterday in Ingersoll. Part of the parade

is shown as it came up Thames street. The stage coach bore the councillors to the Fairgrounds, followed by a car carrying the ex-mayors of Ingersoll. The par-

ade started from the Brant plant and included more than 40 floats commemorating years between 1852 and 1952. (Staff Photo)

SENTINEL REVIEW

September 4, 1952

# Front line action for our boys

At the time the war broke out in Europe for the second time this century, there were about 15 local young men who were regularly involved with the military drilling at the old armory building on Charles Street, close to where the new post office is now located.

But by the time the Ingersoll company of the Oxford Rifles were called to service, there were 150 men in the parades, and many other local men had signed to serve with other companies.

As one of the original members of the Ingersoll group, and as a cadet leader, J.C. Herbert was one of a handful of local men who were asked to go around and help to train various platoons of men in some of the surrounding communities: Tillsonburg, Plattsville, Thamesford, and Kintore.

In this community, as in many others across the country, the interest in the military grew rapidly to fill the need for soldiers to help in the war overseas.

"Before the Oxford Rifles had mobilized as such in May of 1942," Mr. Herbert explained, "we had already sent a company of infantry to the Elgin Rifles.

"There was a great deal of interest in the Oxford Rifles after the war broke out. Gradually we built up the strength of the regiment.

"We weren't active



There was a growing interest in the military after war was declared. Here the Oxford regiment is under review.

Oxford Rifles D Company was photographed at London camp in 1940. Left to right: Geo. Lockhart, a CIL worker active in the army corps; Hal Stevens, an IDCI science teacher who eventually worked in the chemical warfare branch of the military; Dr. Cecil Osborne who joined the medical corps; Lt. Col. Fred Hersee, commander of the D Oxford Rifles regiment; J. C. Herbert, who commanded the D Company of the Rifles and was later part of the Argyll and Sutherland regiment; Laurie Summers, a YMCA director who worked in the same service in the military; Currie Wilson, an IDCI teacher who joined the Essex Scottish regiment and was a prisoner of war; Warwick Marshall, a local lawyer who dealt with legal matters for the military.

at that time," he continued. "We were just building up in anticipation of being called."

But Mr. Herbert pointed out that whoever was trained could be called to wherever he was needed, and many were already in the service before the Ingersoll company was mobilized.

Mr. Herbert was called to Ottawa in 1941 to do staffing work for the military, and spent almost a year in the capital before being called back to Ingersoll in May of 1942 when the Oxford Rifles mobilized.

The colonel received a written notice that the Rifles had been called to active duty as of May 1, 1942, and he responded to Ottawa with a list of the current CO's (commanding officers), then initiated an intensive recruit of men.

When the Ingersoll men travelled to London Ontario for four months of further training, Mr. Herbert was company commander.

After the requisite training session in London, the Oxford rifles were sent to Prince George, British Columbia - one of the first troops to be stationed on this stretch of the Canadian coast, which was later to become one of the largest North American camps.

In retrospect, it seems puzzling that so many trained soldiers and highly trained specialists in a variety of fields were sent to the distant Pacific coast when we read in history books that the war took place in Europe.

But at the time, the Japanese were considered a major threat to North  
Continued on page 22

INGERSOLL TIMES  
August 20, 1986

# Our boys face front lines



The Merritt Street baseball team was the Ingersoll champion team in 1935. Teams of children from all over town competed in the summers of the Depression. The Merritt Street team members, shown here, included Merritt Street children living between Frances and Ann Streets.



Making their own fun The Appleby family of Ingersoll had lots of help hot-rodding a Model T Ford back in the late 1920s

Continued from page 17  
American security -- following the bombing of Pearl Harbour -- and it was expected that they would make an attempt on the west coast.

During the next year, Mr. Herbert was in charge of the armoured train which made continuous runs up and down the coast delivering men, weapons and supplies to the various Canadian stations there.

After spending several months at an officer's training school in British Columbia, Mr. Herbert was asked to stay on as an instructor for the next session before finally being called to proceed overseas as a reinforcement officer.

While fighting in action in Germany, Mr. Herbert was a member of the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada, and he stayed with this regiment after the war had ended, spending some months in Holland while the Allies made all the arrangements for the citizens and soldiers in their care.

"It was a fairly brief period," Mr. Herbert explained, pointing out that most Ingersoll men spent much more time overseas than he had. "I was only in Europe for about seven months."

In the years before the outbreak of the war, cadet training was a regular part of the school curriculum, so every young person would have some familiarity with the basics of military drilling. Special group of students from the schools would go out and do field exercises in addition to the programs offered at the school.

"From the Ingersoll point of

view," said Mr. Herbert, "there was a great change in attitude toward the military in the period between the outbreak of the war until the regiment became active."

Many other young men had already gone directly into training, or signed up for the airforce, and

were already overseas before the Oxford Rifles mobilized.

"Many of them were very outstanding boys," said Mr. Herbert. "The ones who were also the real leaders in the school."

All those men and women who served overseas during the wars will remember the tragedy, the cam-

araderie and the patriotism of those years, and for those less familiar with the reality of the war years, the names of the war dead from the In-

gersoll area are displayed in the main hall of the Ingersoll branch of the Royal Canadian Legion -- lest we forget.

INGERSOLL TIMES  
August 20, 1986



# Thamesford mill was once a thriving business

Continued from page 10  
the flour from the bran.

The product would go up through a huge table-like sifting machine, which shook violently, letting the flour run through several silk screens, and separating the bran, which went back down through several more 'breaks' in the rollers.

After each break, the flour was sifted away from the coarser by-products, and the end result was a good deal of flour, and enough middings, shorts and bran to satisfy the demand for animal feed for local farmers.

While local farmers supplied most of the wheat during the Southern Ontario thrashing season in the years from the 'twenties through the war, in the off season the Hogg mill would purchase wheat grown in the western provinces.

The soft wheat grown locally made a superb quality pastry flour which was the main business of the Thamesford operation, and the hard wheat brought in by rail from Manitoba was better suited for bread flour.

Although the broker decided where much of the fine flour from the Hogg mill would eventually be sold -- and often the decision was not made until the flour had arrived in Montreal -- the Thamesford operation had many dedicated customers in the area as well.

Merritt Hogg well remembers delivering bags of flour to the Dominion stores in the area during the 'thirties when, as a young 12-year-old, he rode with his father in the

mill's very first delivery truck.

Before the days of the truck, however unreliable, all the transportation to and from the railroad had to be done with a team of horses pulling large grain bins of 100 bushel apiece.

The railroad was an integral part of the Thamesford milling business as well -- bringing in the boxcars of wheat from the west, and taking away sacks of the Hogg's famous Lady of the Snow bread flour or Victoria pastry flour.

The railway intrigued the young brothers during the 'thirties, when they often saw young men riding on top of the boxcars on their way across the country looking for employment.

"We'd sometimes find a car with some charred wood," Merritt recalled, "where the men had started a fire...just to keep warm, I guess."

"You'd see them looking out the door to see where they were sometimes," he continued. "They just jumped on with no idea of where they were headed."

The George Hogg and Sons business was officially designated as a 200 barrel mill -- an average size for mills at the time.

The mill produced 400 - 98 pound bags of flour every 24 hours, Clayton explained.

To accomplish this, the mill ran 24 hours a day, and Merritt remembers going down to the mill for the 5 p.m. until 7 a.m. shift.

There were four floors of machinery to monitor, and it was the job of the miller to make certain



A handful of the mill employees at Geo. Hogg and Sons grist and flour mill posed for this photo about 1925. Gordon Hogg and Wes Forteous, both millers, sit on the "charred" sacks of flour on the truck. In front, left to right, are Allan Hogg, general manager, Tina McMurray, bookkeeper, Jim McMillan, who ran the grist chopper, owner George P. Hogg and head miller George Hamilton.

every piece was running smoothly.

In the earlier days, a packer used to stay until midnight as well, although most of the packing during the depression and 'forties was done during the day.

With the readily available waterpower at their location next to the river, the mill ran entirely on water in the early years, and continued to make use of the fall of water and the two water wheels housed in the mill to supplement the hydro well after

its arrival to the village.

A 40 horsepower wheel drove the chopper for the farmers' grain, and a 60 horsepower wheel was used to start up the mill.

The mill paid for its hydro on a peak load system and paid for the highest amount of electricity used that month.

Because of the tremendous power needed to set all the machinery in motion, the waterpower was used to

keep the hydro down.

It wasn't often that the mill had to be started 'cold', or restarted after a 'choke' -- when a piece of machinery clogged or broke down and the mill had to come to a standstill.

There could be problems with the waterpower too, however, and Merritt and Clayton remember several occasions when the turbines very  
Continued on page 22

INGERSOLL TIMES August 20 1986

# Dusty miller a fixture of years gone by

Story By  
Kimberley Hutchinson

In a few more years, the phrase 'the dusty miller' will be reserved for gardeners discussing a small whitened plant by that name. But the dusty miller was once an integral fixture in many local communities.

He earned his name justly. The grist and flour mills which helped the small communities of Oxford County develop and prosper were continually filled with a heavy fog of dust from the flour.

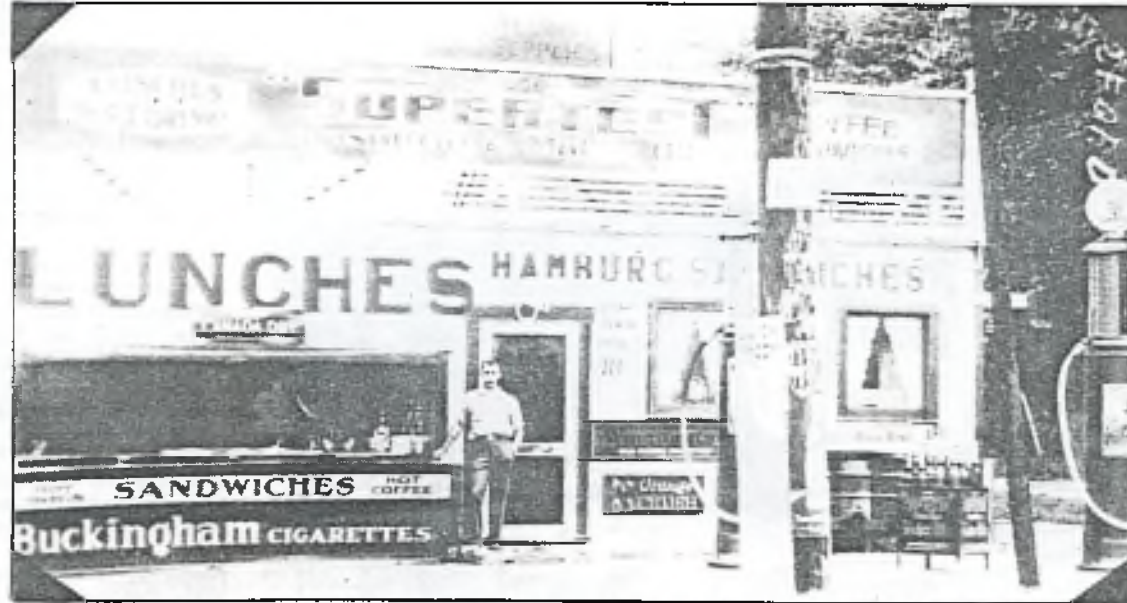
The dusty miller, usually accompanied by a supervising cat, peered about through the various cogs and wheels of the operation to ensure that the machinery was all turning at the proper speeds, the water was flowing at the most efficient rate, and the finest flour was being prepared for the customers.

Not much wonder so many mills fell prey to fire in the early years! The smallest spark could set off an explosion that would lift the roof of the sturdiest building.

Whatever the work load ahead of them, and however energetic the miller and his men, before the arrival of the electricity there was no milling after dark unless it was accomplished by moonlight.

Although most of the Ingersoll grist and flour mills had been burned down or shut down early in this century, there was a thriving family milling business in Thamesford -- down by the old mill stream.

The large white structure (now operating as a feed mill and garden centre) still rises above the water by the Thamesford dam where it was rebuilt in 1900 when the original



Back in the Thirties customers in the mill at the corner of Milton Street and lunch store. Customers coming from Ingersoll couldn't miss the and Highway 19 in Thamesford could stop for a bite to eat at the gas bar -- bold advertisements of the colorful shop.

frame structure was destroyed by fire.

The original mill was erected by John Finkle in 1845, and was eventually sold to Joseph Cawthrope, from whom a Thamesford farmer purchased it in 1917.

The Geo. Hogg and Sons Mill was a family endeavor throughout two wars and the Great Depression, with George's two sons, Gordon and Allan, and Gordon's two sons Merritt and Clayton -- who finally sold the family business in 1971.

Merritt and Clayton Hogg recall that in the early milling years and

throughout the 'twenties, the flour produced at the mill was shipped out in large barrels -- manufactured nearby -- in weights of 196 pounds of flour per barrel.

In the later years, jute and cotton bags were used, then finally the reinforced paper bags carried the flour to whatever distant point it was bound.

"You'd pile 196 pounds of flour into the jute bags, then pile them three high on the truck to take down to the railway station," recalled Merritt.

"They'd load them on the elevator and into the car on the train, and

they would go to some of the bakeries out east or wherever," he explained.

These regulated weights varied during the years of the Second World War, however, when bread flour was shipped over to Great Britain. For these shipments the flour had to weigh in at 140 pounds.

"I think it had something to do with the different units of measurement," Clayton recalls. "It was the same as 10 British stone."

Smaller half-barrel shipments became popular later, and the weights on the packing apparatus

had to be changed to trigger the shutoff at 98 pounds instead.

The fine finished flour was stored in huge bins, which tapered into a packing device at the bottom where the man known as the packer -- who did nothing else all day but keep up with the steady flow -- monitored each barrel or bag as it filled.

A counterweight was attached to the packing platform, and as the bag filled it weighed down the platform. When the bag reached the regulated weight, a shutoff valve would be triggered to stop the flow of flour at precisely the right moment.

The jute and cotton bags would be hand-stitched across the top in those days, and tied at the ends in the telltale 'ears' which marked the handwork of the packer.

The bags that were shipped to such distant ports as Grenada, Trinidad and the Barbados were always the cotton variety rather than the jute, Clayton pointed out, probably because the jute bags had problems with wastage.

"With the jute bags," Merritt explained, "you lost a little flour every time you handled the bag."

Although the cotton bags were not as durable, and the packer had to take care not to rip them when stitching, they lost much less flour because of the closer weave of the cloth.

The farmer would bring his wheat into the mill, where it was weighed and elevated up and into the holding bin. From there it would go down into the large rollers for the 'first breaks,' which separated some of  
Continued on page 11

INGERSOLL TIMES

August 20, 1986

# Thamesford's dusty miller

Continued from page 10  
nearly ran away with the mill.

If there was not enough grain in the system, there was very little drag on the power and the speed of every piece of machinery would increase rapidly.

"We'd have the whole floor shaking," Clayton recalled, "and you'd have to grab a bag of grain quick and throw it in to slow things down."

Of course the wheels could be slowed down by reducing the flow of water through the mill, and there were governors that could be adjusted, but more often than not, the governors were slow to turn when the water was flowing quickly through the gates, and the miller might be afraid for his life as the speed kept increasing, the floors shaking, and machinery screaming next to him.

"It was a lot easier to throw in a bag of grain," Clayton concluded.

When the mill was quiet on Sunday, local residents would come down to the pretty millpond for picnicking, swimming and boating.

According to the Hogg brothers,

there used to be frantic activity down at the millpond each 24th of May holiday, with swimming races, a makeshift diving board, and a greasy pole contest for the brave and foolish.

Like the millponds in Ingersoll, the waters above the Thamesford

dam were favorites for boaters keen on a Sunday outing.

On Monday morning, the dusty miller and the big red cat would be walking the floors again, in one of the last remaining flour and grist mills in the area.



Long after automobiles were widely used by many citizens, dairies were still using the horse and wagon to deliver their products. Here an Ingersoll dairy makes a delivery to a local home.

INGERSOLL TIMES

August 20, 1986

1862  
TOWN OF INGERSOLL  
CELEBRATION OF THE  
QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY!

The committee of arrangements have much pleasure in announcing that Her Majesty's Birthday,  
Saturday, 24th May,

Will be celebrated in Ingersoll in the usual loyal and appropriate manner. The day will be observed as a  
General Holiday!

And the Artillery will fire  
Royal Salutes During the day.

It is expected that the Free and Accepted, Honorable and Ancient, Illustrious and Inimitable, Pragmatic and Prismatic, Hydrostatic and Exstalic body of

C A L L I T R U M P I A N S

Or Sons of Momus will parade during the day, commencing at one o'clock, p.m., on the ground in the vicinity of the English Church, when the prizes will be awarded for the following:

Putting the heavy stone,  
Hop, Step and Leap,  
Running High Leap,  
Sack Race,  
Hurdle Race,  
Wheelbarrow Race.

Competitors to pay an entrance fee. Wheelbarrow and Sack Race Free. A Scrub Race will be run, open to all horses, the hindmost horse to win; no person to ride his own animal, an entrance fee must be paid. Winners of prizes will please apply to the treasurer on the ground immediately after winning.

At 4 o'clock p.m., immediately after the games are concluded, the water will be drawn off Benson's Mill Pond, and search begin for

T H E A L L I G A T O R  
Fireworks in the Evening

Persons desirous of erecting booths on the ground must make applications to the treasurer. As the Committee have secured the ground from the Proprietors, a fee of One Dollar will in all cases be charged for permission to erect booths.

JOHN McDONALD, Chairman.

T. A. McNAMARA, Secretary.

C. P. HALL, Treasurer.

Ingersoll, May 20, 1862.

Great excitement was caused in Ingersoll in 1862 by strange disturbances in Benson's Mill Pond, and the rumor that it was an alligator was generally believed by the public. It was decided to drain the pond to solve the mystery on the 24th of May, and here the Committee of Arrangements give the program in an advertisement in the Ingersoll Chronicle.

LOGGIV FREE PRESS

October 4 1969

# A slice of Ingersoll as it was in 1897

**INGERSOLL** — The town had its own custom office. women's dresses sold for 39 cents and men's overcoats for \$2. Flannellette cost \$1 for 34 yards. Butter was 15 cents per pound and a quart of beef cost \$5.

Because of their scarcity, eggs were selling for the exorbitant price of 17 cents per dozen.

Cost of operating Ingersoll's Collegiate Institute for the year was \$4,041.

The year was 1897.

These news items were taken from an 1897 edition of The Ingersoll Chronicle. Several dog-eared copies of the paper were found in the Sentinel-Review bureau on Thames Street.

The brittle and brown pages tell the tales of an era past for the town. Perhaps some of our older readers will recall first hand accounts of some of the articles from their older relatives.

The Chronicle, published here from 1853 to 1919, carried detailed accounts of suicides, pub brawls and serial-type stories of town residents who were ill.

The newspaper was a great name-dropper. Complete lists of persons registered at the town's two hotels were carried on each front page.

In 1897, food was cheap—and so was labor.

While The Chronicle ran help wanted columns, no wages were mentioned. But a court story indicated a construction worker sued his employer for non-payment of wages—to the tune of \$6 per day. A meeting of town council approved hiring an auditor at the rate of \$8 per day.

And, perhaps the town had its unemployment problems in those days.

The inaugural meeting of town council in 1898 saw council approve that "the balance of King Street be completed as soon as weather permits," and, that "none but residents of Ingersoll be employed for the work, and that the contractor be compelled to pay the usual rate of wages."

## EDUCATION

Education was a minor problem for the taxpayer. Estimates of the board of education submitted to town council stated the cost for the year of operating public schools would be \$6,196, including salaries. A similar estimate for operating the town's collegiate institute was \$4,041.

Walter Mills was returned to town council as mayor by acclamation. And all of West Oxford council was returned by acclamation.

There were 166 names on Ingersoll's voter's list.

The town had its own customs building here in that era. A report states, "The amount of dutiable goods passing through Ingersoll customs in December was \$16,592."

An editor's note at the foot

of the article states, "Ingersoll is eminently entitled to an independent port of entry, and we trust are long to see this desideratum an accomplished fact."

Town residents were up in arms over freight trains passing through the town or stopping to refuel. "This morning, the blockade of freight train on Thames Street lasted half an hour," one article says.

The old newspaper is full of one-paragraph stories relating who was visiting who, who had bought or moved into a rented house, who was in hospital, and who was laid up at home.

One item reads, "Albert and Amos Saerider have bought Charles Hughes' farm in Folden's Corners for \$4,900."

## DIVORCE

Whether or not town residents got their divorces out-of-town to avoid publicity, or if they did it because of restricted divorce grounds here is anyone's guess.

One story states that Maggie Karn was granted a divorce from Edward Karn in Detroit in 1897. They were from Ingersoll and had been married seven years.

"Her husband made her hoe corn, dig potatoes, and harvest hay besides caring for her baby," the report says. "Her husband lying in bed in the meantime, or, going to the village occasionally to get a keg of beer and some companions to assist him in a carouse." The divorce was granted on cruelty grounds.

Probably Ingersoll like other communities in those days had its share of itinerants searching the country for work.

A court story reads, "Thomas Ryan, a weary traveller, appeared before the magistrate this morning charged with being vagrant. He pleaded guilty and was let off on suspended sentence on consenting to leave town. He left on the run."

Ingersoll at the turn of the century was a robust town, according to the old newspaper. Stories related tales of men having their ears bitten off in pub brawls. And, it appears some of the town's women, too, were savoury characters.

## MARY BAIRD

Another court story states, "Mary Baird was charged this morning at the police court with being a prostitute." Dear Mary spend a month in Woodstock jail as the penalty.

Advertisements in the paper also give some insight of what the town was like to live in and what it had to offer.

A jeweller advertised wedding rings, also, advertised for patrons to buy their wedding licences in his store.

Apparently, women were expected to look after their own hair and beauty needs.

A town barbershop advertised, "A first class easy shave,

a hair cut in the latest style, hair straightened, alcohol sea foam and Egyptian egg shampoo." As an afterthought the ad continued, "Ladies' bangs cut and curled in the latest fashion."

Quack medicines were advertised on most pages. One ad didn't mention the name of the product but gave an address for "a free trial to any honest man." The medicine assured "happy marriage, good temper and long life."

Penny-farthing bicycles and tricycles were the most modern means of getting around town in those days, unless one preferred to hire a horse from one of the town's four liveryies.

And, there were medications for cyclists.

An ad reads, "The Bicyclist's Best Friend is a familiar name for Trask's Magnetic Ointment, always ready for emergencies. While specific for piles, it also instantly relieves and cures cuts, bruises, salt rheum, exzema and oil affections of the skin. 25 cents."

If wages were low, artists apparently were at the bottom of the wage scale, according to another ad. It read, "We would be pleased to show you our large stock of framed oil and water color paintings, framed complete for 35 cents."

A local tailor offered custom made tailored men's wool suits from \$2.50 to \$4.50.

## MEN'S WEAR

Off the rack, men's clothing was a steal. One ad listed men's wool overcoats, \$2; pea jackets, \$1.25; Persian, beaver or otter caps, \$3; lambs wool undershirts and drawers, 50 cents; fancy shirts, 75 cents, while dress shirts ran 50 cents to \$1.

A January white sale of women's clothing advertised "gowns from 39 cents to \$2, skirts, 39 cents to \$2; drawers 19 cents and corset covers from 10 cents to 75 cents."

Yards goods were amazingly cheap. One merchant offered 34 yards of flannellette for \$1; 36-inch gingham at 6 cents per yard, sheeting at 13 cents per yard, and 54-inch serge at 75 cents per yard.

Lace curtains were going for 15 cents per pair and carpeting cost 20 cents per yard.

A Saturday market report for the town stated butter "was much in evidence and sold at 15 to 16 cents per pound. But eggs are still scarce and sell readily at 17-19 cents per dozen."

Rabbits cost 25 cents for five pounds, tea at 19 cents per pound, and coffee, 25 cents per pound.

A farmer's market listed prices per bushel at: wheat, 82 cents; barley, 25 cents; oats, 22 cents; live hog per cwt., \$4.50; a quarter of beef, \$5; lamb by the carcass, 10 cents; mutton, 6 cents; 100 pounds of flour, \$2; ducks per pair, 50c; turkey 10 cents per pound.

SENTINEL  
REVIEW  
JANUARY  
23, 1971



Keeler Ford's new showroom and service building was officially opened in October. The dealership is located on King Street.

### Ingersoll in review

## School, hospital building featured

INGERSOLL — School and hospital additions valued at \$2,196,000 completed or under way highlighted construction at Ingersoll last year.

There is also the possibility of a start this year on a \$2,680,000 addition to Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute.

Official opening of a \$240,000 wing to Victory Memorial Public School was held in October. Included were a 10,000 square foot gymnasium-audi-

torium seating 600, and a teachers' lounge. The auditorium will be available after school hours for functions under direction of the town's recreation director.

At Sacred Heart Separate School three classrooms, a library, health unit and change room are included in a \$139,289 enterprise due for completion by the end of April.

The original two-storey building is being demolished and pupils will be housed in additions completed in 1954, 1963 and 1965. When finished, the school will have nine classrooms, a kindergarten and general purpose room. Architect is Charles Gillin, London. William Hendriks Construction Ltd. has the contract.

Residents are awaiting official opening of an extensive addition to Alexandra Hospital this fall. The province is paying two-thirds of the \$1,817,000 cost, including equipment. Ingersoll's share is \$205,000. John Hayman and Sons, London, are contractors. Ludwig and Grindl, Hamilton, is the architect firm.

The proposed extension to the collegiate is in the hands of the newly-elected county school board. Plans for a 78,000 square foot addition that would boost enrolment capacity from 1,150 to 1,700 were studied by the 1968 town council and department of education approval was obtained.

Sharing facilities with Ingersoll students at present are those from Beachville and the townships of West Oxford, North Oxford, East Nissouri, West Zorra and Dereham. Actual cost to municipalities has been estimated at \$1,310,000 with government grants looking after the balance.

LONDON FREE  
PRESS

January 11, 1969

# Housing starts up at Ingersoll

INGERSOLL — This Oxford County town took firm hold of the housing problem last year. Result was 35 new homes completed. Plans were laid for senior citizens' housing and geared-to-income apartment units.

For the seniors, a 16 unit apartment will be started soon on Thames Street. Another 16-unit project is listed for the income-controlled group on a site still to be decided. A good year was reported in the 85-lot Princess Park subdivision, where a number of homes were completed.

Confidence in the economy of the area was reflected in business investments. Lloyd Hall Leasing and Holdings Ltd. was formed. Property for the new firm was purchased directly across from Lloyd Hall Motors.

Keeler Ford held the official opening of their new building and showroom in October. The automotive dealership is located at 325 King St. Bill Keeler is president and Bob Shelton sales manager.

Road and traffic improvements were extensive last year. A \$100,000 bridge was built two miles west of Ingersoll, adjacent to the town's water works plant. Named after former county roads superintendent J. N. Meathrell, who officially opened it, the structure is an important traffic artery in the county system.

Bell Street (also Highway 2) was reconstructed. Curbs, gutters, sidewalks and the first layer of paving were completed. Total cost is \$175,000 with 75 per cent paid by the department of highways as a connecting link.

A new Hydro substation was completed late last year at Holcraft and Wingham streets.

A day nursery board was formed by the town late last year. Operation of the nursery is in prospect early this year at Trinity United Church Sunday school rooms on Alma Street.

Varied projects are listed for completion this year. Automatic signals will be installed at the CNR Pemberton Street crossing, at a cost of \$40,000. Ingersoll's share is tabbed at \$2,493.

Extension of sanitary sewers on portions of Harris, Can-

terbury, Tunis, Cherry, Taylor and Charles streets will start when weather permits. Contract price is \$15,000.

About \$10,000 will be spent for repairs to the Thames Street bridge. Ten acres of land were optioned for industrial sites.

Recognizing the need for expansion of the Ingersoll sewer system, town council has proposed that the Ontario Water Resources Commission take over the system for future development. It is hoped the Ontario Municipal Board will approve the change-over this year.

R. V. Anderson, Associates are preparing plans for reconstruction of Thames Street from Bell Street to the north town line. The \$160,000 project calls for rebuilding of curbs, gutters, sidewalks, installation of storm sewers and complete repaving. A start is expected this May.

Also planned is culvert work and road widening along Charles Street West.

LONDON FREE PRESS

January 11, 1969



Major changes are under way at the intersection of John and Bell Streets, with a \$140,000 wing, above, rising at Sacred Heart Separate School. Opposite the school the new \$72,000 Henderson parish hall is almost complete.



Mr. Arnett

# Anatomy of a town: Challenge of change for the 70s

By Gene Arnett  
of The Free Press

The 1970s will be the decade Ingersoll consciously joins the world around it. And for an old separated town in the corner of Oxford County that has kept its neighbors at arm's length for decades, it is going to be a disputed passage. But it is going to happen.

A burgeoning industrial Western Ontario is crowding in, and for Ingersoll's own protection and survival, it will be forced into new relationships with its area.

As the '60s draw to a close, there is the first hesitant action in its streets, town hall, among its industry and commerce, and in the drift of conversation in its homes, shops and meeting places.

Ingersoll slept through the post-war boom, and now is wondering why.

This news editor visited Ingersoll recently and the answers to these questions were many and varied. There were the suspicions that the owners and managers of existing industries ran the town to suit themselves and didn't want too much growth; that they wanted to keep the wage level down. Some were suspicious that the situation still exists.

Others were mystified and couldn't explain it. Others claimed the town lacked leadership with enough quality and dynamism to overcome factional fights major community moves engender.

"Small town politics are more difficult than politics in the city," said a businessman.

"In a small town everyone knows everyone, or at least thinks everyone knows everyone. As a result, when differences arise and they get bitter and sharp, the closeness can hurt more. In a big town a politician isn't hurt so much by a critic he doesn't personally know. But when an Ingersoll politician does something, and a critic says the politician is a nut, the politician is hurt because he knows the guy who called him a nut, more than likely sees him on the street a couple of times a week.

"And then when a town industrial leader enters council, many are suspicious of his motives. Small town politics are rough. They take a guy that's got lots of character, a guy that can be crucified and come up smiling. And there aren't too many Christs around. Not too many small businessmen will go on council because a move the town doesn't like can hurt his business."

Others blamed the mass media for the town's lack of progress. "What's the Free Press and CFPL ever done for us?" asked one man. "I don't think we're that dead, but if we are, isn't the fact that Ingersoll died news? You guys can get all hot about some guy taking pot, but you don't give a damn about what killed a town."

Another critic, on the area secondary school staff, also said small towns should get a better break in the media regarding high school sports.

The general view was that area media, particularly the London media, failed to give Ingersoll a good enough look at itself in relationship to its area, and thereby failed to provide a stimulus for action, a means of forming a community consensus.

What then is a fairly comprehensive view of Ingersoll in its changing environment? Physically it's like this:

Ingersoll at the end of the '60s is an old and rather untidy image.

More than two-thirds of its occupied dwellings were constructed before 1920. This is more than double the Ontario average. Housing constructed from 1920 to 1945 is almost twice the Ontario average.

Post-war housing initiatives have lagged behind the rest of the province. From 1946 to 1959, 324 dwellings were constructed, well below half the provincial rate. In the years 1961 to 1964 inclusive, only 89 homes were built while Tillsonburg to the south gained 130 new homes.

A 16-unit low-rental project and a 16-unit senior citizens' residential project are under construction. Some town-house style general-rental units also are being built.

Ingersoll's dominant industrial complex, Ingersoll Machine and Tool and Morrow Screw and Nut, an old firm that has remained active and vital, is housed in old plants. Even this group's new subsidiary, Flylo Corp., Ltd., which starts assembly of a small hovercraft in January, and will need 80 to 100 new workers, will be housed within the existing plants. Borden and Ingersoll Cheese are also in old buildings.

Ingersoll's retail, financial, commercial and professional segments are housed in pre-war and pre-1920 buildings to a dominant degree. Its street system is old and underdeveloped. The municipal offices are old. The railway stations are old and the service diminishing.



## Anatomy of a town.

The sewage system is old and operating at capacity. It has just been taken over by the OWRC and a start on an enlarged system is planned next year.

Even the trees that line Ingersoll's streets and provide a large shaded environment are old, and the remaining lifespan of many of them is a matter of concern.

The generally poor physical condition of the town, and the lack of any serious attempt to cultivate the town's natural beauty spots, must be considered in the light of the town's debt position, which is low — about 10 to 12 per cent of assessment.

Survival as a viable community is a major concern for the town. Can a community that ships out 40 per cent of its labor force survive? Is a community that has stopped growing (last year it lost four citizens) already dying?

Many in Ingersoll already fear the worst: That the town is dying as a vital community

and that the future will see it relegated to a dormitory status for London — 20 minutes to the west.

There are also many among the concerned who are optimistic.

One town businessman looked at the situation this way:

"We are an island in a sea of opportunity. There is a growing feeling among the people that we have been asleep too long. I think the big turnover in council two years ago indicates the town's desire to move ahead.

"I think that the town spirit was also boosted by the success of the wine and cheese festival this fall. There is a new spirit in the town. The new council has done a lot of tidying up. I think we have got across the view that none of the floodplain in the town is good for industry and that we need annexation of the 2,000 acres south of town to build a new industrial base.

"With the tidying up of our zoning and planning, I think we have a good chance at the annexation. The hearing is going to be early in 1970. I think the '70s look good."

They should look good because the '60s were frustrating. That's what Town Clerk William A. MacIntyre will tell you. He pulled out a sheaf of correspondence between the town and provincial government, the remains of a so-far-unsuccessful fight to get on the list of designated communities eligible for partially forgivable industrial loans. The exchange of correspondence is below.

What really is frustrating for Ingersoll in this protracted negotiation with Queen's Park is, that despite the explanation by John Mason, executive assistant to Trade and Development Minister Randall of the purposes behind the equalization program, the town can't quite grasp the reasoning when it watches regional towns like Simcoe and Tillsonburg admitted to the designated category and gain industry.

In the light of the admission of Tillsonburg and Simcoe, and considering Ingersoll's aged industrial, commercial, retail and residential sectors, the town finds parts of Mr. Mason's reply ironic.

In particular, officials point to the sentence regarding the 578 who work outside Ingersoll: "However, this is a minor problem compared to some of the communities for whom the program is really set up and who have no such firm basis for industry."

A check with the economic survey of the Lake Erie region, done in 1965 by Mr. Randall's department, provided an interesting comparison of the three communities for the period 1946 to 1961.

Simcoe in 1946 had 25 manufacturing plants with 1,385 employees and a payroll of \$2,054,000. In 1961, it had 31 industries with 1,433 employees and a payroll of \$6,087,000.

Tillsonburg in 1946 had 20 manufacturing firms with 584 employed and a payroll of \$846,000. In 1961 it had 25 industries with 984 employees and a \$3,380,000 payroll.

Ingersoll in 1946 had 21 manufacturing firms with 1,310 employees and a payroll of \$2,067,000. In 1961 it had 23 industries with 926 employees and a payroll of \$3,534,000.

The question that comes quickly to mind for Ingersoll officials is: Are the Tillsonburg and Simcoe industrial bases really that shaky?

Also that bit about those communities losing children brings a tear to Ingersoll's eyes too, but for its children, not those of Simcoe and Tillsonburg.

Town officials say they can't compete against the forgiveness loans, even with good serviced land, especially against towns in the same economic region who they think are more favorably located to new development than Ingersoll and are on the favored list.

"When the province is paying firms up to \$4,000 or \$5,000 per job to locate in a town, that's pretty nice stuff," said one member of the Ingersoll Industrial Commission.

Also there seems to be an official rejection of the value of the province's offer of a \$300,000 long-term loan to help the town secure industry.

One wonders how good a selling job has been done. A \$300,000 long-term loan offer during a tight-money situation seems to have some attractive features when one considers the forgiveness loans in Southern Ontario are generally limited to \$100,000 a loan.

Since the start of the town's efforts to get on the favored designated list, the town's employment picture has ebbed and flowed. CIL, which has employed about 100 persons for many years, is now phasing out. Shelby Knit Wear closed in 1968, and so did the Steinberg store.

The significant part of the CIL phase-out is going to be partly offset when Flylo Corp., starts production in January. That firm expects 70 per cent of its work force will be male, and there are 80 to 100 jobs expected to open. However, the loss of male employment in Ingersoll is a major concern, and officials feel the most significant reason the town has the lowest population-growth record in the area.

In 1968, an Ontario Housing Corp. survey concluded: "The Town of Ingersoll has been a pocket of slow growth in a region where population and urbanization are increasing rapidly. From 1951 to 1966 its population grew at an average annual rate of 0.7 p.c., compared to a rate of 2.7 p.c. for the province, and 2.1 p.c. for the Lake Erie region."

During the 1961 to 1966 period, the town population rate increased to 1.1 p.c. During the same period, the average for all urban areas of Oxford, other than Woodstock, rose to 3.0 p.c. The Woodstock rate was 3.2 p.c.

In May, 1968, town council attempted to draw the significance of the male employment loss to Mr. Randall's attention. It reported a reduction in male employment from 1,375 in 1961 to 801 in 1968.\*

However, the significance of the point didn't impress Mr. Randall's department. It still hasn't. And the town's frustration continues.

At least part of that frustration is the town's fault. It stems from a seemingly-dominant condition of mind throughout Ingersoll: an over-identification with the town. This is possibly part of Ingersoll's historic stance as a separated town — a stance that was acceptable in a period of isolated communities, but not acceptable in an age when the moon is the new frontier.

If you ask an Ingersoll resident where he lives, he will almost invariably answer "Ingersoll". If you ask a Londoner the same question, he is likely to answer "London." Certainly, however, the Londoner's answer has much more validity than the person from Ingersoll. Many more Londoners can and do "live" almost completely in London. An Ingersoll resident, and the resident of any small town, is almost forced to be a regional citizen.

For example, there are the women shoppers, like a group in Clark's Restaurant on a Monday night. They like the London stores on Monday because they are not as crowded. And then there are those seeking entertainment, post-secondary-school education, special medical attention, a different hairdresser — and finally those 600 who work out-of-town.

These people are living regionally. And is it bad, or undesirable? What is significant as far as the regional work force is concerned? Is it where they work, or is it where they reside and make their home?

For those in Ingersoll who work at the Ford plant or at Northern Electric, the travel-to-work time is 20 to 30 minutes. Many Londoners who have to take buses to work would be happy if they could get to work that quickly. And as for population growth, I

don't think this has yet become a factory function.

The '70s will be better! That's the hope of Ingersoll. There's definitely a growing consensus for action, generally identified with new industry in an expanded town. But is that all Ingersoll wants from the '70s or is there something bigger, still undefined?

I would bet on the latter.

As the merchant said: "Ingersoll is an island in a sea of opportunity."

A whole series of giants are appearing on the horizon. First it was Ford to the west. And now, to the south and east, marching along the north shore of Lake Erie are the 7,000-acre Stelco development, Ontario Hydro's Nanticoke station, the 5,000-acre Dominion Foundries and Steel Co., options, and the 2,000 acres east of Port Dover recently optioned by a still-unidentified company.

The Economic Council, Erie Region, which covers Elgin, Middlesex, Norfolk and Oxford counties, forecasts the next 4½ years will see the region grow by 100,000 people, and the gross regional product will increase by two billion dollars to more than six billion dollars.

Also on the horizon is another giant — tentatively labeled "regional government."

These are the major elements of Inger-

soll's still undefined future. These are the elements that are going to force it to acknowledge its regional relationships.

What does securing new industry mean if the province takes over industrial taxation or if a regional government takes it over?

In such a context, how desirable is the town's present 2,000-acre annexation plan? Suddenly, long-held desires show their age.

Is it industry that Ingersoll really wants or is it the improved conditions of life that easily accessible industry can bring?

There is nothing wrong with a generally residential town, and if such a town becomes simply a dormitory that is the town's fault.

These are the decisions that face Ingersoll as the '70s appear.

When I asked Town Clerk MacIntyre about the town's participation with the regional economic council, he said almost spontaneously: "We possibly should be more active in that." Town delegates have been attending the council meetings, but recently when the secondary schools of the region had a chance to participate in a special program put on by the council at the University of Western Ontario designed to bring young people into the decision-making process, Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute had made other commitments.

This was unfortunate because not only must the media keep the people informed, but the school, especially area schools, must make students familiar with the facts involved in decisions they will soon be called upon to make. And it is all the more unfortunate when the school curriculum fails to cover the matter also.

A voting age of 18 years is already proposed federally, and Premier Robarts says he favors such a move provincially. A vote at 18 means the basic decision on Ingersoll's relationship with its area which will be made within the next five to 10 years involves those in Ingersoll DCI very much.

The Erie economic council is the major area organization stimulating discussion and study of the restructuring of local government. The council is made up of delegates from area municipal governments, county councils. It draws its financing from the member councils and from the provincial government. It considers itself an arm of no level of government, but rather a catalyst between local, county and provincial governments, and hopes to bring forth ordered area development.

Reeve Charles Nichols of Adelaide Township last January called the Erie economic council a 'do-nothing' organization.

"What you have there is two professors trying to tell the province that they know how to run the area better than we do," he said.

Others might consider that the council is moving too fast, such as the "learning exer-

cises" put out by the council. Among the exercises is the one which "adjusted the 71 municipalities of the Erie Economic Region into 16 local governments within one regional municipality."

In the case of Ingersoll, it was grouped in with East Nissouri, North Oxford, West Oxford and Beachville to form one local municipality with about 16,000 people and \$26,000,000 assessment.

No matter what the feelings are with regard to the council, there is one thing certain. At the moment, next to the provincial government, it appears to be the most powerful organization influencing the future design of our area.

In May, 1969, Provincial Treasurer MacNaughton wrote a letter to all Ontario municipalities to bring them up to date on Ontario's regional development program.

In part, the letter says: "In 1969 we are moving into the action stage of the program. Our ten regional development councils, who serve as advisors on economic planning, have submitted recommendations for action -- not only in their entire region but also in specific portions of them. . . I want to emphasize that before any regional development plans are adopted, they will be returned to the regional development councils for review and criticism to ensure that the final plans will incorporate 'grass roots' viewpoints."

Last March, Dr. Richard S. Thoman, director of regional development for the province, said a total land use plan for the province, that will state specifically where industry will and will not go, is nearing completion. Dr. Thoman expects the plan to be politically volatile since it will finally dictate which areas will be allowed to continue their urban growth and which will be halted, in the interests of either agriculture or recreation.

The Erie regional council submitted a preliminary report on its regional goals inquiry last year. It advised on priorities for land use and said any place in the region was capable of supporting development. Presumably its final report will be more specific.

And there -- in those specifics -- is the challenge for Ingersoll, and the whole area. Those lines of development -- recreational, agricultural, industrial, residential -- are now forming the regional landscape. In a time of total mobility and total communication, a time already labeled the post-industrial age, this is the challenge of the village, the "global village", the challenge of the 70s.

Let's build in fun, love and self-respect, and put industry where it will serve, not be served.

\*The figure 1,375 for male employment in 1961 is at variance with the figure in the Erie region economic survey made in 1965. It reports total industrial employment in 1961 was 934 persons.

## **Frustrating Sixties**

The '60s for Ingersoll were frustrating. On Jan. 18, 1968, shortly after taking office, Mayor Henry wrote in part as follows to Stanley Randall, minister of economics and development.

Honorable Sir:

A letter received from Mr. R. H. Ribbans, Assistant Secretary for the Ontario Development Corporation and addressed to the former Mayor of our Town has come to the attention of the 1968 Council.

Mr. Ribbans refers to an application made by the Industrial Commission on behalf of the Town relating to Equalization of the Industrial Opportunity Program. Council is most disturbed to learn that the application made was not accepted for the various reasons as set out in the letter referred to above.

We do indeed appreciate the fact that our unemployment rate is low, however, a very important factor responsible for this situation is because of the very fact that over 575 workers leave Ingersoll every day to work in other areas. This represents over 39% of all the employable workers in the Town itself. Should this trend continue the Town could find itself in a severe situation in providing the necessary services demanded of home owners today. We cannot afford to become a dormitory for other industrial areas within commuting distance.

The population of Ingersoll has not increased to any degree in the last ten years. We attribute this situation to lack of industrial development and therefore, are of the opinion that there must be some incentive to encourage industries to locate in our Town.

Yours very truly,  
Gordon B. Henry,  
Mayor



**GORDON B. HENRY**  
mayor of Ingersoll

LONDON FREE PRESS

November 15, 1969

On Feb. 7, 1968, Mayor Henry received the following reply in part from the office of Mr. Randall.

Dear Mayor Henry:

I trust you will forgive this belated acknowledgement and thanks for your letter of January 18 addressed to the Honourable Stanley J. Randall and having reference to earlier correspondence from our Ontario Development Corporation. I can quite understand and appreciate the concern you have that the Town of Ingersoll was not included among our slow-growth areas under our new Equalization of Industrial Opportunity Program. It has been extremely difficult to explain the reasons for the decision on several of the towns in this province since, in essence, we look upon them as healthy and thriving.

The intent of our E.I.O. Program was to firstly, decentralize industry throughout the province; and secondly, to equalize the taxation difficulties which are faced by many of our smaller municipalities. It was our hope in bringing this legislation forward that the smaller towns and communities who are now faced with a heavy residential, school and util-

## The reply to the mayor

ities taxation might have the opportunity of inviting industry to these areas and to share the tax load with industrial taxation. This is proving to be the case in all those areas where a company has decided to move in and, of course, grants for such companies are only permitted when the terms of reference and the intent of our program are met.

Upon receipt of your letter, I contacted the Ontario Development Corporation, which is responsible for our E.I.O. Program, since I wanted to have the benefit of their assessment of Ingersoll. In this report, O.D.C. has noted that:

- 1—There are 13 manufacturing plants in a town of about 7,000 people employing over 1,000 workers.
- 2—Two new plants have established within the last five years creating almost 300 new jobs. In addition, there has been a plant expansion creating a further 10 jobs.
- 3—Only one manufacturing plant

has closed in the past five years resulting in a loss of 8 jobs.

4—The Town has made a net gain of 295 jobs over the past five years.

5—The number of unemployed in the town at 230 is relatively low.

They have assessed Ingersoll as being a very thriving community but which, like many other communities, has its problems. It is quite understandable that Ingersoll would like additional industry so that some of the 578 people who work elsewhere might find employment in the city. However, this is a minor problem compared to some of the communities for whom the program is really set up and who have no such firm basis for industry.

The committee has again looked over the application of Ingersoll and they still come up with the answer that in their opinion Ingersoll is a thriving town. Its assessment is in reasonable bounds with about 40 per

cent being accounted for by commercial and industrial assessment. We recognize that there has been some slight decline in the rate of population growth.

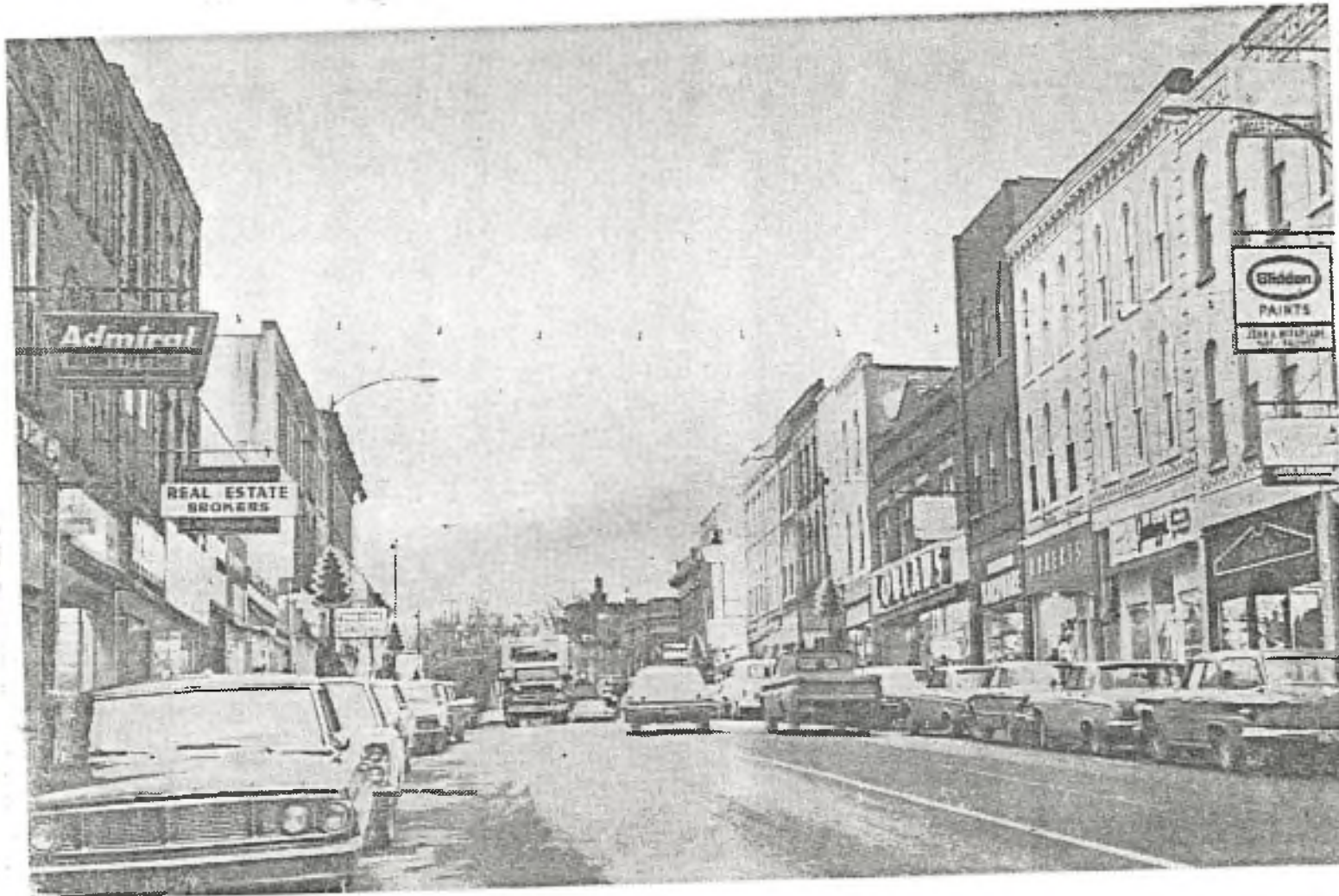
While in the opinion of the committee, Ingersoll is not eligible for E.I.O. grants, I understand O.D.C. has notified you that they are prepared to provide long term conventional financing to a suitable company to establish there and, this by itself is quite an incentive for a company to either establish or expand in Ingersoll.

You may be assured that we have the interests of your town at heart and that nothing would give us greater pleasure than to see it continue to expand and rise. However, I think you can appreciate that with the funds which are available to us we should more properly direct these to those communities so they can be as successful as Ingersoll.

I know Mr. Randall would want me to extend to you his sincere thanks for your interest and concern and for having brought this matter to his attention.

Yours sincerely,  
John R. Mason,  
Executive Assistant.

LONDON FREE PRESS  
November 15, 1969



Main street of Ingersoll is not unlike that of most Southern Ontario towns, yet behind the brick and mortar there

is a fear the town is dying as a viable community, that the future will see it relegated to dormitory status.

# EXPLOSION ROCKS AREA

## Sounded like a snowslide; some thought it a sonic boom

By MARY GILMOUR

Richard Smith, of 115 Church St. "We thought it was something falling on the roof, probably a snowslide. But it was too loud for that. We got a bit scared, we didn't know what to think."

Mrs. G. W. Redford, of 33 Chisholm Dr., said her family was watching television in the recreation room in the basement at the time of the blast. "I thought a car had struck the house. I ran upstairs and checked the children then just waited for someone to knock at the door and tell me about the accident."

Mayor G. B. Henry said he was in bed. "I thought something had happened in the house. My first concern was for my granddaughter." (Susan Simpson, 4, of Toronto, is staying at the mayor's home this week.) "I really thought it was an aircraft breaking the sound barrier. I feel sorry for people who were inconvenienced."

Mrs. George Davies, of 58 Charles St. E. "I thought the gas furnace in the basement had exploded, I got scared, I didn't know what had happened."

Mrs. Wilfred Allen, of 163 Wingham St. "It scared the wits out of me. The family thought it was a sonic boom, but I didn't think so. I thought the floor was going

to cave in. The tremendous noise and shattering feeling gave the effect of what it must have been like in wartime Europe."

B. W. Carr, of 132 Thames St. "I didn't have a clue what it was. It didn't sound like the usual explosion."

Jack Warden, of 245 Tunis St. "It shook the house on its foundation. I thought it was an underground blast or even an earthquake. But this isn't an earthquake area. All the mirrors and pictures in the house tilted. It makes one think of disasters in other parts of the world, such as Pakistan. These things can happen here. We are fortunate there was no loss of life."

Mrs. Richard Scott, of 309 Thames St. N. "We were watching television. We thought it was a sonic boom. The house shook and the blast seemed to come from overhead."

Mrs. A. P. Silcox, of 227 Wellington St. "We thought it was an explosion right inside the house. A small door for plumbing in the bathroom fell off. We couldn't imagine what had happened. We ran outside into the street and saw neighbors out there and knew then it wasn't in our house. We were more curious than scared."

## Fire insurance covers damage

William Sawtell of Sawtell Bros. General Insurance said today persons having fire insurance policies with extended coverage could be recompensed for explosion damage.

The extended coverage clauses protect property owners from damage caused by smoke, riot, windstorm, hail, and motor vehicles as well as explosion.

Mr. Sawtell said that he knew of no policy that insured against damage caused by sonic booms. However, plate glass windows are usually insured against any type of breakage.



SENTINEL REVIEW  
December 29, 1970







SENTINEL  
REVIEW

December  
29, 1970



WORKMEN BOARD up window of downtown store after glass - shattering blast last

night. Dynamite in shed at Canada Cement Plant on Governor's Road was detonated,

causing blast which blew out store windows and was heard

as far away as Toronto. (Sta Photo by Rick Stewart)

SENTINEL REVIEW

December 29, 1970

# Police, officials ponder cause of dynamite blast

By MARY GILMOUR  
and  
ROSS ST. CLAIR

Police and plant officials are investigating an explosion which rocked the area shortly before 11 p.m. last night.

A dynamite shed on the site of Canada Cement Lafarge Ltd. apparently detonated from an unknown cause.

The resulting blast jarred houses in Woodstock, broke as many as 25 plate glass windows in Ingersoll, three miles away, and was heard as far away as London, Burgessville and Tillsonburg.

The shed was located about one mile from the main plant of Canada Cement, where about eight men were said to be working. There were no reports of injuries.

Main damage from the blast was from broken windows in nearby farmhouses and communities, with the heaviest concentration in Ingersoll and Embro.

Plant manager Ed Hutcheson said the amount of dynamite stored in the shed was unknown, and the cause was still a matter of speculation.

RCMP from London, OPP were conducting the investigation.

In Ingersoll, police patrolled the town following the blast to prevent looting.

Eyewitnesses said a green fireball was seen just before the explosion. Hubert Dustin of Ingersoll said he saw a large "green fireball of fire go through the air at the time of the explosion."

"It looked like a star with sharp edges," he said.

A group of men building an outdoor skating rink at Thamesford also said they noticed a ball of fire in the sky just prior to the blast.

The dynamite shed was surrounded by a mound of earth. The shed measured about 20 feet by 14 feet.

Glen Garner, RR 4, Embro, said today that his family was all asleep, and were awakened by the blast. When he heard the explosion, he got up and ran to see what it was. He went to the bedroom where his young son was sleeping, and found him covered with glass. He was not injured, however.

Six or eight windows in the Garner house were broken as well as several in the barn.

"I haven't been around the whole farm yet," said Mr. Garner. "So I can't tell how much damage there is in dollars and cents, but there will be plenty."

The dynamite shed was situated on the next concession west of the Garners' farm, and directly behind the farm.

"After the explosion, I went outside," said Mr. Garner. "I didn't see anything but I smelled something. It smelled like a firecracker, but it wasn't."

Mr. Garner said that although he knew the dynamite was

there, he never worried because he thought it was pretty well protected. The building was solid and was surrounded by mounds of dirt.

He said the blast felt as though a bomb had been thrown against the house.

Constable Miles Lang, Woodstock OPP was sitting in a cruiser which blocked West Zorra Concession 2 at Cody's side-road. The entire area was blocked off, according to the constable, until an investigation can be conducted.

Six OPP officers, two RCMP officers and plant officials are working on the case, trying to ascertain the cause.

James Fleming, reeve of West Zorra Township, was watching television at the time of the explosion. He said that it occurred around 11 p.m. and he thought his furnace had blown up.

"It shook the whole house," said Mr. Fleming. "And this is a stone house."

Several windows in the Fleming house were broken, including all of the cellar windows. There was also extensive damage to Mr. Fleming's pig pen. The reeve added that the house directly across from him had the door post blown right out of the doorway.

The hired man on the Fleming farm was sitting in the back room and saw a flash through the window, according to Mr. Fleming.

"I knew the dynamite was there," said Mr. Fleming, but figured adequate measures had been taken."

The reeve added, "As soon as I heard the explosion, I knew what it was and drove down to the site where the dynamite had been stored. There was no sign of damage from the road. I figured some of those old Elm trees would have been blown down but they weren't."

"I thought it was quite funny the way the windows went," continued the reeve. "Where there were two panes of glass, it was the one on the inside that broke."

Mr. Fleming said that all the windows in the house were blown in, but the windows in the barn that faced the blast blew outwards.

One witness said snowmobile tracks were found all around the area of the dynamite shed.

# Dynamite blast breaks windows

By MARY GILMOUR

INGERSOLL — The dynamite blast which blew out store windows on the town's main street was heard from as far away as Toronto.

The blast was caused by a dynamite shed exploding at the Canada Cement Co. Ltd., near Thamesford.

No one was injured, according to police and hospital officials.

A police spokesman said a sonic boom from an aircraft in the area may have set off the explosives.

More than one dozen store windows on both the east and west sides of Thames Street were blown out by the explosion. The windows on the west side of the street were blown out, while on the east side they were blown into the stores.

Hundreds of people flocked to Thames Street immediately after the blast as police searched the area for a possible cause.

Speculation was that the blast was either a sonic boom, or, that someone had tried to dynamite a safe in one of the stores and had used an overdose of explosives. Some witnesses to the shattering glass on Thames Street said they

thought there had been an earthquake.

While Reward Shoe Store on Thames Street had both its large windows blown out, adjacent stores, Walker Furniture and China and Gifts remained intact. This seemed to be the trend of the blasts' effect throughout the town.

Burglary alarms in town stores sounded, adding to the confusion as police tried to ascertain what had happened.

One woman in the Venus Restaurant said her dog had "a nervous breakdown" from the deafening boom.

The large front window of the restaurant was blown in, causing damage to tropical plants at an estimated loss of \$600.

Mrs. Edward Pye, of 16 Cross St. said she thought "the house was going to lift, it shook so much." "The explosion seemed to have come from down in the basement," she said.

OPP officers cordoned off the plant and wouldn't allow reporters and photographers near the dynamite shed. Plant officials said they thought there might be some unexploded dynamite still in the shed.

Ironically, windows, buildings and lights inside and outside the

plant appeared to be untouched by the blast.

Patrick Bronson, of 110 King Hiram St., and Hubert Dustin, of 137 Carroll St. said they were at the Dustin home and saw what looked like a "streak of lightning over the west side of the town" after they heard the explosion.

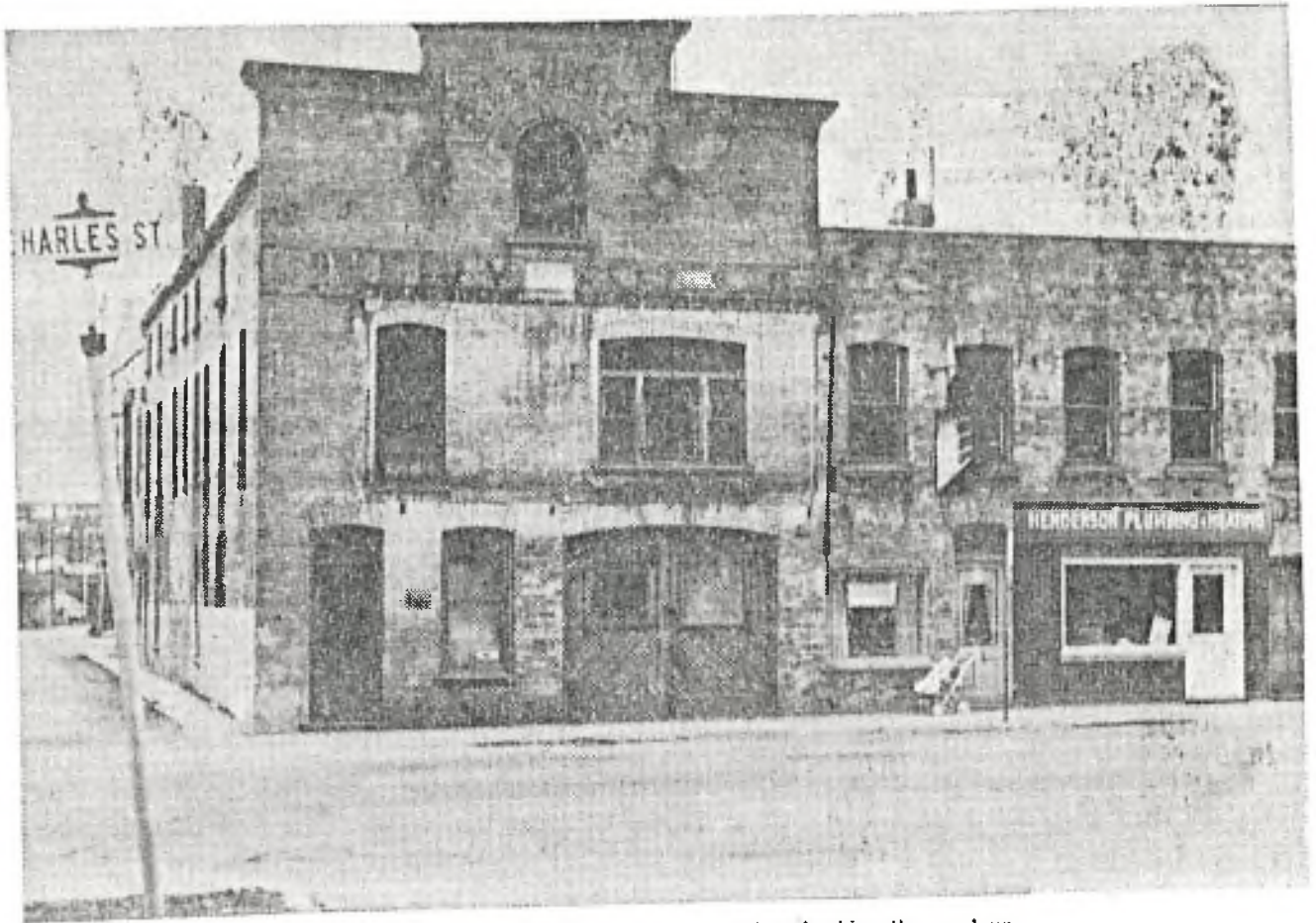
"A big light green ball streaked through the sky over the rooftops after the flash," said Mr. Dustin.

"We thought two aircraft had collided," said Mr. Bronson.

Merchandise and broken glass were shewn over sidewalks. Merchants quickly shovelled up the glass and boarded up windows to prevent looting.

Ontario Provincial Police worked hand-in-hand with Ingersoll police to cordon off Thames Street and locate the cause of the explosion. The street was crawling with police officers trying to prevent looting.

Ontario Hydro crews were called out to repair disrupted service on Governors Road and Dixon's Corners. Telephone service was temporarily disrupted in most parts of the town shortly after the blast.



BECAUSE A lease on the Skinner building on Charles Street doesn't expire until the end of 1972, the project to

widen the road at the corner of Charles and Thames Streets might be delayed until then. Or, the town might go

ahead and widen the road up to the Skinner building this year. (Staff Photo)

## Unexpired lease may delay \$75,000 project

INGERSOLL — An unexpired lease on the Skinner building on Charles Street West might delay the town's \$75,000 project to widen Charles Street at the corner of Thames Street.

Town clerk William MacIntyre said today that the department of highways has given the nod to the town to proceed with the road-widening plan.

But Roy Davies who operates a plumbing business in the Skinner building has turned down a \$1,000 offer by town council to vacate the building so that work on the road can start.

His lease expires at the end of 1972 and this means that the road-widening project could be delayed until then.

The next-door St. Charles Hotel was demolished earlier this year as part of the same project. The proposed plan calls for the demolition of the Skinner building as well, so that Charles Street can be widened from the intersection to the post office.

Town council purchased the Skinner building last November from the Cornish estate at a cost of \$18,000.

Mr. Davies, who holds the lease on the property that houses Henderson Plumbing and Heating business, said today he is still negotiating with the town.

"I know they'd (council) like to see us out," he said, "but we don't know what we're going to do yet."

Mr. MacIntyre said that unless Mr. Davies accepts the town's \$1,000 to vacate the building, it could mean a delay in finishing the project.

"We may go ahead in a couple of months and widen the road up to the Skinner building," said Mr. MacIntyre.

Provincial government will subsidize the \$75,000 job by 50 per cent.

Apex Construction Co., of Brantford, demolished the St. Charles Hotel for \$1,500. The town paid \$40,000 for the hotel when it was purchased from a St. Thomas woman last year.

The site left by the two buildings will make way for a three-lane thoroughfare at the town's busiest intersection.

# Ingersoll area review of progress highlights, 1970

Expansion of municipal boundaries, school growth, a hospital addition and civic development were among major events in Ingersoll during

1970. Here is a roundup of the year's prime happenings:

• Roy Knott of Ingersoll was elected president of the Dairymen's Association of

Western Ontario in January, succeeding Russell Martin of Dorchester.

• An Ingersoll application for annexation of about 2,000 acres from West Oxford Township will be strongly opposed, West Oxford Clerk-Treasurer L. B. Curry said in January. An Ontario Municipal Board hearing was set for March 16. The annexation would involve 22.5 per cent of the township's assessment and 25 per cent of its population.

• In their February meeting, Ingersoll town council approved several public service projects. Toronto consultants R. V. Anderson Associates were hired to report on the estimated cost for a north-south through route across the west boundary of the town. Approval was given to a contract for \$3,950 with Pioneer Construction Co., RR 4, St. Marys, for renovations to a 130 King St. E. building which will be used as a town-operated day nursery. The Ontario Municipal Board announced approval of a \$350,000 debenture for extension of water system services.

• The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority agreed to lease 50 acres of land along the Thames River in Ingersoll for town park purposes.

• Ingersoll PUC manager C. V. MacLachlan told the Ontario Municipal Board in March that costs of servicing the proposed Ingersoll annexation area located west and south of the town, were estimated to be \$1,077,000.

A London chartered accountant told the OMB that as a result of annexation, taxation would increase for residents of an area of West Oxford Township, although their household costs would decrease.

• Alan Crossley, Ingersoll planning consultant, gave the Ontario Municipal Board three main planning reasons behind Ingersoll's application to annex 1,435 acres of West Oxford Township, during the OMB hearing in May.

They are: to acquire level lands more attractive to industry; to establish planning controls over accesses to Ingersoll from Highway 401; to control existing development in the proposed area.

• Ontario Health Minister Thomas Wells officially opened the \$1,900,000 addition to Ingersoll's Alexandra Hospital on May 12. New facilities include an obstetrics suite, larger administration area, an autopsy suite, increased laundry facilities and a dining room for nurses, staff, and visitors.

• Construction contract for a two-wing addition to Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute was awarded to Gilvesy Construction Ltd., Tillsonburg, which had the lowest bid of \$1,652,520.

Both vocational and academic facilities will be expanded.

Work is expected to be complete by September, 1972.

• By June, after extensive hearings, the Ontario Municipal Board approved Ingersoll's annexation of about 700 acres of West Oxford Township.

The town originally sought 1,435 acres.

Ingersoll Mayor Gordon B. Henry said the area to be annexed includes about 500 acres of industrial land which will be valuable to Ingersoll for expansion purposes. He felt the agreement reached to be a reasonable compromise, he added.

• World's first international grape-stomping competition took place in September at Ingersoll's District Memorial Centre as part of the opening ceremonies of the fourth annual eight-day Ingersoll Cheese and Wine Festival.

Champion grape-stomping mayor was William ("Wild Bill") Allen of Woodstock. Other events included an opening parade, a band tattoo, bus tours of the town, and a cheese and wine-tasting party.

• Ivaco Industries Limited of St. Marieville, Que., acquired controlling interest in Ingersoll Machine & Tool Co. Ltd. in September. Ivaco immediately followed the agreement with an offer of one share of Ivaco for one share of Ingersoll, to all remaining Ingersoll shareholders.

• In October, Ingersoll town council began drawing up preliminary plans for the extension of Ingersoll Street to Highway 401.

The extension will serve the recently annexed 700 acres to the south of the town, now in initial stages of development as an industrial park.

• Ingersoll in November, was granted approval from the Ontario Municipal Board to purchase and demolish the St. Charles Hotel building at Thames and Charles streets for intersection improvements. After demolition, plans call for the widening of Thames Street by 10 feet and Charles Street by six feet.

• Completion of an elevated water storage tank located at Holcroft Street and Wingham Street South, is expected early in 1971.

Horton Steel Co. Ltd. of Fort Erie is building the 150-foot tower, to hold 625,000 gallons, for Ingersoll Public Utilities Commission at a cost of \$350,000.

• Six members elected to Ingersoll town council in the December elections are G. C. Herbert, Woodrow Haggerty, Gordon W. Pittock, J. T. Warden, Robert Carr, and C. A. Robins.

Two members elected to the PUC are Ross Fewster and E. A. Hunt.

• The annual Ingersoll Santa Claus parade, which had 22 entries, including 15 were floats, played host to Santa Claus who distributed candy canes to more than 500 children.

• On Dec. 31, Ingersoll cer-

emoniously welcomed 300 new residents living on 700 acres annexed from West Oxford Township by Ingersoll, when 20 new street lights in the annexation area were switched on by Ingersoll's Mayor Gordon B. Henry.



## AREA HISTORY

# The first market was an open yard

By BYRON JENVEY

**INGERSOLL** — According to an ancient map of Ingersoll, the first market place was located on King Street West.

In an open yard, rural residents sold produce on Saturdays.

After the new town hall was completed, a marketing room was provided in it.

### ENTRANCE

The entrance was through a large archway in the south portion of the building that extended to the sidewalk. This passage was about 10 feet wide.

On the west side of the passage was a flour and feed store, while on the east side were located the municipal offices.

The passage led to a large room where the market was held. Long picnic tables were placed near the east and west walls, with chairs or benches behind the tables.

From these tables farm women sold dressed geese, turkeys, ducks and chickens, as well as eggs, honey, syrup, fruits and vegetables.

The market was a busy place on Saturday mornings.

North of the market room were the enclosed weigh scales and a small office for the weigh master. Hay, hogs and cattle were weighed on the scales.

Across the market square to the north were long frame sheds where farmers could park their wagons and on tables could cut and sell beef, pork and lamb.

Gradually these inner and outer markets ceased to exist.

In 1919, the council erected a two-storey red brick building on the north portion of the market square to be used as a market building. A special program was carried out for an opening of the new market.

The marketing room for the produce usually sold by the women was in the upper storey. But climbing the stairs proved too laborious for the women and the market faded out.

The convenience for the sale of meats by farmers was not suitable and this marketing also ceased.

Since that time, this building has been used for other purposes.



### NEW SIGNS INSTALLED

This is just one of the four signs recently installed at the major entrances to Ingersoll advertising the location of Southwestern Ontario Travel Association's information office. Town council approved the erection of the signs at a special meeting Aug. 2. The tourist office, located at the special events ticket chalet, provides information on local events as well as events taking place in a six county area. (Staff photo)

SENTINEL REVIEW

August 10, 1974



# A varied cast helped make Ingersoll's history

The historical files of Ingersoll, kept by Byron Jenvey, have been invaluable for the detail contained in these glimpses of the heritage of the Cheese Town.

By Angela Burus

Ingersoll's history has been a long and involved one with everyone from rebels to royalty lending a hand in it. They appear, make a brief appearance in Ingersoll hearts and then into that mist of history which gets thicker and thicker as the years pass, sometimes all but obliterating events which changed people's lives.

One cannot elaborate too greatly on a history spanning four centuries, but with the help of old records one can pick out these occurrences which stood out in their day and perhaps provide a chronology, albeit incomplete, of some of Ingersoll's notable moments.

Ingersoll might have been a glimmer in someone's eye on March 23, 1773 when Upper Canada Council met and discussed a petition signed by Thomas Ingersoll, Gideon Bestwick, Robert Williams, Seth Hamilton and others for township land to settle on. Earlier a proclamation had been issued by Governor Simcoe offering land to United Empire Loyalists. The petitioners were granted 66,000 acres to be sold at 6d (12 cents) an acre.

Thomas Ingersoll, assisted by Joseph Brant, chief of the Six Nations Indians, explored the lands west of the Grand River

and chose the heavily forested section later known as Oxford County to settle on. Ingersoll then went back to his home in Massachusetts and brought back his family and belongings. Upon arrival he built a cabin which stood on what is now the east side of Thames Street.

The first post office in Oxford County was built in Ingersoll on Jan. 6, 1821.

In 1828 the settlement had 20 families and a few businesses; a tannery, a boot and shoe maker, two saw mills, a grist mill, an ashers, a cooperage, a distillery, a blacksmith, a cardin and fulling mill and a general store operated by James Ingersoll, descendant of Thomas Ingersoll. One of the family dwellings built around this time is still in existence on the corner of Concession and Centre Sts. in Ingersoll.

In December 1837 an Ingersoll resident, Elisha Hall gained a measure of notoriety when he led the Old Stage Road volunteers in the rebellion against William Lyon Mackenzie. When the rebels were defeated in Burford Hall fled to the United States with 60 of his followers. He returned to Ingersoll in 1841 under Queen Victoria's amnesty for all political exiles. In 1852, much to his amusement, Elisha Hall was made a justice of the peace. He died in 1878.

In 1848, Mathew Bixel built a steam brewery in Ingersoll. His was one of the first firms to introduce Canadians to the taste of beer. However his business suffered a major defeat in 1854 when it was destroyed by fire. It

was never rebuilt.

Ingersoll was incorporated as a town in 1864. In 1866 the Ingersoll Cheese Company created its now famous, 7,000 pound cheese made from 35 tons of milk.

A fire on May 7, 1872 burnt down 82 buildings in Ingersoll. It started in the barn of the Royal Exchange and wiped out both sides of Thames Street. Two lives were lost. Two years later on July 20, 1874 another fire razed the south side of King St. E. to the mill pond and west to Thames St. Destroyed in the blaze were the telegraph office, post office, court office many small businesses and some residences.

Also in 1872 Ingersoll came under the gaze of royalty in the person of Lord and Lady Dufferin. In honor of the event arches were set up along the main streets illustrating the town's industries. Two of the most outstanding were the Ingersoll Arch which was constructed out of 2800 cheese boxes and decorated with fitches of ham, bacon, flowers, flags and pictures of the royal family, and a farm machinery arch constructed out of reapers, rakes, ploughs and threshing machines.

Then on Oct. 18, 1879 Ingersoll was party to a vice-regal visit of the Marquis of Lorne and his wife Princess Louise. Again arches were raised for the occasion. The "Ladies Arch" featured 600 children singing. The "Cheese Buyers Arch" was constructed out of cheese boxes and the Millers Arch out of 3,000 flour barrels. The Ingersoll Tribune had only one comment to make in

INGERSOLL TIMES

February 26 1975

its next edition about the latter, "to be brief it was a monster". Noxon's Arch was constructed out of evergreen branches topped with a Hoosier seed drill and two mowers.

The first telephone exchange in Canada was established in Ingersoll on April 1, 1880 by the Dominion Telephone Company. Bell Telephone bought the exchange later that year. At the time of the sale there were 13 telephones in Ingersoll.

On April 4, 1887 the dam on Whiting Creek which flows north into the Thames River broke and caused extensive damage. Part of King's flour mill was washed away and 500 pieces of cordwood were picked up by the rushing water and brought against a large frame apartment house with four dwellings, destroying it. The flood flowed over King St. and down Water St. and extended to the Credit Valley Railroad which was washed out. Another flood hit Ingersoll in 1894 when Harris Creek overflowed because three dams gave way on the portion of the stream which flowed through town. The water washed away a portion of the Campbell block on the north side of King St. and part of the establishment of James McIntyre who ran a furniture and undertaking business.

Here a touch of grim comedy made its appearance when furniture and coffins from the McIntyre store were carried far down the Thames River by the rampant waters. Some of the coffins were pulled out at Paton's siding while chairs travelled as far as Dorchester.

In 1907 Ingersoll had five motor vehicles.

One of Ingersoll's worst floods occurred on April 26, 1937 when the Thames River and all streams flowing into it overflowed. In Memorial Park the water level was high enough to submerge the Dr. Carroll memorial cairn to within a foot of the top. The main bridge on Thames St. was washed away and drinking water was contaminated. The river rose high at Munro's Crossing, east of Ingersoll and undermined a small railway bridge. A CNR passenger train travelling over it was derailed and fell into the flooded valley.

On May 12, 1949 Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent visited Ingersoll and was presented with an 11-pound, three-year-old Stilton cheese by Mayor Dr. J.G. Murray.

On June 15, 1950 Alexandra Hospital opened in a new building replacing the former private residence it had occupied. The building had cost an estimated \$500,000 and contained nine and a half miles of wiring and 60 tons of structural steel.

A less important event in 1950 was a poll which resulted in Ingersoll being given a beer and liquor store. The town had been "dry" since 1913 and similar polls had been defeated in 1937 and 1946. Six years later on June 28, 1956, Ingersoll citizens voted in favour of having beer and liquor sold in local hotels.

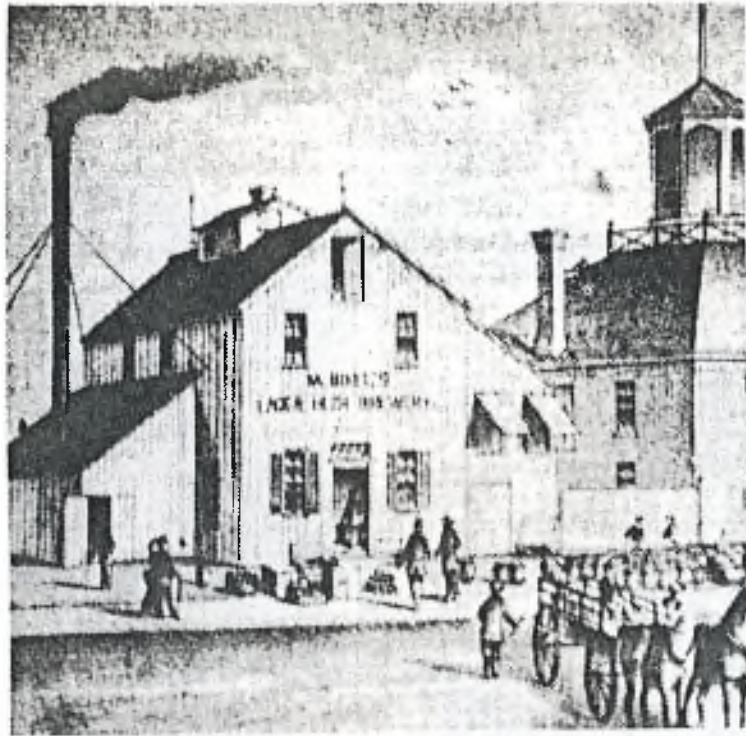
On Dec. 10, 1955 the Ingersoll Community Centre was destroyed by fire.

The Fire Hall suffered a renovation of sorts in May 1967 when its 35-foot high white frame tower was taken down from the top of the building. It had been used by the firefighters for hanging up their hoses to dry.

Also in 1967 the Ingersoll police force added a walkie-talkie to its communications system and steps are presently being made again to modernize the police radio equipment.

INGERSOLL TIMES

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One of Canada's first brewery's, the Bixel Brewery, was built in Ingersoll by Max Bixel in 1848. The operation was run by steam and closed within a few years following a fire.



The old Alexandra Hospital, former home of industrial magnate James Noxon, was Ingersoll's centre of healing from 1909 to 1951 when it was moved into the building it now occupies.

INGERSOLL TIMES  
February 26 1975



A municipal arch erected for the governor-general of Canada Marquis of Lorne and his wife Princess Louise was a sign of the times in the 1800's. Their names can be seen inscribed on either gatepost of the arch. They visited Ingersoll on Oct. 18, 1879.



The 'cheese-buyers arch' made from 3,000 cheese boxes was also constructed for visiting royalty. Several arches adorned the main streets as a symbol of welcome.

INGERSOLL TIMES

February 26 1975

L.F.P. Aug 5 '75

# Sewage plant improvement called task for province

INGERSOLL — Recommendations in the Thames River basin study for improvements to the Ingersoll sewage treatment facility will have to be carried out by the province, not the town, says Ingersoll Mayor Gordon Henry.

Mayor Henry said the town, although concerned about the problems pointed out in the provincial study released last week, isn't responsible for alleviating them.

The Ingersoll facility is operated through an arrangement between the town and the province, he said.

The environment ministry has said it was "one of the most updated in this area," he said. "so if there's any problem with the operation of it, it is a problem of the ministry and they will have to update it."

The study says impaired water quality — dissolved oxygen depletion — downstream from Ingersoll, is the result of phosphorous discharged from the Ingersoll sewage treatment facility.

A solution to the problem would be installation of additional treatment processes beyond the conventional system in operation at the facility, the study suggests. The removal of phosphorous from discharged water is specifically mentioned.

Mayor Henry said he sees no "really serious" troubles at the facility, but he recognizes "the phosphate problem is not an easy one to overcome."

He said the town pays the ministry on a usage basis for operation of the sewage plant. The contract is a 40-year agreement

which won't expire for about another 35 years.

"We will have to live up to our portion of the contract—the ministry will have to live up to its," the mayor said.

LONDON FREE PRESS  
August 5, 1975

*Sentinel-Review Aug 2 '75*

## Town's historic buildings to be pictured in a book

Ingersoll artist Harry Whitwell has just received an Ontario Arts Council grant that will enable him to reproduce in book form his original drawings of the town's historic buildings.

Mr. Whitwell said Friday he received the \$1,500 grant on the recommendation of Mrs. Forest Telfer, curator of the Woodstock Art Gallery.

Mr. Whitwell is a familiar sight in Ingersoll, where he sits on the curb sketching Ingersoll's historic buildings. His self-appointed task is to get them all on record before they fall beneath the wrecker's hammer.

He now has 30 drawings of such buildings completed, but he is still working at it. These days, despite the heat, he may be seen sketching the historic Nor-sworthy home on King Street East. It is now owned by town councillor Jim Robins.

Mr. Whitwell said he will use the grant to publish a book containing 12 black and white reproductions from his collection of historic buildings. Pages will be perforated so that the 8 x 10 inch pictures may be removed for framing, if desired.

The book, entitled 'Nostalgia — Our Town Ingersoll', will be offered for sale in Mr. Whitwell's booth at the Cheese and Wine Festival. The artist said he will have 200 copies printed. He already has advance orders for 30 copies.

The book will include the town's first frame house, still standing at the corner of Concession and Center Street. It was the home of Elisha Hall, who joined the rebels under William McKenzie and dressed up in his wife's clothes to escape the army. Later, he was pardoned by Queen Victoria and became a town magistrate.

The town's first brick house, built in 1836 and now occupied by Mrs. Jim Fergusson, 170 King St. E., will also be included in the book. The old flour mill, which burned down on the site where Kilgour Lumber Co. is now located on Mill Street, is also among the collection of historic buildings in Nostalgia — Our Town Ingersoll.

SENTINEL REVIEW

August 2, 1975

# Ingersoll historian seeks help

INGERSOLL — A professor at the University of Western Ontario has asked Ingersoll council for permission to microfilm documents to prepare a history of the town.

Prof. George Emery of the history department predicts it will take several years to complete the research and prepare his book. He said it will be the first such book about the town since 1904.

Prof. Emery has asked for permission to film old assessment rolls, vital statistics reports, copies of magistrates' convictions, a 1905 map of the town and the minutes of council meetings dating back to the 1850s.

He said he is doing the study partly for personal reasons, because he grew up in Ingersoll, and partly as a result of agreeing earlier to do a biography of Ingersoll's first mayor for the Dictionary of Canadian Biography.

Prof. Emery said other information on the history of the town is available from Western, the Public Archives of Ontario in Toronto, the Woodstock courthouse, the Ingersoll town library and the town hall.

"These sources are sufficiently comprehensive and of such a nature that we can do a very sophisticated study of the community using not only conventional methods of historical research, but also recent techniques involving the accumulation of data on thousands of people and analysing it by computer.

"It's with the computer that we can find out things that we never could before."

He said he is optimistic that a book will result from his efforts or, at the very least, a series of articles.

"There is yet no serious study of the history of Ingersoll," he said, "nor, for that matter, do we know much about any Ontario community in the late 19th century."

Ingersoll clerk William McIntyre told council some of the material requested by the professor has not been properly stored over the years. He said some items are in the basement of the town hall while others are stored in a small "cubbyhole" that the meter man uses as an office.

LONDON FREE PRESS

October 22, 1975

# Professor will write history on town of Ingersoll

By Sjoerd Witteveen

A former Ingersoll resident and now a professor in History at the University of Western Ontario will write a history of Ingersoll. Professor George Emery's interest in the history of the town started when he did research and prepared a biography of Adam Oliver, an Ingersoll businessman and politician. The biography is to be printed in the Dictionary of Canadian Biography.

Also, as a former resident of the town, he is interested in doing this professional historic study of the town.

In his search for sources, Prof. Emery requested Ingersoll Town Council for permission to microfilm the town records at council's last meeting. Permission was granted.

Although this study is quite a shift in direction for the professor, who had been doing most of his research on churches in Ontario and the prairie provinces, he became aware of the rich vein of sources on the town through the Oliver biography.

At most universities, a professor must not only teach his students, but also do research. While the final draft of his Oliver biography was being written, the professor started to do his research on the history of the town this summer. Prof. Emery expects the study to last two or three years.

"It will concentrate primarily on 19th century Ingersoll," the professor said, "and the approach will be multi-dimensional. It will consider themes such as economic development, municipal politics, development of municipal sources, the coping with fire, flood and public health problems, class structures and living standards, and the life styles of the different social levels of the town."

"In addition to doing conventional history," Prof. Emery said, "the project will utilize some of the more recent analytical techniques involving the use of a computer. What we're going to do," he said, "is collect data on several thousand people and then analyse these data in order to find out what is going on with the majority of the population who are not prominent enough to have their names printed in the newspaper." The professor said that similar studies in other communities suggested that what we might find in Ingersoll is that there was a tremendous turnover in population. This means, he said, that of the people in Ingersoll in any one year, only a third would be there ten years later. Another example such computer studies showed up is that it is likely that 80 percent of the people lived in abject poverty and were utterly dependant on the five percent of the people at the top who controlled employment, the political machinery and the charitable services.

"These are only educated guesses," the professor suggested, "but these are things we can look for while using these kinds of data."

Prof. Emery has about 12 major sources. He has a

complete run of the Ingersoll Chronicle on microfilm at the University of Western Ontario Library. The professor said the paper was of an unusually high calibre. The issues in his possession run from 1855 to 1919.

Also in his possession are scattered issues of five other newspapers in Ingersoll. Prof. Emery said these are mainly useful in checking the Ingersoll Chronicle. Then there is a run of three years of a conservative newspaper, which is also a good check on the Chronicle, which was a newspaper with a modern outlook.

The minutes of Town Council from 1856 to the present are also available for information. Ingersoll was incorporated as a town in 1851, but the minutes of Town Council of those first four years are missing because of a fire.

The assessment rolls from 1880 to 1900 are also being scanned for valuable information. There are only scattered issues available for the period after 1900.

Business Directories are another source of information of the town's history beginning in 1852 right up to 1900, but there are only scattered issues available.

Vital Statistics records, an old map of Oxford County dating from 1875, and an insurance company map of Ingersoll for 1879, showing among other things construction material used on the building in the town.

Then there are the Manuscript Census Records, which are detailed individual returns for every decennium starting in 1851 to 1871. The records for after 1871 are not available because the records are frozen for a 100 years to allow for privacy of the individuals concerned.

Also available as a source of information is one set of corporation records of the Morrow Screw and Nut Company, and the Fraternal Society records.

"And," adds Prof. Emery, "the



more I got into it, the more information I was able to find." He said the material is partly in the Weldon Library at the University of Western Ontario, partly in the Public Archives in Toronto, in the Ingersoll Town Hall, some records are in the Ingersoll Public Library and in the Woodstock County Court-house.

Prof. Emery said he also received a lot of help from two persons in Ingersoll, Byron Jenvey and Stanley J. Smith, as well as from other people in the town who helped by providing certain documents that didn't exist anywhere else. Mr. Jenvey and Mr. Smith are the local amateur historians, Prof. Emery said.

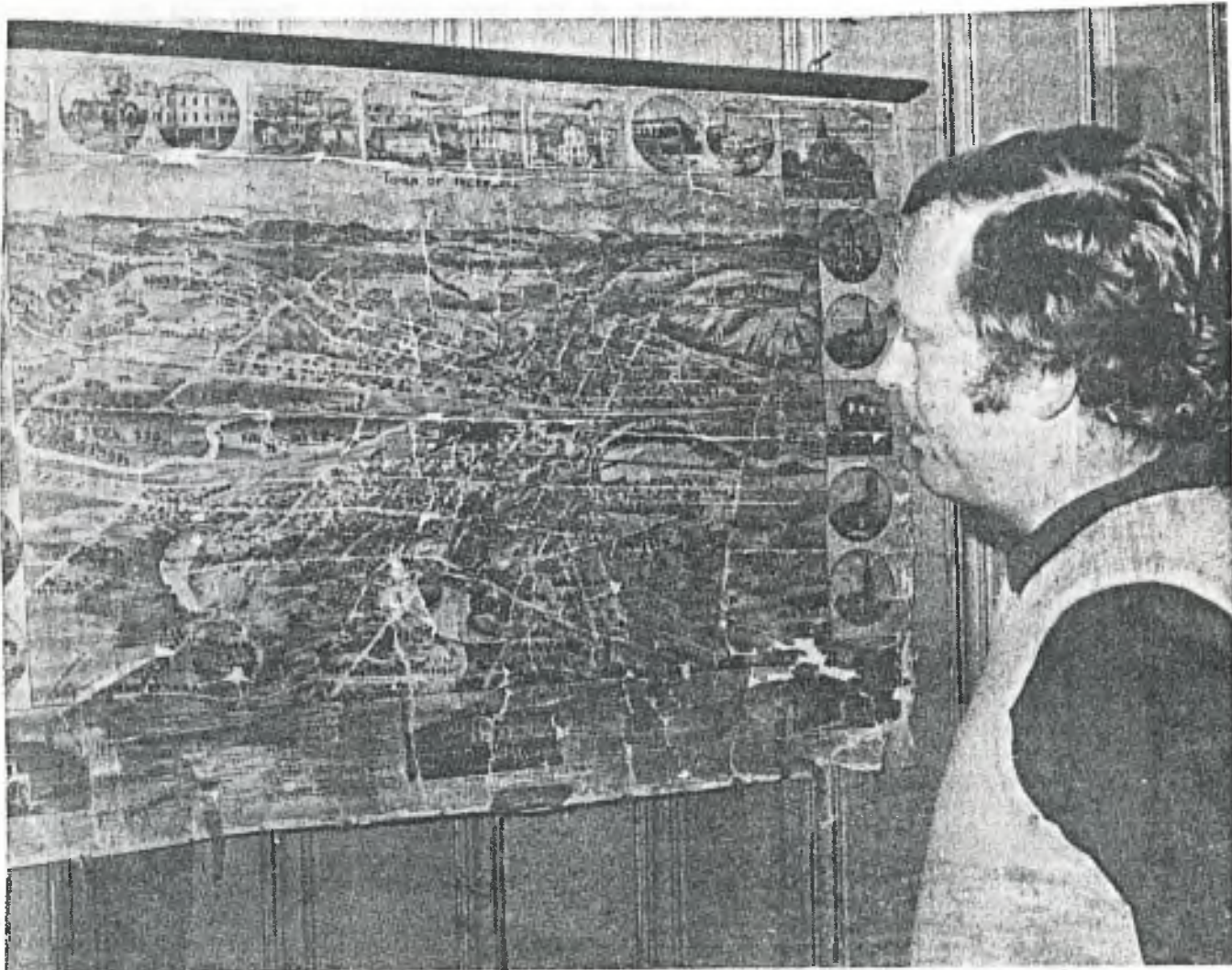
Mr. Jenvey had scrapbooks on Ingersoll, one consisting of clippings that have come out on Ingersoll history at various times, the other consisting of essays on the history of the town, which were written by Mr. Jenvey.

Through Mr. Smith the University of Western Ontario

acquired a run of the Ingersoll Chronicle. Mr. Smith had the newspapers in his basement, Prof. Emery said. More recently, he said, the university acquired a series of diaries of an Ingersoll carpenter dating back to 1857.

Prof. Emery, who has been a member of the University's History Department since 1968 and was educated at Queen's University in Kingston and the University of British Columbia, said he hopes to get a sabbatical next year to work on the history of Ingersoll. He expresses his appreciation in all the help he has received from various people and he said there may still be some people in Ingersoll and environs who may be able to help him in his research in some way or other. He asked these people to contact him at the university.

Times  
11-12-75



Prof. George Emery of the University of Western Ontario is doing research on a history of Ingersoll. Prof. Emery expects his study will last two or three years and he is now in the beginning stages of gathering information. Prof. Emery said he

has already received assistance from some Ingersoll residents, notably Byron Jenvey and Stanley Smith, but if anyone has more information in the form of documents, old photographs, or other material, they are asked to contact the professor

# Bailey bridge proposed for crossing in Ingersoll

LFP  
Nov 5/75

INGERSOLL — Ingersoll Coun. Jimi Robins wants the town to ask the ministry of transportation to build a Bailey bridge beside the deteriorating Pemberton Street bridge.

The existing bridge has received structural damage from heavy loads and traffic over the structure is restricted to two tons.

Council took no action Monday on Coun. Robins' suggestion.

Coun. Robins sees the portable bridge as an immediate answer to the traffic problem while the town is discussing cost of a new bridge with the province.

"The bridge that is there is unsafe. We should be looking into something to handle the traffic while we are either replacing the bridge or fixing it," he said.

He said Bailey bridges are available from

the ministry and can handle light traffic or heavy trucks. He could not say what leasing costs are.

Town clerk William McIntyre said Tuesday a meeting is being set up between the town and the ministry to discuss the Pemberton Street bridge.

Coun. Norm Bain told council Monday Ingersoll is having difficulty enforcing a height restriction on the bridge. A sign lowering the limit as a means of restricting heavy truck traffic was destroyed on Friday when a large truck passed over the bridge.

The bridge was closed on the weekend but reopened Tuesday. Police Chief Ron James said Tuesday new signs have been put up. He said pieces of lumber have been attached from the ceiling of the bridge to lower the height to 8 feet.

The bridge has had structural problems for years. Last month it was damaged by a transport truck. In the mid-1960s a welder set fire to floor planking. A few years later a large truck broke through the floor and ended up in the Thames River.

Council is hoping the province will help with construction of a new two-lane bridge capable of handling 100 tons.

LONDON FREE PRESS  
November 5, 1975

## ***Ingersoll urges alternative to truck bypass***

INGERSOLL — Town council will ask the provincial government and Oxford County council to reject the proposed route for the new Woodstock truck bypass.

Council unanimously approved a recommendation by Mayor Gordon Henry that a letter be sent to the two levels of government expressing concern over the proposed route and suggesting an alternative.

Council viewed favorably the mayor's suggestion that an alternative to the proposed D2 route, running just west of Woodstock, could be County Road 6 from Embro to Highway 401, between Beachville and Ingersoll.

Mayor Henry said County Road 6 could accommodate the future needs of Oxford truck traffic. He said the quarries and the Canada Cement plant are predicting a great increase in traffic with the shortest route south to Lake Erie running through Ingersoll. He said shipments of coal into Oxford will increase as the energy crisis continues over the next few years, adding to Ingersoll's traffic problems.

Mayor Henry also said that the amount of tonnage going through Ingersoll will be staggering when the new Stelco plant is built near Lake Erie. He said Ingersoll residents don't want heavy truck traffic through the town.

"If they go ahead with the Woodstock truck bypass we will still need a cut route to the lake," said Mayor Henry. "It (County Road 6) can be built inexpensively."

The city of Woodstock has scheduled a public meeting July 22 to discuss the proposed bypass.

LONDON FREE PRESS

July 15, 1975

London Free Press - Aug 12, 1975

# Province says truck bypass must also serve Ingersoll

INGERSOLL — The Ontario minister of transportation and communications has indicated the proposed new Woodstock truck bypass must also serve the needs of the Ingersoll area.

In a letter to Ingersoll town council

received Monday, John Rhodes said "when the ministry decided to participate with Woodstock in the study (of a bypass route), one of the objectives was to find a location which would provide some relief to the Ingersoll and Beachville area as well."

Replying to Ingersoll council's concern over the number of large trucks passing through the town, the minister said the concerns are well-founded.

He said the Ingersoll truck situation will be investigated and taken into consideration in the selection of a final route.

"Your suggestion to utilize County Road 6 will be considered as a possible interim treatment to provide relief for the entire area," said Mr. Rhodes.

Woodstock has endorsed the proposed D2 truck bypass route which would run slightly west and north of the city limits.

In other business, council accepted the resignations of Edward A. Hunt from the planning advisory committee and the Public Utilities Commission and of Steven Blasko from the planning committee.

Mr. Blasko is leaving the planning committee because of work obligations and Mr. Hunt is resigning because he was recently appointed the town's development officer.

LONDON FREE PRESS  
August 12, 1975

## Bypass route could cost 'Too much', says mayor

A route touted by consultants for a Woodstock bypass may not be feasible at all, Mayor Leslie Cook indicated Thursday night.

Mr. Cook told city council he has learned that the route proposed to run just west of the city would cost \$11.64 million if criteria set down by the city last July when it endorsed the scheme is followed, not \$6 million as originally estimated.

"In light of the information we now have," Mr. Cook said after the meeting, "I couldn't support a bypass that is going to cost in excess of \$11 million with no guarantee of the truckers using it."

Mr. Cook told reporters he would now support County Road 6, further west, as a bypass route, the choice of the county, Ingersoll, South-West Oxford and Zorra councils for "partial relief" from truck traffic congesting Woodstock. He said County Road 6 would at least reduce relative truck traffic from several quarries in the Beachville area.

The route, originally proposed by De Leuw Cather engineering consultants and endorsed by the city runs southwesterly from Highway 59 North to cross Governor's Road and run further south to connect with Highway 401 at Mill Street.

### COUNTY SCHEME

The county scheme would run south of Embro down County Road 6 — four miles west of Woodstock — to connect with a cloverleaf at 401.

Mr. Cook said De Leuw Cather informed a group of municipal and provincial civil servants,

known as the technical advisory committee, heading the year-long bypass study of the new cost estimates Tuesday.

A meeting of the consultants and council slated for Nov. 20 is to be a rehash of what the technical committee was told this week, he said.

He said the consultants will want to know if council has changed its opinion about the bypass.

No date has been set for Woodstock area mayors to meet Ontario transportation and communications ministry officials over final selection of a route, Mr. Cook said.

Final decision on a bypass route rests with the province.

Mr. Cook told council added costs occur because of the conditions city council imposed on approval it gave to the consultants route.

Among other things, council said it didn't like level crossings at two railway lines and at Bower Hill Road.

Officials from the ministry now say they will not allow the route to include a grad crossing at the Canadian Pacific Railway line near Highway 2.

"The feasibility study will show there is no feasible route that fits the criteria we gave them (consultants)," Mr. Cook said.

Truck drivers, interviewed by the consultants in surveys, have indicated that they would avoid the proposed bypass route because of steep grading — even though it still holds the most potential for traffic relief, Mr. Cook said.

SENTINEL REVIEW

November 7, 1975

Planning to begin immediately

# Henry pleased with County

## Road bypass route proposal

Ingersoll Mayor Gordon Henry is confident that planning will begin immediately for the truck bypass proposed last week by James Snow, minister of transportation and communications, and approved Thursday night by Woodstock city council.

The proposal, which comes before county council tonight for final approval, involves a compromise route which includes

County Road 6 and the north-west part of the city-preferred route and provides a truck bypass which will run from Highway 59 north of Woodstock, south-west to Governor's Road, west to County Road 6, and south along that road to connect with Highway 401 at a proposed cloverleaf north of Folden's Corners.

Mayor Henry said that he was "very pleased" with the meeting

he and county officials attended in Toronto Nov. 17 and with the minister's proposal. "It's what we've been pressing for," he said.

The mayor does not anticipate any problem in getting county council's approval for the project, despite initial predictions by Woodstock councillor and public works committee member Joe Pember that council might be

reluctant to commit itself to the project before financial questions are answered.

Mayor Henry said that although the financing does have to be worked out, the minister has said that he is willing to negotiate, and that he said at the meeting that any allocation of provincial funds for the project would not interfere with the normal subsidies paid to the

county for maintenance and other necessary works planned and approved by the county.

The province has already agreed to pick up a large share of the cost, according to Mayor Henry. This, he said, includes the \$2.6 million to build a cloverleaf at Highway 401 and the Folden's overpass, \$2 million to construct the road linking Highway 59 to Governor's Road, and 50 per cent or more of the \$3 million required to upgrade County Road 6.

This he estimated would leave about \$1 to \$1.5 million for the county to pay, with Ingersoll's share of the county cost to be about 10 per cent. This figure, however, is merely a preliminary estimate, he stressed.

"The main thing is that everyone is in accord and wants to proceed," he said, referring to the general attitude of acceptance that prevailed at the meeting and following it.

But he said it would probably be 1978 before anything concrete is actually done as far as construction is concerned. "But planning is to commence immediately," he said. "And I think people will be more patient in the meantime."

The minister's compromise

proposal, he said, is not going to answer all the problems. "But at least it will take some of the heavy trucks off Ingersoll streets."

According to Mayor Henry, the minister advised the group that the bypass, when completed, can be established as a truck route, and as such, trucks can be made to use it.

Concerns about financing were raised Thursday at the public works committee meeting, with members wanting some assurance that the money to be paid by the county for the bypass would not cause a drain on the county's road construction budget.

County Warden Perry Sibbick, who suggested that County Road 6 might be designated an existing link between provincial roads and thereby qualify for additional subsidies, was appointed by the public works committee to meet with Oxford County MPP Harry Parrott to discuss the committee's concerns about financing.

Meanwhile, Woodstock councillors, who approved the route

unanimously, see it as only the first phase in providing the solution to their problem with truck traffic in the city.

INGERSOLL TIMES

November 24, 1976

# Sweet potatoes new hope for farmers?

BY CHRIS NIXON

Sentinel-Review Staff Writer

William McLeish Vannatter of Ingersoll believes his five-acre garden is producing what could become a new cash crop for Ontario farmers.

And the Ministry of Manpower and Immigration appears to have confidence in Mr. Vannatter's experiments with sweet potatoes. That body has granted him a \$21,510 local initiatives (LIP) grant to conduct research into the production, maintenance and marketing of the vegetable in southern Ontario.

Mr. Vannatter, a former employee with the Department of Highways and now unemployed, spent \$366 last year to buy 1,000 sweet potato plants from Virginia.

And after he used a variety of mulches and seed beds, his garden produced potatoes of a quality superior to those imported into this country from the United States.

"There's no comparison between my potatoes and those you buy in supermarkets...mine are much better," he said.

"Other than the high PH factor of my soil and the fact that we had a hot summer last year," he said, "I can't attribute the success of the plants to anything."

Mr. Vannatter has given samples of his vegetable to several persons, including the manager of the local Loblaws supermarket outlet, and all agree....the quality of Mr. Vannatter's sweet potato surpasses that of its American counterpart.

He hopes that through research financed by the LIP grant he will be able to develop a grade one seed tuber. The University of Guelph will act as consultant on most of his experiments.

"I don't even know what my experiments will be," he said. "I'm not sure just what to be looking for".

Universities will also provide the equipment needed for many of the tests.

Mr. Vannatter said that, with luck, his tuber could be on the market next year.

"If I can get a certified seed and find a market for the farmers, I hope to start them (farmers) off next year where I started this year," he said.

SENTINEL REVIEW  
November 6, 1975

# Sweet potato studied Crop foreseen as bonanza

By BRIAN CHRISTMAS  
Free Press Woodstock Bureau

INGERSOLL — Despite human scoffers, nibbling rabbits and adverse climate conditions, Mac Vannatter is determined he will one day experience the sweet smell of success from growing sweet potatoes.

The one-time bank manager turned part-time farmer has about five acres of the potatoes, common in the South, growing behind his Ingersoll home.

A number of factors led him into the research of sweet potatoes, but the biggest boost was a \$21,000, 30-week Local Initiatives Program (LIP) grant which ran out in June.

"I took advantage of the times," he said, much to the chagrin of some area politicians who he said tried to spark an investigation into the grant.

He bought the land a couple of years ago with house-building in mind, but could not con-

vince Ingersoll town council to rezone the land from conservation use, he said.

The land was "hot" (very sandy and unable to grow anything worthwhile without irrigation) and covered with weeds, including bindweed, a relative of the sweet potato. This helped him decide to try growing sweet potatoes.

The LIP grant allowed him to accomplish more, but he said he didn't take it for a free ride.

He expects to incur a \$7,000 to \$10,000 debt this year continuing his work, which necessitates employing four part-time workers and one full-time worker who must keep the ground well-cultivated.

By day, Mr. Vannatter, 47, is a weigh-scale operator and in the winter he is a department of highways dispatcher.

With the LIP grant he was to work on production, maintenance and marketing of sweet potatoes, but he has also experimented with

preservation and processing techniques and has done statistical research.

The sweet potato, a relative of the morning glory, can grow 18-inch tubers and is rich in Vitamin A. Like the peanut, it does best with sandy soil, such as in the tobacco belt region, a warm humid climate and a long growing season.

"It's a trial and error crop," Mr. Vannatter said.

While his land is dotted with even rows of inconspicuous plants now, by mid-summer it will be covered with a green carpet of sprawling vine, much like the cucumber.

Mr. Vannatter uses mulching — a method whereby the crop is covered with plastic or straw to retain moisture in the ground — on his sweet potato plants when they become mature.

He is trying to develop a certified seed potato which would help tobacco growers face the

perils of the international tobacco trade with an alternative crop.

The Canadian department of agriculture has looked at the peanut and the sweet potato for the same reason.

"We import \$3 million (of sweet potatoes each year), and we've got an ethnic population increasing each year in which it is part of their diet," Mr. Vannatter said.

"I can see sweet potatoes becoming a \$10-million crop within five years' time if the farmers plant them, but they're going to have some marketing problems to begin with."

"It is possible, with proper mulching and fertilizer programs, to get 700 bushels per acre return. It takes a little work."

Mr. Vannatter said people from North Carolina and Texas have shown interest in his work and are thinking of introducing a processing plant here.

"I think that's something we can do ourselves," he said.

JULY 10,  
1976  
LONDON  
FREE  
PRESS





Free Press Woodstock Bureau

One-time bank manager Mac Vannatter has turned his interests to raising sweet potatoes at his Ingersoll home. He says there is a \$10-million crop to be had in Southwestern Ontario with proper mulching and fertilizing programs.

LONDON FREE PRESS

July 10, 1976

## AT PLANNING COMMITTEE

# Quality mobile home park plan presented

A proposal to offer quality housing on large lots from \$17,000 a unit adjacent to Ingersoll off Hwy. 19 was outlined to members of Ingersoll planning advisory committee Monday evening.

Douglas Barker speaking for the consulting engineers for Oxford Home Estates said the development, which would contain 101 units, with a population of about 300 persons, would remove the stigma formerly attached to mobile home

parks. He emphasized the quality of the proposed development. He said two parks in Ontario; established by the same builders, at Barrie and Grand Bend, were considered the best in the province.

"It is a boon to the housing market because it offers good substantial housing at a reasonable price," he said.

The double-width mobile bungalow-type units skirted all

around are permanently set on five foot pillars and the steel frame is welded to reinforcing rods, he said.

Each unit is set on a lot 75 feet wide and 100 feet deep, which is larger than the town's minimum requirements.

The 28-acre development would have a three-acre park, paved roads, storm sewers, a sewage treatment plant and sub-surface disposal of treated sewage. Water would be pumped from an existing well on the site.

He said he was confident of the demand for such housing, as the operator of an adjacent sales yard already had a waiting list of persons interested in going in to the park.

The homes are purchased at prices ranging from \$17,000 to \$29,000 but the land is rented from the developer. The land rental includes internal services such as garbage collection and snow plowing. The developer pays the municipality all the taxes in one lump sum.

C. V. MacLachlan said that underground wiring, street lights, curbs and gutters and large lots do not come in "junky trailer parks" and this was helping remove the stigma from mobile home parks. But, he said he was surprised that the Township of Southwest Oxford had not expressed a reservation about fire hydrants.

The township would offer police and fire protection to the proposed development.

The units are approved by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, from whom financing is available, as well built to Canadian Standards Association regulations. They also qualify for grants available to first-home buyers.

Mr. Barker said the developers were asking the town only for preliminary approval for the necessary re-zoning, providing that the Ministry of the Environment requirements for sewers and water supplies could be met.

The proposed mobile home park has been endorsed by Southwest Oxford, he said, and the County Planning Board has reserved opinion until the town has made a decision.

After the committee considers the matter further, its proposal still must go to town council for approval.

SENTINEL REVIEW

September 9, 1975

L.A. 1/16/75

## Ingersoll debate

# Town won't ban mobile home park

INGERSOLL — Town council has turned down a planning committee recommendation which would have urged Oxford county planning committee to say no to a proposed mobile home park just south of town.

The vote Monday night was 4-3 against endorsing the town planning committee's recommendation.

The county planning committee had asked Ingersoll for its opinion on how the 100-unit park, in South-west Oxford Township, would affect the town.

Coun. Eugene Maybee led the fight against doing anything which might hurt the chances of the development. He said the water and sewage problems the park might encounter are not the town's concern.

"We can't enforce our policies on a neighboring municipality," Mr. Maybee said.

But Mayor Gordon Henry strongly opposed the "shotgun development." He said it doesn't conform with the official county plan and shouldn't be considered until the county plan has been updated.

"I would like to see the developer meet with our development officer and find a location within the town where it can be fully serviced," Mayor Henry said.

Coun. Maybee replied that residents wouldn't stand for mobile homes in the town. "Don't anybody tell me you can put a mobile home park in Ingersoll. We'd get more flak than we ever got before in our lives," he said.

Mayor Henry said much more information is needed before town council should endorse the development.

Coun. Marian Coyle said she was "appalled" at the way the town planning committee handles the matter. She was concerned that a recommendation against the project was made without telling the developer. She said the owners should be confronted again on the matter.

Mrs. Coyle said the residents in the subdivision would be an asset to Ingersoll and she termed the mobile homes "beginner homes for people who will eventually buy bigger homes in the town."

Coun. Doug Harris, a member of county council and the Ingersoll planning committee, pointed out that town council was only being asked for its opinion. He said the mobile home park would be a problem and that residents would take part in Ingersoll recreation programs without supplying any taxes.

LONDON FREE PRESS

September 16, 1975

# Remembers the great train wreck of 1900

BY KAREN MONCK

Everyone remembers the big train wreck that left all the passengers stranded between Ingersoll and Banner for two days, right?

To jog memories a bit, it might help to mention that the accident occurred in 1900 on the branch of the Canadian National Railway that was part of the Grand Trunk Railway at that time.

Mrs. Clayton Mansfield, 80, Dereham Concession 6, remembers the accident as one of the more exciting events of her childhood. A passenger train and a freight train met head on on the track that passed through the pasture of her father's farm.

"There aren't many people left who would remember the accident," she said.

Even though she was only four years old when it happened, Mrs. Mansfield remembers the wreck vividly. The two trains met head on on the single track at what was once Paton's Siding, but is a double track now.

A signalman was supposed to light a lamp at the top of the semaphore to let one train know that it had to go off on the siding, but because he was drinking he couldn't get up to light the lamp.

"The man was under the influence of liquor, so he couldn't get up the pole to light

the lamp," said Mrs. Mansfield. "It just goes to prove what liquor can do."

When a train came through the farm, the family had to wait until it had passed before they could milk their cows. Sometimes, recalls Mrs. Mansfield, an engineer would stop and cut the train to let them take their cattle through.

When the accident occurred the family could not take their cows across the track, so Mrs. Mansfield's mother milked them in the pasture and gave the milk to the passengers.

"Mother scoured the country for bread and eats for the passengers," she said. "We brought cheese from the cheese factory on my father's farm. My parents did everything possible to make sure they were comfortable."

The passengers were stranded for two days, recalls Mrs. Mansfield, during which time the family provided them

with food and drink.

"One man sat under a tree in our pasture with a telegraph," she said, "and made arrangements, with Toronto I think, to get the passengers out of there."

When the railway put in a double track after the accident the railway authorities gave

Mrs. Mansfield's parents the lamp which should have been lit at the time of the wreck.

"That man should have got up there and lit this lamp," said Mrs. Mansfield, indicating an old coal oil lamp on the table, "so the train would know to go off on the siding, but he was under the influence."



Mrs. Clayton Mansfield holds the lamp given to her parents about 75 years ago by the Grand Trunk Railway Authorities. If the lamp had been lit as it should, the head-on collision of two trains in 1900 would not have occurred.

INGERSOLL TIMES

April 28, 1976

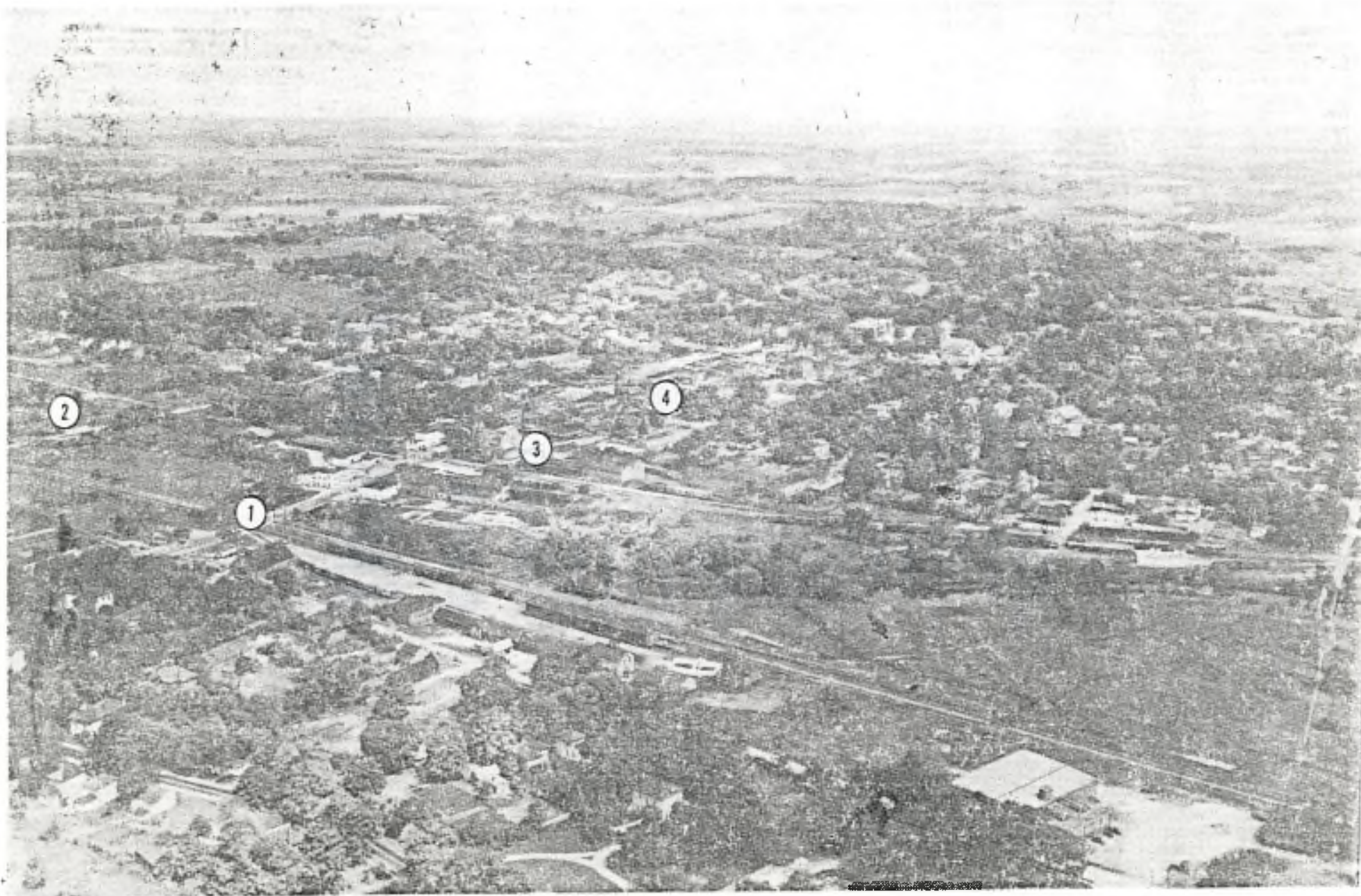
# *Ingersoll*

## Moving forward with the times

Anyone who visits Ingersoll's old town hall (4) expecting to find the municipal offices is in for a surprise. The old town hall (top) has been taken over by local craftsmen and artists and is now the Creative Arts Centre, funded by a Local Initiatives Project grant. The town hall is now located in a renovated liquor outlet on Oxford Street. Thames Street Bridge (1) is the same as when the 1951 picture (bottom) was taken, but added to the scene by the late E. A. Wilson, a local industrialist, is a community swimming pool built in memory of his wife, Maud, near the bridge. The Mutual Street Bridge (2) still cannot carry more than 15 tons, so the town is planning a new bridge at Pemberton Street, which will carry 100 tons and facilitate truck traffic to the industrial mall. St. Paul's Presbyterian Church (3) remains unchanged over the years.

LONDON FREE PRESS

July 24, 1976



LONDON FREE PRESS  
JULY 24 1976



LONDON FREE PRESS

July 24 1976



London Free Press July 24, 1976

LONDON FREE PRESS

July 24, 1976



# Town officials are still baffled parking horses

Public Works Committee members have agreed that the rental is too high on a proposed parking spot for Mennonite buggies.

The CPR, owners of the property, will be advised that the annual rental of \$336 is beyond the reach of the town.

And for the time being, at least, things will remain as they are. This means that the Mennonites will continue to park their horses and buggies behind

Ingersoll Inn and the IGA.

Council tried to find a suitable place for Mennonites to hitch their horses following several complaints from citizens.

Mayor Douglas Harris said George Powell, on behalf of the town's parking authority, contacted the CPR about a grassy spot west of the Lions Drop-In Centre building. He was under the impression that a \$1 transaction could be arranged, Harris said.

Coun. Jim Robins said that since people pay to park motor cars, he was not sure sure that the Mennonites should not pick up the tab.

However, it now appears that things will go on as they are, with the Mennonites parking buggies wherever space is available.

And unless complaints come in again, it seems unlikely the hunt for a place to put in hitching posts will be resumed.



## HORSE STOP

Until something better comes along, Mennonites will park their horses and buggies at the edge of the

warehouse loading area between the Brewers Retail and the IGA. So far the parking authority has not

been able to make a satisfactory arrangement for a horse and buggy parking lot in town. (Staff photo)

SENTINEL REVIEW

October 8, 1977

Photo - October 8, 1977

# The Jenvey Files

Research from the files of Byron G. Jenvey

In 1846, W.H. King built a flour mill on King Street West on the south side and on the east side of Whiting Creek.

Whiting Creek in the westerly portion of Ingersoll flows north of the Thames River with its entrance to the river near the foot bridge on Wonham Street. South of the mill was a 15 acre pond extending south-eastward to Wonham Street. The water from this pond was utilized by Mr. King to operate his flour mill by the stream.

A Mr. Wright succeeded Mr. King as owner of the mill and installed a steam engine for power. The mill dam was then allowed to deteriorate and on April 4, 1887 at 7 a.m. the dam gave way.

The rush of water washed away a portion of the mill and part of the engine house. A high smoke stack toppled over against the mill and crashed through the roof.

Beside the stream was a large frame apartment house containing four dwellings. After installing the engine, 500 cords of four foot wood was purchased by the miller. During the flood the cord wood smashed against the apartment house and caused its destruction. Those occupying the apartments were: Mr. and Mrs. John Bowman and their three children and Mr. Bowman's father. Also John McLean and his 18-year-old son and Alexander Laird and his wife and child.

Mrs. Bowman and her youngest child got atop a bureau and floated away. Mrs. Bowman held her two-year-old daughter by the arm but in the process of being saved Mrs. Bowman lost grip of her child. She was drowned and never seen again.

Mr. Bowman who was ill in his bed floated down to the river and was pulled to safety. The other members of the Bowman family escaped.

The McLean boy while trying to save his pet rabbit was drowned. His body was found among the cord wood.

Alec Laird was drowned. His wife and child however clung to cord wood and were carried to the river. Mrs. Laird made desperate attempts to reach the river bank, but while doing so her child slipped from her arms and was drowned.

About one third of a mile of the Credit Valley Rail Road was washed out. The dam was never rebuilt but a small pond existed and was used for skating. In 1901 the Tillsonburg Lake Erie and Pennsylvania Rail Road was built and a line was constructed through the pond bottom.

For interest sake, the total production of the mill was about 100 barrels of flour a day.

## The Flood of 1894

In May of 1894, there was a sudden melting of snow accompanied by a warm rain. The Harris Creek, which flows through central Ingersoll became greatly flooded and three dams on this stream in the town gave way.

As water rushed through a conduit on King Street, East, it washed away the foundation of the brick building on the east side of the stream on the north side of King Street. This building was a part of the brick block formerly known as the Jarvis Block but at the time of the flood called the Campbell

When the flood waters washed out the foundation of the building adjoining the stream the brick wall fell into the water which caused the floors of the building to slope to the stream.

The building was occupied by James McIntyre "the poet", who conducted a furniture and undertaking business. Coffins, rough boxes and much furniture fell into the rampant waters and were carried down to the Thames River. The river was high at this time and many boats were tied up to trees along the shore. Young men got in the boats and took after the furniture and coffins. Much of this merchandize was pulled on shore at Paton's Sighting, three miles west of Ingersoll. Upholstered chairs, however were viewed floating down the river through Dorchester.

During the flood, water flowed over King Street and down Water Street a foot deep.

## The Flood of 1937

One of Ingersoll's worst floods occurred on April 26, 1937. Warm rains and melting snow caused a rush of water to the Thames River by all streams leading to it. The dam at Smith's Pond overflowed.

Memorial Park was flooded so deep that the Doctor Carroll memorial cairn was submerged to within a foot from the top. Ingersoll firemen awakened residents on both sides of the river and warned them of the impending danger. At McKeand in the Thames Valley, firemen carried a family of five through swirling waters to safety.

The main bridge over the Thames River on Thames Street was washed away. The Board of Health ordered all drinking water to be boiled until further notice. Flood waters reached almost to the Presbyterian Church. At a service station on Thames Street, flooded with water the gasoline tanks rose out of the ground.

During flood conditions the Thames River rose to a high level at Munroe's Crossing, east of Ingersoll. A short distance east of the crossing the flood waters undermined a small bridge. This caused a swift moving C.N.R. passenger train (the flyer) to become derailed. It fell into the flooded valley and Ingersoll doctors were called to the scene. Two train-men lost their lives. They were Malcolm Isbister (the engineer) and Norman Aiken of Sarnia.

It was while trying to reach the scene of the accident that Doctor MacDonald, M.O.H. lost his life due to the swiftly flowing water which carried his auto downstream.

Ingersoll required a new bridge over the Thames River.

This bridge was erected by James Vance and Company of Woodstock and paid for entirely by the Town of Ingersoll. No grant was received by the Provincial Government although the bridge carried the traffic of Highway 2. The price tag on the new bridge was \$37,200. It opened on November 11th. 1937. George Beck, Ingersoll's oldest business man cut the ribbon. Dolph Staples, a manager of Ingersoll's baseball team drove the first car over the bridge. Mayor J.V. Buchanan named the new structure "Coronation Bridge."

Taking part in the opening was the Ingersoll council composed of Thomas Morrison, F.E. Kestle, S.J. Smith, A.H. Edmonds, and John Weir. The main speakers were Rev. F.C. Elliott, chairman of the P.U.C. and R.S. Renie, Member of Parliament.

Those taking part in the ceremony were conveyed to the bridge by the fire truck. During 1948-1949 the Thames River was straightened and deepened by the Upper Thames Valley Authority at a cost of \$800,000.

Ingersoll, Tillsonburg and Woodstock should be the focus for major development in Oxford County, according to a draft copy of the new county official plan.

The draft plan was presented to county council Wednesday by consultants Mary Rose and John Kennedy of Marshall, Macklin, Monaghan Ltd. of Toronto.

Confining development to the three urban centres has been mentioned in the background work of the \$200,000 plan as one of three possible strategies for development in the county in the next 25 years.

It has taken almost two years for this fourth draft of the "technically correct" official plan to be completed, Miss Rose told council.

Starting with a \$600,000 grant at the time of restructuring three years ago, the county has set aside funds to finance the plan.

The plan has not yet been accepted by the county or the planning committee.

"It is expected that Woodstock, Ingersoll and Tillsonburg will maintain their position as centres of industry, employment, commerce and culture within the county," the plan said.

"It is an accepted planning principle that future development should be consolidated in and around the existing urban centres where municipal services can be provided most economically."

The county plan is a one-tier plan that includes both regional and local planning, Miss Rose said. There are three distinct plans for Ingersoll, Tillsonburg and Woodstock as well as policy rules for the area municipalities.

The study of the county was complicated by its diversity, with three prominent urban centres, hamlets and villages, and the rural areas. Oxford's small communities are important to its functioning, while such communities are not usually, she said.

"In other areas these are the ones dying. In this county they are viable," she said.

The plan recommends the control and regulation of scattered forms of development to protect and preserve the "highly productive rural areas for agricultural uses."

A policy to protect agriculture in Oxford is necessary because of its importance to the county economy, Mr. Kennedy told council. This policy includes some leeway for industrial and commercial development associated with agriculture.

Another significant policy will establish "urban buffer zones" around the urban centres and settlements, with restrictive growth policies. This will help create a neutral area to "decrease conflict between urban and agricultural areas," he said.

The draft plan predicts a county population growth 25 per cent higher than the present 85,000 by 200.

Settlement areas recommended for limited growth are Burgessville, Curries, Culloden, Delmer, Dereham Centre, Foldens, Ostrander, Salford, Verschoyle, Harrington West, Lakeside, Kintore, Uniondale, Washington and Wolverton.

These areas should not be allowed substantial growth during the planning period, the plan said.

"To this end, no major residential, commercial or industrial developments which would stimulate growth pressure shall be permitted in the settlement areas," it said.

The maximum growth limit recommended for villages is 100 per cent above existing single family units for Bright, Drumbo, Hickson, Oxford Centre, Plattsville and Princeton.

Tavistock should be allowed 75 per cent growth while Embro, Thamesford and Mount Elgin should be allowed 50 per cent, the report said.

Housing unit growth for Beachville and Springford is recommended at 40 per cent while 25 per cent is recommended for Brownsville and Norwich and 15 per cent for Otterville.

No growth other than infilling and the Oxford Heights subdivision is recommended for Sweaburg during the planning period.

Future growth in the villages will probably be limited to residential, but land-use schedules have been prepared for Norwich, Thamesford and Tavistock for non-residential growth.

The report recommends the county investigate policies to provide sufficient geared-to-income housing to meet the needs of low to moderate income families and the allowance for mobile home parks in urban growth areas.

The county should actively encourage the provision of a suitable portion of rental units among all housing starts, the report said.

Copies of the draft plan will be given to municipal councils, municipal advisory groups and those members of municipal staffs who were involved in its preparation. A full discussion of the plan will be held by county council after consideration by these groups provides input.

INGERSOLL TIMES

February 1, 1978

Ingersoll indicated among focal points for major, future county development

max. 1000 70

# NEWSMAKERS

## The Jenvey Files

Research from the files of Byron G. Jenvey

### THE UNITED EMPIRE LOYALIST.

The revolutionary war between 13 New England States and England itself, began in 1775. The Americans sent troops into Canada hoping Canada would help them throw off the yoke of the English. These Americans were defeated. Canada remained loyal to Britain. The war ended in 1793 by England granting independence to the Americans with the Treaty of Versailles.

Canada received a large increase in population at the close of the war. Many Americans remained loyal to Britain. The loyal people found themselves disliked by Americans. Their treatment was so harsh that the British Parliament took pity on them and voted them over 3,000,000 pounds in consideration of their losses by remaining loyal to the British Crown. Besides this money, they were given large tracts of land in Canada. It was reported 2,500 families left the United States in 1784.

Each United Empire Loyalist received 200 acres of land free; so did each of his sons on reaching 21 years of age, and each daughter when she married. They were given provisions for three years in addition to clothing, and farm implements.

More than 30,000 United Empire Loyalist settled in Nova Scotia after the American Revolution.

There was no United Empire Loyalist organization with a president, secretary or committee. The only qualification was loyalty to Britain.

### THE CLERGY RESERVES

The Family Compact government in the 1830's, set aside in each township of Upper Canada, certain lands as Clergy Reserves for the support to the Anglican Clergy.

The Anglican Clergy claimed sole ownership of such lands. The Church of Scotland claimed a share and after much dispute the claim was recognized. This left out the Methodists. Bapt-

ists, Roman Catholics and others.

In 1836, Governor Sir John Colborne and his council endowed 57 rectories of the Church of England with part of these church lands.

In 1854 under the ministry of Sir Allan McNab, the Clergy Reserves were divided among the different municipalities of Upper Canada according to population figures, for local improvements and educational purposes. Compensation was made by parliament for losses the clergy suffered.

It was reported at one time that the Clergy Reserves, for the Church of England and the Church of Scotland, were 20,000 acres in Oxford County.

### THE CANADA LAND COMPANY

The Canada Land Company was formed in England in 1824. It was capitalized at 1,000,000 pounds. Its objective was to acquire land in Western Ontario for speculation. This company bought 4,484,413 acres. Sir John Galt was the president. He founded the City of Guelph, and had his office there. When he laid out road construction for the new town, he placed the back of his hand on a tree stump and spreading his fingers, ordered the streets built that way. That is the reason the streets of Guelph radiate from a central square.

The company bought most of their land in Huron, Grey and Bruce Counties. They did however purchase plots in Middlesex, Perth and Oxford as well. In pioneer days of settlement, the Township of Dereham was nearly all purchased by members of parliament - or their friends.

These buyers did not buy concessions two and three because they were swampy and unsaleable. However, the Canada Land Company bought these areas for the timber, which was removed. The land gradually dried with the aid of open ditches. The land was purchased by settlers, in later years. They acquired their deeds from the Canada Land Company.

INGERSOLL  
TIMES  
March 1, 1978

# Mayor lauds civic minded

## action of Lindsey

BY  
YVONNE HOLMESMOTT

Herm and Ruth Lindsey, 304 Thames Street South, are looking for some good buddies — and it has nothing whatever to do with CB radio.

The Lindsey's have always been an extremely civic minded couple and their latest project bears out this statement. Concerned about the plight of elderly residents living alone or of elderly couples with health problems, they have spent this week organizing a "buddy-system" within their own neighborhood.

Mr. Lindsey told The Times that he had been thinking about doing something along this line for quite some time, but that after attending last Sunday's Times-sponsored Operation Beat the Blizzard, he felt it was something that needed to be organized right away.

During the public information meeting, he asked Police Chief Ron James whether it would be wise for senior citizens to display some kind of uniform signal if they were in distress during a storm situation, so that police and rescue workers would be aware that they needed aid. Chief James answered

in the negative, pointing out that signals would be of little use in a blinding snowstorm and that the officers cannot patrol the streets anyway when there is a blizzard situation. The police chief's alternate

suggestion was that senior residents get together and form a buddy system within their own neighborhood.

Herm and Ruth Lindsey took his suggestion to heart and by the middle of last

week had their plans completed. They hope that by December 1 they will put their plan into action and that by then they will also have involved hundreds of other people.

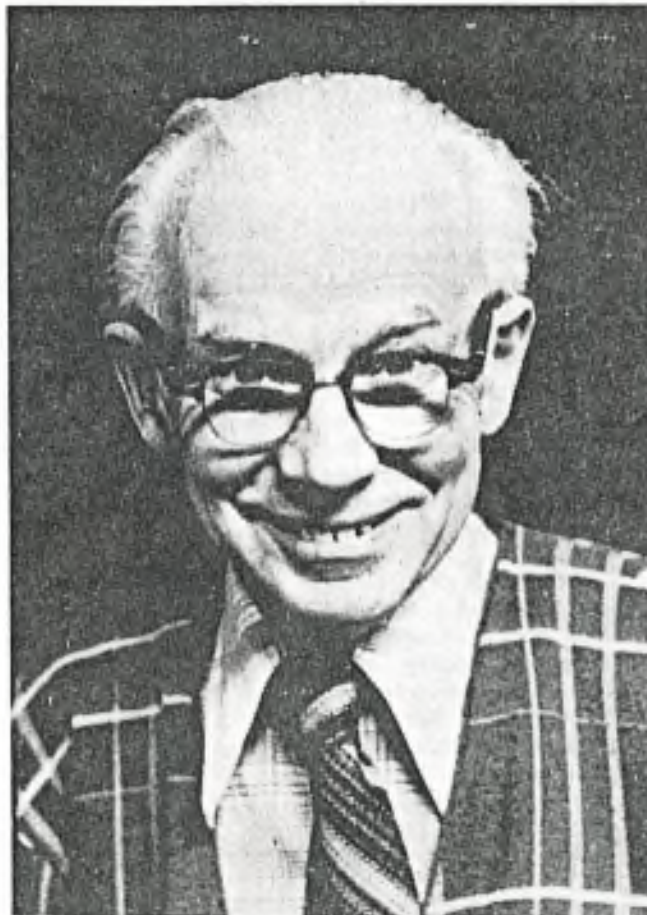
Under the plan they have devised, 12 residences within their Dufferin-Thames Street South neighborhood will be involved.

They will act as coordinators for that group and will set up a time each morning when they will call each of those individuals or couples. The senior citizens wishing to take part in this protective plan, will be asked to keep their telephone line clear for the half hour period that is agreed upon by all the members of that group.

Herm and Ruth will share the calling duties and as long as they make contact with the person and know that he or she is alright there will be no problems.

They have christened their program "We Care" and they will use a low key, gentle approach in their calling. The message will be brief, but soft, "Good morning. We Care calling. How are you today?"

If they do not receive an answer they will start to investigate and for this second phase of their operation, Herm hopes to gain the interest of one



Herm Lindsey and his wife Ruth, a former school principal have been highly commended by Mayor Doug Harris for their work this past week in organizing "We Care".

younger, able-bodied neighbour who would be willing in an emergency to go out in the type of conditions that might be dangerous for a senior citizen.

The Lindseys hope to hear from a number of people in various neighborhoods around town who would be willing to do the same thing. Herm stated that he fervently hopes that interested people will take the initiative and volunteer to act as co-ordinators as he and Ruth have done and get in touch with him and his wife. He suggests that each volunteer co-ordinator offer to take the responsibility for 12 residences, the same as they have done and also line up one younger person who could go to the homes if necessary.

He stressed that it would be up to the individual co-ordinators to set up their own terms of reference and plans for their particular group. The Lindseys emphasized that they would be more than willing to help anyone get started in this field or to talk over any plans they might wish to discuss. They would like to have everyone set to go by December 1 and hopefully before the bad weather moves in for the winter.

The Lindseys have had some experience in this line already. For several

years they have made a daily call to London for this same purpose and for the past 10 years they have called a close friend who lives alone, every morning and evening. They feel that if they can quickly get the people who want to be involved into a daily routine now before the bad weather comes, it will be a comfort to the elderly and lonely if and when a storm does strike.

"Hopefully it will be re-assuring to them to know a call is coming in the bad weather just as it does in the good weather" Herm stressed. "If the co-ordinator feels someone needs help, he will contact the police department and ask them for assistance. This way everything goes through the one department as was stressed at the Beat the Blizzard meeting."

Police Chief Ronald K. James, when informed by the Lindseys that they had followed his advice and already instigated the operation of a "buddy system", was tremendously enthused over their work.

"I think it is an excellent idea and I cannot commend them highly enough" observed the police chief when asked to comment on the project. "To have responsible citizens do something like this on a year-round basis is just marvellous and it will mean so much to the seniors when the bad weather and the storms do come. Herm and Ruth are to be sincerely congratulated."

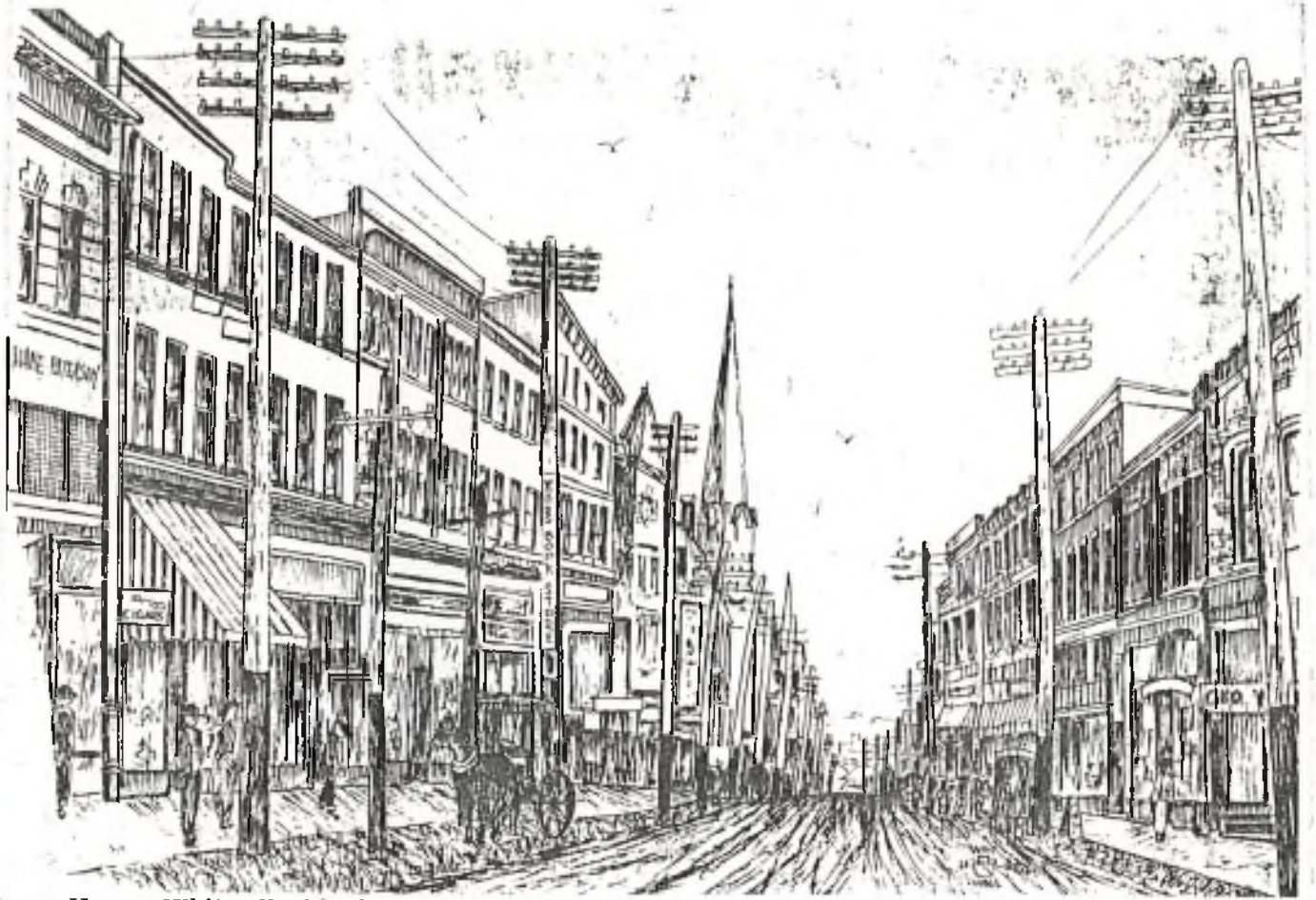
Mayor Doug Harris also had high praise for the

Lindseys "civic-minded action".

"It is an excellent idea" stressed the mayor "and it makes a heck of a lot of sense. This could save hundreds of phone calls during bad weather conditions and will be a help to people involved in rescue work and in clean up operations as much as it will to the senior citizens themselves."

"Just consider" urged the mayor, "the number of telephone calls that come in from one area after a bad storm just to see when the snow plow will get to that street. Instead of dozens of calls, one would do it."

"I am really impressed" stated the mayor "but I am not surprised. This is typical of Herm Lindsey, to get out and do something that he sees needing to be done. I think it is fantastic and I sincerely hope that other people in the town will follow his lead and help to get the senior citizens organized within their own neighborhoods."



Harry Whitwell sketch of the final days of worn plank sidewalks in the town's core area.

## How Ingersoll's sidewalks were developed

INGERSOLL — The above sketch by Harry Whitwell depicts Thames Street as the town's core area looked in the late 1880s. A few years later, the old and worn plank sidewalks were replaced by sidewalks that were a first in Canada.

In 1890 a local council deputation went to Detroit to

have a look at a new type of sidewalk material in use there. They liked what they saw and awarded a contract to Otto Guelick and Co. to build a sidewalk stretching from Canterbury Street north to the CPR tracks.

One year later a Canadian company, the Silica Barytic

Stone Co. was formed with its head office in Ingersoll.

It is said that Otto Guelick went to England, got samples there of the Old Roman Road and brought it back here to be analyzed. It turned out to be a mixture of broken stone, gravel, sand, and cement.

Fifty-five miles of sidewalk

made of the mix was laid by Silica Barytic Stone Co. in town. The company became so well known that it finally received orders for the unique sidewalk from almost every town in the province.

CENTINEL REVIEW

June 13, 1979

# Paying tribute to those who didn't come back

By CYNTHIA DAVID  
Sentinel-Review staff writer

Bordon Lyndon, an Ingersoll pharmacist, still bears the scars of his six years navigating bombers over Europe and Africa.

He flew his plane high into the sun, where the oxygen is low, then swooped down to shoot at the enemy.

"That's why he won all those medals," whispered Rev. John Patrick, padre of Zone B-2, as he pointed to Lyndon standing tall with other veterans at the Ingersoll rural cemetery Sunday.

Members of Legion Branch 119, the Ingersoll Pipe Band and Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute cadets marched to the Field of Honor at the cemetery to honor those who died in the Battle of Britain in 1940.

"We are proud of our veterans and those who lost their lives," said Mr. Patrick, who

served with the Highland Light Infantry.

"Now we must carry the torch of freedom they have thrown to us and live a democratic way of life so bondage shall never take us over."

Lyndon, who was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross for his heroism, flew with South Africans, Australians, New Zealanders and British in the years following the Battle of Britain. "I was never shot down," he said. "I guess I was one of the lucky ones."

At the brief ceremony, Ingersoll Mayor Doug Harris laid a wreath on behalf of the province, Eugene Maybee presented one for Ingersoll Branch 119, and Jean Unser laid a wreath for the Legion's Ladies Auxiliary.

Mrs. Irene Walker, a Silver Cross mother, placed a wreath for her son, killed in Korea, and Mrs. Elmer (Elsie) Dillman laid a wreath in remembrance of a brother killed in the war.

SENTINEL REVIEW

September 17, 1979





Jean Unser, president of the ladies auxiliary, lays a wreath at the Ingersoll rural cemetery during a special ceremony held in

memory of those who died during the Battle of Britain. A parade was also held.

SENTINEL REVIEW

September 17, 1979

## Swedish exchange student

# She is not homesick---yet

BY MARGARET BOYD

Parade-goers will probably remember Elsa Wittboldt, the fair-haired Swedish girl who smiled and waved from a convertible, representing Ingersoll's first exchange student.

Elsa is from the west coast of Sweden, a place called Molndal near Goteborg. The 16-year-old arrived on August 19 and will be staying in Ingersoll for one year.

She is sponsored by the Rotary Club in Sweden. It is the first time that Ingersoll has sponsored a foreign student through the International Youth Exchange program. Nancy Talbot, an Ingersoll student, is currently on a year's exchange program in Mexico, through the same program.

The Darwen M. Lowe family on Princess Park is having Elsa as a house guest for three months,

then she will stay with the Barry Hunt family for three months, the J.D. Tomlinson family for three months and then the Jack Talbot family for the last three months.

"I don't find it hard to be away from Sweden," Elsa said. "It will make me grow up faster, although after half a year I may get homesick."

she hopes to be able to skip a year of English classes when she returns to

Sweden. Most Swedes speak English, she said.

"The school system is much different, in Canada," Elsa said. "In Sweden we start English at the tenth year; I've had six years of English."

Currently in Grade 12, although she takes some Grade 9 and 10 Canadian history and Canadian geography classes, Elsa finds her classmates "very friendly."

The Swedish school system does not have numbered grades as in Canada.

"You start at the age of seven and go for nine years. The years are called first year, second year and so on," Elsa said.

After nine years, Swedish students go on to take further studies if they wish.

"About 99 per cent take more education because it

is needed to get employment in Sweden," she said.

After the ninth year, called the comprehensive year, Swedes go on to what is called Gymnasium, in which they can take any one of many disciplines. Elsa is taking a natural line, with science as her specialty.

Elsa's father is a doctor and her mother is a part-time physical education teacher and part-time head of a computer firm. She has two older sisters and a younger brother.

The decision to become involved with the exchange program happened in January.

"My mother asked if I wanted to be an exchange student, and I said of course," Elsa explained. "I had no interview but just answered a paper with 10 questions on it."

She was answering an advertisement in a Swedish newspaper, placed by the Rotary Club.

While she is in Canada, Elsa hopes to improve her English and "see how people live in other countries."

"Canada is not much different from Sweden," she said. She noticed that the food is colorful. "the butter is bright yellow and the cheese is orange," she said in amazement.

By Easter, Elsa should have visitors from her homeland. "My mother and father will be coming, maybe," she said. When she finishes school in June, Elsa's sister is expected to visit.

The International Youth Exchange program sponsors young people for the purpose of furthering international understanding and good will among young people of the world. Don Hillis is Elsa's liaison officer during her stay in Canada.

When she returns to Sweden, Elsa hopes to pursue studies and eventually she would like to be a policewoman.

INGERSOLL TIMES

September 19, 1979



Elsa Wittboldt, a 16-year-old exchange student from Sweden, is staying with the Darwen Lowe family for three months. Elsa will be staying in Ingersoll for one year through the International Youth Exchange program. She will stay with four different families during her exchange.

INGERSOLL TIMES

September 19, 1979

BY C. J. CLARK

Many Ingersoll residents know this town only as it is today. Years ago it was a much different place where there was more than one hotel, trolley cars operated between here and Woodstock and fishing was a popular pastime in town ponds.

Lloyd 'Duck' Henderson submitted to The Times many notes of interest on Ingersoll of old. He has spent most of his 77 years in town.

He notes things were much cheaper when he was a boy, recalling an allowance of six cents. Five cents would go towards a local movie show and the remaining penny could be spent on treats during the movie.

Although a lot less expensive in those days, things like indoor arenas were never heard of and as he said, "Today they have rinks for the kids. Then we had to do our skating on the town ponds."

Businesses long since gone were also among past recollections and here are some of them:

Reid's Hotel, which was owned and operated by Robert Reid, was located on the southwest corner of

Packing Company on Victoria Street.

There were all sorts of factories in town then, only one of which is in operation today.

Evans Brothers piano

factory was in operation then and was located opposite the present Fleischer and Jewett business.

Woolen knit goods were manufactured at the Waterhouse Knitting Factory on Charles Street East.

What was Richardson's Planning Mill is now known as Ingersoll Planning Mill.

On Pemberton Street William Stone and Sons fertilizer plant operated.

Ingersoll must have been a haven for fishing buffs, naturalists and those who

Thames and King Streets. Reid's two sons, Beach and Maple, helped operate the establishment.

H.D. McCarty owned and operated McCarty House which was located on the southwest corner of Thames and Victoria Streets.

There was also the McMurray Hotel which operated from the northwest corner of Charles and Thames Streets.

There were many groceries in town then too.

Do you remember Morello Fruit Store on the east side of Thames Street South?

S.M. Fleet Grocery Store was located on the east side of Thames Street South.

"Soda biscuits were in a barrel and you scooped them into a paper bag and weighed them," noted Mr. Henderson, of Dyer's Grocery Store on the east side of Thames Street.

Clark's Bakery and Sweet Cider Mill on Charles Street east was a busy place as it offered fresh hot cross buns at 15 cents a dozen while a loaf of bread sold for six cents.

On Saturdays the place to go for eggs and all kinds of meats was the Ingersoll

enjoyed a good swim during the hot summer months, as there were ponds galore in town.

"Boys would swim in the nude and the fishing was also good there," Mr. Henderson said of the Upper Dam, located a mile east of downtown Ingersoll.

What is now Memorial Park was once known as Parto Pond. A grist mill operated on Mill Street in those days.

There was an ice house located near Smith's Pond which used to deliver with ice boxes.

*Trolley cars and  
nickle movies...  
all memories of  
town as it once  
was*

There used to be a stream from the upper dam to Carroll's Pond, where good pike fishing could be done.

"It was a good place to skate and swim and catch frogs legs," said Mr. Henderson, referring to Carroll's Pond.

Fairmont Park, which was just east of Beachville, used to be a popular place to have picnics for area residents in those days.

As for transportation, a trolley car used to travel from Ingersoll to Woodstock and back on the south side of the old No. 2 highway.



INGERSOLL TIMES  
May 28, 1980

Ingersoll was a busy place yesteryear. There were ponds for swimming and fishing, an ice house near Smith's Pond and factories that no longer exist today.

E R R A T A

.....

"CANADA'S AVIATION PIONEERS"

by

ALICE GIBSON-SUTHERLAND

Published by McGraw-Hill Ryerson Limited, Toronto, in December, 1978.

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- Page 17 - Column 1, para. 3, line 8, change "Vickers Aircraft Company" to read "Canadian Vickers Limited".  
Column 1, para. 4, line 1, change "Vickers Aircraft" to read "Canadian Vickers Limited".  
Column 2, para. 1, lines 15 and 16, change "Vickers Aircraft Company" to read "Canadian Vickers Limited".
- Page 21 - Column 2, para. 4, lines 14 and 15, change "March, 1927" to read "December 10, 1926".  
Column 3, para. 3, line 2, delete the word "Bay".
- Page 22 - Column 1, para. 2, line 4, change "G-CADL" to read "G-CAGE".
- Page 34 - Column 1, para. 1, lines 8, 9 and 10, delete the following sentence: "The Fairchild, the other aircraft, however, had found its last resting place on the shore".
- Page 42 - Caption under photo, amend as follows:  
Line 3, change "E. A. Broadway" to read "Major Riddell of the R.C.C.S., Aklavik", and change "S. R. McMillan" to read "R.C.M.P. Sgt. Frank Hersey".  
Line 3, delete "D.A."  
Line 4, change "Mash" to "Nash".
- Page 63 - Caption under photo, line 1, change "seaplane" to read "skiplane".
- Page 156 - Caption under photo, line 2, delete the word "Trimotor".  
Column 1, para. 2, line 4, delete the word "Trimotor".
- Page 171 - Caption under photo, line 6, insert the following line after December: "1934, G-CAHJ was sold to United Air Transport, Edmonton; in June, 1938". The last sentence under the caption should now read as follows: "Then in December, 1934, G-CAHJ was sold to United Air Transport, Edmonton; in June, 1938, to Fleet Aircraft of Canada; and finally to Peace River Airways, Peace River, Alta., in July, 1938".
- Page 205 - Caption under photo, line 1, change "A/V/M. W. A. Curtis" to read "A/M. W. A. Curtis".
- Page 290 - Column 2, para. 2, lines 17 and 18, change "Vickers Aircraft Company" to read "Canadian Vickers Limited".
- Page 293 - Caption over photo, line 1, change "V.C." to read "V.D.".

September, 1980.

**Canada's Aviation Pioneers: 50 Years of McKee Trophy Winners**, by Alice Gibson Sutherland (McGraw-Hill Ryerson Ltd., Toronto, 1978, 304 pp., \$24.95).

This book is based on the biographies of the men who have won the McKee Trophy, Canada's top aviation award presented annually since 1927 in recognition of the most outstanding contribution in the field of operational flying. It is seldom given for a single brilliant exploit, but rather for excellence of performance and dedication to aviation over a period of years. The recipient need not necessarily be a pilot, though he generally is, and the honour has also been bestowed on navigators, engineers and other non-pilot airmen. In some years, the award has gone to men who made their greatest mark in aviation as captains of industry, managers and directors after their active flying careers were over. All of the recipients have played a decisive part in making Canadian aviation what it is today.

In writing about the McKee Trophy winners, the author does not overlook the achievements of their associates, helpers and advisers. The story that emerges is a history of Canadian aviation from the flight of the fragile Silver Dart at Baddeck, Nova Scotia, in February 1909, to the age of the big air transports.

have been added, however, to depict some of the more famous flights such as that of Punch Dickins across the unexplored Barren Lands in 1928.

Although the author gives credit to those who were helpful during her extensive research, some readers will be disappointed to find that a full listing of source materials is not included.

Alice Gibson Sutherland is exceptionally well qualified to write about the McKee Trophy and the men who have had the distinction of winning it. As secretary to the director of civil aviation in the Department of Transport, she was personally acquainted with many of the leading lights in aviation, civil, commercial and military. She has previously published articles on some of them, and for her current book she had access to many personal papers, as well as to government records.

*Canada's Aviation Pioneers* contains a wealth of information and is an invaluable reference work on the history of Canadian aviation. It is also an attractive item for the bookshelf or coffee table.

F.J. Hatch

*Dr. Hatch is an historian with the National Defence Department's directorate of history and author of "Ship-to-Shore airmail services in the '20s" (CG, Aug/Sept 1978).*



The reader will also find much in the way of human interest as the biographies, particularly those of the Arctic flyers and bush pilots, are enlivened by numerous anecdotes.

The photographs well illustrate the events described in the text, while maps trace the development of the principal air routes. A few smaller map inserts might

# History of aviation pioneers outstanding

Saturday, February 10, 1979

**Canada's Aviation Pioneers: Fifty Years of McKee Trophy Winners**, by Alice Gibson Sutherland; McGraw-Hill Ryerson; 304 pages; five maps; index; \$24.95

By Elizabeth Wright  
This excellent book results from a happy quirk of fate. When Murton Seymour, honorary counsel for the Royal Flying Clubs Association, visited the office of the controller of civil aviation in the 1940s, he regularly passed the desk of the controller's secretary, Alice Gibson. A casual remark sparked her idea of writing biographies of early McKee Trophy winners for *Canadian Aviation*. Later she expanded them into a book, which was published on the eve of the award's 50th anniversary. It is a meticulously researched labor of love, done in spare hours over a 20-year period.

The Trans-Canada (McKee) Trophy, which can be seen at the Museum of Science and Technology, came into existence to commemorate the first trans-Canada seaplane flight, made in 1926 by Captain James Dalzell McKee, a wealthy American pilot and aviation enthusiast. (He flew a Douglas seaplane from Montreal to Vancouver.) The first pilot and navigator on the arduous and frequently hazardous flight was Squadron Leader A. Earl Godfrey, M.C., A.F.M. (later A/V/M Godfrey) who was awarded the trophy in 1977.

To show his appreciation of courtesies extended to him by the RCAF and civil-aviation organizations, Captain McKee pre-



**Alice Gibson Sutherland**  
*Life's labor of love*

sented the trophy, requesting that it be awarded annually to the person most meritoriously advancing aviation in Canada during the year, with emphasis on year-long continuous service rather than a single brilliant exploit.

The citations reflect Canada's history and development during a half century. During the 1920s and 1930s they recognized pioneer work on the frontiers, for example, "outstanding work in carrying out airway surveys preliminary to the inauguration of an airmail service in Canada. . . . exploratory flights in northern Canada . . . service in the inauguration of Trans-Canada Airlines."

Many of the incidental adventures were heroic. "Wop" May and his copilot, on Jan. 1, 1929, flew 600 miles from Edmonton to Fort Vermilion with diphtheria anti-toxin. The temperature was minus-40 degrees F., the only available plane an Avro 2 seater with no skis and an open cockpit. On arrival at Vermilion, frostbitten, bleeding from cuts inflicted by the biting winds,

both men were so chilled that they had to be lifted from the cockpit. A fast dog team rushed the anti-toxin to Little Red River; the Indians in the settlement all recovered.

## Hitler war

During the war against Hitler, Canada's aviation resources expanded to the limit. One pioneer was cited for "wholehearted support . . . everything worthwhile in aviation." After the war, aviators were still "opening up Canada's vast hinterland. . . . developing new methods of aerial navigation in the Arctic . . . mapping the Arctic . . . developing landing gear for light aircraft operating from unprepared surfaces in the Arctic." They were competing internationally with new navigation computer systems, record-breaking high-altitude flying, research in high-altitude



physiology, test-flying new types of planes at shows all over the world, etc.

Overall, McKee Trophy winners were men sinewy of mind and body, backed by teams equally absorbed in work they felt to be challenging and worthwhile.

The author, now a Merrickville resident, has done a remarkable job in condensing an immense amount of fascinating material. The record is presented in sufficiently de-

tached fashion, but she is by no means a bloodless recorder. Part of her brief lament for the Avro Arrow (the C.F.105 cancelled in mid-production in February, 1959) shows her empathy. "Not one of the Arrows was kept as a work of art for a Canadian museum. Not one of the Arrows was kept to show its magnificent design. Not one of these six Arrows was to remain intact. Blueprints, brochures, reports and photographs were all reduced to ashes. Why, one asks? What a pity!"

An outstanding source book, and one for aviation buffs, this is also a book for all Canadians, as full of atmosphere and excitement as those of Robert Service, W. O. Mitchell or Arthur Hailey; but the events narrated by Gibson Sutherland are historical-factual, and the reader's imagination has to react and interpret accordingly. The 231 excellent photographs add immediacy to a work that should be read slowly and savored.

What topic and genre will this writer select next from her wealth of experience and background — the Canadian Aviation Hall of Fame, the bush pilots, a book for young adults, fiction? Her first book off-sets the tedious and destructive vogue of the anti-hero. We could use more.



**More than 100 less**

# Population figures show a drop

By JOE KONECNY  
INGERSOLL — A 1980  
Ontario government census  
report shows population here  
has dropped by 104.

At an administrative meeting,  
councillors learned the number  
of residents fell to 8,192 from  
8,296.

Municipal enumeration was  
conducted in September and  
populations of local nursing  
homes, senior citizen homes,  
hospitals and other institutions

are included in the report.

Town clerk Gerry Staples  
noted at the meeting that the  
most substantial drop was felt in  
the 66 year old and up category.  
Figures in that bracket show a  
decrease of 54, to 1,000.

The number of people who  
refused to reveal their ages is  
down by 44, to 225.

The next largest drop oc-  
curred in the 13 and 14 year old  
category, with population in that  
age group down by 23, to 251.

A large increase was noted in  
the 31 to 40 year old category.  
There are 30 more people in that  
age group, marking a jump to  
987.

There are 29 more 18 year olds  
in Ingersoll, the report states.  
The total in that group is now  
178, while the number of 19 year  
olds stayed at 144.

SENT IDEL REVIEW  
December 15, 1980

# Population drops 104

Driving into Ingersoll the population sign reads 8,500 persons. It is now much less than that and 104 persons less than last year's population a 1980 census report reveals.

Ingersoll's population is now 8,192 compared with 8,296 in 1979. Statistics show the greatest drop appears to be in the 66-year-old and age up bracket.

In 1979 those 66 and up numbered 954 persons and the 1980 figures, taken during municipal enumeration, show a decrease of 54 persons.

Other notable decreases were those between 13 to 14 years. They now number 251, down 23 persons. Next is the 56 to 59 year old group whose population is down 19 persons to a total of 339. That is followed by a 17 person decrease to a total of 109 in the three-year-old bracket.

Eighteen-year-olds in Ingersoll now number 178 and that is up 29 from 1979. The next largest increase was in those aged 36 to 40 years and they are up 17 for a total of 412 persons. There was a 13 person increase in the 31 to 35 year old age group to a 1980 total of 575.

INGERSOLL TIMES

December 19, 1980

# Trip got off to a disasterous start but Mette enjoying life in Canada

**INGERSOLL** — Mette Viking says she's enjoying her visit to Canada — although her trip got off to a rotten start.

The 18-year-old native of Horning, Denmark is residing in Ingersoll this year as part of an international exchange arranged by the Rotary and Kiwanis service clubs.

She's currently boarding with the Sam Somers family of RR 5, Ingersoll, one of four families she'll be spending three months each with while attending Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute and trying to absorb Canadian life.

Her trip began badly as a result of the strike by American air traffic controllers.

Mette and 80 other student travellers flew from Copenhagen to Helsinki Aug. 8 to board a DC-10 that would have taken them to New York in seven hours. In New York, they would have taken an Air Canada flight to Toronto.

The Finnish flight authorities, however, decided to send the passengers to New York on a DC-8, to avoid complications caused by the strike.

The smaller aircraft took eight hours to land at Kennedy airport, leaving the students with scarcely any time to travel 20 miles across town to LaGuardia airport to catch the Air Canada flight.

"When we got there (LaGuardia), we had three minutes until the plane left," Mette recalled. "We rushed down to the gate and it just left."

The dismayed students returned to

Kennedy airport, spent the night on the airport floor and flew to Toronto from LaGuardia the next day.

Meanwhile, Mette was wondering if anyone would be in Toronto to meet her. When she had tried to phone the Somers in Ingersoll to tell them she'd be arriving late, there was no answer — the family already had gone to the Toronto airport.

"I had visions about everything terrible," she recalled.

Her fears vanished, however, when she arrived in Toronto. The Somers, assuming she would arrive on a later plane, had stayed overnight and were at Toronto International Airport to greet her when she stepped off the plane.

It's been smooth sailing ever since.

"I love it," she says of Canada. The people are "very friendly."

Although she's an experienced traveller who has visited Greece, Italy, Yugoslavia, Germany and Tunis, she admits she's slightly homesick being farther away from home than she's ever been before.

"I miss home a little bit but I don't feel terrible about it," she said. "I don't think about it. I'm curious and I want to see as much of Canada as I can."

So far she has seen plenty: Canada's Wonderland, London, Parry Sound, Woodstock, the Canadian National Exhibition, and the Stratford Festival.

"I was quite surprised when I saw Toronto because I've never seen anything so big," she recalled of her

trip to the CNE.

She applied for the exchange program which she heard of through a neighbor and Rotary member because "I was a little tired of school and I wanted to go."

Her parents — her father is an associate university professor in Arhus and her mother a psychotherapist — paid for her air fare and expenses. She receives a \$40-a-month allowance from the Ingersoll Kiwanis club which is sponsoring her stay in co-operation with the Woodstock Rotary club.

To qualify for the trip, she had to finish in the top third of her class at gymnasium — the Danish equivalent of high school — where she has a year to go before graduating.

Her timetable at Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute will consist of a combination of Grade 11, 12 and 13 subjects including Spanish, French, English, Canadian history, drama and music.

She is taking most of the courses for fun because the Canadian credits aren't likely to be honored by her school at home, she says.

She'll stay with the Somers family until Nov. 28, the Don McLagans until Feb. 27, the Doug Tomlinsons until May 29 and the Lowe family until next August, when she returns home.

With schoolwork to do and Kiwanis and Rotary club meetings to attend she'll be a busy person this year.

But she won't lack companionship, according to Sam Somers.

"She's one of the family," he said.

SENTINEL REVIEW  
September 3, 1981



**METTE VIKING, 18, uses an atlas to point out to her hosts, Edith and Sam Somers of RR 5, Ingersoll, her home in Denmark. She is visiting Canada as part of an exchange project**

**sponsored by the Ingersoll Kiwanis and Woodstock Rotary clubs.**

**(Staff photo by Michael Barris)**

SENTINEL REVIEW  
September 3, 1981

# Ingersoll named for heroine's father

By Don Murray  
of The Free Press

The American Revolution, Laura Secord, the slave railway and a classic hoax are just some of the ingredients in the incredibly rich history belonging to the Oxford County town of Ingersoll.

The town's namesake and the man who started it all was Maj. Thomas Ingersoll, a rebel in the War of Independence who brought his family to Canada from Massachusetts in 1793.

The major brought in many settlers to the huge tract of land granted him by the British government, and the community he homesteaded grew slowly but steadily.

However, it seems his military past returned to haunt him by the turn of the century when the government revoked the land agreement and forced him to resettle in the Port Credit area around 1805.

But before he moved on, Ingersoll had seen his eldest daughter, Laura, wed to a young army sergeant named James Secord and the couple set up housekeeping in Queenston.

During the War of 1812-14, Secord was severely wounded and crippled at the Battle of Queenston Heights and Laura was forced to billet several officers of the American army.

It's said that, while serving the enemy officers dinner in June, 1813, she overheard plans for an attack on British forces. The rest of the story — the 32-kilometre trek with her cow through enemy lines to warn the British — is firmly etched in Canadian history.

Forewarned, the British set up an ambush near the present-day town of Thorold and won a smashing victory. After the war, James Secord prospered, serving as a registrar, judge and customs collector. However, when he died in 1841, he left Laura a penniless 65-year-old widow. Her death came in 1868 at age 93.

The end of the war also changed the fortunes of the struggling settlement, then known as Oxford, that grew up around the major's old homestead.

The major's son, Charles, moved back to the area in 1817 and, by 1821, Oxford had a school, tavern, mills and a distillery. That same year, Ingersoll was named postmaster of the first permanent post office in the county.



In 1832, he laid out a town plot, and Oxford — later called Ingersollville before it was shortened — was the county centre until Woodstock began to flourish.

During the 1850s and '60s, Ingersoll was a halfway station on the underground railway that carried fugitive slaves from Detroit to Niagara Falls.

And when John Brown led his famous raid on the arsenal at Harper's Ferry, Va., many of his men had been recruited from Ingersoll.

The decade of the 1860s was a key one in the history of Oxford and Ingersoll as overcropped, exhausted soil forced farmers to switch to dairying to make a living. The town rapidly built a major cheese-making industry and, in 1866, produced a 7,300 pound (3,300 kilogram) cheese that measured 21 feet (6.5 metres) in circumference and was exhibited at the New York State Fair and at London, England.

While cheese put Ingersoll on the world map, several other natives have also gone on to win fame, including evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson and actor William Hutt.

Then there is the famous monster hoax of 1857 that brought a snooty American scientist and 10,000 spectators to town to watch him catch it. Irked by the scientist's arrogance, the townspeople roared with laughter when he pulled the "monster" from the village pond.

It was the stuffed carcass of a cow.

*Amos Free Press  
May 7, 1983*



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CANADA

Please reply to:  
DR. BRUCE HALLIDAY, M.P.  
111 Huron Street  
Woodstock, Ontario  
N4S 6Z6  
(519) 539-4400  
Zenith 34140

WOODSTOCK  
14th November 1983

Hon. David Smith, Minister of State,  
Small Business and Tourism,  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Minister:

Re: Tourism Canada Anniversary

This is in response to your letter of September 22nd, in which you invited me to advise you of any multiple-of-25-year milestones which will be observed in Oxford Riding in 1984. I trust that the following may be included in your department's promotional material.

- 1834: The formation of the congregations of  
Knox Presbyterian Church in Woodstock, and  
St. James' Anglican Church in Ingersoll
- 1884: Opening of the Salvation Army ministry in Woodstock
- 1909: Founding of the Village of Tavistock (on your list)  
Founding of the Police Village of Bright  
Founding of Alexandra Hospital in Ingersoll

In addition to the above, the following historical events have been identified to me by Mr. Len Coles, who is the retired Clerk of the County of Oxford, and our acknowledged historian.

- 1834: James A. Ingersoll was appointed Oxford's second Registrar of Deeds. His office, located in Ingersoll, is still in use.
- 1884: Sir Oliver Mowat won Provincial authority to license taverns and tavern keepers; also won Provincial right to control navigation on Provincial rivers. He represented the Riding of North Oxford, and was Premier of Ontario.

Page 2

Thank you for the opportunity to make the above  
submissions.

Yours sincerely,

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



PUBLIC WORKS employee Gerald George installs one of six new welcome signs at the King Street West entrance to town.  
*(Staff photo by Gabe Peracchia)*

**Original artwork**

*Chamber's unique signs  
 now greeting visitors*

INGERSOLL — Visitors to more colorfully as they enter  
 Ingersoll will now be greeted town.

A one-year project by the Ingersoll and District Chamber of Commerce reached its fruition Tuesday, as six colorful, artistic welcome signs were posted by public works department workers on six roads which lead into town.

"We think they're unique," Chamber of Commerce manager Bonnie Mott said. "We know of no other town that has original art and their entrance signs."

The new signs feature artist's drawings of six different landmarks in Ingersoll. The drawings, featuring places such as the old town hall, Alexandra Hospital, Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute, the Cheese Factory Museum and Dewan Festival Gardens, were the work of Ingersoll resident Harry Allen.

The Chamber of Commerce undertook the project last year to replace five old signs which pronounced Ingersoll as the home of the Cheese Festival.

The new signs bear the self-assuring slogan "prosperity through progress."

The new signs are located at Charles Street East, Highway 19 at Centennial Park, Whiting Street, King Street West, Bell Street and Thames Street North.

*SANTINER  
 REV. EW  
 April 19, 1984*



# Indian chief helped Ingersoll select town site

BY RENE MCKNIGHT

Almost everyone knows how the United States was settled, about the Mayflower and Plymouth Rock; how the Indians befriended the American pioneers and taught them survival in an unknown wilderness. But few know how this town was settled almost two centuries ago, or how Thomas Ingersoll chose the site for his town on the advice of famed Indian Chief Joseph Brant.

In 1793 when Governor Simcoe was offering land for 6d. sterling per acre (12 cents), Thomas Ingersoll decided to venture to Canada. Major Ingersoll was to bring in settlers to Canada who would each receive 200 acres of land and he would get a 65,000 tract of land.

Choosing the site, which became known as Oxford-on-the-Thames, was not difficult for the major. Years prior to the move, he and Chief Brant had met in New York where the Indian chief urged him to settle in Canada. When he finally took Chief Brant's advice, the Indian had six of his men choose a site for settlement, an area known as La Tranche, now the Thames.

There is some speculation that Major Ingersoll had been to the region at an earlier time with his daughter, Laura Ingersoll Secord.

Shortly after Thomas Ingersoll had settled the area, Governor Simcoe was removed from office and the land grants he had so graciously given away were reneged by the British, who wanted more money for the property.

Discouraged, Thomas Ingersoll, in 1805, left the community he had helped to settle and moved first to Etobicoke, then to Credit River, where he died. Major Ingersoll did not, however, leave without making his mark. Not only had he settled a community but also fathered the first white child born in this area, two years before he left.

In 1817, when the threat of American invasion had ended, Charles Ingersoll bought back his family farm, which his father had left in disgust. He sent his 17-year-old brother James, to re-establish the family roots in the community.



Squire James Ingersoll, son of the town's founder and the first white man born in the area.

When James arrived in town, he found his family home in shambles. While brother Charles kept himself busy as the county Postmaster, James repaired and rebuilt his birth place.

Charles Ingersoll was well-liked in his community and was the town magistrate, Commissioner of Court of Request, and twice served terms in Parliament. In fact, he was so well liked, that villagers at one time named the community the Village of Charles, in his honor.

Charles Ingersoll died in 1832 when a cholera epidemic swept through the town. It claimed his son's life as well.

In accordance with his will's request, the town was renamed Ingersollville, until September 12, 1851 when it became the Village of Ingersoll.

Following in his brother's footsteps, James assumed the position of magistrate in 1834, at the age of 33. James Ingersoll held the position of Postmaster and managed a store until 1843.

The Ingersoll family originated in England. Brothers John and Richard moved to Massachusetts in the early 1600s, where the family remained until Thomas moved in 1793. Although none of the Ingersoll family descendants living in the nearby cities of

London and Windsor Joyce Brown (nee-Ingersoll) the great, great, great granddaughter of the settler, lives in Oxford Centre and owns a home on the path Major Ingersoll travelled when looking for this settlement.

## Ingersoll's daughter, Laura Secord, chose to leave her father's settlement

BY RENE MCKNIGHT

Laura Secord is no doubt best associated with candies and other assorted sweets. Although her likeness graces chocolate boxes found almost everywhere, history students will remember Laura Secord for her heroic efforts at the battle of Beaver Dam, where she aided Canadians in the War of 1812.

According to historian Emma Currie, Laura had visited Oxford-on-the-Thames with her father Thomas Ingersoll, when he was first attempting to settle the area. When Laura Ingersoll and her father returned to Massachusetts to bring the rest of the family to his new found settlement, Laura decided to remain in Queenston.

At the age of 18, she operated a tavern in Queenston called the Ingersoll Tavern. Shortly afterwards, she met and married James Secord, who came from a family of United Empire Loyalists.

Within a few years of their marriage, hostile feelings between the British and Americans turned to war, with United States lashing out at Canada.

Under the command of Sir Isaac Brock, the Empire was quite safe, with Brock winning battles on many occasions. Then came the battle at Queenston Heights, where the domineering Brock was shot and killed by an American sniper, and James Secord, who helped to carry the general off the battle field, was himself wounded.

Billeting soldiers was a common practise of the Americans. Viewing a small loyalist family with an injured father as harmless,

the soldiers chose the Secord home as a rooming place.

One evening the American fighters invited Colonel Boerstler to the Secord home and selected Laura to make the meal. Accustomed to Queenston life, the soldiers talked freely of their battle plans. Overhearing their conversation, Laura knew the outcome of a planned ambush at Beaver Dam depended on her.

Originally she had planned to walk to a town nearby where her brother Charles resided. But Charles was too ill to make the tract to Beaver Dam so Laura continued on her way.

The frail woman had to cross 20 miles of untraced land and unbridged streams, which was held by the Americans, before she reached her destination.

She was greeted by Indians who were aiding General James FitzGibbon, the man Laura was seeking out. Immediately, they took her to the general where Laura relayed the story of the planned attack.

Because of her heroic efforts, the Battle of Beaver Dam was easily won by the Canadian force, which had 50 regulars and 440 Mohawk Indians fighting the Americans had a band of 342 regulars.

After James died, Laura was left penniless and it wasn't until her 88th year her heroic deeds were recognized.

In 1860, when the Prince of Wales, Edward VII, visited Canada, he heard of her efforts in the war and bestowed her with a gift of 100 pounds of gold.

Laura Secord died in her 93rd year at Chippewa, on October 17, 1868.

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## **Adam Oliver first mayor**

Ingersoll's first Reeve was John Galliford, named to the post in 1852. The town's first mayor was Adam Oliver, elected in 1859. In 1977 the town's present mayor, Doug Harris, was elected.

In 1763 the area now known as Oxford County was assigned to Quebec by the English at the Treaty of Paris.

In 1851 Ingersoll became a village.

*Ingersoll Times*  
July 25, 1984



September 21, 1960, a plaque commemorating the Founders of Ingersoll was unveiled at Ingersoll. This plaque was one of a series being erected throughout the province by the Department of Travel and Publicity, acting on the advice of the Archaeological and Historic Sites Board of Ontario. Participants in the ceremony shown left to right were: Professor G.F.G. Stanley, a member of the Historic

Sites Board; Miss W. L. Williams, President of the Oxford County Historical Society; Mr. D. Hossack, Warden of Oxford County; Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Ingersoll; His Worship Mayor R. K. Fewster of Ingersoll; Mrs. S. J. Smith, a member of the Oxford Historical Society; and Mrs. W. P. Ward, Secretary of that Society. (Photo courtesy of J. C. Herbert).

INGERSOLL TIMES  
August 29, 1984

# Guelph students to study town's historical assets

By RICK HUGHES  
of The Sentinel-Review

**INGERSOLL** — A study of Ingersoll's historical assets that could have a far-reaching impact on the town will be conducted by graduate students from the University of Guelph.

Teachers and students from the university's School of Rural Planning and Development met with town officials to work out a formal proposal for the study.

The students will return in early October with the final study proposal, and it will in turn have to go before council for approval.

Coun. Cam Colquhoun, development officer Ted Hunt, clerk Gerry Staples and Mayor Doug Harris were present at the meeting with the 10 students and two professors from the school.

The study will look into what "heritage assets" the town has, in particular in the downtown area, and examine the possibilities of developing those assets for tourism and economic benefit.

Colquhoun compared the possible redevelopment to the type of revival of the downtown that had been accomplished in such towns as Elora and Fergus.

## POLICIES

"The idea of the study is to try and set general policies," for such a redevelopment, Colquhoun told the students.

"The character is there, the character that

seems to be saving a lot of small towns through tourism and business.

Hunt told the students that Ingersoll's downtown faced stiff competition, and needed some attractions to keep it viable.

"We can also encourage the tourist side. We have a lot of competition, close competition, around us. If we want to have shoppers downtown, then we need to offer something that they can't get elsewhere."

Colquhoun, and his wife Marlene, are the initiators of the idea, and so he explained it to the students.

He said that he saw this study as a preliminary look at the possibility of cashing in on the town's history and its old architecture. He said he hopes a set of general strategies would come out of the study, after which it would be possible to approach other interested groups such as the Business Improvement Area, the Chamber of Commerce, and private individuals, with the outline.

## FEASIBILITY

"There is a lot of interest, but that's different from picking up a hammer, so to speak," he said.

With the strategies in hand, it would be possible for individuals and small businesses to "come along and spend money," said Colquhoun.

He stressed that at the moment, they were primarily looking at the

feasibility of the idea.

"We would want you to look at what type of economic benefits would we expect to have, and also look at the negatives: who, what kind of people, would we attract; parking problems. It's a stepping stone to the development of a strategy. It may not even be feasible."

After the meeting, he explained that the study presented a way to get the idea on paper, using the students' expertise.

The town has already attempted to cash in on its history with the setting up and recent expansion of the Cheese and Historical Museums in Victoria Park.

Hunt said the town has had some success getting people to stop in off the 401.

## ATTRACTION

"The only problem is then they turn around and go back. If we could have something downtown to attract them."

The students will do the study at no cost to the town as part of their term work. Because of that, they will have to be finished by mid-December.

Last week's meeting was scheduled as soon as possible to allow the students to begin working immediately, but that means they will be going ahead before the matter has come before a town committee, and without formal approval.

That approval will have to come at either an upcoming committee meeting, or at the October council meeting.

The school and the town were brought together when Don Reid, Assistant Professor at the School of Rural Planning and Development called the town to see if there were any topics of study for his students. Reid was put in touch with the Colquhouns, and the plans for the study were developed.

SENTINEL  
Reviews

September 30, 1985

# Town historical study may be in the works

A study of Ingersoll's heritage assets may soon be conducted by graduate students from the University of Guelph. The idea was announced last week when students and teachers from the University's school of Rural Planning and Development, met with town officials to work out a proposal.

Since the study must first be approved by council, a final written proposal from the students is expected sometime this week.

Town Councillor Cam Colquhoun, the study's instigator, said he intends to present the matter at the town's administration and finance committee meeting tonight.

Since he has not yet received a copy of the proposal though, he said he will merely inform fellow councillors the study is in the works.

He will seek the town's endorsement for it at a public works meeting October 7.

Coun. Colquhoun said by that

time he hopes to have received the study, and will be able to present it at council's October 9 meeting.

The study, he said, will outline how the students intend to find the town's historical assets, and examine the possibility of developing them for tourism and economic benefits.

He expects the study to be complete by mid-December.

## Museum committee liaison for heritage study

The Cheese Museum and Historical Committee will act as Ingersoll's liaison in the proposed Heritage study. The decision was reached during a Public Works and Planning Committee meeting Monday night.

Councillor Cam Colquhoun said the museum committee decided to support the study, to be conducted by University of Guelph students, at its meeting on October 3.

Agreeing to act as a liaison, he said, the museum committee will direct the students to sources of information.

The study, to examine the town's heritage assets, is a preliminary step towards historical restoration, if the town chooses to act on its recommendations, he said.

The project will be up for approval before town council tonight at 7:30 p.m.

Ingersoll Times  
October 2, 1985

Ingersoll  
Times  
October 9, 1985

# Even local census shows women living longer than men

INGERSOLL — Pop. 8,500.

Well, almost; 8,469 to be exact.

That figure, the latest population figure for Ingersoll, is from the 1985 census, compiled by the provincial assessment office before the recent municipal election.

The census shows that since the last census, in 1982, the town has been growing at the rate of about 100 residents a year.

Of the town's 8,469 residents, 4,086 are male, and 4,383 are female.

That prompted one councillor to comment at this week's council meeting that the odds were better for men.

However, Mayor Doug Harris put a bit of a damper on his excitement, commenting that it may mean only that more women live longer.

He was right.

That overall difference in males and females is almost all accounted for in the older age brackets. There are 31 males who are 65-years-old in town, and 54 females.

In the 66-69 age group, there are 118 males and 180 females. And in the 70-and-up category, there are 330

males, and 551 females.

At the other end of the scale, there are 79 babies less than a year old in town, 35 male, and 44 female.

If the current trends continue, it won't be long before the reality of the town's population matches the road signs that put the town's population at 8,500.

SENTINEL

Review

November 22, 1985

# WAY THAT THINGS USED TO BE



The photographs on this page are from the collection of the late Andrew Handley, a former fire chief in Ingersoll.

Handley, who was hired in 1930 at an annual salary of \$1,500, served as fire chief from 1930 to 1934. He was in charge of a 12-man department.

The photo on the left shows Handley when he lived in Calgary. At the age of 15, he became the first Albertan to join the Canadian navy.

The three photographs on the page were submitted by Terry Greenside of RR 3, Woodstock, a second cousin of Handley.



This photograph, from the Andrew Handley collection, shows the former Ingersoll post office. The building was torn down in 1962. Perhaps fittingly for a picture of a post office,

this photo was taken from a post card. The original picture is believed to have been taken in the 1930s.



A trip down memory lane. This photo, of King Street in Ingersoll, is from the Andrew Handley collection. It was published in post

card form about half a century ago. Back then, they used diagonal parking on King Street.

# A grand heritage

## Report urges preserving the core

By RICH HUGHES  
of The Sentinel-Review

**INGERSOLL** — The town has "significant heritage resources" in the downtown area, and should take steps to preserve them, says a study presented to council.

The study was done at no cost to the town by graduate students at the University of Guelph's School of Rural Planning and Development. The 63-page document was handed over to council after the students made a presentation at the last council meeting.

The study was initiated by the school and the cheese museum and historical

committee last fall as term work for the students.

They were asked:

- to identify the town's heritage resources (including local architecture and history);
- to see what potential exists for preserving them;
- and to gauge the attitude of town residents to the idea of heritage conservation.

The students made six general recommendations, the first being that the town take further action. The remaining recommendations suggest the direction for that action. They include hiring a consultant, involving the public

and the business community, developing a plan, and applying for some of the available government funds.

### REVITALIZE DOWNTOWN

The idea of the study was to find a way to revitalize Ingersoll's downtown, which is undergoing a slow deterioration as competition from malls and other centres bites into the commercial viability of local merchants. It is a problem common to many small towns, and many, such as Elora and Bayfield, have managed to "socially and economically" revitalize their downtowns and attract tourists through preservation and promotion of their heritage resources.

In a survey of the town, the study found that 83 per cent of 179 residents polled support the idea, while an informal merchant survey showed a majority (16 of 23) are in favor.

Council's position on the report and the idea is still unknown. Most councillors only received their copies of the report at the meeting, and were not prepared to comment. So far council has given little indication of any commitment to the idea, viewing it more as a way to help the students than as a valuable study for the town.

### DETAILED STUDY

However both Mayor Doug Harris and development officer Ted Hunt said they wanted to see the report fully examined.

"It has some good points," said Hunt after the meeting. "I would hope the museum committee will take a look at it. I hope they will look at it in detail."

As for council, Hunt said, "I will see to it that it gets looked at."

Harris said after the meeting he hoped council would deal with the report soon.

"I announced to council after that I intend to clear it up right away," said Harris after the meeting.

He said he would go through the recommendations one by one and ask councillors to decide whether they want to proceed with each one.

Harris, who has in the past expressed concern about the condition of the downtown, said the survey, even though it is general and at times more philosophical than concrete, might provide a starting point for some action on revitalizing the core area.

### MAY BE IMPETUS

"(Maybe) it's the impetus you need. We'll bring it to committee, work on it from there and (see if we can) involve other groups. Personally, the report might be what gives me a chance to do that."

Coun. Hugh Poulton said he worries about the impact such a program would have on property owners.

"I have problems with something that puts constraints on private property."

Among the buildings identified as historically significant by the study are the old town hall, the old curling arena, the library, the Nourseworthy Building, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Zurbrig's Bakery and McKim Home Hardware.

It also points out that Ingersoll has a "unique local history" which could form the basis of a heritage program.

The study also mentions that any heritage program takes long term commitment, and co-operation between both private and public sectors.

And it cautions that in addition to possible benefits, conservation of heritage resources can also have negative side effects, such as parking problems, crowding and conflicts between tourists and local residents.



**THE REPORT** by the University of Guelph's School of Rural Planning and Development points out many features of Ingersoll's downtown that can be taken advantage of as part of a heritage conservation program. The report notes how the facades on the buildings on this portion of Thames Street "mirror" the downward sloping topography of the street, giving the street a "special rhythmic quality." Left, Dan Brown, of the school of Rural Planning and Development, gives an overview of the school's report on the town's heritage resources to council. The report recommends the town take action to preserve its heritage resources.

(Staff photos by Rich Hughes)

SENTINEL  
REVIEW  
January 18, 1986





A MEMBER of the London Tactical Rescue Unit team cautiously checks the door of a warehouse on Carnegie Street this morning while looking for a suspect who fired shots at Riverside Mini Market shortly before midnight last night.

(Staff photo by Alison Downie)

Police had surrounded Ingersoll store after shots fired

## Search for sniper called off

By ALISON DOWNIE  
and TED RHODES  
Sentinel-Review staff

**INGERSOLL** — Police here called off a search early this morning for a sniper who fired shots at a variety store on the east side of town shortly before midnight last night.

Police chief Bruce Richards said police were called after "numerous shots" were fired at the Riverside Mini Market, 211 Charles Street, owned by Justin Park. The store, which closes at midnight, was still open at the time.

The first officer at the scene went into the store to investigate, but while he was inside another shot was fired. The officer decided to remain inside the building with the six occupants, all members of the Park family who live in an apartment above the store. No one was injured.

The area around the store, including the Ingersoll Road (old Highway 2) was cordoned off by town police and Woodstock OPP, while other OPP units were called in.

All traffic was being turned away by police officers armed with rifles. After an all-night vigil police began searching the surrounding area at daybreak with a helicopter and canine unit but did not find a gunman. Curious residents awoke to the whirring of the helicopter which combed the area for more than an hour.

### MORE SHOTS

At 7:30 a.m. police received a call from a citizen who reported hearing two more shots in the area northwest of the variety store.

Police cruisers blocked off several residential streets including King Hiram and Carnegie streets, while looking for a suspect. There was some concern that the sniper might be holed up in a warehouse on Carnegie Street.

"It didn't work out. We think he got away," the chief told reporters at the scene after the search was called off around 8:30 a.m.

A total of 22 officers took part in the search with an OPP helicopter from Brampton, a canine unit from Burlington and the TRU (Tactical Rescue Unit) from London.

Chief Richards said his department planned to continue its investigation at the store to determine exactly what location the shots came from.

"There's no motive yet. We haven't had much of a chance to investigate," he said. "We were concentrating on locating a suspect."

The owner of the Riverside Mini Market, Justin Park, was at a loss as to why anyone would shoot at his store. He told the *Sentinel-Review* he did not have any problems in the store Friday night. "There was no arguments or no fights" in the store that evening he said. There was one customer in the building at the time the first shots were fired.

Park said he was sleeping at the time the first shot was fired and his first thought

was that children were playing some kind of prank. After looking outside and hearing several more shots he phoned the police.

He said he heard a total of six or seven shots and that "it looked like they came from the north side of the building."

When the first officer arrived Park turned over a bullet he found on the floor of his apartment.

The police blockades had kept spectators away from the area but many Ingersoll residents were not even aware that police officers had rushed into the city to reinforce the town police.

With the roadblocks removed, there were few signs this morning that the nine-hour drama had even taken place.



AN OPP canine unit from Burlington was used to search the bushy area behind Riverside Mini Market this morning as police tried to find an Ingersoll sniper.

(Staff photo by Alison Downie)

SENTINEL  
REVIEW  
April 5, 1980

# Police searching for sniper who riddled store apartment

By Dave Dauphinee and Lou-Ann Hope  
of The Free Press

INGERSOLL. — Police are continuing their search for a sniper who used the Riverside Mini Market for target practice early Saturday, pumping at least four bullets into an apartment where the owners' children were sleeping over the store.

No one was injured in the incident, but one bullet came within one metre (about three feet) of a resident in the apartment. Bullets appeared to have been fired about midnight across vacant land to the north of the store into the second-floor apartment.

A special OPP tactical unit from London, an OPP helicopter from Toronto and OPP officers from Woodstock joined in an unsuccessful

hunt for the gunman early Saturday. More shots were heard shortly after daybreak in the northwest area of the town but no one was found and the OPP involvement was called off Saturday morning.

Ingersoll Police Chief Bruce Richards said his department was continuing the investigation.

Mayor Doug Harris said Sunday the incident was "very unusual, very uncharacteristic" and appeared to have been isolated. He declined to comment further, saying it was a police matter.

The drama began about midnight when Kathy Park, who was working in the store at 211 Charles St. E., heard noises outside which she described Saturday as like that of stones being thrown. A family member ran downstairs shouting about shots, saying there were holes in the wall of the apartment. Park and her

husband Justin live with three sons and a nephew in the apartment.

Several .22-calibre bullets were found in walls of the apartment, she said.

Police were called and while an officer was in the apartment, another shot struck the building. Kathy Park said the officer ordered that the lights be turned off and moved the occupants to a safer part of the building.

A three-block area around the store was cordoned off by police and support was brought in. At 6:30 a.m. the helicopter joined in the search.

At 7:30 a.m. two gunshots were reported northwest of the search area. Police scoured the area for an hour but found no trace of the gunman.

Twenty-two police officers were involved at the height of the search.



Ken Smith of The Free Press

Ken Park, 15, and his mother Kathy work in the family's Riverside Mini Market in Ingersoll Saturday while police continue their hunt for a sniper who shot at least four bullets into the family's apartment over the store hours earlier.

## Ingersoll cops ask for help from the public

By RICK HUGHES  
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Police here are asking for public assistance in their hunt for the sniper who fired eight shots at a Charles Street East variety store late Friday night.

Woodstock OPP, the OPP Tactical Rescue Unit (TRU) and local police cordoned-off a large section of the town for eight hours early Saturday morning, conducting a dawn search that proved fruitless.

Police Chief Bruce Richards is asking anyone with knowledge of the incident to contact police. All information will be treated in the "strictest confidence."

"There is nothing further to report," said Richards, "no suspect, no motive, no gun — yet."

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

While police report little progress in their search for the gunman, their investigation of the shooting scene has yielded some additional information.

The police are expecting confirmation from the forensic science laboratory that the eight shots (it was earlier believed to have been nine shots) were fired by a .22 calibre rifle.

Richards said police have determined the sniper was located northeast of the Riverside Variety, across the Thames River, likely on nearby CIL property.

Five spent bullets were recovered from the building, Richards said other evidence had been gathered but he refused to reveal its nature. "Nothing I intend to comment on; we're not sure if it's pertinent or not."

### JUST BEFORE MIDNIGHT

Police were called to the store just before midnight Friday night by owner Justin Park, who lives upstairs with his family, after shots were fired at the family's living quarters.

When Sgt. Roy Kivinen arrived, Park showed him a spent bullet. While the two were discussing the incident, another shot was fired, striking the wall nearby.

Kivinen ordered the lights turned off, and moved the Park family to a safer area of the apartment, then called for assistance. Richards said the area was completely sealed-off by 12:20 a.m. (the last shot was fired at 12:05 a.m.)

After staking out the area all night, police began a search at dawn with the assistance of an OPP helicopter from Brampton and a canine unit from Burlington.

At 7:30 a.m., police received reports of more shots fired in an area northwest of the store. Police initially believed the gunman was holed up in a warehouse on Carnegie Street but that proved untrue.

While the TRU team "did certain things" when they arrived in attempts to locate the sniper, Richards said it was impossible to begin the search before daybreak.

"You can appreciate how dangerous a situation it is when you don't even know where the suspect is; it's one of the most dangerous the TRU team can encounter."

Police officers with rifles redirected traffic around the cordoned-off area. Most residents were unaware of the drama until many were awoken by the repeated passes of the OPP helicopter conducting the search for the gunman.

SENTINEL  
REVIEW

April 7, 1986

# A day in the life of Ingersoll

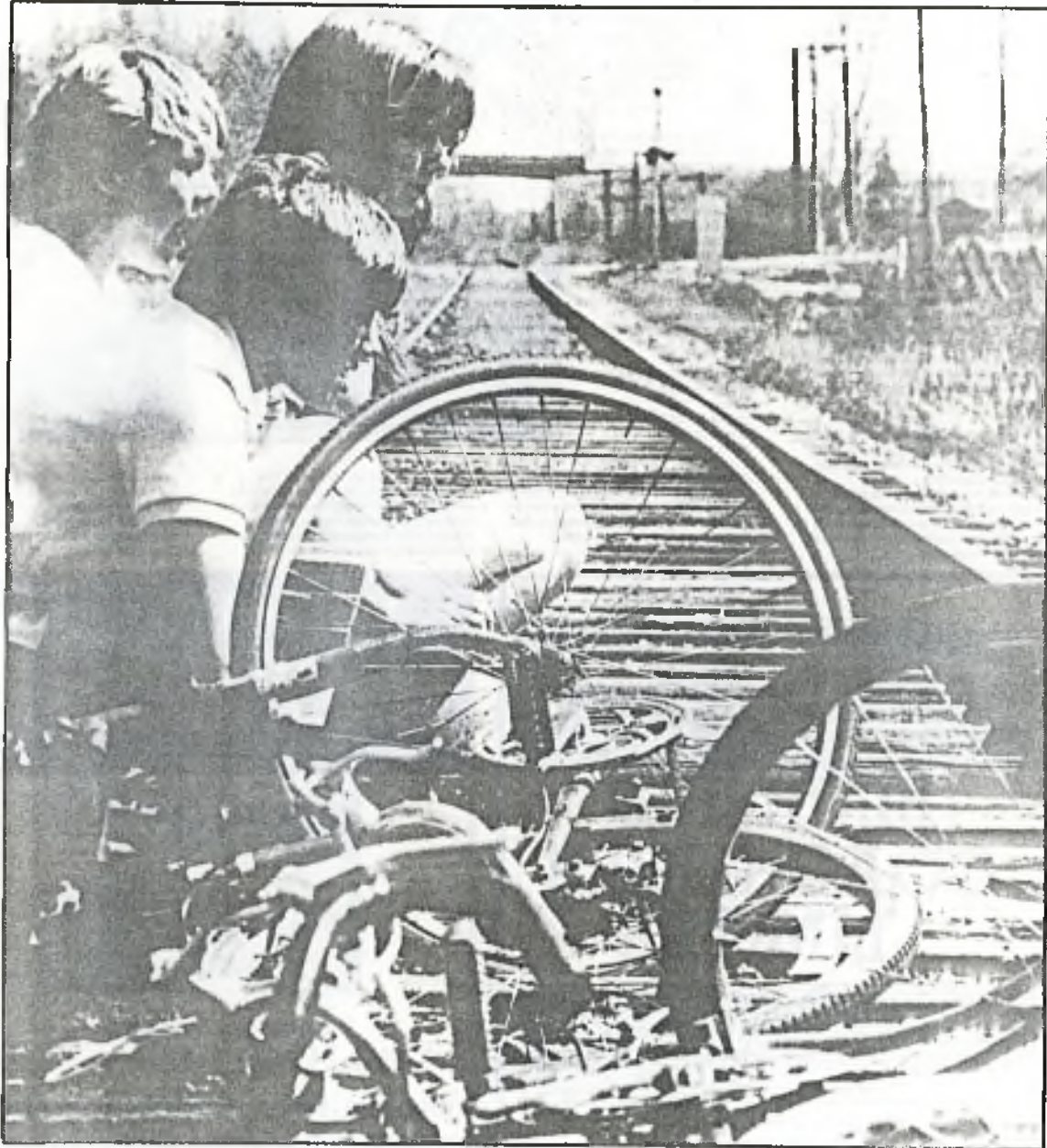


Photo by Mickey Leblanc

The Ingersoll Times

5:00 a.m.

## Time to hit the road for this truck driver

It's 5 a.m. and most people are still curled up warmly in their beds with the alarm clock nearby, ticking away the last hours of sleep. It's not time to awaken the slumbering population for at least another two hours.

But Russell Beer is already awake. In fact, the Ingersoll resident is already at work, checking over his truck with only the light of an overhead fluorescent lamp to guide him.

Russell has been driving the large truck for the same company for 16 years. Despite the sometimes awkward shifts, there's nothing he'd rather do.

Going to work at 5 a.m. is not unusual for Russell, but depending on the shift he is working, the time could vary greatly.

Truck driving can get into a person's blood, Russell said, and he admits it has probably gotten into his. He tried working in a factory once but found himself too closed in. Aside from part-time jobs as a youngster, Russell has never enjoyed anything as much as driving his company truck.

It's not everyone who can sit behind the wheel of a large truck day after day, especially when you're hauling the type of goods Russell does.

Each day Russell makes his appointed rounds, calling on established customers. He picks up bones and animal carcasses for recycling, along with used restaurant grease and other products.

His grandfather was a truck driver in Ingersoll, driving local routes for what is now Ingersoll Fasteners. Russell believes the spirit of truck driving comes from his granddad, who drove for 40 years.

Driving a truck for a living has a number of advantages, Russell said, including the fact there are few supervisors at the plant he works out of, near Thamesford. While he is on the road, there is no one looking over his shoulder, another aspect of the job that pleases him.

That kind of freedom isn't found in a factory or in many other types of work, he said.

"I don't know if I would want to go back to a factory," he said. "I'm not sure what I would do if I couldn't drive a truck."

There are many different types of truck driving and probably the most visible are the long distance hauls with large tractor trailers common on many highways. But that type of work doesn't appeal to Russell either.



Russell Beer

"I like to be home every night," he explained, pointing out that many drivers can go on a trip overnight and spend their nights in a hotel room. One trip with a friend to New York convinced him the overnight truck driving was not for him.

Like many occupations, the number of opportunities in truck driving have decreased over the years. When he started his job 16 years ago, he could have started at another the same day. It's not like that anymore.



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6:00 a.m.

## The baker's ovens are hot

It's hard not to walk along Thames Street South in downtown Ingersoll, without catching a whiff of the familiar aroma. It's a very clear, enticing smell. It could be one from younger years when mom or grandma were busy at work in the kitchen, or perhaps the aroma brings back memories of a hometown or corner bakery where the family once bought fresh bread or perhaps a birthday cake.

Regardless of why the aroma is familiar, most people can easily identify the enticing fragrance of a bakery.

Window displays catch your attention in case the aroma does not.

And at 6 a.m., a time when most people are still wrapped up in blankets and dreaming of delights coming from Bud Bowman's oven, the Ingersoll baker is hard at work preparing his day's orders.

At 6 a.m., Bud is busy at Zurbrigg's Bakery, supervising his staff and taking an active role in making sure all of the baked goods are up to his standards.

The end result of his labors are fresh breads, cakes, pies and assorted pastries, which most people have a difficult time saying no to.

Zurbrigg's Bakery is in a prime location to catch the attention of passing pedestrians. Two window displays proudly boast the bakery's work and many find the samples of baked goods too good to pass up.

Baking has been a life long career for Mr. Bowman, having started at the Ingersoll shop almost 30 years ago when his father worked with the original owner of the store, Bernie Zurbrigg.

Training to be a baker is much like training to be a plumber or bricklayer.

Baking is a trade and requires special knowledge.

Bowman advises young bakers to consider college training first, then apprenticing.

Mr. Bowman attended college before he bought Zurbrigg's Bakery 10 years ago. Cleaning pots and pans was his first exposure to the business but he got more involved in the day to day work until eventually he left for college, having decided upon it as a future career.

After completing college, Bowman returned to Ingersoll and Zurbrigg's Bakery and has worked there since.

"I'm in business for myself," he said, "and I enjoy the work."

The introduction of in store bakeries at the major grocery stores in Ingersoll, and in the surrounding area, have cut into his

Continued on page 26



Rud Bowman, left, a youth peering at Bowman's baked goods.



## Care for our customer needs, guides Jack's Department Store to more than 56 Years in Ingersoll

To say customers are the basis of business is not a very complicated company philosophy, but putting that belief into practice is more intricate. It involves a knowledge of specific customers' likes, dislikes, tastes and interest. For the Alter family of Jack's Department Store in Ingersoll, the task has been made easier after more than half a century of roots in Ingersoll.

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Stan Hughes

7:00 a.m.

## Trainer and horses are ready for a morning run

Early Tuesday morning, Stan Hughes heads to Victoria Park to get ready for a day's work. At 7 a.m., there is a lot of work that needs to be done around the barn before his horse can be taken out for a run.

Start with cleaning the stall, Hughes said, brushing the horse, and putting on the harness.

Keeping a fairly regular schedule is important for both the harness race driver and the horse, so each morning, right around 7 a.m., or a bit later depending on the number of horses he has on hand at the time, Mr. Hughes heads down to the stables.

Since he stopped working in 1973, Hughes has been spending much of his time around his horses and at harness races in various locations.

For 30 years the Ingersoll man has trained horses and has been both a trainer and driver. He considers his time spent in the sport neither a business nor a hobby.

After all the preliminary work is out of the way, Hughes, along with the other drivers and trainers at Victoria Park, takes his horse for a job. Three miles each day is a good workout, he said, although sometimes a fourth mile is completed. After the first run of the day, Hughes towels down the horse, brushes him down, then puts him in the stall.

There are a total of three runs during the course of the day, with 40 minute breaks in between each run.

Hughes has been involved in harness racing for 30 years, with his first exposure coming at a young age while growing up on the family farm.

"We always had horses around," he said

leaning up against the barn entrance.

At one point he had seven horses on the go, all harness racers. On his farm near Salford, Hughes kept a stallion and a brood mare and was more involved in racing.

After 1973, when he left his farm and construction work behind, Hughes started into horses almost full-time. The stallion and brood mare were both sold in 1981.

Not many people can be a good trainer and a good driver, Hughes said, pointing out that the best drivers are those who race on a weekly basis.

While achieving average results with his horses, Hughes said he has been satisfied with his winnings and with the results his horses have shown.

One horse, Demond King, won 10 times in 23 starts, which is almost a 50 per cent average. Another Hughes' horse won seven races in 23 starts, a lower average but still good.

"I just hit it lucky, that's all," he said.

Raising a horse is in many ways like raising a child, Hughes said. All have different temperaments and need to be treated just right in order to get the best results.

"If they do something wrong you give them a rap then you forget about it and they forget about it."

Hughes said one of the differences between drivers and trainers, is that drivers don't tend to become as attached to the animals as trainers do. Hughes said both should avoid becoming attached to horses.

"If something happens you don't want to be too close in case you have to put her  
Continued on page 26

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# Safety key concern for bus driver

It's a quarter to eight, and Donna Voigt is ready to start her morning run.

Half an hour earlier, she was up, lifting the hood of her bright orange school bus, checking motor oil and belts. It was chilly earlier on, but the morning sun has warmed the air and another spring morning is welcomed.

The start of Donna Voigt's day is fairly quiet, but within a few minutes of leaving her yard, the quiet is broken by the sounds of students on their way to school.

Driving a school bus is not as simple as some people may think, but for Voigt, it's a great job.

Starting her day about 7:15, she has to get the bus running early, although in warmer weather it doesn't have to be started quite as early. By 7:45 a.m., she has done the complete check of the bus, including the oil levels, wheels, brakes, lights, seats and all of the other safety features.

By 7:40 a.m., she has left the yard and is on her way to pick up the first of the students. In another half hour, her run is finished.

Voigt's run is about an hour altogether, once in the morning and once in the afternoon when the students are eager to return home. The route is about 40 miles long, and normally Voigt has few problems with the students on her bus. The only exception, she said, seems to be when a holiday is coming up. Then the children can be quite rowdy, she said.

A verbal warning to student passengers is allowed in the school board's policy, if necessary. It can be followed up with a written warning, which brings in the school principal.

Being cross with the students doesn't

work very well though, and Voigt usually greets them with a chipper "Good morning" and "Have a nice day." Most students respond with a similar greeting.

Every bus driver has a different attitude about the job, she said. Voigt has been driving a bus for four years, starting in September 1982. She

was a spare driver for two years and decided to take a permanent position driving for the Oxford County Separate School Board.

She loves to drive the bus but there are other considerations to working full-time, such as another income and doing something other than staying at home,

raising two children.

When she is not working, Voigt can be found having coffee with neighbors, doing

housework, gardening, or undertaking a number of other activities. She likes to bowl, belongs to the local recreation committee, Lionesses, and does ceramics.

"There's not enough time between runs. Your day is short and has to be organized around the run," she said.

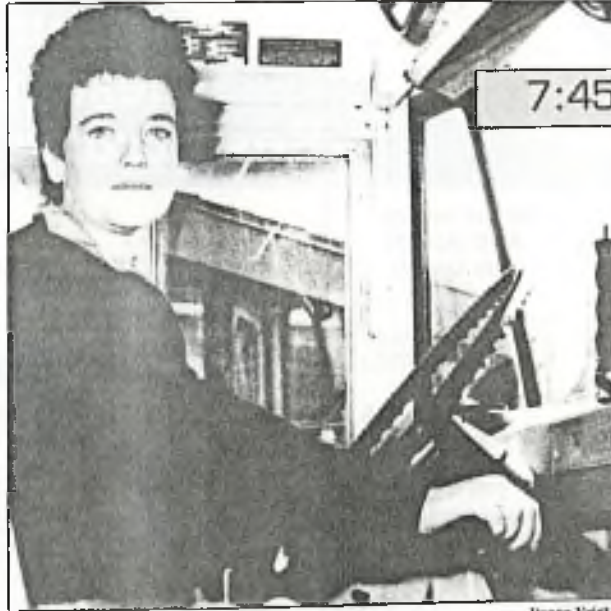
Driving a school bus is not the only driving experience Donna Voigt has had. She drove for Powell Laboratories for dentists, which required about 200 miles per day. Driving a bus is much more satisfying, she said.

Listening to the students talk, fight, tattle tale and gossip, is interesting, she admitted.

Voigt likes to travel and saves her money for that purpose. So far she's been to the Barbados, Mexico, and this year she hopes to get to Expo '86 in Vancouver.

There aren't too many aspects of the job Voigt doesn't like, although there is one, she said. That's when people don't stop when the flashing red lights of the school bus are going, or when people are critical of the fact they are supposed to stop then.

"The lives of the children are in your hands and the key to safety is you."



Donna Voigt

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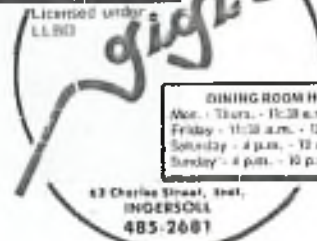
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# Come Dine

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# Quarry pit worker loves his job

9:00 a.m.

BY MICKEY LEBLANC

One year from now, visitors to Bill Barker's rural Ingersoll home are not likely to find him at home. Chances are good they will find a simple, but self-explanatory sign, "Gone Fishing!"

Mr. Barker is waiting for his retirement next year after having worked for 42 years in the Beachville quarries. When he does retire, he plans to pursue his favorite past-time, fishing.

His eagerness for retirement is not a reflection of how he feels about his job, nor the company he works for. In fact, Barker has nothing but praise for his employer, fellow employees, and the years spent at the open pit limestone mine.

It's just that after 42 years of work, Barker is ready for baiting hooks, long boat rides and plenty of fresh fish.

It wouldn't be too hard to find Barker during a typical work day. Starting his shift at 7 a.m., he travels through two plants in his role as a member of the maintenance staff.

Pick any time of the day, say 9 a.m., and Barker is likely to be found driving a truck, repairing screens, overhauling mills or helping to install a seven ton, 1,600 foot conveyor belt.

Whatever he is found doing at the quarry, he enjoys doing it, he said.

Mr. Barker started at the plant on November 19, 1945, according to an engraved watch presented to him on his 25th anniversary of work. He actually started in the quarries in 1939 and worked until 1942. He returned to the job in 1945.

At that time the open pit mines were



Bill Barker

owned by Cyanamid and his first chores were loading limestone, blasting and drilling. He worked in the pulverizing plant as a machine operator. There probably isn't a job at the plant he hasn't done at one time or another, he said proudly.

But then, he has managed to avoid

getting into supervisory positions.

"No thank you" is his reply when asked if he ever considered taking a supervisor's job or a foreman's position.

"You have to take too much flack. It's a thankless job, let's put it that way."

His job on the maintenance crew offers a

varied schedule, meaning he doesn't really know what he will be doing from day to day. That's a definite attraction and a reason for his working at the quarries for so long.

"You can have any type of job when you go in there," he said.

There's not one aspect of the work he prefers over another. "I enjoy maintenance work. It's quite a challenge to learn all the machinery end of it," he said.

Aside from enjoying his work, Mr. Barker said another reason for his long stay at the quarry is the way the company has always treated its employees. "When the company is behind you, it makes all the difference," he said.

The wages, which he said are among the best in the county, are another powerful attraction to the work, he said.

Before going to the quarry, Barker worked at the old Ingersoll Screw and Nut Factory for about six months. Four walls and a ceiling overhead didn't sit well with him though, and he found he needed to have a job outdoors.

The quarries have attracted people for a variety of reasons, and have managed to hold onto some of them for a long time.

Barker's brother Jack, has worked in the quarry for 37 years. His brother Frank has been there 17 years and his son David has worked in the same quarry for 12 years. Before this generation, Barker's father, Fred, worked there for 30 years. Last year, an employee who retired, was celebrating his 44th year on the job, said Mr. Barker.

While retirement is nearby, Mr. Barker has no plans to pull up his roots. He has lived in his house, just a short distance from work, for 26 years and intends to stay there when he retires. Except, of course, on the days he decides to go fishing.

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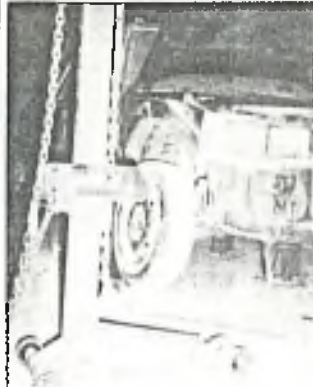
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Sharon George

10:30 a.m.

## Coffee break crowd gets cheerful service from this waitress

BY PAT SAVAGE

Sharon George likes working with and meeting new people. In her line of work as a coffee shop waitress, liking people is an important prerequisite.

Names can be hard to remember, especially during the busy hours, but Sharon said, "You get to know them by their faces and by what they eat. Anybody that's a waitress can relate to that."

At 10:30 a.m., Sharon is busy with the coffee break customers, serving breakfasts and orders of coffee and toast. She may get a break once the rush is over but she has to prepare for the lunch hour crowd a short time later.

Then it's another round of taking orders, serving food, and cleaning tables.

Sharon's day starts like most other people's. She takes the kids to school, cleans house, and prepares for work.

She has worked at Miss Ingersoll on Thames Street South for six years and has been a waitress for 10 years.

Sharon's day runs to two shifts. The first being a waitress and the other being a mother and homemaker. It works out

well, since her employment takes her out of the house for five hours a day. The extra income of course, also comes in handy for purchasing extras for the George home.

Public relations is an important part of her job, since she deals with people on a one to one basis. She finds that kind of contact with people very satisfying, since she enjoys meeting people.

Working in an environment which she enjoys, shapes her attitude towards her work and her employer.

"You couldn't find a better boss," she said, "and the other waitresses are just super."

She is proud of her work place and said, "they have great food and a warm atmosphere. People even wait at the counter for a table when the restaurant is packed tight."

"If you are going to work, you might as well do something you like," Sharon said, explaining her reasons for working in the restaurant. "It's unfortunate a lot of people don't enjoy their work."

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Ingersoll is the place to build a future for your company... a future for your family.



# INGERSOLL

11:30 a.m.

# Former politician has no trouble finding things to keep him busy

BY MICKEY LEBLANC

At any given time of the day, Gord Henry is a very busy man.

An early riser, the former Ingersoll mayor, now retired from his Ingersoll Cheese Factory managerial work, likes to keep himself busy. And he does.

His Tuesday will be like any day of the week. It's a varied schedule and his timetable includes everything from working in the backyard to finishing a round of golf in the summer or a round of curling in the winter.

Most mornings about this time, the 73-year-old is likely to be found getting ready for his noon hour meal, which is coupled with watching midday television news and sports.

If he's not at home just before the lunch hour, Mr. Henry can be found doing any number of activities, such as working for the Ingersoll branch of the Canadian Cancer Society, helping to raise funds for Ingersoll Theatre of Performing Arts (ITOPA) or dealing with the Salvation Army's Red Shield Appeal.

Mr. Henry leads a busy life and that's the way he likes it. His life is one where everything must go according to plan and be on schedule. Certain things are done at certain times of the day, each day.

Mr. Henry doesn't see retirement as a negative part of his life, but looks at it as a long vacation. He doesn't appreciate hearing of other seniors in the community complain of having little to do to fill in their time.

"Look around," he said, "and you'll find a lot of things that need to be done in the community. Work with your church or volunteer your time to any number of agencies in town. There's a lot to do, a lot seniors can do, to improve the community."

"I'm a believer in making the best use of your time," he said, "because time is something that will eventually run out on all of us."

Retired from Ingersoll Cheese Factory in 1978, and from politics that same year, Mr. Henry has nothing but praise for Ingersoll and its people.

"Ingersoll is not a wealthy community. Its wealth is in its people."

"Ingersoll has been good to us and if I can contribute anything to Ingersoll, I want to do it."

Born and raised on a dairy farm in Carleton County, near Ottawa, Henry attended the Ontario Agriculture College from 1930-34, graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree. After working with Canada Packers in Toronto until 1939, he came to Ingersoll.

He was elected mayor in 1967 and was acclaimed four times before stepping down in 1978.

His years in municipal politics were

busy ones and Henry recalls his time as constructive and busy. He also served on the Public Utility Commission and was on the Ingersoll Public School Board for 20 years, eight of those as its chairman.

He is a past president of the Chamber of Commerce, and past president of the YMCA when it operated in Ingersoll. He has also helped out with church functions over the years as well.

His years in public office though, are perhaps the most memorable ones of his life.

Restructuring the County of Oxford and avoiding regional government was the single most important role he played as Ingersoll mayor, he said.

At the time regional governments were being formed, Mr. Henry said part of

Oxford County would have been included with the Kitchener-Waterloo region and another part would have gone into Norfolk.

For the restructuring of the county to be given the go ahead by the provincial government, all municipalities had to be in favor, Mr. Henry commented. Ingersoll, Woodstock and the county councils had to agree. While the other two voted in favor, Ingersoll council was split. Mr. Henry cast the deciding vote, in favor of the county system.

During his term as mayor, the town saw the reconstruction of Whiting Street from King to Highway 401. The project cost over \$1 million and the county received funds from the province to rebuild the road, Mr. Henry said.

Ingersoll's share was about \$35,000.

The town also established a 100 acre industrial park at a cost of about \$800 per acre, "which I'm sure is the best purchase the town ever made," Mr. Henry said.

Still a supporter of the county system, Mr. Henry said, "I think Oxford has the best type of government of any place in Ontario. It's not perfect but if you wait for perfection, you'll never get anything."

His days in politics are basically over, and Mr. Henry has settled into the routine he has set for himself.

One day he may be rehearsing for a part in an upcoming ITOPA play, the next attending a church function. Whatever he is doing, Mr. Henry makes sure he is



Gord Henry

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12:00 noon

# French fry wagon a busy spot as the clock strikes noon hour

Piebe Kobus is a french fry purist. His potatoes are carefully chosen for their french fry ability, are hand selected, hand chipped, and cooked to Piebe's specifications



Piebe Kobus

No ketchup, gravy or mayonnaise is offered at PB's French Fry Wagon. "Why ruin a good fry with ketchup," Piebe shook his head.

At noon every weekday, there's standing room only on Thames Street South next to PB's chip wagon. Piebe takes great satisfaction in producing a good chip and great pride in his role as an Ingersoll merchant.

"I see myself as part of the Town of Ingersoll," he said. "I have lived here since I came from Holland in 1948.

"I can say with a lot of pride, that many people come into town for my chips and I can do my part in attracting shoppers to Ingersoll."

Piebe likes to keep a low profile, however, and said, "I won't advertise my chips as 'famous' or 'best in town'. There are a lot of good merchants in Ingersoll. I don't want to suggest that I'm better than anyone else. I'm a part

"For instance," he said, "there are lots of people from London who have standing orders for bread at Zurbrigg's... it's

delicious, and people will come a ways to the small town bakery to get it. And when they come, many stop for french fries

"They'll go home and say, 'we were down in Ingersoll, we got our bread from Zurbrigg's... and we found this great chip wagon'," Piebe explained. "Or vice versa."

"I have people come and tell me things at the wagon. This is how business works together."

Piebe also had french fry customers who drive in from London, Toronto and Windsor, especially in the summer

"And there are lots from Woodstock on summer evenings," he said. "Often they'll dress the kids for bed in the summer, then come over for chips."

Piebe credits Mr. and Mrs. Basil Wilson for providing him with a home and a family when he came as a teenager from Holland almost 40 years ago.

"If it hadn't been for the Ingersoll people taking me in when I landed, and the Wilsons taking an interest in me, I could have easily gone the other way, and not be here, enjoying what I do.

"I didn't speak any English when I arrived and got into all sorts of predicaments. Everyone was patient," Piebe chuckled.

"Shortly after I arrived, I went over to Jack's to buy my first shirt. Poor Nifty, he was the clerk. I knew what I wanted and went in and asked for a 'shirt.' He took me back to the washroom."

"I guess I was getting my first idea about a chip wagon then, too," he joked.

"At my first supper with the Wilsons, there was a little bowl with about 10 small boiled potatoes. They gestured for me to take some potatoes, and I misunderstood

and took about eight. After that there was a really big bowl of potatoes at supper."

Piebe leaned back in his chair at the shop where his potatoes are prepared, and grinned widely as he recalled the early difficulties.

"I started my french fry business on December 19, 1969 at 4 p.m.," he said. "I had been working as a steward at the golf course and was wondering what I would do that winter, when old Jetty... lots of people will remember Jetty's fries during and after the war... decided to sell his wagon. He had it all apart. He had built the equipment into the truck. Well, I'm a licensed mechanic by trade, and at that point, I had never made a french fry in my life. But for some reason, I bought Jetty's truck.

"I came in one day with a grin on my face and said, 'I bought a chip wagon.' My poor wife said, 'well, what are you going to do with it?' and I said that I guessed I was going to rebuild it. That's how it all got started.

"She peeled them, I sold them," he chuckled.

"On the first day, I thought if I started at 4 p.m. I would miss the heavy high school crowd and have a chance to start slow, feel it out.

"We had peeled 75 pounds of potatoes by hand because the peeler wasn't hooked up yet."

Piebe leaned forward.

"My daughter came over at 5:30 with a sandwich for me. It was hot and steamy, and I told her to go home and call the electrician to hook up the electric peeler.

"I had sold 60 pounds in one and a half hours. And my wife and I had peeled steadily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to get them

Continued on page 26

## BEACHVILIME LIMITED

The Limestone/Lime industry in Oxford County has grown from its small rural beginning in the farming community of the 1800's to a major factor in the economy of the area in the 1980's. The operation at Beachvilime Limited has been fortunate to be a large part of that growth.



## BEACHVILIME LIMITED

Beachville, Ontario

# Local family history being filed

BY CHERYL STEWART

There has been a surge in recent years of families wanting to preserve their past: names of relatives, what they did for a living, and where they came from. Finding your roots has become a favorite past-time for many Canadians, and in the future, records will be available at Ingersoll Public Library to help people searching their family history. Thanks to a grant through the federal and provincial governments' NEED program, two young women have been working for several months recording and cataloguing information from The Ingersoll Chronicle.

The newspaper dates back to 1854 and continues through to 1919. However, some issues and years are missing. Myrtle Papp and Bonnie Taylor have been sifting through the papers, recording births, deaths, marriages, businesses old and new, and other information. This will be indexed alphabetically, and made available to the public.

Papers from 1854 to about 1901 are on microfilm, but the girls must delve through the actual papers from 1901 to 1919. Both women say going through the papers has been an interesting task.

"I am enjoying the job. There is nothing boring about it," said Miss Papp. "I am learning a lot of Ingersoll history. I think, from now on, if a person is talking about a certain area I will know what he is talking about. This is giving me an idea of Ingersoll as it was over the years: where certain places used to be and what has replaced them.

"This job experience will help me in looking up information: how to look it up and what to do with it once I have it," she added.

"I am enjoying it," said Ms. Taylor of her research job. "I can go right from the beginning, from someone's birth, to his death. It's interesting."

From their research the women have gained a wealth of information about Ingersoll and days gone by. Over the years the Chronicle has had several different names, including The Ingersoll Chronicle and Canadian Dairyman, the Ingersoll Weekly Chronicle

and Canadian Dairyman. The Ingersoll Chronicle and County of Oxford Intelligencer, and The Daily Edition of the paper.

Birth, death and marriage announcements were done different from today's. In birth announcements, seldom was the child's name or the mother's name mentioned. An example is: Cody - In Sweaburg, West Oxford 18th instant, the wife of J.A. Cody, esq. of a son. The announcement was made in June 1872.

If a child was a stillborn, the birth would be announced as well as the death.

Often the cause of death was mentioned in announcements and emphasis put on the exact age of the deceased. A typical death announcement was this one: Collamore - At the M.E. Parsonage, Cherry Street, Ingersoll, 16th June, 1872, of scarlet fever, George Milner, youngest child of Reverend O.G. and Clarissa Collamore, aged four years, one month and 23 days.

According to Librarian Gail Jeffrey, if a person became a Christian after birth, this was stated in his death announcement, as a rebirth.

Mrs. Papp and Ms. Taylor agreed the newspapers of those days contained "a lot of gossip." A great deal of advertising and many ads on the front page, were also noticeable.

"There was a lot of poetry in the papers, especially on the front page. Most of it was not accredited," said Mrs. Papp.

Since looking through the papers Mrs. Papp has discovered a lot of inform-

ation on the fire of 1872, which destroyed a major portion of Ingersoll's downtown. Once done cataloguing the births, deaths and marriages, she will take on a separate project for the

library on this event.

Many people come into the library looking for information for their family trees, said Miss Jeffrey. "This indexing has never been done before, in Inger-

soll. We get a lot of letters throughout the year for information and in the summer, people come in because they are on holidays and decide to look up their family tree," she said.

"There is definitely a need for this type of information. It is not something that will be used every day but it is nice to have. This will make it easier for people," she said.



Bonnie Taylor, left, and Myrtle Papp, have been collecting information from old Ingersoll Chronicles. When they are finished recording births, deaths,

marriages, and old and new businesses, the information will be filed at the library for public use.

INGERSOLL

TIMES

August 3, 1983

1:00 p.m.

# An old fashioned barber shop

**A friendly chat still comes with every hair cut**

**BY KIM HUTCHINSON**  
 Since Edgar Dunlop began to work in his father's barbershop in 1925, he has given small boys their first hair cuts and watched them come in and out of his shop regularly as they grew to become fathers and then grandfathers.

The working schedule at Dunlop's Barbershop on King Street West, Ingersoll, is never the same any two days in a row. When the clock on the side wall ticks one o'clock, Mr. Dunlop may be clipping and chatting, or leaning back and enjoying the view of his corner of the town.

"I open up somewhere between 8 and 8:30 a.m.," he said. "Business varies."

"Some days you go like the devil, and some days you don't do anything," he said, as another snippet of hair hit the floor. "Isn't that right?" he asked the man in the chair.

"I can stand that," he added with a grin.

Mr. Dunlop likes his business just the way it is. Customers don't make an appointment days in advance to see the barber. They drop in for a haircut and chat whenever it's most convenient.

"Pretty well all of my customers are regular," he said.

Snip, snip.  
 "This fella here is from Thamesford, and the man who just came in here, he's from near Dorchester, and the other chap's from just out of town, eh?" He looked about him for general approval, and the men nodded.

"A fellow came in here once and looked at the hair on the floor around the chair and said, 'do you never do anyone without gray hair?'" Mr. Dunlop said and the men laughed.

Snip, snip.  
 The waiting customers were all just having a visit while they sat in Dunlop's that day, but Mr. Dunlop keeps a collection of old and new magazines in the window of his shop for customers to browse through Popular Science from 1957, and a special edition magazine on



Edgar Dunlop and customer

the spacey new cars of 1968 are right on top

"I'm getting older, and I don't appeal to the younger generation," he said. "Nowadays people want a stylist and I'm a barber. There's not many of us left."

"I think barbers are disappearing," he added.

Snip, snip.  
 "There used to be 10 barbers in town when I started. Now there's only three. And I won't cut women's hair or long hair. I cut my great grandson's hair though," he said.

"And it's not gray," one of the customers added from the chair.

Mr. Dunlop laughed.  
 Snip, snip.  
 "I've got started on some long hair and wished I'd never tried it. Some of those

kids are fussy as all get out.

"I remember, though, when women started getting their hair cut, back in the 20's, they went to a barber. There weren't any special hairdressers then.

"I remember that women would go once a year for a permanent wave," added the man in the barber chair. "And it cost \$5. That was for a really expensive permanent. This was back when \$15 bought a month's worth of groceries."

Mr. Dunlop posts his prices on the large antique mirror in front of the customer: \$4.75 for an adult and \$4.50 for a child.

"When I started, it cost 35 cents for a haircut," Mr. Dunlop recalled. "But it went down to a quarter during the Depression. Dunlop put down the barber shears and whisked up a foam in an antique shaving mug with a bristle brush.

"Here's a fellow raising hogs," he said, waving at the man from Dorchester. "Thinks he's hard done by. Back then you could buy a 200 pound hog for \$5."

The men nodded their agreement. "I've seen this shop just packed on Saturdays. Fellas would come in for a Saturday shave so they'd be halfway clean on Sunday.

"Everybody'd go uptown on Saturdays," one of the men added from the waiting chair. "It was a different kind of town in those days."

Dunlop paused, with the razor poised above the nape of his customer's neck. "Uptown... downtown... same thing," he said, resuming.

"I've been here - right at this shop - since 1925. My dad had a barbershop. Continued on page 26

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## Photographs and memories

2:00 p.m.

When Ingersoll resident Stuart MacFarlane turned 96 years old last March, Premier David Peterson sent him a congratulatory certificate wishing him much happiness.

"It was real nice," said MacFarlane, "and the elaborate frame and all. But it was something I didn't really need." Happiness, that is.

MacFarlane still lives happily in his Ingersoll home, looking after himself since his wife died in 1983.

"Since then I've had to learn how to do things for myself," he said loudly.

At 2 p.m. in the afternoon, MacFarlane is sitting on his front porch, waiting to receive visitors and just passing time.

"Oh, later on I'll be cutting grass," he said. "At one time, I didn't think I could sit around and do nothing, but I am. I'm quite content to just sit and think," he said.

A light started flashing on the porch railing.

"That'll be the phone," he said. MacFarlane has several series of lights wired in his home, to alert him when someone is at the door or when the phone is ringing.

"My hearing aid is being repaired so I'm off the air today," he joked.

MacFarlane's home is a treasure album of his life, and every photo, painting certificate and vase has a special history.

He served in both wars, and has a commendation for his service in the "Great War" hanging above the buffet, and a collection of medals pinned on a red tartan on the sideboard.

Mr. MacFarlane wears a sweater

displaying crests from national skating competitions, collected from his long association with the figure skating clubs of London and Ingersoll.

"I have a picture you should see," he said.

In the photo album which he keeps handy for afternoon visitors, there are several photos of skaters gliding gracefully in the Ingersoll arena, including a recent photo of himself on the ice.

"I started figure skating in London in 1926 and I met my wife because I needed a dance partner," he quipped.

Mr. MacFarlane was a judge for the London Figure Skating Club for several years, and engineered the music for the Ingersoll Club. He also skated with the local club until he lost his hearing a few years ago.

"I have a picture you should see," he said, flipping through several pages of his photo album to a page of old sepia prints.

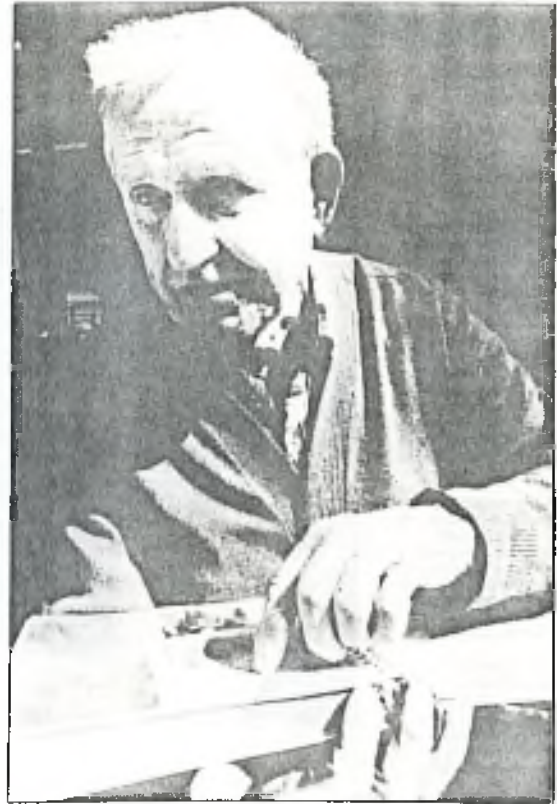
"I didn't tell you about my mother, did I?" he asked. "She lived to be 102."

She came from the southern states -- Tallahassee -- from a very well-to-do family. She had a colored girl to help her dress, not that it was necessary but that was part of the package. She had never washed a dish or done any kind of work, and she married my father who was a farmer. She had never been on a farm in her life, but she took right hold and lived happily on the farm until she was 102."

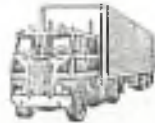
MacFarlane settled back from the story. It is not hard to imagine that he will be visiting with his friends and cutting his grass when he's 102.

A photograph of Stuart and Phyllis MacFarlane on the sideboard shows a striding young man and a pretty young woman.

Continued on page 26



Stuart MacFarlane



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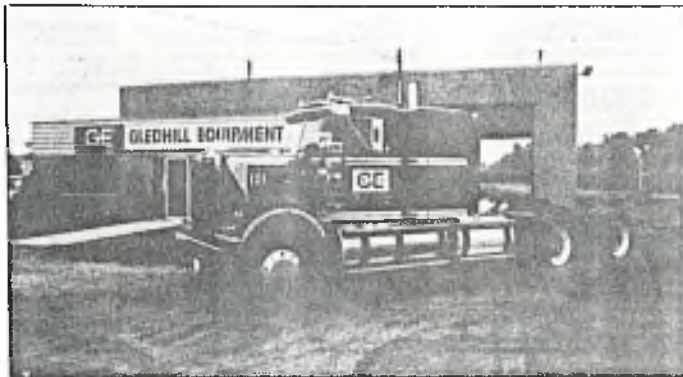
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# Humor is one of the spices of his business

3:00 p.m.

It's not hard to find Dave DuBrule at Windale Feed and Seed on King Street in Ingersoll. His staff will tell you he's the one shooting the line.

"Now no auctioneer worth his salt can afford to be without a pair of pink flamingos on his lawn," DuBrule tells a reluctant customer, already loaded down with packages from DuBrule's store.

"Well he can have pink flamingoes, or he can have a wife," she laughed.

Undeterred, DuBrule offered his pink flamingo deal to the next customer through the door.

"Humor comes first at Windale," he said.

DuBrule is a master sloganist, and a lively and perceptive businessman.

At 3:00 on most afternoons, DuBrule is getting his orders prepared for the next morning, restocking the shelves ("we do a lot of that around here") and planning for the next day.

"I do the buying," said DuBrule, "but Harold does the ordering."

"I beat up on the suppliers," Harold added.

"You have to negotiate with the suppliers to get the best price," said DuBrule, "in order to get the best price for our customers."

DuBrule spread his arms. "We shop for our cherished customer."

Another slogan.  
DuBrule's right-hand-man, Harold

Oke, is somewhat of a local legend. He is the resident horticulturist, and has written an horticulture column for The Times.

"Harold is famous," said DuBrule. "We have people from all walks of life, from all around the world come for Harold's advice. Once we had someone from Salford."

"Windale is ~~two~~ stores in one," said DuBrule proudly. "We're a farm supply store, a lawn and garden store, a wholesale and retail pet and hobby farming store, and Ingersoll's finest cheese store and emporium."

DuBrule never tires of telling about his store, and talking with his customers. He rings in a purchase of pool cleaner for a customer, who is inspecting the carton.

"Dust is free," he said cheerily. "Do you want any pink flamingos today?"

DuBrule spread his arms again after the customer departs. "We know our customers personally."

"We have four distinct seasons at this place," he said, continuing his tour of the enormous facility.

"In the spring, we are big on lawn and garden supplies and equipment," he said, describing the vast range of such products Windale carries. "And in the fall, we have mostly hobby farming stuff, and in the winter we are..." his voice rises and he spreads his arms.

"Ingersoll's largest supplier of live Christmas trees - beauties."

"We have a slogan here," DuBrule said. "If we don't have it, we'll get it. If we can't get it, it's not made."

Then, without hesitating, "We sell with humor."

"I don't like that slogan," said Harold



Dave DuBrule

from around the corner. "I think it should say - If we can't get it, we'll sell you a pink flamingo."

DuBrule rushes out to attend to one of the many customers milling about the store, and can be heard telling them enthusiastically about the new slogan.

Windale has been in operation for two and a half years, "and the business has been here for 37 years."

Once the national sales manager from Ralston Purina, DuBrule has been looking into purchasing a farm supply store, when a friend told him of the Ingersoll business for sale.

Since taking over the business, DuBrule said, "we have polished it up and diversified substantially."

"A unique and different place to shop where the staff are friendly and knowledgeable, and prices are sharp."

"Oh, we really like Ingersoll," DuBrule said.

"Great town, great people. The only place in North America where you won't get arrested for putting pink flamingos on your lawn."

DuBrule waves a package of legless birds in the air, and a woman standing nearby says she'll take them.

DuBrule packages them up with compliments to her good taste, and assurances that Windale sells only the finest pink flamingoes.

DuBrule's newest section, the Cheese Emporium, is a delight of domestic and imported cheeses, custom gift baskets, local jams and jellies, honey, farmer's sausage, beef patties, Brule Poulet roasting chickens, enormous quantities of fresh eggs ("brown as well as white - we're not bigots"), fresh cheese curds, ice cream, Ontario grown peanuts, local crafts and quilts, homemade candy, fresh homemade scones and biscuits, and two pink flamingos in an oak rocking chair.

"We're a very nimble business," he explained enthusiastically. "Our competition, the large chainstores, are slow to make any moves. We are nimble - that means we can turn on a dime and fast. We have a quick reaction time. If we want to launch a counter campaign, it's done."

The end of the day flurry of customers has begun, and customers are scurrying out DuBrule's advice on some food.

"Come on in and have an ice cream bar," he said, gesturing energetically. "Want to buy some pink flamingos?"

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# Student teaches music after school's out

**4:00 p.m.**

At 4:00 in the afternoon, one would expect the day to be complete for the average high school student in Ingersoll. But then, Leanne Ward is not an average high school student.

Leanne has always been involved in several activities outside her academics at IDCI, and at 4 p.m., she might be practising for her teacher's associate certification for piano, or teaching piano lessons at her home, settling down to her Grade 13 studies, playing tennis, or running for relaxation.

"I have always been involved in several things," said Leanne. "I don't have what it takes to be a piano performer, for instance. You must start very young and dedicate your life to it exclusively. I have always wanted to do other things as well."

"There came a time in Grade 12 though," she said, "when I had to make some decisions about what I wanted most. I had to channel my energies into fewer things."

Although Leanne has been involved in track, cross country, basketball, badminton and soccer during high school, she found she didn't have time for team sports in her Grade 13 year.

"With sports," she said, "it was always for enjoyment."

The petite, pretty blonde laughed. "I didn't give up a promising career as an Olympic basketball star."

"I do belong to the Ingersoll Tennis Club though," she added. "I taught tennis for the recreation department one summer. Tennis is something I have managed to keep up."

This year, Leanne is concentrating on her school studies, aware that her grades will determine her university entrance standings and scholarships next year.

A straight A student, Leanne has applied to the University of Toronto to study physiotherapy, and to Western and Huron College (a Western affiliate) for sciences.

"I'm almost positive that I want to pursue medicine," she said cautiously, "although my forte has always been in the arts and social sciences. That's what I think right now."

Even Leanne's music has been set secondary to school work this year.

"Even my music doesn't get all the attention it should," she said. "I try to really concentrate my practices on long weekends and winter break."

"Sometimes I try for full days and some days I only practise 15 minutes," she said.

Leanne is working on her teacher's associate certification, and her written

pedagogue exam but she has no intention of making a career out of her music, at this point.

Leanne takes her lessons from a London instructor, and her theory is taken from the Conservatory at Western University.

"There are a lot of child prodigies in London," she said, shaking her head. "Some very young children are already very excellent performers."

"I am not a performer," she added, holding up her hands. "My hands are too small, although I'm not prepared to say

that the size of my hands would have stopped me if I had really wanted to be a performer. It also takes great dedication."

Leanne began teaching piano out of her home last year.

"Last year I had only one student," she said. "This year I have several. I teach Friday afternoons and evening, and all day Saturday."

Leanne's youngest students are two five year-olds, one of whom plays almost entirely by ear. Leanne encourages the students to listen closely to the musical patterns.

"I will play a piece and she will play it right back without hesitating. Often it's not necessary to be able to read the notes before you can learn to play music," she said, pointing out that the Suzuki method has become very popular in early music education.

"Since I started teaching, it has actually become more important than performing," she said. "I love all my students. There aren't any that I don't enjoy."

"Most of my own performing is restricted to playing at the Dorchester Presbyterian Church on Sundays. They allow me a lot of liberty in choosing pieces to play and I will often incorporate classical music into the prelude and offertory, and so on."

"I really like having the chance to perform and the people in Dorchester have been very nice. I accompany a singer every week as well."

Despite the fact Leanne has limited her activities somewhat this year, it still requires a lot of self-discipline to meet all of her commitments.

"I try to get up early every morning to go running, now that I'm not involved in other sports," she said. "But on the mornings of music lessons, which are at 7 a.m. in London, I won't go running."

Although Leanne enjoys all her courses at IDCI, she particularly loved her course with the Rev. Roger W. McCombe.

"He's a fabulous teacher, with a great message," she said. "He stresses humanism in daily living. He gives you something to keep in mind as you dash from class to class."

"You should devote time to your interaction with other people," Leanne summarizes a McCombe philosophy.

"Maybe that's part of the reason I get so much enjoyment out of teaching. I like to keep that thought."



Leanne Ward, right, with two young students.



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# Doctor re-establishes rural roots

5:00 p.m.

BY KIM HUTCHINSON

Dr. Tom Mayberry looks out the window of his office toward a well-kept brick farmhouse just 100 yards away.

After several years of university, medical school, internship and an urban practice, he has come a long way, only to settle down in the place from which he started.

Mayberry was raised in that brick farmhouse adjacent to his newly constructed home on Swaburg Road. His parents still reside there. Every one of the generous windows in Mayberry's home looks out over more Mayberry land, and the homes of his family.

On his day off, Mayberry was babysitting his youngest children and a small niece from down the road.

"I'm very relaxed out here," he explained. "I've gone back to the older way of doing things."

At five o'clock, Mayberry is usually winding down from the day. His residential practice allows him more freedom to make time for meals with his family.

"I get a lot more warm suppers at a lot more reasonable hours," he quipped.

Mayberry was relaxing in his office next to a bulletin board displaying an "I love you" ink stamp picture and a tiny, crooked crayon portrait, both signed "Rachel". Another poster boldly says, "Conserve Energy Stop Nuclear" and a Parent Effectiveness brochure competes for space with a variety of medical charts

and information. Children are laughing in the nearby kitchen.

This office is a miniature of Mayberry's life and philosophy -- a window to his family history, a visible reminder of his family, and an illustration of the constant integration of the various aspects of his life.

"I can't separate one area of life from another. I can't leave my work at the office, or my family at home. You are the sum total of all your experiences."

Mayberry remarked on his way out the door to investigate some particularly unusual noises.

"I have the luxury of a low-volume practice," he explained, returning. "I'm not taking any new patients. I wouldn't do justice to my new patients and I certainly wouldn't do justice to my family."

"When I finished med school, I was ready to go farming," he said. "I could have happily farmed for the rest of my life. But I fell into family practice."

"For me, it's so stimulating. I like to ask why. If you honestly look at the questions, it can be very exciting. Why does this person feel the way he does . . ."

"You're constantly learning," he said. "You must go from the standpoint that people can teach you."

Mayberry recently relocated his practice out of Ingersoll to his residence.

"Working long hours, I found that I was sacrificing time at home," he explained. "And you can't yank yourself out of the dirt you were raised in," he laughed, waving towards the window. "This is the place to be . . ."

Rachel, Graeme and Erin ran into the office at 5 p.m. to ask for some cider, and the doctor stepped into the kitchen to supervise.

Continued on Page 26



Dr. Tom Mayberry

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# Dinners are still a family affair

6:00 p.m.

In the sunny kitchen of the Veldhuis family home, a pretty poster hangs by the east window, proclaiming cheerily, "We create our tomorrows by what we dream today."

Carolyn Veldhuis' signs and sayings get her through the day to day celebrations and frustrations that are inevitably part of a growing, busy family.

But at 6 p.m., every evening, the six lives coincide over the supper table.

"We all try to eat supper together," said Carolyn. "It doesn't happen at breakfast, except on weekends, and of course lunch is all over the place."

Carolyn's husband, John works as an engineer in London. Their oldest son Brent is in Grade 11 at IDCI, and Tracey is in Grade 9. Warren is in Kindergarten this year, and the youngest, Keith, is two and "in training school," Carolyn quipped.

It's not always easy for families to keep in touch when daily activities pull them in so many different directions, but Carolyn's humorous sayings and "Remember to" signs are posted in the highest traffic areas of their "Renovations in Progress" home. Although temporarily without a dinner table while the kitchen is being reconstructed, suppertime is traditionally where everyone touches base.

"Last week at supper,"

Carolyn laughed, "everyone had something to contribute about what they had done that day and you couldn't get a word in edgewise. It just got louder and louder."

"I have to make a list to remember what I wanted to tell John. By the time all the kids are off to bed, I've forgotten what I wanted to say."

"Last week I made an appointment with John to get away. I called him at the office and asked him out to dinner."

Carolyn managed to get a friend to look after Keith until the older children were home from school, while she took the bus into London.

"I left a little sign... Soup and Sandwiches... or something not very exciting," Carolyn laughed again.

"John and I had a lovely dinner and sat to visit. We had about 10 cups of coffee and didn't want to come home."

Carolyn moves a bottle of opened Coke, with a little sign attached to it, "Do Not Touch!! Is For Warren."

"Warren has been sick and I heard that flat Coke would help his stomach," she explained.

The Veldhuis family has made a conscious decision to focus their energies and activities on family-oriented projects.

"We used to coach baseball together, and John was leader of a Scout pack. I was in Ophi Mrs. and wrote for The Times. And I used to work fulltime in Burlington."

"Now most of our activities are centered around the church and are chosen so that we can do things as a family," she said.

"I took over as choir director at Westminster and I work as secretary for the church. I have been really fortunate because I am able to take Keith with me to work in the afternoons."

Carolyn jumped up momentarily to wisk a small puppy outdoors.

"He's in training school too," she laughed.

The renovations of their lovely Victorian home were conceived as a family project, and the older Veldhuis children have been assisting their parents in refacing cupboards, redecorating, and preparing for an addition.

"Oh, we thought, isn't it going to be fun to renovate ourselves," Carolyn exclaimed. "It's fine if you can have the constitution to live without plumbing while the new pipes are being installed by novice do-it-yourself plumbers."

"I'm going to put up a big sign THIS IS FUN, ISN'T IT?"

"People come in and say they don't know how we live this way, with everything in process - no kitchen table, the walls half done, a little square of ceiling painted so we could install the fan," she said. "But you can't let these things get to you."

"Last Monday was one of those days. I was late for a meeting and had called ahead twice to postpone. There were deliveries and sales people coming to the door, and I was trying to get Keith and myself ready to go. I got Keith dressed and told him to go out and play with the puppy for a few minutes while I got my things together," Carolyn said. "And just as I was ready to go out the kitchen door, I saw this big puddle of water oozing out of the bottom of the door into the house getting bigger and bigger. I thought, what can possibly go wrong now?"

"I opened the door and Keith had the hose turned full force on the door and was yelling, 'I soak puppy, I soak puppy'."

"Of course at this point a woman came up the driveway and asked what had happened. I couldn't think of anything to say so I said, 'Oh, don't you do your sprinkling this way?'"

"I think I needed one of my sayings right then."

Tracey came through the door, read the most recent list of activities and began preparing cannelloni for dinner.

Carolyn noted that Tracey likes to cook and often takes over the supper preparations for the family. Brent has learned to drive and is a big help picking up the other kids from their various activities, and running errands for the family.

Brent and Tracey are operating their own business, B & T Cleaning Services, which specializes in picking up and delivering dry cleaning for Thamesford residents.

"It's also a family business," said Carolyn, "with Brent picking up and delivering, and the rest of the family tagging and bagging the laundry. John takes it into the cleaners in London and picks it up again."

It's almost 6 p.m. and the family is collecting around the island counter for a family supper together.

Maybe Carolyn should put up a little sign, FAMILY SUPPER. DO NOT DISTURB. But if there was a need for one, surely it would be there. This is a family with a communication system down pat.



Carolyn Veldhuis with sons Warren and Keith




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# Sports buff after work is done

BY MICKEY LEBLANC

Looking for Joe Todd can be a time-consuming affair. A good place to start might be the hockey rink in the winter or the golf course in the summer.

If he's not there, perhaps the ball diamond would be another good choice. Then again, maybe he's attending a meeting, or maybe he's at home writing a sports story for *The Ingersoll Times*.

Up until last week, Joe could be found Tuesday nights, right around 7 p.m., getting ready for a big match in the Ingersoll men's recreational basketball league at IDCI. Joe has been involved in the local sports scene since high school, when he helped out IDCI's basketball team. From that time on, sports has played a big part in the life of the Stelen employee. "I mainly because I like the competition. I like to win."

Five years ago he was part of the Ingersoll Intermediate B's management team. As a trainer, he was responsible for things such as buying equipment and making sure the players had everything they needed. He also treated injuries. He has maintained a role with the team but this year he cut it down a bit.

Even before the hockey season ended, with the B's almost taking their first league championship, Joe had men's softball and golf on his mind.

Joe managed Macnabs ball team in 1969 when the team was still called the Climate Control Juniors. The team won All-Ontario honors in 1974-75 and was among the teams selected to be the first inducted into Ingersoll's Sports Hall of Fame last week.

Macnabs grew out of that team and many of the original players are still in the line-up, including Joe, who is the team manager.

At 31, Joe has 13 years of sports involvement behind him and has seen fan support for the local teams at its best.

When the B's started their schedule five years ago, "there were pretty lean times in the win column," he said. But the fans stuck by the team and were rewarded with an excellent 1985-86 season, with the promise of better things to come.

Joe is chief manager and trainer of his own active schedule as well. Holding a membership in the Woodstock Y and playing basketball, helps to keep him trim in the winter. Rounds of golf keep him busy in the summer.

Many different things can come out of sports, Joe said, but the fellowship and camaraderie, competition and a desire to win, are the most important to him.

As an offshoot of his involvement in local sports, Joe submits articles to *The Times* about various events or games involving Ingersoll teams. He started writing mainly to help provide coverage to the B's when they started five years ago, but since then, has written articles on golf, soccer, slow pitch and ladies' softball.



Joe Todd

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# 8:10 p.m. Volunteers bettering the community

Tuesday evening, Betty Mayberry sits in an Ingersoll high school classroom with a group of adults, discussing parenting. The conversation is free and

open. Meanwhile, in another part of town, Marlene Way is interviewing an adult student, trying to match him with a tutor

in the Adult Basic Education program. At 8 p.m., both women are in the midst of their work as two of Ingersoll's many volunteers.

Without consciously realizing such as Mrs. Mayberry and Mrs. Way, a great deal of work would be left undone.

Exactly why people such as these two give so much of their time to community service work is a bit of a mystery. Often the hours are long and demanding. And volunteers don't get paid for their efforts.

Job satisfaction though, is a prime motivator for these two.

Combined, the pair have about 50 years worth of volunteer work. Mrs. Mayberry routinely estimates 30 years involvement in everything from teaching Sunday School to teaching a parenting class.

Mrs. Way estimates 25 years in volunteer work, including time on the Salford Concerned Citizens group.

"Volunteer work is essentially selfish. You get a lot out of it," Mrs. Mayberry said.

Both women are modest of their volunteer efforts and speak of their years of volunteer work with some hesitation. But overall, they are representative of a dedicated group of volunteers in the community, which keep many campaigns, classes and other essential programs alive.

Mrs. Mayberry believes the reason she has spent so many years doing volunteer work has something to do with the way in which she was raised. As a young girl, her father said a person with ability should

use it and it is the person's responsibility to do it.

"It is you (the volunteer) who becomes most enriched," she said. She explained her volunteer work started as a community service obligation, "but I certainly enjoy the work. My life has been enriched by the things I've done."

Mrs. Mayberry spent many years working with social workers, and Mrs. Way was a teacher, although she has never been in the classroom for almost 30 years.

Recently, Mrs. Way had her first real taste of local and provincial politics when she sat on the Salford Concerned Citizens committee as secretary. She admitted to not liking the exposure very much. "But, I would do it again if I had to."

"It was worth the effort. We felt we tried and did what we could," she said.

Mrs. Way is an organizer of the Adult Basic Education program in the Washbrook area, and said that task alone can be very time-consuming. She is also a volunteer with the Inford Regional Home and is vice president of a School Association.

Both have been active in their churches and have volunteered to work with the Canadian Girls in Training. Together they taught parenting classes in Ingersoll through Family and Children's Services (FCS).

There are many reasons why volunteers do the job to give freely of their time, but trying to pinpoint them all is a difficult task.

Mrs. Mayberry said jokingly, "I have thought the reason I'm a volunteer is that I wouldn't have to do house work."

"I'd rather work with people than do some of the other things people are expected to do."



Marlene Way and Betty Mayberry

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9:00 p.m.

## Wood sculptor enjoys long hours spent creating

To look at the mystical sculptured figures fluttering in still air and gazing about the room, it is difficult to imagine that hands shaped the wood and that they were the outcome of an intense creative process. They didn't spring to life on their own.

At 9 p.m., Neil Cox can be found working in his parents' Ingersoll home. He puts in eight to 12 hours on an average day, turning common lumber into an art form.

Cox's sculptures in ice have won him several prestigious international awards, including the People's Choice Award for ice sculptures at the Quebec Winter Carnival for two consecutive years, and the Milwaukee International Ice Sculpture People's Choice prize.

The judges' choices are usually for the more avant-garde sculptures," he said. "Those works which are more mature artistically.

"My style is a detailed realism which most people can appreciate very readily. That's why I would be more favored in a choice by the people.

I don't care so much about the style of

my work though," he said in his characteristically energetic voice, "as I care about the message."

"For me, the art adds a depth in my life spiritually. I'm told that my work is mystical. If I can share that hope and celebration with the people who see my work, then I have accomplished my objective. But I'll often do little carvings that are small jokes - positive little things, just for fun."

Cox tells a strangely enchanting story about the origin of Neil Cox, the artist.

He leaned on the oriental rug draped over the table in his parents' home as he explained earnestly. "What happened was, I was reading a book in a library in Virginia. I was spending a lot of time trying to visualize Einstein's world line theory in this version which included the author's own analogy of the fourth dimension phenomenon.

"I was trying to understand Einstein, and something changed," he said simply.

"Not long after that, I saw a wood carving that a friend had brought from Oberammergau and I had tried carving before with no luck, but suddenly I could understand the shapes. I knew that it was something I could do."

In the driving shed at his parents' home, Neil clamps together the kiln dried wood which he gets from Joe Daniel's saw mill in Sweburg, then begins sculpting first with a chainsaw, then progressively smaller hand tools until the sculpture is complete.

"Often my friends will bring me interesting pieces of wood and I'll look at them closely. They usually suggest themselves for something," Cox said.

A friend from Quebec brought me this piece of apple tree. It's pretty interesting but I haven't decided what I'll do with it yet.



Neil Cox

"I have a piece of walnut here that's really beautiful. I have the sculpture in my head, the way I always do before I begin. It will be a woman, posing with a look of freedom."

Cox usually likes to work in basswood, because it is soft, like pine, but doesn't have the heavy grain characteristics.

"You can carve very fine details in it," he said, walking back through the house and holding up a miniature, intricate sculpture with perfect fingers.

"Some artists prefer more exotic woods," he explained, "but I like the versatility of Basswood."

Cox hopes to travel to Italy in October to study marble carving, focusing on anatomy and drapery which were the characteristic achievements of the Renaissance sculptors.

"I'm really looking forward to Italy but it's too bad Canadian artists must feel that they have to go to the States or Europe to really be artists.

"There is the sense that in America, you're where it's happening," he laughed.

"To a certain extent, I guess that's true. But we have in Canada, all the ingredients to be a major force in the art world. It's rather exciting to be an artist now.

"What does it take to create a movement," he said rhetorically. "In Michelangelo's time, it took patrons, and a society which encourages art. We have those things," he said energetically.

"That's what I like about the possibilities in art right now. There's room for every strain of art.

"I want to spend some more time to become familiar with contemporary art. And I suspect that with the new computers and technical developments, there will be whole new medias that we don't know anything about right now.

"There's always room for both the old ways and the new," he said.

10:00 p.m.

# Hospital nursery a busy spot

BY KIM HUTCHINSON

In some hospitals, nurses jokingly call the newborn ward the "Noisery" and at 10 p.m. at Alexandra Hospital, Ingersoll's

youngest citizens are usually clamouring for dinner.

"In the last few years, we have found



Alice Donovan and Michael

that most babies are breastfed and they will go to their mothers about 10 p.m.," said Nurse Alice Donovan. "Breastfed babies are fed on demand but aren't permitted to go longer than four hours between feedings."

Donovan cuddled a small blue bundle gently as she spoke.

"And if the baby is being bottlefed, he will be awakened for a feeding, usually by the mother but sometimes by the nurse on duty."

"Between feedings you just work with whatever you've got. If there's a fussy baby in the ward, you do a lot of rocking and cuddling."

"It's an individual thing," she said. "Every baby is different and we try to work with both the mother's and the baby's interests in the foreground."

Donovan has observed that spring is normally the busiest time of the year for deliveries, although they're obviously unpredictable.

"Many women who plan their pregnancies around their work schedules feel that this is the best time to take a leave from work and they can spend the summer months with the new baby," said Donovan.

"People used to say there was a pattern to births based on the full moon, but people don't believe that sort of thing anymore."

Donovan continued to rock tiny Michael in her arms, talking to him quietly and calling him by name.

"Evenings are traditionally the time when we're swamped with visitors to the nursery," said Donovan. "Only the baby's father, the siblings and the grandparents are allowed in the room while the baby is rooming in with the mother, and any other

visitors can see the baby through the window.

"Although we often have trouble explaining the regulations to visitors to the nursery, we know it's a joyous occasion, that everyone is thrilled with the new baby, and wants to visit."

"There is a special advantage to the Alexandra Hospital system over many larger hospitals," she continued. "Ingersoll nurses cover both obstetrics and the nursery and are acquainted with both the baby and the mother," she said.

"Hospitals with a staff exclusive to the nursery don't have the continuity that you have here," she said. "There are a lot of studies which support this way of caring for new mothers and babies."

As well, she said, local doctors encourage the rooming in option available at Alexandra.

Infants are wheeled to the mother's room for a large part of the day and are under her care. Nurses are readily available if the mother needs assistance and the babies are taken back to the nursery if the mother is tired or needs some extra rest.

"Mothers are allowed to come in and out of the nursery any time," Donovan said, "and are encouraged to spend time with the baby."

Donovan spots Michael's mother in the hallway in front of the nursery, and lays the baby gently in the bassinette for his mother to take him back to her room.

"Many people don't realize the scope of a nurse's duties," Donovan explained.

"There is a lot of teaching involved with nursing. We help mothers who are beginning to breastfeed their babies and offer advice to first-time moms in

Continued on page 26

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# A shoulder to lean on when in need

11:00 p.m.

BY PAT SAVAGE

It's 11 p.m. on a Tuesday night in Ingersoll. The core area of the town is relatively quiet. The hustle and bustle of traffic and day shoppers has subsided to a few peak-trains making their way home. A few vehicles move in both directions of Thames Street.

The town is quiet. At least to most people it would appear that way. There are few signs of activity along the dirty bit residential and business streets, but somewhere there may be activity. And if that activity is illegal, chances are the Ingersoll Police Force will at some point, become involved.

Law enforcement is a difficult task and not simply a matter of handing out speeding tickets or tickets for parking violations.

At any point during a shift, a police officer in Ingersoll could be escorting an impaired driver to the police station, responding to a domestic dispute call, investigating an assault, handing out a speeding ticket, or investigating a shorting.

A police officer's job is one of the toughest, but looked upon as one of the most important jobs in our society.

"The lives of people are sometimes in your hands and you have to make quick decisions," Constable Doug James said.

Const. James said while Thursdays and Fridays are the busiest times of the week for the local department, the remainder of the week can also produce a great variety in the daily schedule.

At 11 p.m., he could be doing almost anything, he said. Checking properties, taking radio calls, patrolling in the



Const. Doug James

cruiser, enforcing liquor licence statutes, filing occurrence reports or following up a previous investigation are just some of the responsibilities that come along with a police officer's job.

"The ways of small town policing are changing," Const. James said, "because of the larger demand and because more officers from larger cities are coming to the small towns and bringing a vast amount of experience and knowledge of new policing techniques with them."

Const. James has been with the Ingersoll police force for about a year. He has worked with traffic police in Etobicoke and Toronto. He has worked with the RCMP, OPP through joint investigations, done plain clothes duty, criminal investigations, team policing, undercover and special weapons work. That experience came while working with the Toronto force for 11 years.

Before becoming involved with policing, James was a stockman with Sears. He attended the Ontario Police College in Aylmer and the Metro Police College in Toronto.

He moved to Ingersoll mainly for family reasons, feeling the city was not a good place to raise a family. In Ingersoll, the officer's duties tend to be the same as in the city, he said, with the same amount of danger. But officers can be more involved in their day to day work here, he said.

James had contemplated with the idea of becoming a firefighter, but said he chose policing over it for a number of reasons.

Police officers have a different role in society and the public sometimes expects them to be doctors, lawyers or social workers, he said. Officers try to guide people to the right authority. "We'll be there for someone to lean on," he said.

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# ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

# Doctor re-establishes rural roots

Continued from page 15

"There are disadvantages to my practice here," he admitted, coming back into the room. "You can be easily distracted by family concerns because they're more immediate. And you do have to learn to cope with isolation."

Mayberry joined Dr. Jim Kirk and Dr. David Simpson to form Ingersoll Family Doctors several years ago.

"The other doctors were wonderful to work with and it was great to have someone to offer a second opinion on something or to ask questions of. I also

had access to information on all the patients. If I had to see someone on call, I could have an idea of their history."

"But I love my practice out here," he added. "It's a joy to go to work every morning. And it's also a family business, not unlike a farm. It's a joint effort. My son takes out the garbage, the children answer the phone, and my wife works here... it's like farming without breaking your back," he laughed.

Mayberry also enjoys the sense of community among the people with whom

he was raised. "You can still go to church and see the people you've known all your life."

"You can never quite convince the people you grew up with that you went away to university, that you're qualified. You're still the cute kid they saw in Sunday School."

Mayberry feels people lose this sense of community, as they become less and less rooted.

"Many people still define themselves by the people they meet at church. The

one-room schools performed the same function.

"You don't want to find that you're imprisoned for 80 years by the first 16 years of your life," he said. "And this is where I'm happy."

"You're only as effective as your personal life allows," he explained. "If you know where your limitations are, you schedule to accommodate your own needs."

"How do you feel happy? Figure out what makes you happy. Then see that way."

# An old fashioned barber shop

Continued from page 15

since 1909 and I look over from him," Dunlop said proudly.

The room is full of the spirit of all those years of barbering and visiting. Three large antique mirrors hang on all three non-window walls, providing a brightness and spaciousness that belies the shop's somewhat small size... by today's standards. The most impressive of these mirrors faces the customers entering the shop and is embellished with ornate hat

racks on either side, on which hang a mackinac, an overcoat and a farm equipment cap. Mr. Dunlop keeps the porcelain shaving mug and brush on the fireplace mantel, with some of the barbering necessities.

"The old fireplace has no damper. Can I run it," he said. "Haven't ever used it since I've been here."

"You remember hydro coming in?" asked the freshly shorn man in the chair. "I remember when they brought hydro

into Ingersoll."

"No, I don't remember that," Dunlop frowned slightly. "I must have been a young fella," he smiled.

"You're still a young fella," the customer replied.

"I'm still a young fella," Dunlop agreed.

At 79 years of age, Mr. Dunlop has no plans to retire.

"There you go, sir. Maybe next time you're in for a haircut we'll really have

spring!" Dunlop brushed off the customer and bid him a good day.

Within seconds, the next customer was in the chair - a porcelain and chrome fixture which has been used by local men for 50 years, according to Dunlop. In a circle around the chair the hardwood floor is glossy and bright, worn down past the tongue and groove joint after decades of wear.

"I get as much fun out of visiting as I do out of working," Mr. Dunlop said. "We have a visit, don't we?" he asked the new man.

The man nodded. Snip, snip.

# Hospital nursery a busy place around the clock

Continued from page 21

feeding."

A nurse will also demonstrate to mothers how to bathe the baby and will explain the importance of feeding schedules for her own and her infant's health.

"Nurses must be good listeners," she said emphatically, "for mothers who are learning to cope with special demands or the frustrations of having a baby in the isolette for the first few days."

"There is a whole spectrum of teaching involved with nursing," she said again, "especially in the nurseries."

The nurses at Alex and a rotate duties in all areas except emergency and the operating room, which have their own nursing staff, said Donovan, glancing in at a tiny girl who has stayed in her bassinette.

Donovan doesn't mind the 10 p.m. feedings or even the 2 a.m. feedings. "It's worth the work," she said simply. "Although I enjoy everything, there is a special happiness in the nursery."

# Baker's ovens are hot

Continued from page 1

business. Add the fact that while his main street location may be good to catch people on the way by, his parking facilities can't match those of the larger stores, he said.

The in-store bakeries also have the advantage of being able to offer a one stop shopping service.

"We have to make a product people will go for and hopefully we do," he said. Refrigeration helps to give the baker more control over the product but ingredients used in the breads and pastries have improved greatly.

Starting at 6 a.m. is not as bad as some of the bakeries, Bowman said, since many start their work as early as two or three a.m.

# Another paper is ready for bed

Continued from page 27

an organization, you get a better feel of the community and what goes on in it. You have a chance to better the community and to have a say in what's going on."

Currently second vice president of the Chamber of Commerce, a director with the Kiwanis Club, and publicity chairman for the Salvation Army's Red Shield

Appeal, Dunlop said, "I think our town is fortunate to have so many good service clubs and other organizations working in it."

When he's not busy at the office, Dunlop admitted his favorite hobby is spending time with his son.

A light spring rain has begun to fall. It's almost 1 a.m. now, and Dunlop is ready to head back to Ingersoll.

The stories have all been written for

this week's edition; the photos have been taken and printed; the ads have been sold and designed. Work from all of the departments within the newspaper has come together in the composition room, and is done for another week.

As he turns on the ignition then the windshield wipers, his thoughts are already on next week's paper. This week's edition of The Ingersoll Times is in the reader's hands.

# Trainer and horses ready for early morning jog

Continued from page 1

down," he said.

Not long ago, one of his horses was

injured and had to be put to sleep. Mr. Hughes admitted to being too attached to the horse and found destroying her difficult.

Thoroughbreds require much more care than the standardbreds Hughes owns. With a thoroughbred, a person is needed just for exercising the animal. With a standardbred, raising a horse and hooking after it can be much more of a family affair.

The average person can get into horse training relatively easily, but as Hughes learned, there are many things that can go wrong, and many times, even the most experienced horse trainer or driver doesn't recognize the problem.

To start fresh in harness racing requires a certain amount of financial expense as well, said Mr. Hughes, estimating at today's costs, the expense could run up to \$5,000, just to outfit a horse and its driver.

Thirty years is a long time to be involved in a sport, Hughes admitted, but it is something he enjoys doing and plans to continue doing for as long as possible.

"I really get enjoyment raising the horses and then seeing their race," he said.

# Photographs and memories

Continued from page 16

woman walking through Vancouver.

"My wife used to paint a lot," he said, waving about the room. The high walls of the house are full of her impressionistic renderings of flowers, landscapes and children. Among them hangs a bolder, more primitive painting of a shower of golden leaves and a teal blue sky. The signature is also bold and somewhat shaky - "Sarah Jane."

"She painted that in one afternoon," MacFarlane said proudly of his granddaughter's work. "She gets that from my wife."

Bold, colorful "Happy Birthday

Grandfather" posters and cards have been set on available table space and blue and yellow streamers hang in the living room.

A talented painter, Phyllis MacFarlane was the local artist in a memorial exhibition in Ingersoll last March.

MacFarlane's favorite hangs in the corner by his reading chair.

Autumn leaves dripping over a steep cliff to still water, and a robust old spruce tree clinging precariously to the side of the precipice.

"In the evening, when the light is just right, you're there," he said. "But come back in the evening next time," he tells his visitor. "I have a picture you should see."

# French fry wagon a busy spot

Continued from page 10

ready."

Piebe is a natural storyteller with the same instinct for a punchline as for a good french fry.

"We bought our first new fryer on Boxing Day and we had to borrow money to do it. But we never looked back."

"It was a gamble, no two ways about it. It took a gamble and an understanding wife."

Piebe shook his head, as if amazed that all this had occurred.

"Since then, I learned that you use the best quality fat, you keep it really clean and filtered... but there's no real secret to making chips. I'm not the only chip

wagon in the country.

"But I think that a person works hard on his project at a chip wagon. If he doesn't think the chips are just right, he doesn't want to sell."

Piebe works seven days a week to keep everything moving. Action starts at 10 a.m. in the shop, preparing and loading the truck, and ends at 9 or 10 that night, back in the shop, after the wagon has been cleaned and the fat filtered and the potatoes chipped and ready. The day begins and ends with Piebe Kobus.

On good summer days, "it can be like a carnival," Piebe said. "I can't put my finger on it."

But the people love PB's chips and Piebe Kobus loves his work.

11:45 p.m.

# Another paper's put to bed

From the second storey window, the main streets of Ingersoll look almost deserted. Ominous grey clouds hang from the belly of the sky, lining the spring night an unusual dark hue.

Inside, fluorescent lights shine down on pages being pasted together in preparation for another edition of The Ingersoll Times. It's 11:45 p.m. and the final touches are being made. Another edition is almost ready to be put to bed.

In less than 12 hours, the mammoth grey presses at the company's head office in Tilsonburg, will be spitting out one copy after another. About three hours later, the paper can be picked up in most variety and grocery stores in Ingersoll, and by 5 p.m., most household subscribers will have received their copy of The Times.

For Times' General Manager Dan Dunlop, Tuesdays can be long days. When the paper is finally composed here in Ingersoll, he delivers it to the Tilsonburg plant. While most people are curled up in bed, Dunlop is busy making sure headlines are properly tucked on the pages, ads are in place, and everything is ready to go.

It's a routine that seldom varies, although composition time does fluctuate. Working into the wee hours of the morning is not uncommon though, for Dan or for many of the Times' staff.

Dunlop has been with The Times for five years, selling and designing advertising. Last fall he was named manager when his wife and partner, Carol McKnight, took over operations at Otter Publishing's Caledonia office.

"Otter Publishing is a family business and The Times is a family business within it," said Dunlop. "Carol and I work together. If one of us has problems, the



Dan Dunlop

other is always there to help out or to listen. In a small business you're thankful for your family. My mom also works in the office, and most of Carol's family is involved in the newspaper business in one way or another although not in Ingersoll."

Dunlop enjoys the regular contact he has with his customers, and cites that as one of his favorite aspects of the job.

"This job allows me to incorporate two things I really like - talking with people and not being confined to an office eight hours a day," he said.

"I also like to be able to sit down and design ads," he said. "I've always had a fondness for art. Maybe it stems back to when I delivered the London Free Press as a kid. Saturday mornings after delivering the papers, I would sit down at the kitchen table and spend hours drawing cartoon characters."

"I don't think anyone thinks of a newspaper ad person as an artist, but you're an artist whose work is seen by 4,000 people every week. In this business you're an artist and a salesperson."

About the only thing he doesn't like about his job is the deadlines. "Seems you just get finished with one edition and you're racing time to complete another," he said. "In this business you're always thinking a week ahead. Time is so short and we seem to rush it more."

Dunlop said he has become more involved in the community in the last few years as a result of his regular contact with business people in particular.

"I was born and raised here; Ingersoll is my home," he said. "But I wanted to be part of it, instead of just living in it."

"When you belong to a service group or

Continued on page 26



GARY COCHRANE

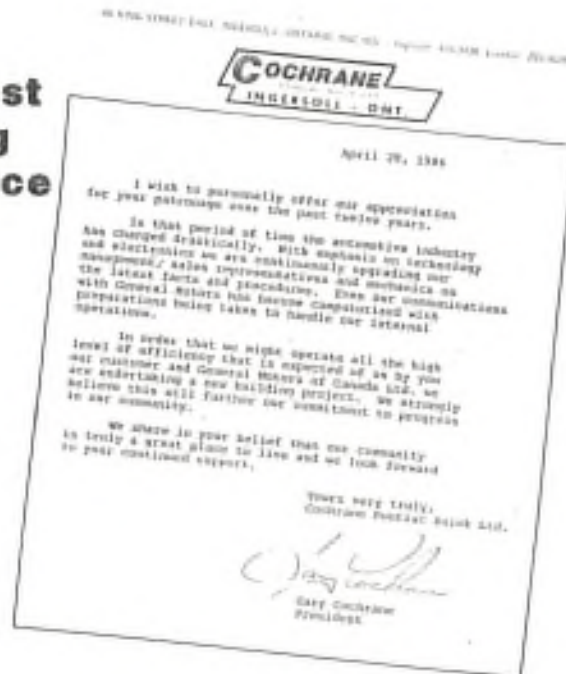
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# Town extravagance attacked in 1910

Watching how municipal politicians spend local taxpayers' money has been a favorite past time of many citizens, not just in 1986, but in 1910 as well.

The following report was contained on the front page of the Ingersoll Daily Chronicle Friday September 30, 1910 and it outlines many of the concerns of the community of that day.

Following the publication of the story there were several letters to the editor to support the comments and the council of the day was pressed to justify its planned expenditures on the Charles Street bridge.

The following is the newspaper account in it's full text.

Headline "MUNICIPAL EXTRAVAGANCE" Many complaints heard in connection with civic administration of 1910 - Is it Not Time to Stop Extravagant Expenditure?"

A year ago an Ingersoll Alderman at the very beginning of his municipal career declared himself an economist. His advice to his colleagues in transacting the affairs of the Corporation was to exercise the same cautiousness and practice the same economy as far as possible, that they could in the management of private affairs. This was sound advice, and it is to be regretted that it did not have a more permanent effect. What is good business in private life, ought also to be good business in the management of public affairs. The object always should be to get the best for the money available. Every day in private life, one is seized with a

desire to purchase this or that article, but if there is a true conception of business and honesty, the questions will first be weighed. Is it absolutely necessary? Can I afford it? So should matters which come before the administrators of the people's affairs be weighed in exactly the same manner. It is the people's money that is being expended for the new bridges, lighting facilities and the hundred and one other things that come before the council and so long as the advancement of the community is not being retarded, there should be a disposition to spend money as economically as if the people were actually acting for themselves.

The high cost of living has necessitated a spirit of retrenchment in private life, and this being true there should be no extravagant use of money in the transaction of public affairs. The quarter or half mill that is now and then added to the tax rate is beginning to pinch. Many ratepayers made no efforts to conceal their surprise, yes, indignation when they received their tax slips this year. The tax rate, twenty six and seven-tenths mills on the dollar is high, when the high assessment is considered.

But what of the future?

When will the end of the expenditures in connection with the power and lighting plant be reached! Has it been necessary to make such extensive improvements in the building of bridges. The Chronicle has been informed not only by one person who ought to know, but by several that the bridges built this year have been

too costly, that it would have been possible to have constructed structures which would have answered the purpose equally as well for a much smaller sum. Words of protest have also been heard relative to the proposed new bridge on Charles

Street East. It is understood that this structure will cost in the neighborhood of thirteen thousand dollars. Some ratepayers have been heard to state that an expenditure of four hundred dollars would furnish a permanent bridge that would meet

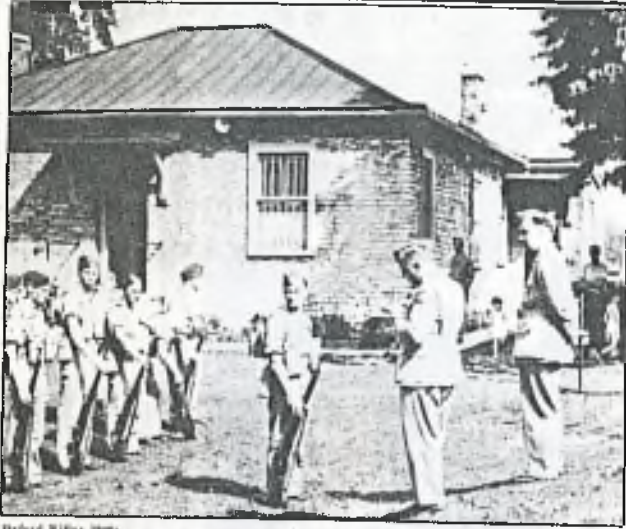
all requirements. The abutments of the old structure are said to be strong and good for many years and that about all would be necessary to make a permanent structure would be to lay a cement floor. Of course it looks well and sounds well to have the best but there are times when it really is an ordeal to pay for them. Many persons in private life have learned the sorrowful lesson which extravagance teaches and unless there is a change in the conduction of Municipal business the town of Ingersoll will learn the same lesson.

There are no gold mines and few "millionaires" in Ingersoll and the average citizen is ready to cry a halt to the expenditures that have marked the administration of 1910.

The statement has been made that one thousand dollars will be "thrown away" in the construction of the bridge on Charles Street East. When ratepayers realize that this expenditure means fifty cents on every thousand dollars of their assessment they will be in a position to appreciate the extravagances that are taking place.



The "drummers" (salesmen) came to town regularly in the early years of this century, selling their wares to local businessmen and spending the nights in one of the local hotels. Of course, it was less expensive to share a room with another drummer or two but this photograph, taken in an Ingersoll hotel about 1910, captures the inevitable sense of crowded quarters as the drummers prepare for the next day on the road.



Harold B. Dine 1906



1911 Chorusettes

# Glimpses of the past



Outside the St. Charles Hotel



May Day in Ingersoll



Maxine Walter Appleby and family



Ingersoll's Old Town Hall



Dairy Delivery wagon

INGERSOLL TIMES

August 20 1986

# PUC one of first to purchase hydro

"Power for towns by end of month"

That's how the headline read in the Friday September 2, 1910 issue of the Ingersoll Daily Chronicle as it traced the steps taken to bring electricity to Ingersoll.

By that date hydro electric power lines had been completed as far west as London and St. Thomas and as far east as Toronto and "will be delivering power to a number of towns before the end of the month."

An article in the paper read, "The line between the (Niagara) Falls and Dundas was loaded with 120,000 volts, the highest voltage carried by any line in America and no flaws developed in the course of the test."

In the days before 1910 electricity was uncommon in most Ontario homes, including those in Ingersoll.

But when hydro power did come, Ingersoll was one of the first of the 14 Ontario communities to sign the original contract agreeing to the purchase of power.

Prior to 1906 electricity was available on a limited basis and used mainly to light street lamps and service a few customers and was generated by private business. But that year representatives from Ingersoll joined others in Waterloo to discuss public ownership of hydro power and through lobbying a hydro commission was set up by the provincial government.

In 1908 Ingersoll agreed to purchase 500 horsepower and joined such communities as Toronto and London as the first municipalities to agree to purchase power from the provincial commission.

The signing of the agreement was the first step towards what is now the Ingersoll Public Utility Commission.

Electric power arrived in Kitchener in 1910 and on May 24, 1911 the same power was extended to Ingersoll.

In 1910 the only municipal government available was town council so a special purpose body was formed to administer the distribution of

electric power to Ingersoll customers. Two people were elected to the commission while the mayor of the town was an automatic member.

At the time a private company was supplying power to the few customers who needed the service in the community and it was supplying direct current electricity. Before Ingersoll could supply customers with the municipal power, the town had to purchase the private firm.

Hydro is only one part of the PUC as it stands today. Along with electric power it also administers sewers and water distribution.

In the 1880s the water system was under the control of a private company which supplied water to Ingersoll and had developed springs in West Oxford. A pump house driven by steam was constructed along with a pipeline in the 1890s.

But with the discussion surrounding public ownership of the electric system followed discussion on public ownership of the water distribution system. In 1912 Ingersoll bought the water company and it was handed over to the PUC in 1913.

A sewer system had to wait until 1949 when about \$900,000 was spent on building the system which included a plant, pump house and 15 miles of piping.

When the PUC was being developed the town was one of the major communities in the area and many of the steps which were being taken to provide the town with services which are today being taken for granted, were being followed in other communities.



There were still a few kinks to iron out when the electric system came to town in 1910. While the town welcomed the arrival of "the electric," the overhead lines of the combined hydro and telephone system certainly changed the look of Thames Street.

INGERSOLL TIMES August 20 1986

# Ingersoll prepares for war

Story By  
Mickey Leblanc

In the years before World War One, Ingersoll was going about its business, a bustling little community in the heart of southwestern Ontario.

In 1910 global war was not a hot topic of conversation and at that point in history, Canadians, including Ingersoll residents, were happily going about their business.

Many of the day to day things Ingersoll residents are concerned with in the 1980s were also topics of discussion in 1910, although on a slightly different scale.

In 1910 there was no talk of war. Newspapers of the day carried advertisements for a "beautiful new Maxwell 25, that holds the road at 50 miles per hour. The biggest automobile ever made for less than \$1,000. Has electric Gray and Davidson starter, electric lights, electric horn and in all, 17 new features."

Newspapers also carried stories on the arrival of electric power to towns in southern Ontario and a new socialistic proposal developed in Copenhagen which demanded the establishment of a system of universal and compulsory insurance against unemployment, the "cost to be borne by the owners of the means of production."

On April 14, 1912 newspapers across the world and in Ingersoll as well, carried reports of the sinking of the Titanic. In-depth reports on the sinking captured readers' attention with headlines shouting from front pages "The Steamer Titanic Sinks With Awful Loss of Life."

Two weeks later reports were carried of the last 306 victims of the disaster being brought ashore while 116 bodies were reported buried at sea.

Two years later Britain was engaged in war. Canada, including Ingersoll quickly rallied to defend the Empire. On August 5, 1914 France was invaded and Russia entered the escalating conflict. Companies of Canadian troops left for Halifax "amid scenes of enthusiasm."

In Ingersoll interest in the war was high.

One newspaper account of the early stages of war in Ingersoll says:

"European news having any bearing on the war situation was eagerly awaited by Ingersoll people on Sunday (Aug. 2, 1914). Everywhere in interest ran high. Crowds greater than usual were on the streets and the impending war was almost the sole topic of conversation. War extras of city papers issued during the day were obtained by a few citizens and the more startling contents were rapidly spread.

"From the time of the announcement Saturday night that Germany had declared war against Russia public sentiment had been considerably inflamed, and this was heightened Sunday by the probability of definite news of actual fighting.

"The loyalty of Canadians to Britain was also demonstrated by the remarks that were overheard wherever a group of men was seen."

The newspaper account continued "Several reservists in Ingersoll have been notified to be in readiness to respond for service whenever called upon. There are quite a number of reservists here. It is also understood that foreigners who have been working here have also been called home because of the threatened war."

Two days after that report was carried to Ingersoll residents, another report, this time of Britain entering the war, was responded to locally with great loyalty to the Empire.

In part, one newspaper reported, "Although there was a full realization of its terrible meaning the announcement in Ingersoll that Germany had declared war on Britain was followed by a striking patriotic demonstration. The heroic Canadian spirit was brought out like the flare of a match showing a rugged sentiment in defence of the Empire. The announcement that Britain had become involved was not unexpected, in fact the situation had reached such an acute stage and the temper of Germany had become so defiant that the public was prepared for almost any tidings that would indicate German hostility.

"From early morning until late at night thoughts of the impending war have been surging through the minds of Ingersoll people in common with those throughout the civilized world. The crisis was anticipated yesterday and with the hope of learning the latest developments many citizens were on the streets early in the evening.



Young men from Ingersoll left their families to fight overseas in the Great War. Above, a young soldier wears the khaki uniform of the Canadian regiments.

Family groups such as this one, left, were carried overseas by soldiers in World War I. This photo of Walter and Anne Appleby and their mother Ada, was taken in Ingersoll in 1915 and dedicated "to Daddy." Near the medical dress of the children and the bags back were seen their letters.

ning the latest developments many citizens were on the streets early in the evening.

"Germany has declared war on Britain" was quickly transmitted from one to another and the news spread like wild fire. Out of the excitement leaped the loyal sentiment of the manhood of Ingersoll. Young



people entrained at 8 22 this morning."

"The enthusiasm continued. "With martial music and lusty cheers ringing in their ears the gallant contingent recruited from the 24th Regiment of Grey's Horses went forth this morning prepared to do battle with a foreign foe. The demonstration in honor of their departure followed a rousing send-off given the contingent in the town hall Wednesday night.

"The brave sons of Oxford and Waterloo Counties who have rallied to the war drum's roll, looked the part of soldiers. As the CPR train carried them out of Ingersoll enroute to Valcartier, Que., from where they expect to sail for the front, there was the determination of warriors seized with the thought that right or might should triumph in the great struggle that has been waged on the Belgian plains, and that if they meet the German horde they will live up to all of the glorious British traditions."

And while the young men prepared for battle, those who stayed behind prepared to make their contribution to the war effort.

A mass meeting was held, attracting 700 to 800 people, in Woodstock "for the purpose of devising ways and means whereby the wives and those depending on any volunteers who have gone to the front may be looked after."

An Oxford County Patriotic Association was formed on Aug. 25, 1914. In the midst of headlines such as "Austrians Beaten Irreparable defeat administered by the Russians. Great Advance Goes On", an article titled "Meeting tonight!" local readers attention.

On September 2, the Oxford County Patriotic Association reported having \$2,000.

Ingersoll held its own meeting in town council chambers and a local patriotic association was formed.

"The Ingersoll Patriotic Association was organized at the meeting held in the council chamber Tuesday night when various phases of the local situation brought about in consequence of the European war were discussed. The attendance was very representative, the council chamber being filled to overflowing. A loyal sentiment to the Empire and the brave men of Ingersoll who have responded to the call to arms was exhibited."

While the war played a large role in the lives of Ingersoll residents, life at home went on while the battles raged overseas.

Reports of the sinking of the Lusitania off the Irish coast, which eventually brought the United States into the conflict, were accompanied in newspaper reports with town affairs. The issue of making a choice of paying for Thames Street was being discussed while a Past Masters night was held by the King Hiram Lodge, A.F. and A.M.

As the war continued, Ingersoll showed its support and continued to make contributions.

men in their teens, middle aged men and men who have passed the median and a few who have gone over the hill and seem to be only tarrying pulled themselves erect and voiced a desire to fight for the Empire. Then there were patriotic songs "God save the King" and "Rule Britannia" as thoughts were turned to the British fleet and the King's

message "Capture or Destroy the Enemy!"

"A huge bonfire was lighted at the corner of Thames and Charles streets, dozens of boxes gathered from the rear of stores constituting the fuel. This form of celebrating, however, did not meet with the approval of many and it was soundly condemned. An alarm of fire was sounded, the brigade responded and the blaze was soon extinguished. The crowds lingered, however, and it was nearly midnight before the excitement subsided and the streets were cleared."

As the war progressed local newspapers provided Ingersoll readers with daily accounts of the conflict and the enthusiasm in defence of the Empire spread.

The first recruits from Ingersoll were signed to the 24th Regiment Grey's Horses and two officers and 37 men were mobilized in Ingersoll on Aug. 17. Nine of the men were from Ingersoll and others were from surrounding areas including Tillsonburg, Woodstock and Ostrander.

By Aug. 20, 1914 the "brave sons of Oxford and Waterloo Counties were given a rousing send-off by Ingersoll

INGERSOLL TIMES  
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# Elegant homes of yesteryear

The great Gatsby and Daisy roared about in their motorcars in the 'twenties.

Women flashed their ankles to the big-band and swing tunes of the war era. Thousands packed North American cinemas to weep for their favorite silent movie heroine, or later to watch Vivien Leigh save her precious Tara.

But the 19th century tradition of home entertainment was still the hands-down favorite of the average Ingersoll family during the war years, and before, during and after the wars, the home was really where the heart was.

Although the Saturday night dance was alive and well at the old town hall and the Ingersoll arena hall, on less auspicious occasions, Ingersoll folks would often gather together in small groups at the homes of friends to play cards or to listen to the radio -- if someone was fortunate enough to own one of these treasured items.

The radio broadcast the latest in music as well as the news from overseas, but there were lots of people who would make their own music as well, gathering around the piano to sing such songs as Sweet Rosie O'Grady or When Irish Eyes Are Smiling.

There are long-time local residents who remember some of the magnificent house parties staged in grander homes in town.

Before the turn of the century, there were splendid parties and ballroom-style dancing held at the Christopher House in Ingersoll, where young women and men would dance the evenings away to a musical repertoire which might even include a minuet or two.

The popularity of such gala dances and parties was revived in the celebratory years after the war had been won -- during the 'twenties. When the Cuthbertsons held a garden party at their home just after the return of the soldiers, the front of the house was draped in colorful bunting, and a large Union Jack was strung across the imposing front window of the home in tribute to the young Canadian men.

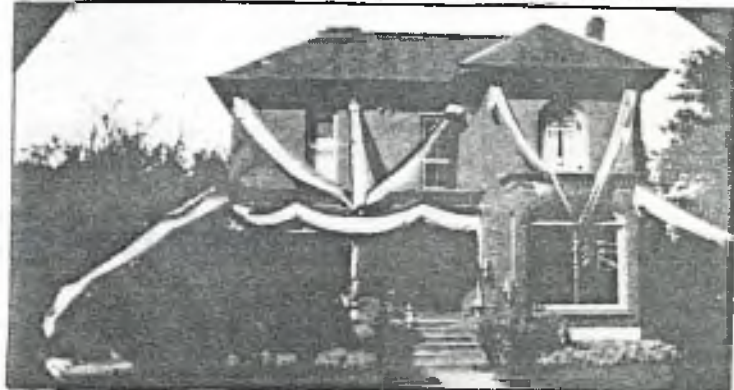
At another such celebration, after the boys had come home from the war, the Noxon family stretched what must have seemed like acres of yard good linens over a few floors of their spacious home.

The dancing linens, which were probably kept in attic storage when not in use, were stretched taut over the floor and seamed inconspicuously to provide an adequate width of cloth, which was secured at the edges along the walls.

Before the gala began, the linens were sprinkled with a compound designed to make the dancing surface slippery, and the young men and women of the community danced all night.



This photo of an Ingersoll home, taken before 1900, shows a lavishly appointed dining room. The gas fixture and heavy drapes pulled back over the door were typical features of those years. Here a popular Oriental-style area carpet has been laid over colorful linoleum.



When the boys returned home after the First World War, house dances and garden parties were common in some of Ingersoll's grander homes. In this photo, taken in 1918, the Cuthbertson house is decked in colorful bunting and chairs are arranged outside for a gala party.



When "the electric" came to Ingersoll homes in 1913, this was the fashion in home decor. Lighting fixtures often combined gas and electric units in those days as there were still some misgivings about the reliability of electricity. This bedroom boasts many conveniences -- an electric reading light, a telephone and an ornate gas heater.

INGERSOLL TIMES  
August 20, 1986



# Magic at the Maitland movie theatre

Story By  
Kimberley Hutchinson

Remember those old lyrics from the musical Guys and Dolls... What's playing at the Roxy?

Well, there was no Roxy in Ingersoll, but at the Maitland Theatre

local residents could weep and laugh with the screen stars from a distant fairyland known as Hollywood.

Locals paid a nickel to get into the Maitland back in the old silent movie

days, and one local resident recalls his visits to the theatre as early as 1916.

Small boys made heroes of such early cowboy stars as Tom Mix, who amazed theatre-goers with a spectacular stunt in which he flew an aeroplane into a building.

There was magic at the Maitland... Rudolph Valentino came to town larger than life, and The Ten Commandments was a favorite for years.

Silent movies weren't really silent....In Ingersoll, Mrs. Kathleen Bush played the piano at the front of

the theatre, improvising the music to suit whatever scene was appearing on the screen.

For comedy movies, she would play an amusing song called 'Slide-in Sid' - a crazy two-step piece that sounded like a trombone.

When sound first became a part of the movie, the soundtrack and the video were separate, and the projectionist had to master a 'hand is quicker than the eye' routine: a small dot would appear briefly on the screen right at the beginning of the movie, and at that precise moment the soundtrack had to begin.

This was called synchronizing the sound, and Ingersoll projectionist Percy Carter was reputedly very adept at putting the tracks together so the viewer wasn't distracted from a dramatic plot by lips that didn't move in time with the sound.

What's playing at the Maitland? Located for years on King Street where Powells' TV and Appliances now conducts business, The Maitland was playing Zane Grey's The Heritage of the Desert and Warner Brothers drama The Marriage Circle one sultry August week in the summer of '24....

## Waiting for the parade

While guns were blazing overseas during both wars, the patriotic people of the Ingersoll area waited anxiously for word from their young men, and concentrated on doing their part for the war effort.

"We used to have parades all over," said Walter Appleby, a long-time Ingersoll citizen. "And we were the first town in the country to reach the \$3,000 mark on the Victory Loan Drive during the war (World War I)."

"I remember them making a declaration that from then on Ingersoll would be known as a city instead of a town," Appleby continued, "and that day the school children lined up and down the streets waving Union Jacks and the Canadian ensign...."

The prime minister and the local members of parliament collected in Ingersoll to congratulate the town on their great war effort, and to present town mayor Vern Buchanan with the certificate giving Ingersoll the honorary title of a city.

As a small boy, Mr. Appleby remembers peeking at all the local folks flocking to an extra-special dance at the town hall.

When the first world war had finally ended, a handful of Ingersoll citizens made a commitment to recognize the war veterans by purchasing a park to dedicate in their memory.

On that glamorous night in 1918, town to play for a dance to help raise the money necessary to buy

the park, now known as Memorial Park.

Mr. Appleby also has childhood memories of a high-spirited and patriotic Ingersoll which celebrated the end of the war in 1918 with a massive party in the centre of the town.

Local residents, many of whom had suffered the anguish of losing a young man in battle, burned effigies of Kaiser 'Bill' next to the railway tracks on Thames Street near the post office, which was then at the corner of Charles and Thames.

The tracks melted, the Kaiser burned, young children ran up and down the street with noisemakers bought at Woolworths, and the Great War was officially over for the little agricultural town.

**MAITLAND THEATRE**  
**Present-- OLD HOME WEEK**  
 MONDAY AND TUESDAY AUGUST 18TH AND 19TH  
**PEGG DANIELS IN "LONGEST YODDICE"**  
**THE HERITAGE OF THE DESERT**  
 IN WHICH WILLIAM WELLS  
**WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY AUGUST 20TH AND 21ST**  
**WALTER BRODSKY'S "THE MARRIAGE CIRCLE"**  
**Directed by Ernst Lubitsch**  
**The Kind of Picture You Have Been Waiting For**  
**"Plastigrams"**  
**What is it? Clowns Are**  
**LARRY SENON IN "LIGHTING LOVE"**  
**Bring the Family and Your Friends - All Will Enjoy It**  
 SEATING AT 2:30 MON.-TUES. WED.  
 Adults 25c Children 15c  
 EVENINGS - 7:15 and 9:00  
 Adults 25c Child 15c

INGERSOLL TIMES August 20 1986

# Keeping the homefires burning

Story By  
Kimberley Hutchinson

While the men were at war, the women had the tireless work of keeping the homefires burning — preparing supplies to ship overseas, and sending reminders of home to the young soldiers in strange lands.

The job had special meaning to a handful of the Ingersoll women involved in any one of a variety of leagues who worked towards the war effort by knitting socks and bandages, or packaging supplies.

Mrs. Elsie Dowd was involved in the Salvation Army Home League during the years of the 'thirties and 'forties, after losing her father in the first great war.

Mrs. Dowd has vivid memories of her father's departure, and the close correspondence her family maintained until her father's death only a few weeks before armistice.

As a very little girl, Mrs. Dowd remembers seeing her father parading at the armouries in Brantford just before his departure, and recalls that he came down to say goodbye to his wife and his two young children.

"He came down to kiss us goodbye," she recalled, "and that was the last time we saw him. They had to march all the way from Brantford to Niagara Falls before they went over."

The family maintained a close correspondence throughout the war, according to Mrs. Dowd.

"My mother had metal boxes, and would knit socks and pack special goodies," she explained. "If one of us had a special treat, we would save some and send some for dad."

Mrs. Dowd remembers writing to



The Salvation Army Home League met regularly during the '30s and '40s, in assistance here at home and overseas. This photo from the mid-30s shows several members at work. Back row: Maude Rowland, Rose Garland, Mrs. Wm. Uncer, Edna Groom, Mrs. Frank Uncer, Mrs. Kolbe, Mrs. Wm. Dowd (holding Arthur), Mrs. Walter Appelby, Mrs. Mole, Ada Appleby, Mrs. Charlie Foster and son, and Charlotte Wilson. Middle row: Mrs. Camm, Mrs. John Knight, Mrs. Eli Neaves, Major Cooper, Mrs. Pitcock, Mrs. McLeland. Front row: Bobby Camm, unidentified infant, Alan Pitcock, Grace Groom, three unidentified children and Mrs. Sid Pitcock holding Keith.

her father to inform him she had cut her hair, after she and a little friend — both five years old — trotted over to the barber to have their long ringlets bobbed...with no pennies in their pockets and without their mothers' permissions.

"My hair was very long, and my mother used to brush it around her finger into ringlets," Mrs. Dowd laughed. "She was very upset when I came home, and she made me write the letter to my father to tell him what I'd done."

"I told him I'd cut off my curls, and dad wrote back and said 'and you didn't even save me one curl,'" Mrs. Dowd laughed. "It was the last letter we had from him. I still have it."

As with many Ingersoll families during those years, one day the minister and the colonel drove to the house with the tragic news. An official letter came later.

Although the young soldier was buried, before the war was over the ground was destroyed, and there is no marker to visit, said Mrs. Dowd.

As there was no welfare system at the time, and few provisions for a fatherless family, Mrs. Dowd moved out of Ingersoll to her grandparents' farm with her mother and her brother.

"I remember when the war ended my grandfather set fire to two cornstalks for my brother and me," said Mrs. Dowd. "It was a celebration."

Mrs. Dowd said she was bitter for a long time after losing her father, but eventually realized that there were lots of little German girls who lost their fathers in the war, too.

"Then I was just angry at the whole thing...the war," she recalled. "You'd often see other families getting ready to go somewhere, and you couldn't go because you didn't have a father."

Mrs. Dowd pointed out, however, that there were many happy outcomes of war, and remembers big celebrations and showers for young war brides who had come to Canada.

For such women as Mrs. Dowd, who remembered the terrible price of the first war, there was a special effort to help the men in the 'forties.

The Salvation Army Home League actually encompassed many denominations, and there were several Anglican women, United Church women, and "just anyone who wanted to help," said Mrs. Dowd.

"We used to meet on Thursdays every week, but we met more frequently during the war, because there was so much to do," she explained.

"A lot of women would just come and get the wool to knit scarves and socks for the soldiers," she continued. "Everything was sent to Toronto and shipped out in big bundles."

At the meetings, the women would work at their handicrafts, and a selected group would conduct a bible study and lead choruses of hymns for the women.

The Home League was not alone,

but virtually every women's group or auxiliary organization was very active in the same type of work, with local women and young girls knitting thousands of bandages and socks in what spare time they could find.

When the soldiers would have a rest stop at one of the centres, they would pick up fresh socks, coffee, tea, even cigarettes before continuing.

And if there was a soldier who had a family who needed help in the community, the Home League would make quilts, or prepare what they called 'ditty' bags of needed supplies.

The work continued after the war as well, for those soldiers spending time in one of the soldiers' hospitals.

The second war also took its toll on young Ingersoll men, and Mrs. Dowd again lost a family member — a cousin who was killed at Dieppe.

Another relative was held in a prisoner of war camp, Mrs. Dowd explained.

"They were hungry, and so were the people that were holding them," she said. "When the war was over, they just opened the doors and told them to go. Some of them made it to where the Allies were, and some of them didn't."

There were many such tragedies for Ingersoll families in both wars. In commemoration of the local men who gave their lives during the wars, the Ingersoll branch of the Royal Canadian Legion have dedicated photographs of all these soldiers in the main foyer of the Hillcrest centre.

## World War II United effort to help hometown boys

The world was at peace for a short time, or so it seemed, before Europe became the focal point for another major conflict.

The British Empire was again rallied to arms to battle World War Two and Canada joined other commonwealth countries in defending the crown. The rallying cry spread across Canada and Ingersoll was not beyond the enthusiasm displayed in the defence of the King.

In 1942 the war had already ravaged Europe and Canadian soldiers were defending Britain and democracy against the enemy invasion. In Ingersoll support for the war effort ran high and few town residents were left untouched by the impact of the battles.

Those who were not involved in the fighting were busy at home making their contributions in other ways. And there was no shortage of volunteers to gather support for the war effort.

Town council in 1940 provided pen and pencil sets to all Ingersoll men in active duty either overseas or in coastal patrols. By 1942, 121 sets had been sent to the men representing an expenditure of about \$665.

A salvage committee, formed from representatives of Ingersoll service clubs, gathered 66 tons of material worth \$900 in a four month period in 1942. The committee collected rubber, rags, paper, bottles, iron, steel, brass, aluminum, bones and furs.

At the John Morrow manufacturing plant, employees banded together to send cigarettes to Ingersoll men overseas. In a seven month span cigarettes to the value of \$870 were sent over which accounted for 260,000 cigarettes.

The Ingersoll Kiwanis Club by 1942 had sent \$521 worth of cigarettes to fighting men in various services. The club also entertained 40 members of the first contingent in the first year of the war and gave them money belts. Two hundred and twenty-five money belts were given and the Kiwanis contributed \$500 to the Ingersoll War Charities.

The club, by 1942, had sent 100 local newspapers to the soldiers.

The Ingersoll Lions donated \$510 that year to the Lions British Child Bomb Victims fund. The club donated \$100 to the Oxford Rifles and were involved in door-to-door canvassing for such events as the drive for Victory Bonds.

The Y'smen was one of the youngest clubs involved in the war effort and sent magazines, books and papers to men in the varied camps. They collected clothing in an active drive and the clothing was turned over to the Salvation Army. The Y'smen played a role in salvage work and canvassed for the war charities work.

Shortly after the war started the Ingersoll War Charities Inc. was organized and from November 1940 Continued on page 16

## United effort to help hometown boys overseas

Continued from page 15  
to June 18, 1942 had contributed \$30,672 to the war effort.

Victory Loans were a big part of the fund raising drives in Canada, and Ingersoll responded quickly. In 1942 the general objective for the Ingersoll district was \$427,000, but that objective was surpassed and a special names list was set at \$225,000 which was also surpassed.

Various women's groups were busy in Ingersoll during the war years, knitting, sewing, providing

hospital supplies and refugee clothing. The Legion Auxiliary in one year sent parcels overseas amounting to a value of \$100. In 1942 the Auxiliary donated \$25 towards the purchase of an ambulance.

A Red Shield Auxiliary of the Salvation Army gave 180 pairs of socks, 53 sweaters, 18 scarves and 18 pairs of mitts.

The Ingersoll Red Cross was busy sending clothing to those in need during the war. Reports said the Red Cross in Ingersoll have sent to Inger-

sol men in the Oxford Rifles 190 turtle neck sweaters, 290 pairs of socks, 430 pairs of seamen's stockings, 440 pairs of mitts or gloves, 55 scarves and 435 aero caps since the war started.

Two IODE chapters were heavily involved in Ingersoll's contribution to the war effort. Members made sizable donations towards the purchase of bombers and a wide program of sewing and knitting. The Norsworthy and Lady Dufferin IODE chapters also wrote letters to

the soldiers to help cheer them up.

Churches played a sizable role in Ingersoll's efforts by sending parcels of food and clothing overseas. Fund raising events such as bake sales helped to provide the Red Cross with funds. Members were kept busy making quilts and afghan, hemming handkerchiefs and sweaters.

While Ingersoll men were helping to fight the war overseas, those left behind supported their efforts in countless ways.

INGERSOLL TIMES

August 20, 1986

Following bombing of Pearl Harbor

# Riot against local Japanese

Story By  
Mickey Leblanc

Ingersoll is a quiet little town by most standards and most would believe strong outbursts are unlikely, but that was not the case at least for a brief time in 1944, just as the Second World War was nearing an end.

A summer night in September 1944 started out quietly and the town of Ingersoll was preparing for a typical Sunday evening, but in the background, unseen to most of the community a large crowd, armed with weapons descended on a Japanese quarters in a local plant.

The Second World War and the battles overseas spawned strong feelings in most Canadian communities and Ingersoll was no exception according to reports in the area newspapers.

One newspaper report described a crowd of 200 to 300 people closed in on a Japanese quarters and police armed with batons dispersed the gathering.

At first glance, it would appear the crowd were anti-Japanese and reacting as a result of well publicized events of the Second World War, but further examination of the reports hints at the cause being "chiefly out of resentment concerning the Japanese and some local girls. It was jealously one police constable was quoted as saying.

Exactly what the events were which lead to the small riot are not clear in the reports but it was clear the mob was well organized.

One passage from a newspaper story says, "a surging throng, arm-

ed with sticks, clubs and missiles of various kinds, bent upon reaching the quarters occupied by a number of Japanese in the employ of William Stones Sons Ltd. at the firm's premises was turned back by police about 9:30 p.m. Sunday night before the demonstration reached a more riotous pitch.

Chief Constable Callander stated this morning that no charges were being contemplated at the moment.

There had been open talk of the demonstration during the week with the result that although it was sprung somewhat unexpectedly, the

police were prepared to cope with the situation immediately."

As it turned out, three men were convicted on unlawful assembly charges. One of the convicted men told court he had been overseas four and a half years that he had been in Hong Kong and at Dieppe and that he, "knew the treatment that had been accorded Canadian soldiers. When he returned to Ingersoll and learned there were "Japs" here, he said he did not think much of it and especially when there had been information that Ingersoll girls had been going out with them.

He said he had heard of plans to go

to the William Stone Sons premises where the "Japs" were employed and housed.

Another man charged said he had heard "the crowd went to the premises to 'clean up on the Japs' He said giving evidence, he had waited 15 minutes after the crowd started to disperse and when told to move on by police he did and claimed he was on the road when the officers went into the premises.

The report continued, "Gangs of youths were conspicuous for some time and a number of these were advised by the officers to leave the

district as soon as possible. One shot, it was learned, was fired in the air by Chief Constable Callander at one of the exciting periods and this was said to have served as an immediate urge for some of the mobsters to leave with greater speed than they had previously ex-

hibited. It was stated, but not confirmed, that in the mob were a number of young men from both Woodstock and Tillsonburg, with the majority however, presumably from Ingersoll."

Ingersoll quickly forgot the incident and life returned to normal.

INGERSOLL TIMES

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# Hemlines go up and down over the years

Remember the 'New Look' in fashion after the war? If the town of Ingersoll could talk, what tales she could tell of the fashion costumes which have walked her streets!

One might expect that such an agricultural little town as Ingersoll would be largely disinterested in the whims of the international high fashion scene, but the advertisements in the newspapers of the time, and the photographs of Ingersoll residents tell a different story.

While the Great War was brewing in Europe in 1910, women in Ingersoll were following, at least as avidly as possible, the trend-setting fashions of Paris and New York -- the premier cities of style.

For weeks before the big event, the Ingersoll Chronicle advertised an exclusive fashion event, and finally, in November of 1910, Professor Dorenwend of Toronto brought his exhibition of the very latest wigs to the New Daily House (now Marco's Landing) for Ingersoll women to inspect the latest Parisian and New York styles.

Corsets were slackening or being



Hair was short and waists were long in the fashion of the '20s. These Ingersoll women were dressed typical of those years, with their long, loose shape, plain necklines and flat shoes. As the hemlines went up, patterned and colored hose also became popular.

eliminated from women's wear altogether, and the advertising sketches in the Ingersoll Chronicle during the decade of the first world war depict women modelling the latest in fashionable tweed suits, and the rather slumping posture called the 'debutante slouch.'

In the exhilaration which followed the end of the Great War, hemlines rose and women bobbed and shingled their hair.

Edgar Dunlop, who has operated a barbershop with his father since 1924, remembers young Ingersoll women coming into the shop to have their hair barbered, as there was no such thing as a women's hair stylist in those years.

While hemlines rose to several inches above the ankle, corsets were unheard of, and waistlines fell to the hips. The very fashionable might wear several strings of beads with this 'twenties look.

Photographs of an Ingersoll fami-

ly show the young women standing about in the fashions of the day.

High fashion in the 1930's was a luxury which was lost on most women in Ingersoll, although there were always those who could afford one of the latest, very feminine dresses -- often with padded shoulders, and heavily influenced by the costumes of the glamorous stars of the silver screen.

With the arrival of the 1940's, and the outbreak of the Second World War, fashion, like everything else, was dictated by the war.

Materials were very scarce -- silk was being used for parachutes and nylon was used for women's stockings only briefly before being diverted to the war effort as well, according to Lloyd Alter, who stocked such luxuries in Jack's Department Store in those years.

Instead, women bought leg makeup at the local drugstore to color their skin while silk and nylon hose were unavailable.

Wool, cotton and leather were needed to outfit the young soldiers going overseas, so the only available

styles in new clothing used as little fabric as possible.

Styles were very straight and unadorned, people patched their shoes to save leather for the war, denim trousers for women became popular as they went to work in the factories while the men were overseas.

It took some time before the clothing industry got back on its feet again after the war, too. Mr. Alter remembers that, when the boys in the service returned from overseas with nothing but the uniforms they had worn for those years, they were given requisition slips entitling them to a brand new suit.

Mr. Alter remembers well the 'New Look' of 1947-48, when hemlines flared again, and dresses were styled with peplums.

"Every 25 or 30 years, fashion makes a cycle," said Mr. Alter. The skirt lengths of the late forties are the fashion standard again.

Back in 1930-31, the double-breasted suit for men came into vogue, he noted, and it stayed until Continued on page 20

## Hemlines go up and down

Continued from page 8

the early 1950's. Now, after years of single-breasted suits, fashion is turning back to the look popular in the war years.

In the Ingersoll Collegiate Institute yearbook Volt back in 1947, young Ingersoll women sport permed hairstyles, flared skirts and sweaters, and the saddle shoes and bobby sox. It was the age of prosperity again.

# Business survives Dirty '30s, war years

In 1930, Ed and Sis Alter were looking around the walls of their brand new shop on Thames Street in Ingersoll (where Records Unlimited is now located), and wondering how on earth they were going to fill the

store with merchandise.

It wasn't easy getting enough merchandise to fill a store during the 30s and 40s. In the beginning, the country was in the throes of the Great Depression. Folks weren't buying,

and the manufacturers weren't making.

There was work for everyone during the war, but clothing stores were restricted by their industry's own contribution to the war effort: every

scrap of fabric or nylon, and every minute of labor possible was going towards outfitting the men overseas.

Despite the setbacks which spelled the end of most businesses during these decades, Jack's Department Store persevered and grew into the prosperous business which Ingersoll residents enjoy today.

In 1930, Jack's Clothing Store on Thames Street offered a selection of menswear which accommodated the needs of local men -- the farmers, the laborers and the businessmen.

There were suits for Sunday, coveralls for chores and field work, and, as ever, a friendly greeting and expert service for all the local residents who frequented the store.

Ed and Sarah, better known as 'Sis' in the town of Ingersoll, operated the store by themselves during the Depression years, and a brief scan through the business ledger from those years shows a small, but strong little business which never failed to make a sale each day.

In 1940, Ed and Sis took their business down the street, and began to offer a selection of ladies' and children's wear, as well as a variety of dry goods.

The Alters, and the clerk they had hired in the late 'thirties to help them out, must have taken great pride in their offerings to the people of Ingersoll in the new 'department' store -- wrapping up each item with plain brown paper from the massive roll next to the cash register, and tying each parcel carefully with a length of the endless miles of string which hung from the ceiling.

Young Lloyd Alter, who now operates the family business, was raised in the bustle of Ingersoll's own department store.

Ed and Sis Alter had a handful of business philosophies which helped sustain the little business through what were the bleakest years of our Canadian history, and which are still the mainstays of the store. They believed firmly in personal service to their customers, and Lloyd recalls that his parents took great pride in knowing every customer by name.

"If he didn't have something that a customer wanted," said Mr. Alter, "he'd break his neck to get it."

Ed and Sis opened their shop each morning at 8:00 during those years, to accommodate the local farmers who used to bring their milk into the dairy at that hour.

At that time, Ingersoll was a very agriculturally-oriented town, and the farmers driving into town in their horse and wagons (long after most town residents were driving motorcars) depended on this courtesy by Jack's Department Store.

It was, and still is, one of the policies of Jack's Department Store to accommodate any special needs of their customers for unusual sizes and specially designed clothing.

Like his father before him, in the darker years of business in Ingersoll, Lloyd Alter is a 'doctor' in the clothing business. Both grew up in and with the business, both poured their energies into the business, and both were expert in recognizing the various needs of their Ingersoll customers.



At Jack's Department Store on Thames Street South, Nifty Naftolin and Lloyd Alder watched hemlines and prices go up and down, and fashions and fads go in and out for the many years both were involved in the business. This photo from the 1950s shows the store as it once was.

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# Surviving the depression

Continued from page 19  
customers per mile before they would run the wires out." Mr. Hossack noted, but added that many of the local farmers had hydro before they did.

All the heating was done by wood until that time as well, and Mr. and Mrs. Hossack remember many times waking up and finding the teakettle frozen on the stove.

"There was just the pipe from the stove to heat the upstairs," Mr. Hossack said. "We used to pile those big buffalo robes...that you used on the cutters...on top of the children at night."

The Thames river was both a blessing and a curse to the farmers along its banks in those years.

The shallow water provided a centre of recreation for the farm children, but the waters wreaked havoc every spring when they overflowed their banks.

Emin and Stella's farm was comprised of land on either side of the river, and more than once the cattle were caught on the wrong side of the river when the waters rose.

There was normally a shallow area where the men could take their equipment across, or where the cattle could safely cross, but when the waters rose, the cows could not be convinced to make the crossing back to the barn for milking time.

"I tried to chase them across," Mr. Hossack recalls, "and they got halfway across then stopped altogether on a little island in the middle."

"I got fed up and went home -- around by the bridge -- and left them there," he said.

When the waters rose again that night at about 11 o'clock, the island disappeared and the cattle came wandering back to the barnyard, he explained.

"I got up at eleven to put them into the barn," he said. "and they didn't get milked that night."

Yep, those were the days.

# Scraping a living during the depression

Those were the days...of poppers, ploughs and \$5 pigs.

Back during the years of the Great Depression and the Second World War, Emin and Stella Hossack were trying to make a living as farmers out on 190 acres of land just outside the village of Thamesford.

Married in the mid-twenties, the Hossacks were just one of hundreds of farm families in the area doing their best to raise a young family through the depression years.

"The depression really took hold from 1931," said Mr. Hossack, agreeing with his wife that the going was tough for farmers in those years.

Mr. Hossack farmed his land with one of the early tractors now known as a 'popper' -- named for the sound of the engine.

"They were all poppers back then," Mr. Hossack pointed out.

Mr. Hossack was one of the progressive farmers in the county, and says that he owned one of the first tractors in the region.

How did it run? Pop, pop, silence most of the time. "It ran terrible," he laughed. "That's what made my brother a mechanic."

Mr. Hossack's brother was a self-taught mechanic who seemed to have learned much of his trade curing the various ailments of the family's first popper.

With his popper and a three-furrow plough, which turns over only three rows of sod at a time, Mr. Hossack could make what was considered "pretty good time" out in the fields in the autumn -- about an acre an hour.

"There were lots of times the ploughing didn't get done, though," Mr. Hossack admits. "It's a funny thing, but when you were ploughing with the horses, you always got done."

When the farmer knew time was at a premium -- and it took many, many hours to plough with the horses -- he was more apt to "use every hour he could get his hands on."

On his 190 acre plot, Mr. Hossack grew all the feed necessary to keep his stock fed for the year, and the only product he had to buy for his animals was concentrate, and that was only in the later years of the 'forties.

"If they made such a thing during the depression," he laughed, "we



Bob Hossack watched over the family homestead during the Depression.



When cousins came to visit and the chores were done, the Hossack boys spent their time in the shallow waters of the Thames River.

couldn't have afforded it anyway."

The Hossacks -- Emin, Stella and their four sons -- would fill their acreage every year with enough to feed the cattle, pigs, chicken and whatever stock they were raising at the time.

"As a rule," he said, "you tried to feed all you got. "If there was any surplus, you could try to sell that."

"I remember buying 50 pigs for five dollars a pig one time back then," he continued. "We raised them and fattened them, then turned around and sold them for five dollars a pig."

Although times were hard for farmers during those years, their families seldom suffered a terrible lack of food.

Like many farmers at the time, Mr. Hossack killed his own meat, and his family ate whatever they could grow in the garden.

There were ducks to lay eggs in the 'thirties, and Mr. Hossack remembers that there was a chap from London who bought duck eggs from the farmers.

"When that stopped, we got rid of the ducks," he said.

Later, in the 'forties, the family had quite a few chickens, and were able to sell eggs at prices that fell as low as 10 cents a dozen.

"We had 30 dozen crates of eggs in the 'forties," said Mr. Hossack, "and a fellow came from Toronto and bought the whole lot for 10 cents

a dozen."

"That's when we got out of chickens," he said. "We just tried everything at one time or another."

Farming equipment in the 'thirties and 'forties was not as primitive as one might think, Emin Hossack was making use of a milking machine for his dairy cows in the depression years, and although he says it was a little different from the modern tank-style milkers, it operated on the same principles.

The milk didn't go into a large bulk tank, as it does now -- waiting for pickup by the milk truck -- but went straight into the old milkcans, which were set into a large cement bin of cool water.

"You had to have it cooled down to 60 degrees to take it into Borden's here in Thamesford," Mr. Hossack recalled.

The milk had to go into the Borden's centre every morning, and the horses would be hitched early each winter day to make the trip into the village. In the summer months, the truck or the car and trailer could navigate the roads to get the milk in on time.

But the milk didn't always go to Borden's, if the price was better at the cheese factory, Mr. Hossack explained. There was no quota system at that time, and the farmers would take their milk for the day to whoever paid them the most for it.

There were no electric cooling systems in the earlier days, as the Hossacks didn't have hydro at their farm until 1937.

"You had to have so many

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# Land and housing prices continue to climb upward

By MARY BIGGS

Ingersoll residents, initially pleased with the announcement of the GM-Suzuki plant, are already feeling some of the ill side-effects which accompany an industrial-based area.

Industrial development leads to changes, and some of these changes are reflected in land and housing prices.

Spectators hoping to get rich quick by selling to other speculators since the GM-Suzuki announcement, have raised land and housing prices.

One such property is the undeveloped Woodhatch subdivision located between Victoria and Bell Streets in Ingersoll. The 41 acre piece of land, originally purchased by Woodhatch Properties Ltd. of Toronto in 1973 for \$170,310, was sold after the GM-Suzuki announcement for \$300,000 to a Brantford numbered company, which in turn, two months later, sold the same piece of land for \$1.4 million.

Land prices, for both residential and commercial-industrial development have risen to the point they are almost double in value as compared to their value prior to the GM-Suzuki announcement.

Wayne Campbell of Wayne Campbell Real Estate, said small, serviced, residential lots, which prior to the announcement sold for \$15,000 to \$17,000, are now selling for \$30,000.

Campbell, one of four investors with Cam-Don Properties Limited, has invested in land for residential

development on a long-term basis.

The company's first project is the construction of homes in a subdivision between Wonham and Whiting Streets, scheduled to begin in 1987.

Land for commercial-industrial development has also doubled in price. Claire Bray of Century 21 Real Estate, said prices for these lots have increased 50 per cent. "The price increase in lots, whether residential or industrial or commercial are directly related to the GM-Suzuki announcement," he said.

Bray said prices for new homes haven't changed much from last year, but he is expecting prices to rise because of the scarcity of building lots which "will reflect a 10-20 per cent increase by the spring."

Bray said a three-bedroom bungalow, which sold for \$80,000 last year is now selling for approximately \$90,000.

The price for a five to ten-year-old home is almost identical to that of a new home. Bray said these homes have risen in value by 30 per cent since 1985 and will probably increase another 10 to 15 per cent in the spring.

Gary Lampkin of Ingersoll Oxford Realty, said "We've had surprisingly high prices which were unheard of in this area; new homes have increased in value 25 per cent over the last eight months."

Older homes, generally believed by many to be cheaper than newer homes, which they were at one time,

are no longer. Lampkin said "last year older homes were slow in appreciating but are now starting to catch up in value."

Bray also agreed that older homes are now becoming more in line with other housing prices.

On a whole, prices have risen from 10 to 50 per cent since the GM-Suzuki announcement," Bray said, adding that he feels the market will stabilize shortly.

Lampkin, however, does not place the onus for rising prices strictly on the CAMI plant, saying "Maybe we're just catching up to other markets, or it could just be the economy in general."

In Alliston, with a comparable town population to that of Ingersoll, prices rose when the announcement to build the Honda plant was made and are still rising.

Katherine Haller, editor of The Alliston Herald, said the increase in prices is related to the increase in development, adding much development has occurred since the plant became operational.

Baris Swidersky, of #8 Realty Ltd., Alliston, said prices have climbed there mainly because of a scarcity of land, a condition which existed previous to the new plant opening in Alliston. At the time land was so scarce, that negotiations had started between four neighboring townships to annex land.

Swidersky said most of the new homes are being built in subdivisions in outlying areas of the township, such as Everitt, which is a 10-15 minute drive from Alliston. "Within the last 10 months, housing prices, especially in these subdivisions have increased \$30,000. A house which sold for \$60,000 last winter is now selling for \$95,000," he said.

Lots have also risen in price. One two-acre treed estate lot, unserviced except for hydro and telephone, is listed at \$32,000. "These lots sell very quickly," Swidersky said.

Swidersky said lots in an industrial park area are now selling for \$45,000.

There are 150 acres of land available in Ingersoll's Industrial Park. As CAMI plant construction continues, spin-off industries have already begun to purchase land for development.

One such company is Dymet of Canada, which recently announced plans to purchase three acres in Ingersoll's Industrial Park for a \$2 million auto parts plant, which will create 40 jobs in the area.

As fewer and fewer lots become available, prices are going to rise. At the present time our prices are comparable to those in Alliston, and will soon level off.

## It's a seller's market in Ingersoll now

Since the announcement of the GM-Suzuki plant in Ingersoll, prices for lots, both serviced and unserviced, and houses have skyrocketed.

Clair Bray of Century 21 Real Estate said prices, including those of houses, have risen up to 50 per cent over last year's prices.

Home owners who are selling homes are getting top dollars, while would-be home buyers are struggling to afford mortgage payments.

All banks in the Ingersoll area have similar qualifications a prospective homeowner must meet in order to qualify for a mortgage.

The first qualification a future home owner must meet is that of a down payment. Down payments must be a minimum of 10 per cent off the selling price. Rich Mudge, credit officer at the Bank of Commerce, said if the down payment is a gift, the bank requires a confirmation letter from the donor stating the money is a non-repayable gift to the purchaser.

Would-be homeowners must also have a secure, steady job for a minimum of at least one year, but banks will look at work histories if the applicant has not been employed by their present firm for the stipulated period of time. Spousal incomes are also taken into consideration.

The ability to financially carry a mortgage is determined by a formula the Gross Debt Service Ratio (GDSR), used by all banks.

The GDSR, usually determined annually, is the cost of the principle, interest, taxes and heating divided by gross annual income. The resulting amount is the most a homeowner can pay to service his home.

The Royal, Commerce and Toronto Dominion Banks have all set this figure at 32 per cent. In other words, a family cannot pay more than 32 per cent of their annual income toward mortgage payments, including principle, interest, taxes, and heating costs.

If the future homeowner has other debts, outside of a mortgage, such as consumer loans or credit card payments, these payments are added onto the amount necessary to carry the home and then divided by the gross annual income. B. Lovey, loans officer for the Bank of Montreal said for someone to qualify for a mortgage their total expenses, divided by gross annual income cannot exceed 35 per cent. This figure varies between banks, ranging from 35 to 40 per cent.

Loans officers from Ingersoll banks agreed the increased costs have not led to a slump in people applying for mortgages. Mudge said people have to realize that a home which sold for \$50,000 a year ago is now selling for \$70,000 and most people know whether they will be able to afford mortgage payments of \$700 per month.

Dnn Campeau, loans officer with the Toronto Dominion Bank, said fewer people have been applying for mortgages recently, but he does not think this is a result of high prices.

"There was a real surge in home buying as soon as rumors of the plant started," Mudge said. "Now there is a shortage of houses, which is probably why fewer people are applying for mortgages - the houses just aren't there," he said, adding many people rather than trying to purchase an existing home are opting for a custom-built home.

INGERSOLL TIMES

December 23, 1986



# 'Oh Henry!' helps keep Ingersoll on map

## Ex-mayor looks back on regime with pride

By Nick Martin  
London Free Press

INGERSOLL — Gord Henry still remembers the day he discovered the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce was going to tear down its fine old building in downtown Ingersoll and replace it with some modern monolith.

People just didn't get away with that sort of thing in Ingersoll back in the '70s — not without tangling with Henry, then something of an institution as the town's mayor.

The owner of a 135-year-old house, Henry knows the value of retaining heritage. Soon, a bank vice-president was invited to lunch and a session of arm-twisting: "I told him the majority of people in Ingersoll would be horrified."

Henry persuaded the bank to call in an architect, who backed up his contention there was nothing wrong with doing business out of a fine old structure.

"I take some credit. I'm sure it has paid off for them," the 74-year-old Henry recalls with a smile of satisfaction as he enjoys retirement in his 19th-century Duke Street home.

Though the mayor of a small town, Henry had a reputation that spread beyond Oxford County. A lot of people knew him as the unabashed politician who handed out Oh Henry! chocolate bars to everyone — from ordinary tourists to Prince Philip — or as the grinning showman with pants rolled up to his knees, jumping up and down in a vat of grapes at the local arena each September.

But there was a serious side to Henry as well, and he is proud of the achievements of his five terms as mayor during 1967-78 after a 20-year term on the board of education, including eight years as chairman.

"I ran on a platform of a 10-year program," Henry explains. He dedicated his term in office to providing Ingersoll with an industrial park, balancing the town's assessment base to protect local homeowners, and improving and preserving the core area. Along the way, he stumbled upon the threat of regional government and led Ingersoll out of its separated-town status and into a form of restructured county government unique to Oxford.



Bill Smith/London Free Press

Gord Henry, former mayor of Ingersoll, stands in front of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce which was to be razed until he pointed out it would be a shame to replace it with a modern building.

"The town... owes him a vote of thanks," says Jack Warden, an Ingersoll merchant and a member of town council from 1969 to 1985. "After all these years, the town can be grateful to him."

When the GM-Suzuki auto plant opens in the town's west end with its thousands of jobs, Warden says, "they can thank Gord Henry for this industrial land."

Henry considers himself a disciple of University of Western Ontario Professor Ed Pleva, who forecast major development in Southwest Ontario 20 years ago and warned municipalities to be ready for it. Ingersoll wasn't ready for expansion, Henry says, but he, industrial commissioner Ted Hunt and planning board chairman Allan Ward pushed for annexation of township lands to the west of the town.

They won only 243 hectares (600 acres) of the 405 hectares (1,000 acres) they sought, but Henry says that annexation was why much of the GM-Suzuki plant will lie within the town limits, and why other industries, such as Fruehauf, have been lured to Ingersoll.

That industrial growth not only supplied jobs, but reduced the property tax burden on homeowners.

Henry approached Queen's Park to gain the power of subdivision control over development in town, which gave council the legal clout to keep businesses from encroaching on residential areas, as the casket company and the cheese plant (which Henry managed until his retirement in 1977) had done.

He was famous for his ability to win head-to-head confrontations with Queen's Park and Ottawa. "He knew the people to go to. He had quite a bit of influence with Ontario politicians, and federal ones, too," Warden says.

A source of great pride for Henry is the move he put on an unidentified cabinet minister to get provincial financing for his cherished Dewan Park at Thames and Charles streets in the heart of downtown. A friend slipped Henry a copy of the ministry's grants guidebook before Henry saw the minister to make a financing pitch.

The minister was stonewalling until Henry recited the pertinent subsection of the program in which Ingersoll's bid would fit. "Well, I believe the mayor has got us," was the minister's response.

The park is owned equally by Ingersoll and the province, and Henry persuaded Queen's Park to decree that it cannot be sold by town council for commercial purposes without the legislature passing an enabling act.

But it was the restructuring of the county which led to Henry's last and biggest battle. The province was imposing regional government on county after county, and plans were being drawn up to regionalize Oxford after carving off chunks of the county to give to Waterloo and Brant.

London Free Press  
January 29, 1987

Random Free Press  
January 29, 1987

Oxford drew up plans to fight, Henry recalls.

Ingersoll had separated from the county structure in 1914 over a squabble involving a roads bill for \$1,400, he says. "It cost this town untold hundreds of thousands of dollars" because Ingersoll had to rent much of its services from the county without having any political input. "I was very much in favor of Ingersoll rejoining the county. I went to hundreds of meetings."

It was Henry who made many of those meetings bearable, says Wendy Calder, then a Woodstock alderman and later mayor.

"Not only was he fast at deciphering many, many pieces of informa-

tion, he also did it with wit.

"I thought he was a very astute politician, and looked out for the good of Ingersoll without knocking county council. He wanted it to work for the good of the whole county."

Henry recalls that Oxford wanted to reduce its municipalities from 18 to eight, with Ingersoll and Woodstock rejoining the county system, and the county council having responsibility for issues of mutual benefit. There would be 10 urban and 10 rural members of council. Henry suggested sewage and water remain local responsibilities, and it was he who insisted every issue be hammered out to everyone's sat-

isfaction so there would be no rural-urban spill.

The province started complaining at a Woodstock meeting that Oxford wasn't doing things the way they had been done in Waterloo or other regionalized counties, Henry says. "I pounded the table and said this act is not for the benefit of Queen's Park; it is for the benefit of Oxford County."

Restructuring passed easily at county and Woodstock councils, but it was Henry who broke the tie in Ingersoll council. "We were the last municipality to vote, and I was the last one to vote."

Restructuring has worked to Ingersoll's advantage, Henry stresses.

He shudders to think "what the town . . . would be doing with its garbage if we were not part of the county."

MPP Harry Parrott, then Oxford MPP, credits Henry with forcing the implementation of restructuring on Jan. 1, 1975, before the provincial election was called. Enough people were opposed or skeptical about restructuring, Parrott says, that "if I had had to face an election, I'd be dead."

But for all that he contributed to Ingersoll, it is for lighter moments that Henry is remembered beyond the town's borders.

"We always remember him for his Oh Henry! bars," says Oxford

Tory MP Bruce Halliday of Tavistock. "I didn't always get one, but my wife did. He was a real gentleman."

Henry gives credit for the idea of the chocolate bars to car dealer Ted Fleischer: "I grabbed onto it right away." Even though the chocolate bar manufacturer refused to supply him with the bars, Henry gave away 27,000 in nine years.

Henry gave a chocolate bar to Pierre Trudeau, and had one for each of William Davis's children when he made Ingersoll the first place he visited after becoming premier.

Henry's biggest coup was relaying a chocolate bar to Prince Philip during a Southwestern Ontario reception in London. "I handed it to (London city clerk) Reg Cooper and he gave it to the prince. I could see him carrying it around with him and he finally put it in his pocket."

Henry was right at home when he played host to the mayor's grape stomp each year at the Ingersoll Cheese and Wine Festival, where he cavorted in stomping grapes in competition with other mayors. "I took part in nine grape stomps," Henry remembers fondly. "That got Ingersoll a lot of publicity. We were on national TV."

He also numbers among his greatest thrills winning the mayors trophy at the International Plowing Match in Guelph, even though he hadn't touched a plow in 30 years.

He also whipped politicians half his age in a snowshoe race in Woodstock, drawing on the days 50 years before when he'd snowshoed to school across the fields of the Ottawa Valley. And he didn't mention being raised on a dairy farm when he won a milking contest in Woodstock one year, although he did offer some advice to then Woodstock mayor Jim Hutchison: "You're pumping milk back into the cow!"

Henry has not slowed down in retirement. He and his wife, Aleda, still live in the heart of town, just a block away from town hall. A pro-John Turner delegate to the recent Liberal convention, Henry has been heavily involved in fund-raising for such groups as the cancer society and Salvation Army for 10 years, and has put his flamboyance on the public stage to good use by appearing in four plays so far with the local little theatre.

"People ask me if I'm retired. I say no. I get six months' vacation twice a year."

# Life in town not the same for Jimmy's closest friend

Featured stories  
by PHYLIS COULTER  
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — The last time Andy Swanson saw his friend Arthur James "Jimmy" Parsons was the night before Parsons was killed by a train at the Thames Street North level crossing.

It was Sunday night and "it was hot," Swanson told *The Daily Sentinel-Review*.

The two men shared a small blue bungalow at 106 Carroll St. for about 10 years and that Sunday night they had sat side by side in chairs on the porch with cats in their laps.

Earlier in the day Parsons had suffered a severe epileptic seizure near the flea market, not far from the tracks where he died, Swanson said.

The reality of his friend's death hasn't quite registered with Swanson who said he sometimes forgets and expects to see Jimmy walk in the door. Then he remembers.

"If I had been there, I would have pulled him off the track," Swanson said.

Swanson and Parsons were familiar in the community because of their unusual appearance. Parsons was a tall man with long unkempt hair. When Swanson opened the door partially to talk with this reporter, he was wearing a brown fedora and rumpled clothing. His face was covered with a bristle of whiskers.

He said he was busy but he spent about half an hour at the door talking quietly and sensitively about his friend. He was friendly and paused sometimes to carefully choose his words.

Swanson recalled Parsons' seizures would come with little warning and he would lose control. After the seizure, he wouldn't remember anything that happened during it, Swanson said.

He was familiar with his friend's problem. He helped Parsons through the seizures the best he could. He remembers some vividly.

Once while playing bingo, Parsons with his arms flailing, sent another man's bingo cards flying.

More recently at a doughnut shop in Ingersoll, Parsons suffered a seizure. He leapt over the counter frightening the waitresses. "I couldn't hold him," Swanson said.

He knocked things over. An ash tray went to the floor but did not break. Parsons was told not to return to the restaurant.

Parsons was really hurt by the episode. He wore a sign around his neck on Heritage Day in Ingersoll — the Saturday before he died — telling his story. The phone rang and

## Ruled suicide

INGERSOLL — No inquest will be held in connection with the June 15 death of Arthur James "Jimmy" Parsons, who was struck by an east-bound freight train on Thames Street North.

"It was a straight forward case of suicide," Oxford Coroner Dr. James Town said Friday.

Parsons died after lying down on the tracks. He did not suffer an epileptic seizure, the coroner said.

Town confirmed that Parsons told several people he was going to kill himself by lying on the railway tracks.

rang in their home as people called about the incident. Some called to harrass him about it. When he'd hang up it would ring again.

Swanson was sick of the calls, he wanted to leave the phone off the hook.

It was not the first time Parsons was pestered by cruel words uttered over the phone. He was so angry

once he nearly pulled the phone out of the wall, Swanson said.

Parsons "had a lot on his mind lately." He had more seizures when he was bothered about something, Swanson said.

When the police came to him about the accident, Swanson was surprised and shocked. At first he thought it happened at the south end of town where Parsons often walked.

Parsons liked to walk and Swanson would sometimes accompany him. He would "wear out 10 pairs of shoes in a year," Swanson joked, adding that his own shoes lasted much longer.

Parsons found release from his problems in walking. He would walk all hours of the day or night. He would often walk around at 3 or 5 a.m. and sometimes stop somewhere for a coffee.

He was off for a long walk the day he died.

It took Parsons almost two years to urge his friend to move into his house in Ingersoll.

But Swanson is leaving soon. "It's too lonely here now."

Swanson says he has some places he can go; he will be leaving the area. He doesn't know what will happen to the house. He suggested a business may want the property for a parking lot.

"They may tear it (the house) down. Times changes things."

## Neighbor remains angry at way people treated him

A neighbor who was annoyed how people treated Parsons in life, does not like how he is being treated in death either.

"People drive by stopping their cars thinking his ghost is going to go out the door," said the neighbor who asked her name not be used.

She is still angry about how people treated him. She said they will miss Parsons on the street only because they won't have him to tease, point fingers at, and spit at.

In the past, the woman drove Parsons to Woodstock to get his medicine, and read his mail to him. Parsons could not read or write.

She had also helped Parsons' mother, now 90 and in a nursing home, when she lived on Carroll Street. But the neighbor admits she feels guilty -- like she could have done more.

In the three weeks before Parson's death, he stopped to talk to the woman on her porch or in the backyard and frequently told her nobody cared about him. In the last seven days of his life he was "tormented," she said.

"He was a human being that nobody cared about. I felt sorry for him."

She tried to coax him to cut his hair, but again he said nobody cared. She got the same response when she urged him to go to see his doctor and get new medicine.

*SENTINEL REVIEW*

June 23, 1987

# Ingersoll popular tourist town

Major Thomas Ingersoll, father of the legendary Laura Secord, liked the area so much he settled here.

Slave abolitionist John Brown liked to drink here.

Novelist and naturalist Catherine Parr Traill stopped here and wrote glowingly about it.

GM-Suzuki liked their visit here so much they decided to locate here.

Through the years, Ingersoll has proved itself a popular tourist town, drawing thousands every summer to its parks, activities and museums.

One of the most obvious tourist attractions are the four museums, which combine the pastoral setting of Centennial Park with its rustic, historically accurate buildings.

The Ingersoll Cheese Factory has enjoyed a wide variety of tourist business this summer. Among those taking advantage of this functional

factory replica have been visitors from as far away as Texas, British Columbia, England and France.

Factory curator Brenda Heeney said the museum is averaging about 95 visitors a week with weekend attendance being the best.

The Cheese Factory Museum recalls the origins of Ingersoll's well known reputation as a cheese making community. In 1840, the first cheese factory in Canada, of which this recalls, was built. The birth place also of the Canadian Dairyman's Association in 1867, Ingersoll is probably best remembered as the home of the Big Cheese.

The "mammoth cheese" as it was referred to, was the product of the James Harris Cheese Factory, located just south of the museum site. Weighing in at 7,300 pounds and measuring 3 feet in width and seven feet in diameter, the cheese was exhibited at the New York State Fair and all over England. A three hun-

dred pound chunk of it eventually returned home to be consumed by factory workers and interested Ingersoll citizens.

A plaque just south of the museums on Highway 19 commemorates the Big Cheese. As well, The Elm Hurst, the James Harris family home, still stands.

As anyone who has lived in Ingersoll knows, the Elm Hurst now serves as a restaurant, art gallery and museum in its own right. It is often the first thing tourists see, perched high on a hill over the 401.

Farming is another important Ingersoll industry well represented and recalled at the Centennial Park museums. The Historical Museum offers the tourist examples of farming artifacts and working machinery. The newly opened blacksmith shop, with its forges and elaborate harnesses gives the tourist a good indication of the complex labour that went into even the simplest metal creation.

The Sports Hall of Fame, takes a more personal look at the community in honouring recent and not-so-recent outstanding athletes from this area.

Museum Curator Ted Hunt said the four structures have enjoyed a significant increase in attendance this summer. 928 tourists have walked through the museum to date, compared to 1285 all last summer.

"With one and a half months left, we're well on our way to an increase in summer attendance," he said.

But this is only the tip of the iceberg; make that mammoth cheese. There are no doubt thousands of unrecorded tourists who travel through Ingersoll each day, taking advantage of its parks, the Creative Arts Center, recreation facilities, the Saturday market, and downtown shopping. As evidenced by the famous and near-famous who have ventured through its town limits over the years, Ingersoll has the power to draw a crowd on a summer day.

INGERSOLL TIMES  
August 5, 1987

# Town clears up a couple of mini curiosities

By PAULINE KERR  
for The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Thanks to the response of a few Ingersoll residents, two small mysteries have been solved.

Walter Appleby noticed the photograph in a recent *Sentinel-Review* showing an old

postcard of the high school with a foot bridge in front. He can remember fishing from the bridge using "a bent pin and black thread tied to my toe."

Said Appleby: "the bridge would be on George Street down by the old manual training shop at the school. They used to teach woodworking there. Later on, they raised the roof and made it into a gym but in 1917 it was a shop."

The other mystery remains only partly solved. London veterinarian Jack Rosen acquired a book which once belonged to an Ingersoll chiropractor named Dr. Best, who lived on Carroll Street. George Mayberry remembers Dr. Best from 1918 or 1919 and thinks he left his Ingersoll practice in the 1920's. Violet Harrison confirmed the dates: "In 1915, when I was little my dad took me to Dr. Best."

Ron Case lives in the house formerly occupied by Dr. Best. In doing renovations on the building, he found evidence of a series of small rooms, possibly examining rooms, in the back part of the house. He also discovered Dr. Best's business card behind a wall. It seems

Dr. Best was a naturopath.

While excavating for a swimming pool, Case found additional evidence of Dr. Best. "The yard was filled with old medicine bottles, lots of them, some blue, some brown. There's probably still plenty of them there."

The most interesting part of the mystery remains unsolved. Nobody seems to know why Dr. Best owned veterinary hooks. Did he treat animals using natural methods? Was veterinary medicine a hobby? Anyone with answers call 485-4092.



ANOTHER FAMILIAR locale in Ingersoll. And a tribute to another doctor, Dr. Carroll, whose life was lost during his heroics at an historic Ingersoll flood. This park entrance and the marker to honor a great man is on King Street East.



DR. BEST had his office here. Ron Case discovered the business card of the Ingersoll naturopath while doing renovations to the house on Carroll Street.

(Photo by Pauline Kerr)

Sentinel-Review  
 August 19, 1987

London Free Press  
August 15, 1987

## ON THE ROAD

PAGE FOURTEEN

### CHEESE IS THE BIG DRAW TO INGERSOLL

DAVID E. SCOTT

Before it closes for the season, drop into Ingersoll's Cheese Museum and have a look around. There's no admission charge to it, or to the adjacent Ingersoll Sports Hall of Fame, the Blacksmith Shop, or the Agriculture Museum.

The four buildings at the entrance to Centennial Park have been set up by, and are operated by, the Town of Ingersoll.

This pleasant town of 8,000, usually overlooked because it's overshadowed by its larger neighbor Woodstock, with a population of 28,000, has a lot to offer the browser. Oxford County cheese has achieved international acclaim over the years, and Ingersoll was the county's cheese capital from the mid-1800s to the early 1900s. It was near Ingersoll in about 1840 that Canada's first cheese factory was built, just four years before the first Canadian co-operative cheese factory was built in nearby Norwich.

Ingersoll also saw the beginning of the Canadian Dairymen's Association in 1867 which sprung up due to Oxford County's cheese production prowess, and from the farmers' drive to improve and standardize the dairy industry. An historic site plaque beside Highway 19, about one kilometre south of the museum, marks the site where The Big Cheese was made in 1866.

The James Harris Cheese Factory produced the 3,311-kilogram (7,300-pound) cheddar cheese to promote Oxford County's cheese industry. The metre-high circular cheese, more than two metres (6.5 feet) in diameter, was exhibited at the New York State Fair in Sarasota, and then shown all over England.

The Cheese Museum is a faithful replica of an early cheese factory. Interpretive guides are available to explain the 20 steps of cheese making, showing the visitor the actual equipment that was used in each process.

The four-year-old Historical Museum is housed in a replica of an early Oxford County barn. There are the usual complements of rural artifacts and farming equipment, some in working order. The 816-kilogram (1,800-pound) town bell has been placed atop the building and when the museum is open, the bell is rung at noon and 6 p.m. as it was a century ago, or whenever it was needed to summon the volunteer fire department.

Of less interest to area non-residents is the Sports Hall of Fame, though it is surprising to discover how many successful sports figures have been produced by such a small town. At a dedication banquet last year, 21 individuals and 11 teams were inducted to the hall whose criterion for induction is the winning of gold in provincial, national, international or Olympic



DAVID E. SCOTT/FREE PRESS

The former mansion of cheese factory owner James Harris is now Ingersoll's popular Elm Hurst restaurant.

competition

The only accommodation at Ingersoll listed in the Ontario Accommodations guide is the Jet Set Motel on Highway 19, just south of Highway 401, and a couple of kilometres south of downtown Ingersoll.

The 21-unit motel — which got its upscale name from a contest held by its first owner — has comfortable rooms with standard fixtures, four-piece bathrooms en

suite, and TV sets that bring in five channels. Rates run from \$32 to \$60 depending on the season, and weekend rates can be negotiated, particularly after Labor Day. Write: Jet Set Motel, RR 5 Ingersoll, Ont. N5C 3J8, or telephone 519-485-0539.

Just north of the motel is Ingersoll's showplace dining spot. It's the Victorian-Gothic former mansion of cheese factory owner James Harris, now the venue of fine dining in six

rooms on the ground floor and private dining rooms upstairs.

Lunch is served at Elm Hurst buffet style or a la carte from noon to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday. On Saturday, it's buffet only from noon to 2 p.m. Sunday there's a buffet brunch from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dinners Monday through Saturday are served from 5 p.m., Sunday from 4 to 8 p.m. Reservations are recommended. Call 519-485-5321.

Elm Hurst's menu doesn't have many surprises, but it does have a generous selection for all tastes and appetites. Five appetizers are priced from \$3.75 for chicken liver pate with Cumberland to \$6.95 for a jumbo shrimp cocktail. There are three soups and two salads.

There are a dozen entrees from \$11.95 for filet of sole with crab stuffing, a seafood medley of scallop, shrimp and crab with asparagus, or chicken breast stuffed with shrimp, cheddar and mushrooms. Special dinners for two are a chateaubriand bouquetiere at \$38, or a six-course Hunt Feast for which 24 hours notice is required.

Other entrees, most in the \$13 to \$14 range, and including vegetables, rolls, potted cheese and butter, include veal, pork, salmon, roast beef and steaks.

Ground has been broken behind the 115-year-old Elm Hurst for a 50-unit motel complex with meeting rooms. It's expected to open next spring ◊

David E. Scott is travel editor of The Free Press.

## When Cheese was King

# Archives promote local book

The Norwich Archives is promoting sales of a locally written book: *When Cheese was King*.

The book was drafted by Mrs. Marie Jackson, who was inspired by memories of a generous cheese maker who used to fill the school children's lunch pails with freshly made curds as they went back and forth from school.

As the wife of a Holstein breeder, she enthusiastically gathered items for a display of the history of the dairy industry in Oxford County for the 1980 International Ploughing Match.

Mrs. Jackson continued to gather material until 1986 when Edward Moore was approached to write the story of the industry that not only made Oxford prosperous, but the dairy capital of Ontario.

Mr. Moore, a graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College and a former dairy farmer with an interest in history, performed the challenging task of writing the story from often incomplete documentation of the 160 cheese factories.

His interest in the project was maintained, no doubt, because of family involvement in the industry.

His grandfather was one of the early unrecorded cheese manufacturers in Oxford, and his father had been a cheese maker in that factory. His mother was employed in a Perth County cheese factory and was a friend of Mrs. Ranney, the pioneer cheese maker of Salford, for whom she had great respect.

An attempt has been made in the book to give a partial history of the cheese industry in Oxford County.

The entire dairy industry, which has played and continues to play such a large part in the agriculture of this country, owes its origin and development to the establishment of the cheese industry about 120 years ago.

Almost overnight, the whole farming picture changed, following 1864 with the establishment of the first commercial cheese factory near Norwich.

Today, Oxford has three cheese factories in production in Bright, Tavistock and Uniondale.

The book of 155 pages, complete with pictures, appendix of cheese factory listings and name index, is available at the Norwich Archives--for \$10 plus postage--or at the Woodstock and Ingersoll cheese museums.

INGERSOLL TIMES

September 9, 1987

Nine-year-old shares the flame

# Local boy makes history

By MICHELLE MUYLEAERT

Doug Gullons will help make a part of history early next year. Carrying the Olympic torch is a once in a lifetime opportunity that has come early for this Ingersoll nine-year-old.

Doug was the only Ingersoll resident chosen to run the flame which will pass through town January 4. It is by sheer coincidence the youth

will be running that very day for a one kilometer stretch on County Road into Beachville. That location was another lucky break for the youth who could have been running anywhere in Canada. With mock disappointment, Doug said he would have liked to have been called to run elsewhere.

"I wanted to go on an airplane," he said. Every Oxford County student submitted an entry ballot to run back in June. Many, according to Doug, took the liberty of filling out several. He submitted only a single application.

Approximately 6.5 million applications were sent into the Petro-Canada torch-bearer lottery. Doug was extremely lucky - only one in every 1,000 applicants was selected to carry the torch.

A shy boy, Doug is a little uncomfortable with his newfound celebrity status at Zorra Highland School where he is a Grade 4 student. There are posters plastered throughout the school's hallways which ask the question, "Doug Gullons, Are your feet ready?"

Students are crossing off the days on calendars as a countdown for the run which they will all be permitted to witness. And if that is not enough, Doug said school principal Alex Seaton mentions his name "morning and night" on the daily announcements.

"We are very excited," Seaton said. "We are one of the few schools with a runner."

The entire school will be on route

to cheer Doug on carrying banners and candles. "We are going to show our support and love for Doug," Seaton said.

It is all a little overwhelming for the modest boy who wrote on his original application that he wanted to bear the torch because "It looked like fun." Mother Cathy thought that reasoning was a little superficial so after further consideration, Doug decided it would be an honor to represent Canada and his school and the chance of a lifetime for himself.

In training for about six weeks now, Doug has been running laps on the spacious lawn of his RR 2 home and during recess at school. Brother Jean Paul, 14, rigged up a pseudo-torch of similar weight for his younger sibling to carry and has appointed himself coach.

Left-handed Doug is a little worried that his arm may not be able to bear the weight of the 2.3 kilogram (nearly five pound) torch for the one kilometer stretch. The family, however is significantly more confident.

The Gullons, including two brothers and a sister all plan to accompany Doug on his big day, running on the sidelines for encouragement. With that kind of support he can not go wrong.

Doug will be running on day 49 of the torch's 88-day journey. The torch will be in Oxford County for approximately six and one half hours. organizers it is the longest trip ever undertaken, covering a distance of

Continued on Page 2

## Olympic run

Continued from Page 1  
18,000 km. It is also the most expensive, with the crown corporation spending between eight and nine million dollars.

INGERSOLL TIMES

November 16, 1987





JUG.  
Times  
Nov. 16, 1987

- Nine-year-old Doug Gullons will be the only Ingersoll representative given the opportunity to carry the Olympic flame. The youth will run with the torch for a one-kilometer stretch on County Road coming into Beachville January 4.

# Ingersoll residents rewarded for Olympian spirit

The Olympic torch will pass through town January 4. In keeping with the "Olympian spirit," outstanding Ingersoll citizens who have contributed to the well-being of their community will be rewarded.

"Celebration 88" will recognize those Canadians in over 400 communities who have demonstrated characteristics which are in keeping with the admirable ideals of the Olympic spirit: hard work, determination, moral character and dedication to the community.

The "Celebration 88" Awards Program has two parts. The medals honor individuals who have made outstanding contributions to amateur sports and the certificates recognize those who have contributed to the quality of life in the community.

Cynthia Armstrong, a teacher at IDCI, headed the selection committee who reviewed the Ingersoll candidates and chose the six medal and nine certificate winners for the event.

The winners will be presented their awards in a brief ceremony at 10 a.m. January 4 outside the Ingersoll arena just prior to the arrival of the torch.

#### MEDAL WINNERS

Ken Armstrong and Susan Little will receive the outstanding male and female athletes medals for their

contribution to their sport and community.

Armstrong participated in the 1976 Montreal Olympics as a member of the Canadian diving team. He was also a member of the Canadian team for the boycotted 1980 Moscow Olympics.

Although Armstrong failed to bring home an Olympic medal he participated in the 1974 New Zealand and 1978 Edmonton Commonwealth games where he picked up a silver medalist for his country.

Armstrong, 33, has since given up competitive diving and is presently coaching at the University of Texas.

Armstrong's mother, Ruth, remembers the long hours of practice her son put in year after year to achieve his lofty goal.

"I expect it was a lifelong dream."

Susan Little may soon follow in Armstrong's footsteps. She has been a star basketball player since her days as a junior at IDCI. Described as a "gangly, little colt" by Grade 9 coach Anne McKillop, she blossomed into "the epitome of an athlete."

Little was on the Oxford-Elgin provincial team in 1983 and 1984 and joined the Ontario Junior Provincial Team in 1987. She was recently awarded a gold card from the Ontario Elite Athlete Assistance program.

Continued on Page 6

Continued from Page 1

This award is worth \$1,000 in cash and makes her eligible for the Best Ever Achievement award, worth a year's tuition at Wilfrid Laurier University where she is a student.

But perhaps more important than the money is the meaning of the award. A spokesman at the Sports and Fitness Branch of the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation said it recognizes athletes who have the potential of "making a national or Olympic team."



Dale Hurley

Gayle Morgan became a hockey mother 14 years ago, guided her son through the sport and has served on the minor hockey executive for the past eight years. On January 4 she will be rewarded for her efforts when she receives the "Celebration 88" Volunteer medal.

She has organized fund-raising bingos and paper drives for the teams, was a booster for the Intermediate B's and was instrumental in forming the Minor Hockey Mother's Tournament 10 years ago.

Morgan has also taken on the laborious task of washing and sewing crests on 350 sweaters, one for each boy on the 21 minor hockey teams. But for Morgan, who spends four or five nights a week at the arena, the work does not come without reward.

"The boys really enjoy it," she said. "Sometimes more than the parents realize."

Colin Slimmon spent at least part of his Christmas holidays doing one of his favorite things, coaching his boy's high school basketball team. It is that kind of dedication that earned him the "Celebration 88" Coach medal.

Slimmon, who is also a physical education teacher at IDCI, has coached many sports over the years including football, track and badminton but has recently concentrated his efforts on boys and girls basketball.

He spends every night after school priming the students for their games and helping them to reach their full potential. Admired by students and parents, Slimmon believes coaching gives him a big advantage over the other teachers at IDCI.

"I really enjoy it," Slimmon said. "I got to know the kids in another way."

Jim Fitzmorris' quarter of a century dedication to minor hockey earned him the "Celebration 88" Official medal.

Fitzmorris became a member of the minor hockey executive 25 years ago and began his refereeing duties a year later. He also coaches the novice house league team in Ingersoll.

Fitzmorris said he enjoys coaching and refereeing equally as well. Both allow him continued participation in the sport he has enjoyed since a youngster.

"I always tried to play hockey," he said. "This keeps you in the game."

Many amateur sports teams could not exist without sponsorship. Providing assistance to just about every sport in Ingersoll has earned Dale Hurley of Hurley's IGA the "Celebration 88" Sponsor medal.



Tom Pavey

Over a 13-year span, Hurley has supported the Ingersoll B's sweaters program, the Minor Hockey Mother's Tournament, Men's and Ladies Slo-Pitch, the Men's Junior Fastball team, the IGA Curling Bonspiel, the IGA Lawn Bowling Tournament, the Ingersoll bowling league, the Pro Am Golf Tournament, the Pool Sunday brunch and the Big Brothers and Sisters organization.

Hurley's dedication to sponsorship stems from his interest in sports as a youngster and his desire to reimburse the community for their support of his business.

"We make our living in the community," Hurley said. "They sponsor us."

#### CERTIFICATES

Nine widely diversified Ingersoll residents will be presented with certificates for their contribution to the quality of life in their community. Those winners include:

Gail MacKay, the driving force behind the indoor pool fund-raising activities.

Mildred Batten, the 92-year-old who continues to tutor public school children in her home five nights a week as she has done for years.

Reverend Roger McCombe, who is active in the community in a non-athletic way but with an "Olympian Spirit." He writes for the Ingersoll Times, teaches and preaches. All with a real zest for life and people.

Doug Harris, the mayor of Ingersoll who has been instrumental in the development of many local sports teams and behind the bettering of some of the sporting facilities in Ingersoll. He, too, has coached many sports.

Tom Pavey, who has volunteered for various sports including the Junior B and C hockey teams and was instrumental in forming the Snowmobile Club in Ingersoll. He sat on the recreation committee for a number of years in the 1970's and will be active on the Ingersoll Hall of Fame Committee in the coming year.

Stan Doyle, who helped establish minor soccer in Ingersoll in 1968. Since that time the numbers of players have increased six-fold to include 300 local children.

Dale Bell, who has made a contribution to culture through his work with ITOPA and has provided cultural exposure for students by arranging trips to the Grand Theatre in London.

Harvey Fishleigh, who has devoted a great deal of time and effort to the revitalization of Junior fastball and a Bantam team in Ingersoll in addition to coaching.

A certificate will be presented posthumously in honor of Goose (Roy) Land who began his hockey career in his hometown of Ingersoll on a minor team in 1940. In 1948 he joined Junior hockey, was at the New York Rangers Camp in 1950 and placed with a Junior A team in Guelph. He played with the Ingersoll Reems in 1955 and the Tillsonburg Maroons Intermediate A team. In later years Goose became a player coach for various teams.

The selection committee wants to encourage as many people as possible to attend the "Celebration 88" award ceremonies at the arena. Following the presentation, the

... Home with at

rive at 10:35 a.m.  
The torch is scheduled to arrive at 10:55 a.m. followed by the mayor's speech and a presentation of a pla-

que to the mayor commemorating the torch visit to Ingersoll

The departure of the flame and the motor home is scheduled for 11:05. Anyone who can not attend the

ceremony is encouraged to line the streets and take part in an official Olympic event.



Susan Little



Gail Morgan



INGERSOLL TIMES

December 30, 1987

# Thousands cheer torch on way

*It was love affair throughout area*

By Howard Burns  
London Free Press

**INGERSOLL** — Southwestern Ontario's sizzling love affair with the Olympic torch ended Monday the same way it began — on a red-hot emotional high.

Everywhere along its final 100 kilometre-route through the region's countryside, residents braved bitter cold and blowing snow to bid curbside farewells.

Chris Borland was among them. The high school student could barely wait to get a glimpse of the flame during its brief wind-swept appearance in her home town of Ingersoll.

"I just want to see it," shouted an excited Borland, 16, clutching a miniature Canadian flag as she and several chilled friends stood on the sidelines.

She viewed the flame's time-to-the-minute arrival as a way to beat the post-Christmas blues and ease back into the routine of daily classes after a two-week break.

Their survival pack for the outing included thick socks, warm boots, mittens — and enthusiasm.

"It will never come through Ingersoll again. It'll be cool."

She let out a cheer as torch runner Bill Simpson, left, of London as the relay team passed through their community en route to Stratford.

See **TORCH B2** ▶



Susan Bradnam/London Free Press

Many Ingersoll students were let out of classes Monday morning to share the Olympic flame with torch bearers such as Bill Simpson, left, of London as the relay team passed through their community en route to Stratford.

London Free Press  
January 5, 1998

## ◆ TORCH from B1

Simpson of London passed on his way to an outdoor welcoming ceremony at Ingersoll District Memorial Centre about 11:05 a.m.

Touching the torch was out of the question as Simpson whisked the it toward the makeshift stage at a brisk pace surrounded by escort runners from Petro-Canada.

Borland was among the thousands of residents who turned out between London and Kitchener-Waterloo to give the flame a rousing sendoff before it heads north.

It was an unusual day for Ingersoll police who had crowd control as a top priority.

Despite sub-zero temperatures and a bone-chilling morning wind, about 1,000 Olympic relay fans plugged the downtown area to greet the torch in Ingersoll.

Victory Memorial School pupil Steven Pettapiece, 12, was eager to explain the

grassroots excitement surrounding the flame's cross-country trek to the Calgary Games. "Hey, it's an historic event," said the parka-clad Pettapiece, holding a camera and a souvenir candle as the flame came into sight on Mutual Street North.

Just moments later Simpson passed the torch to a beaming Ingersoll Mayor Doug Harris, who raised it high. "What a day for Ingersoll," Harris said, inviting spectators to share and remember the spirit of the Olympic flame during the Games, which open Feb. 13.

A teary-eyed Simpson, who applied to be a torch bearer "because at my age (52) I'm too old to compete," raised his arms in victory after his one-kilometre run.

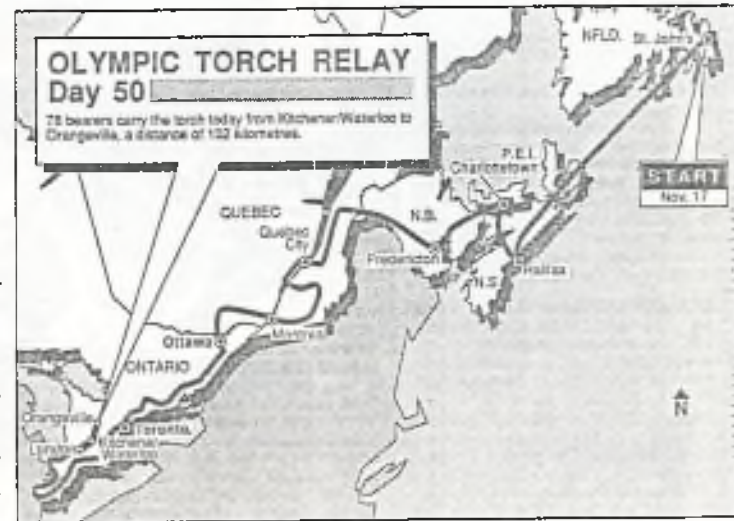
Simpson, who encountered blowing snow

as he arrived in Ingersoll, said he kept the torch tilted back slightly to keep it from going out along the way.

"The uniforms are fantastically warm," said Simpson, an employee with the Ontario fire marshal's office and one of 68 torchbearers to carry the flame Monday.

The flame then moved east to Woodstock for a noon-hour ceremony and then north on Highway 59 through Oxford County. The torch arrived at Stratford city hall about 60 minutes behind schedule at 8:30 p.m. after runners were slowed by drifting snow and the raw wind, said Mayor Ted Blowes, who estimated about 4,500 people turned out for the ceremony.

Today it is to be carried between Kitchener-Waterloo and Orangeville.



# Torch ignites Olympic spirit in Ingersoll

By MICHELLE MUYLAERT

It had all the makings of long-time memory.

Hundreds of people lined the streets to welcome the flame into Ingersoll with unabashed enthusiasm. Even the sub-zero temperatures and an unanticipated deluge of snow could not dampen the spirits of those who wanted to witness a part of the longest torch relay in history.

The torch wound its way into town on Day 49 of an 88-day trek to Calgary for the February winter games. About 1,500 cheering people made up the crowd waiting outside Ingersoll arena, and welcomed the torch as it made its way up Mutual Street from Thamesford.

Men and women, cheeks and noses reddened by the frosty air, greeted the flame from the sidelines. Children, shivering in their multi-layered clothing, waved official candles and paper replicas of the flame. Many rushed to the runners for a fleeting touch of the torch which has become a symbol of the strength and hope inspired by the games.

Celebration 88 awards and certificates were distributed to their recipients in a ceremony just prior to the arrival of the torch which was officially welcomed by the mayor.

Doug Harris, holding the torch high in the air, praised Ingersoll for their long-term involvement in sports and predicted the Calgary games will be the best in Olympic history.

Even when the torch leaves Ingersoll, the Olympic spirit will remain, Harris said.

"Jungle Jim" Hunter, who has been the acting master of ceremonies since the flame landed in St. John's Newfoundland from a flight originating in Greece, kept the cold and anxious crowd entertained. A former member of the Canadian Ski Team and a bronze medalist at the 1972 Winter Olympics in Japan, he is no stranger to the magic of the event.

When the torch arrived, Harris and other medal and certificate winners, lit candles from the ever-glowing flame in an almost religious fashion. The cold caused much of the crowd to disperse before they could share in the flame.

Nine-year-old Doug Gullons, Ingersoll's sole torch bearer, was one of several who ran a one-kilometer distance between Ingersoll and Beachville. Encouraged by family members who ran beside him on the sidelines, Doug held the 3.5-pound torch high with a little occasional support from the escort runners.

"It was an experience I'll never forget and it was fun," Doug gushed at the closing ceremonies in London.

With a broad smile and the pants of his official Olympic relay uniform bagging at the ankles, Doug carried the torch proudly past his Zorra Highland schoolmates who lined County Road 9 sporting banners and good cheer.

Although Doug showed little sign of fatigue on his trek, he reportedly ate three chocolate bars to regain his strength when back in the comfort of the Olympic van.

Doug passed the flame in Thamesford runner Audrey Graham, 14, a student at IDCI.

Graham said she had little trouble going the distance following daily exercises of holding a baseball bat in the air and running with a heavy steel mallet.

Graham was out of the country when the competition for the torch relay began, attending an English boarding school on the Isle of Wight.

Her sixteen-year-old sister Amy filled out 2,000 applications in her absence and Audrey was one of the lucky 6,520 randomly chosen from the 6.5 million entries.

Some of the kindness was returned when Audrey stopped her trek so that Amy, who suffers from cancer, could share in the glory.

"I let her hold the torch," Amy, who was also encouraged by three brothers and a friend, said. "It was fun. I liked it."

Embro's Dianne Dellar, who continued the journey into Beachville, said the excitement of the run blocked out any of the negativity surrounding it.

"I didn't even feel the cold," Dellar, who trained with a cardboard tube filled with stones since she learned she would be running in July, said. "I could have run even further."

Dellar said she decided she wanted to be a part of the torch relay to set an example for her children to participate and allow them to realize that if you enter something there is a possibility you could win.

"I wanted to make a memory for my children," Dellar said.

The flame and torch have been symbols of the Olympic Games since the ancient Greeks competed in athletics in the fifth century B.C. In those games, athletes gathered at Olympia and ran races to win the honor of lighting a torch to the patron of the host city.

In the modern games, torch running began with the 1936 Berlin Summer Olympics. More than 3,300 runners carried the torch from Olympia in Greece across 6,000 kilometers and seven countries to Berlin.

The torch, new on its way to Calgary, will pass through more than 800 cities, towns and villages in Canada with its entourage of 70, including drivers, co-ordinators,

escort runners, medical and security personnel, most of whom are Petro-Canada employees, the official sponsor of the torch relay.

The over 6,500 torch bearers range

in age from four to 75 and include about 300 designated runners - physically or mentally challenged, native people and Olympians.

Modelled after the Calgary tower,

the torch is lit by the Olympic flame, kindled Nov. 15 at Olympia, Greece. To maintain the integrity of the symbolic flame, relay officials had to assure the Greeks that no other

flame would burn in the torch. The difficulty facing games organizers was how to get the flame to Canada. The solution was to fly the flame from Greece in a brass miner's lamp, similar in design to a camping lamp. Once in Canada, a total of 11 lamps house the Olympic flame. If the torch should go out during the course of the relay, it can only be relit by the flame from one of the lamps.

When the relay retires around 9 p.m. each night, the miner's lamps are kept in a safe place by the relay security chief. Each morning one of the lamps will light the torch anew until its long journey from Greece ends at the 1988 Olympic Winter Games opening ceremonies Feb. 13 in Calgary.

The flame west to bed early on Day 49. From Ingersoll it travelled through Beachville, Woodstock, Hamletford, Hickson, Tavistock, Harmony, Stratford and Shakespear where it finally rested at about 7:32 p.m.

It was a day for all to remember. It not only stirred enthusiasm for the Olympic games but it also awakened an exuberant patriotism that Canadians are sometimes thought to lack.

INGERSOLL TIMES

January 6 1988



Ingersoll's Doug Gullons, 9, passed the torch to 14-year-old Audrey Graham from Thamesford. The pair took the flame two kilometers closer to its Calgary destination on Day 49 of the relay. For more photos see page 6.

INGERSOLL TIMES

January 6 1988



Ingersoll's Doug Gallons carried the torch under the watchful eye of his escort runner. The 150 escorts trek across the country in groups of six to 12, taking eight day shifts.

INGERSOLL TIMES

January 6 1988





Owen Otto, 4, holds his own cardboard flame aloft during the ceremony. His father, Doug, makes sure both stay aloft.

INGERSOLL TIMES

January 6, 1988



Here he comes! Enthusiastic IDCI students wave Canadian flags as the torch bearer approaches.



Fifteen-month-old Alex Dart could not quite understand what all the commotion was about when the Olympic torch was passed through Thamesford on Monday.



Hidy and Howdy, official Olympic mascots, entertained the Ingersoll crowd before the arrival of the torch. The pair are pictured here showing Erin Cox and Eryn Allen the finer points of bobsled racing.



Carl Hiebert of Kitchener, carried the torch for a one kilometer distance through Thamesford.

INGERSOLL TIMES

January 6, 1988



Ingersoll police were kept busy directing the crowd of about 1,500 waiting to "Share the Flame."



Alexander Savoie, 3, and Elisha Daniel, 2, seem pretty calm about the historic event.



Carmen Piovescen, a Sacred Heart student, gets a bird's eye view of the torch relay.

INGERSOLL TIMES

January 6, 1988

# Employment rate almost doubled

A total of 633 people found jobs in Ingersoll in 1987, almost double the placement in the previous year.

"1987 was a particularly good year from an employment stand point," Peter Clark, manager of the Canada Employment Center, said.

Clark said there was not any one, single factor which accounted for the jump in job placements last year from only 325 in 1986. He said many businesses of various kind and size increased their staff in 1987. The employment center was able to fill the majority of 735 job vacancies created.

"We almost literally had a little of everything," Clark said.

Ingersoll residents gained employment in the hospitality, commercial and clerical fields and unskilled to highly skilled workers filled posi-

tions in various local businesses.

October proved to be the best month in terms of job placement, when 93 people found work. Clark said seasonal factors accounted for the high job vacancy rate that month when many businesses are gearing up for production.

Clark predicted the availability of jobs will remain high in 1988, particularly in the Ingersoll area.

"The activity (construction) will insulate us from any adverse turn in the labor market," Clark said.

He noted the continued growth of the CAMI plant, the recent construction of the Thames Street Canada Trust and the expansion of the Elm Hurst Inn to include a hotel, as projects which will continue to bolster employment.

"There are many positive things happening in Ingersoll," Clark said.

INGERSOLL TIMES

January 13, 1988

# ingersoll

## What to do around Ingersoll

**INGERSOLL** — If you've got friends or relatives on their way to visit, there's lots of sights in town that are worth a look.

- The Lawson Trail wanders by the shores of the Thames River. Kept in its natural state, the trail is travelled by joggers, nature enthusiasts and dog walkers, said Ingersoll recreation director Judy Hayes.

- Ingersoll boasts a lot more green space than other urban municipalities of comparable size. In Victoria Park, camping is allowed at a nominal cost. Other parks include: Centennial Park on Harris Street, Kensington Park off Mutual Street, Lions Park on Wonham Street, Garnett-Elliott Park on Innes Street and Westfield Park on Chisolm Street. You'll find a bandshell and numerous picnic tables in Memorial Park on King Street.

- Learn about Ingersoll's founding families by perusing the historic plaques. One is situated on Thames Street South near the Thames River crossing while another on the Big Cheese is located on Highway 19, near the Elm Hurst Inn.

- While it's still here, stroll by Ingersoll's Old Town Hall. Constructed in the pre-Confederation era, the hall served as a community focal point for many years, even attracting such national political leaders as John A. MacDonald and D'Arcy McGee. The structure was built in an Italianate style.

- Ingersoll's heritage is celebrated with four museums - the cheese factory museum, blacksmith's shop, farm museum and sports hall of fame. The museums are open daily throughout the summer; hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The new exhibit at the museums is entitled *All Dolled Up*. Fifteen china-faced and german bisque-faced dolls are on view, all on loan from local residents. The display is complemented by miniature tea sets, a doll's house, buggies and highchairs.

- The Ingersoll Golf and Country Club encompasses 150 acres of rolling land once owned by Charles Ingersoll in the 1800s. The 18-hole course is open from dusk to dawn



A NEW exhibit has opened at Ingersoll Cheese Factory Museum and continues until July 28. Dolls, china tea sets, buggies and carriages are on display. Brennan Warnick, age 9, cradles one of the dolls in his arms. All of the dolls are on loan from local residents.

*(Staff photo)*

seven days a week.

- The Creative Arts Centre will open in their new home in Victoria Park on Sept. 17 and 18. It often features the work of local artists and offers a full range of classes.

- A dedicated ensemble of actors and behind-the-scenes people contribute to ITOPA - Ingersoll's Theatre of Performing Arts. The new theatrical season starts in the fall with the *Curious Savage* on Nov. 4. Cocktails for 200 debuts Feb. 3 while

a drama, *Bousille and the Just*, takes the stage on April 7. The season closes with the crime comedy *Honestly Now* on June 2.

Ingersoll's Business Improvement Association promotes a small town atmosphere and service among its membership, said Vicki Brownscombe, BIA president. The downtown core of businesses, many with original ornate facades, is situated mostly on Thames and King streets.

# Man with a mission

By PAULINE KERR  
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — John R. Glenn is a man with a mission

The Brantford, Ontario academic is searching through old library files, military records and private collections in the Brant/Waterloo/Oxford area for evidence of local attitudes toward the Spanish-American War, 1898 to 1901. He visited *The Sentinel-Review's* Ingersoll bureau recently, carrying a box of old military data and newspaper clippings, hoping to fill some gaps in his information.

Glenn said, "People crossed the Canadian-American border with greater ease in those days — there's the old story about every table having an empty chair, representing the family member who went to the United States.



John R. Glenn

The US was where everything was happening, where the action was.

"Canadians did fight with Americans in the war against Spain.

I know of about 30 men and one woman, a nurse, from this area."

The war had quite an impact on life in this town. According to Glenn's records, the Ingersoll Debating Society discussed the issue in 1898. The participants in that debate were Percy Smith, J.L. Paterson, Alfred E. Uren and Arthur P. Gundry. Glenn is interested in additional information on this event.

Glenn has detailed records of several Ingersoll and area people who fought in the war. William Bellamy, brother of T.A. Bellamy, *Ingersoll Sun* editor, was one of the casualties.

Others remain only names. Glenn is looking for more information about Dr. George R. Sutherland, Charles Brown of Beachville (related to Levi German), George Hayes and Harry Rufus (the name is spelled Ruffs in some accounts).

While not everyone needs to do such extensive research - the retired teacher is working on his arts degree from Illinois State University — he says it is possible for even a relative newcomer in a town to enter local history. "You can take an issue, look at newspapers from that time, and look at who is saying what, doing what. That's what I've done."

SENTINEL REVIEW

August 9, 1988

## Ingersoll population may be on the decline

Contrary to popular belief, Ingersoll's population may actually be decreasing if figures compiled by the provincial assessment office are any indication.

Although road signs welcoming visitors into Ingersoll state the population is 8,500, the assessment office calculated it to be 8,253. Their figures indicate the population was higher in 1985, with 8,469 residents registered.

"There must be ghosts living in all these new houses," Mayor Doug Harris quipped at the last regular meeting of the administration and finance committee.

The figures were calculated from the 1988 enumeration. This year the information was gathered after residents sent their statistics through the mail instead of enumerators travelling door-to-door.

According to Town Clerk Gerry Staples, the assessment office, which covers the counties of Elgin, Middlesex and Oxford, was pleased with the response they received.

The report showed the town's birth rate was down. In 1988, 36 babies were born compared to 79 in 1985.

In contrast, the senior population is up. There are 1,303 people 65 years of age and older living in town this year. Three years ago there were 1,044.

The total eligible voters is the same as 1985 at 6,359.

INGERSOLL TIMES

August 10, 1988

# Women new to Ingersoll subject of UWO study

By MARILYN SMULDERS  
of The Sentinel-Review

INGERSOLL — Women who've recently moved to this town will be the subject of a study by University of Western Ontario researchers.

Ingersoll was chosen as a target area, explained Dr. Moira Stewart, associate professor in the department of family medicine at UWO, because of its growth potential.

"With the new plant (CAMI Automotive Inc.) there, we knew there would be a lot of action in town," she said. Other communities researchers will be concentrating on include Cambridge and Kitchener.

The thrust of \$180,000, three-year study is to examine the stress of moving and what effects that has on health. The study will specifically look at where women have turned for help while settling into their new communities.

The study is relevant to today's society because of our increasingly transient nature, said Stewart. She added that health professionals are also more aware of the need for social support in boosting a person's wellness.

"There's no question this is far more important than our technology-oriented system recognizes," commented Stewart. "But there's growing recognition in family medicine circles of the importance of family

and emotional support."

Women who fit the criteria for the study may be asked by their family physician to participate. Women, as opposed to men, were chosen for the study's focus because they are more likely to make contact with their doctors and tend to be more readily available for interviews.

## Thrice interviewed

The 200 women in the study will be interviewed three times - once shortly after their move, six months later and again after 12 months. The interviewers, two in each community, will

record symptoms of emotional distress such as nightmares and sleeplessness, inquire about physical health and gather information about the size and willingness of social support networks.

Researchers, three UWO professors, will then analyse the data accumulated from those interviews.

Money for the study was awarded from the provincial ministry of health. It's just part of a total package of \$5 million in grants to researchers and health care providers, said Ontario Minister of Health Elinor Caplan last week.

SENTINEL REVIEW

September 29, 1988





## ORIENTAL WELCOME

The *Welcome to Ingersoll* sign at the King Street West entrance to town, not far from CAMI Automotive Inc., will soon be set within a Japanese-style garden, rocks arranged in a natural setting and ever-changing color in shrubbery, perhaps even a waterfall. For the town parks super, Gary Stead, it's been a labor of love — it's the first time he's had the oppor-

tunity to create something of this nature and he's been enjoying the process of designing the garden, selecting the plants and placing each rock in the perfect location. The project is not yet complete but with rocks and some greenery in place, it's beginning to take shape to Stead's satisfaction.

*(Staff photo by Pauline Kerr)*

SENTINEL REVIEW

NOVEMBER 3, 1988

# THE WAY WE WERE

PAGE SEVENTEEN



**THEN**

Ingersoll's King Street, looking west from Thames Street, is shown in this old postcard from the collection of Ruth Brown of Ingersoll.



**NOW**

The same view of the town is shown in this contemporary photograph by Sue Reeve of The London Free Press.

LONDON FREE PRESS

July 22, 1989

# History is his to offer

By ERIC SCHMIEDL  
of Ingersoll This Week

J.C. Herbert is the man to see if you want to know something about Ingersoll's past.

Herbert, the former principal of Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute, has compiled numerous scrapbooks of clippings dealing with the town's history.

Among his files there's information on such bits of Ingersoll history as:

□ The great fire of 1872:  
Two men died in the huge blaze that started on the evening of Tuesday, May 7, that year. The fire began in a stable attached to Oxford Street's Royal Exchange Hotel, and eventually forced Ingersoll's mayor to telegraph Woodstock and London for help.

□ Dr. Henry Norman Bethune's brief stay in Ingersoll:

Roderick Stewart, in his Bethune biography, said Bethune replaced a vacationing Ingersoll doctor — Ralph Williams — between 1919 and 1920.

In the biography, Stewart describes Bethune as follows:

"To the quiet people of Ingersoll, Bethune was very unconventional. Always in a hurry, he drove Dr. Williams Model T Ford around town at top speed. He gave parties for the neighbourhood children. On one occasion he was called to attend a sick farmer and found the tearful wife more concerned about her inability to milk the cows than her husband's

condition. "Give me the pail," said Bethune, and promptly milked the cows after examining the farmer."

Bethune later went on to China in 1938 to help the Chinese people during their revolution.

□ Elisha Hall, the first child born in Ingersoll and a rebel of the Rebellion of 1837:

Hall was born in Ingersoll on July 3, 1800.

He became a rebel during William Lyon Mackenzie's 1837 uprising — Hall was the leader of a group of farmers called the Old Stage Road volunteers.

As the rebels were defeated, he took refuge in the United States, but returned in 1841 when Queen Victoria granted amnesty to all political exiles.

Hall constructed a saw mill when he returned, and in 1852 became police magistrate and a Justice of the Peace for the newly-created village of Ingersoll.

Herbert said "I've been interested in all of the history of Ingersoll."

"Someday, I hope some person would take (compiling Ingersoll's history) over."

Ingersoll's older buildings, such as the brick building built by Elisha Hall on King Street and the Adam Oliver residence deserve special attention, he said.

"We should do something to retain these old buildings — at least have plaques or markers to identify them."

"I feel very strongly about that," Herbert said.

The destruction of the old town hall is something he regrets very much, he added.

Another piece of Ingersoll that has a fair bit of history behind it is Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute.

Herbert's association with IDCI began in 1932 — when he first came to Ingersoll.

He started off at the school (back then it was known as Ingersoll Collegiate Institute) as a physical education teacher.

He became principal in 1946.

"At that time it was a much smaller school" than it is now he said. About 300 students were in attendance then, he added.

He stayed on as principal of the school until 1970 — he watched the school grow quite a bit.

Herbert saw it develop from "a small school, with very few facilities, into what it is today," he said.

The current building — which has had three additions built on — rests on the same ground that was once occupied by the original school building, Herbert said.

Over the years, "we had some very dedicated students and teachers," Herbert recalled.

Many students of the school have gone on to good things, he said.

"To see the success of the pupils who have graduated from the school over the years, is a source of satisfaction to a teacher — any teacher.

"I'm very proud of what they have done," Herbert said.

The Daily Sentinel-Review, Ingersoll This Week, Thurs., Oct. 3, 1988 Page 2A



A collection of Ingersoll history awaits in Harry Whitwell's "Ingersoll — our heritage." J. C. Herbert has a large collection of clippings and books concerning the history of Ingersoll. (Staff photo by Eric Schmiedl)



Then . . . and now, J. C. Herbert displays a picture taken of him in 1929 when he graduated from Waterloo College (now Wilfrid Laurier University). (Staff photo by Eric Schmiedl)

SENTINEL REVIEW

October 3, 1989

# Then and now

## Ingersoll has retained small town flavor

Twenty years ago Ingersoll was much like it is today.

However, there has been significant growth and changes in those years, but those changes have not been at the expense of Ingersoll's small town, family-oriented atmosphere.

This year's Progress Edition of *The Ingersoll Times* looks at the town 20 years ago and today.

The starting date of 1969 coincides with the birth of the newspaper.

The edition looks at how the town has changed over those years through the eyes of Ingersoll's people. Many of the people featured were responsible for some of those changes.

### Industrial development

The first issue of *The Ingersoll Times* carried an article expressing concern over the lack of industrial development in town.

Expanding the sewage treatment plant to facilitate future development was a priority then, as it is now.

Since 1969 there has been much development. Over a dozen new industries have come to town in the last 20 years, creating much needed local employment and increased tax revenue for the town.

In 1987, CAMI Automotive Inc. had its groundbreaking. The plant, which began producing its sports utility vehicles last spring, is about to begin producing cars. It now has approximately 1,100 employees, and will have 2,000 when the plant reaches peak production at the end of 1990.

So far having the giant \$500 million plant has changed the town little, or not at all, although it has given jobs to local residents and enriched the town's coffers, allowing it to afford upcoming municipal projects.

The impact of the plant is still a few years off, since it is expected employees who now commute from surrounding cities will eventually move here.

### Social and recreational

Residents have always enjoyed a wide host of social, leisure and recreational activities in town.

The Maude Wilson Pool has been a focus during the summer, and the Ingersoll District Memorial Centre a focus in the winter. And there has always been a heavy demand for use of the town's ball diamonds.

Meanwhile, there has been a healthy and active small theatre (ITOPA) and a Creative Arts Centre.

Over those 20 years there have been cries for an indoor pool to replace the old Maude Wilson



The same scene on Page 1 today. Canada Trust, the Venus Dining House, and an apartment building are where the Ingersoll coffin company was, while some of the businesses have moved.

pool. Just over a month ago, town council approved the building of a municipal recreation facility in Victoria Park, to include an indoor leisure pool, racquetball courts, and other services.

The decision has proved controversial, with many people claiming the facility is too elaborate and too costly. Many have also opposed the facility being built in Victoria Park.

However, the facility will fill a recreational need in the community, and will be a drawing card to potential new residents.

### Downtown core

In the past 20 years, the landscape of the downtown business core has remained relatively the

same, although stores have come and gone.

Many of the stores, however, have been there for much longer than 20 years.

Yet the future of the downtown business core remains a concern today, with there being a number of empty stores. An ad hoc town committee, as well as the Chamber of Commerce and the Business Improvement Area (BIA), are working on improving the situation.

### Housing

In 1969 work was beginning on the Westfield subdivision, and the town also hoped to start work on seniors and geared-to-income housing.

Over the years there has been

continued growth in the residential sector, with new subdivisions underway all the time. This is still true.

Work is also now progressing on the construction of Ingersoll's first housing Co-op, the Adam Oliver Housing Co-operative, at Haines and Ingersoll streets.

### Community

Over those 20 years Ingersoll has remained an inviting community to live in.

Residents could have most of their needs met right in town - shopping, employment, recreational, sports, artistic, and others.

Alexandra Hospital is now undergoing expansion, as it did

previously. The expansion will make it a better hospital, better able to serve Ingersoll's residents.

Service clubs, churches, and many other groups have contributed much to Ingersoll on a daily basis, providing activities and money for community projects.

Ingersoll has always been a nice and relatively safe place to raise a family, and is noted for its friendly people. And it has always been a place where people knew each other's name.

Although that may be changing, as longtime J.C. Herbert says in these pages, so far that small town friendliness has remained.

### The future

The future is bright for Ingersoll.

Economically, the town is in a very enviable position. There have been budget increases of approximately five per cent in the last two years, while the increases in other municipalities have been more dramatic - and costly to taxpayers.

Ingersoll has developed over the last 20 years in part due to the efforts of mayors Gord Henry and Doug Harris and many councillors. They have worked hard to ensure that the town progresses and improves.

The emphasis has always been, and remains, to promote gradual growth, growth that can be managed without too much dislocation and without damaging the small town roots of Ingersoll.

The current council has committed itself to launching a number of long overdue municipal projects. These include the pool, expanding the sewage treatment plant, building a new administration complex, as well as a police station and a library.

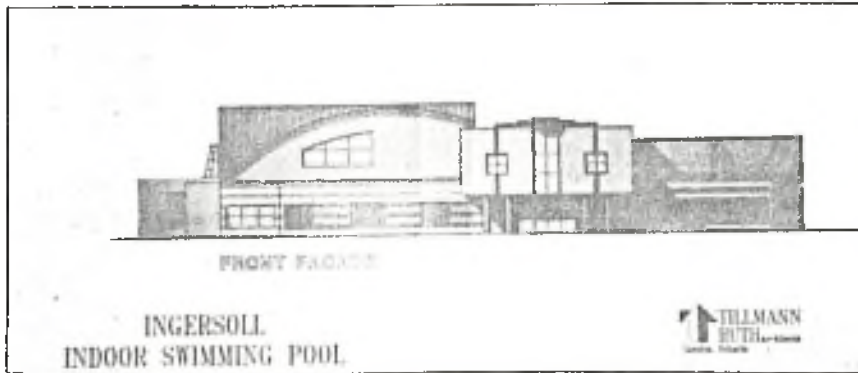
Another is the extension of Ingersoll street and improving the roads.

Some of these are underway. Others will be launched in the next year or two. When complete, they will enhance Ingersoll and make it a more attractive place to live into the 20th century.

Taxpayers, especially those who are senior citizens, may be concerned about the cost of all this development, but the town is in a good economic position. The CAMI plant, and other industries, will enrich the town so that it can afford the projects.

Moreover, some of these projects are needed to ensure continued development, which will in turn help finance other municipal projects.

-Mark Skeffington



Architectural drawings of the municipal recreational facility that is to be built in Victoria Park next year. The facility will boost Ingersoll's recreational opportunities.

# Population needs to grow Warden

By LIZ DADSON

Long-time councillor Jack Warden says the Town of Ingersoll has seen growth in every area over the last 20 years except in population.

"We have a lot to offer any family coming to live here," he said. "They can live here cheaper but still be close to the big centres."

"We should look at the reasons why they're not living here and correct them."

Warden has been on Ingersoll Council 17 out of the past 20 years, serving as councillor

from 1969 to 1976. He then became councillor-at-large, representing the town on Oxford County Council as well until 1985. He left public life for three years, returning November, 1988, again as councillor-at-

large.

Born and raised in Ingersoll, Warden ran Warden Appliances and Lighting for 25 years at the location where Lowe's Videos and Variety is now. Before that he was the district sales

manager for Canadian Westinghouse and prior to that he was sales manager of the washing machine division for Ingersoll Machine and Tool Company.

Currently, he works part-time

as a master clothier at John Pomer Clothes for Men in London.

While he noted there are a lot of subdivisions being constructed in Ingersoll, the population for the town is down by 200, according to Statistics Canada.

"It's hard to understand why the population is down when all these new homes have been built," he said. "It must be a change of address for many of these people rather than new people coming in."

Another worry is that the downtown core is not expanding as it should, he said.

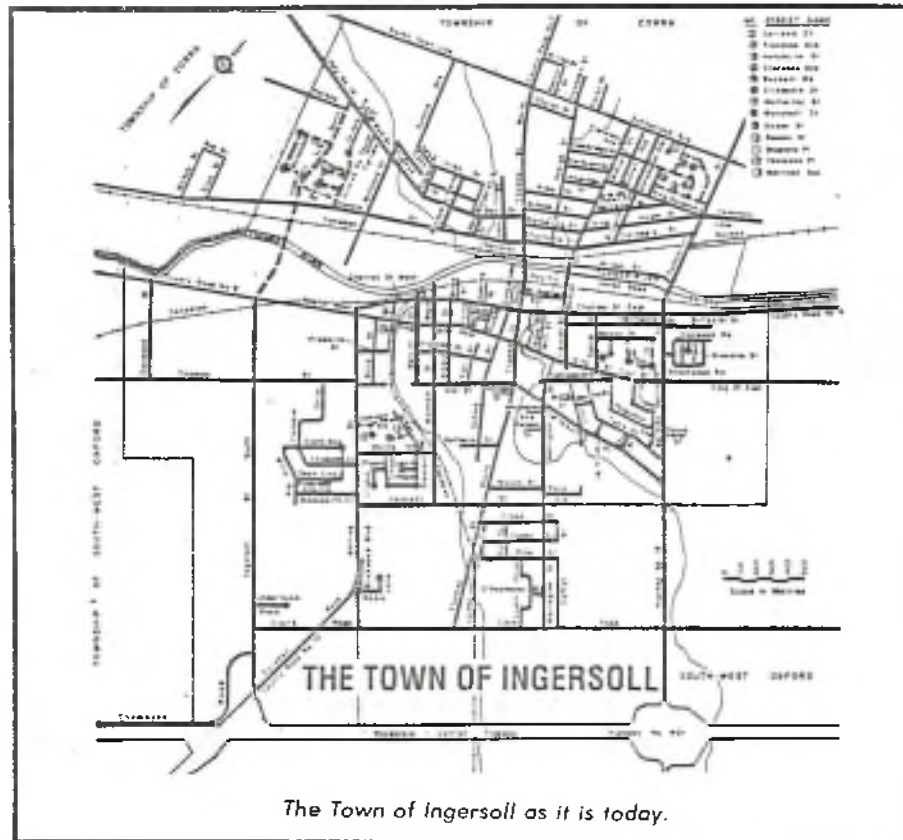
"We're getting more commercial development," he said, "but it's mostly corner stores and small strip plazas. There's nothing major enough to attract people to the downtown core."

Warden noted the Zehrs plaza was a big asset to the town and Ingersoll's development department should be looking for a big chain department store to build in the downtown as Zehrs did.

Industrial growth in the town has been "fantastic," he said. "Just look out Ingersoll Street. And I think there's more to come."

However, there is the persistent problem of the lack of population settling in Ingersoll, he noted.

"It bothers me that we are getting the growth but not the peo-



The Town of Ingersoll as it is today.



Jack Warden

INGERSOLL TIMES  
PROGRESS EDITION  
October 18 1989

Continued on Page 9

# J.C. Herbert can chart town's progress

By GAIL ATKINSON

If you were schooled in Ingersoll, you were probably principally by J.C. Herbert.

He's been here since 1932, and has loved every minute of it, he said in an interview deep in the depths of his Duke Street home where he spends hour after hour in a room cramped wall to wall, ceiling to floor, doing what he loves -- compiling clippings, filing scrapbooks, framing pictures and certificates, and generally keeping records of people, happenings, and changes in Ingersoll.

"Someone has to keep track of these things or else they'd eventually be forgotten," he said, considering it a hobby, helpful to others, as well as self-satisfying.

"I came to Ingersoll in 1932 as a phys ed teacher," he said. After four years with the armed forces, during the Second World War, he became principal of Ingersoll Collegiate Institute.

"The first school was built for 560 students, and they thought it was too big at the time. But within three years we had to put eight rooms on it."

The town school became an area school, Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute, and by 1966 there were 1166 pupils and 66 teachers, Herbert said.

"I've seen quite a bit of growth," he went on about the town.



J.C. Herbert in his Duke Street home which is a treasure trove of local history.

The past 20 years have seen Ingersoll come into its own, he said.

"I always hoped Ingersoll would become larger, yet still retain its small town attitude, where people are still nice, and helpful, like neighbors to each other. I've found people are like that, but it's more difficult in this day and age. Things move a little faster now, both parents usually work in bigger centres, new people have come into the area."

Herbert said there was a time

he knew everybody in town, but that's just not the case anymore.

"Lots of new people have moved in, and I wouldn't know everybody now."

"So much has happened. I must give the people on council and the staff my congratulations for doing a very commendable job. There is so much development going on, which certainly causes problems, but they are solved in such a way to be of least inconveniences to the people in town."

He referred to new subdivi-

sions, the industrial park, and street widening to accommodate heavier traffic, all done in the last couple of decades.

Herbert attributed much of Ingersoll's growth and development to the efforts of Ted Hunt, development officer.

"I think Ted's done a bang-up job. You have to give him a lot of credit."

Hunt was a former pupil of

Herbert's "Everybody was at one time if they lived here," Herbert laughed.

"J.C. Herbert was the school," Doug Harris, mayor of Ingersoll said of the man who was the second principal in his career. "He ran it. There is a wing named for him to this day in his honor. He's one of those men who gives respect and earns it back twice."

## Town's population

Continued from Page 8

ple living here," he said. "As of July 31, there were 992 employees at the CAMI plant but only 124 were living in the Town of Ingersoll and paying taxes. Many are commuting to work."

Warden blames this partially on the town's geographical location in the region, it being only 20 miles from London, nine miles from Woodstock and an hour and a half from Toronto.

"Maybe when CAMI gets into full production, we might see a shift in population," he said.

Municipal politics have not changed much, Warden noted, since the restructuring of the county took place and the position of councillor-at-large was created.

"We have a lot more work to do now," he said. "There are more meetings, more decisions and council has more vocal people telling us what to do."

A more vocal population is

good when they provide constructive criticism, he said, stressing council does not listen to the people enough.

Council faces several problems in the future, such as increased traffic in the town, better parking to keep the core area viable, and the construction of a bypass (an extension to Ingersoll Street) to take out-of-town traffic from CAMI during the change in shifts.

"We would like them (CAMI employees) to come downtown and spend their money but it is difficult to get that traffic flowing through the downtown," he said.

Also a priority for council is the construction of one or two new buildings to house the administration department, police department and library. "If we have the funding, something should be done within three years," he said. "They should also have adequate parking."

INGERSOLL TIMES - PROGRESS EDITION - October 18 1989

# Curling rink had short life in that role

By MARK REID  
of Ingersoll This Week

Owning an arena is no big deal. Bill Juniper does not think of his building as an arena, to him the old curling rink is home to his business.

The life of the King Street curling rink was short.

Built in 1904 by Nagle and Mills — the builders of armories in Woodstock and Strathroy — the arena was last used as a recreational venue sometime in the 1930s.

Today, the stately yellow brick building looks pretty much like it used to.

About 75 by 164 feet in size, the building was originally designed for curlers, and sometime later hockey games were played on the small ice surface.

Juniper, who along with his wife, Marion, own Harvest Trends, noted the cupolas are still part of the building today. By opening and closing the cupolas, air flow was regulated to keep the natural ice as it should be.

"When you get cold weather, you darn well know it's an arena," said Juniper, standing where the ice surface used to be.

In the 1930s, the ice went out for the last time and the building was rented to the William Stone Company, which converted the building for use in wool baling industry and hide storage. Later on, farm fertilizers were kept on site.

While still functioning as an arena prior to the change over, theatre performances were held in the upper level above the current display area.

In addition, troops heading overseas during the First World

War bunked there one night. Troops heading out of London also slept at the Charles Street Methodist Church, now the site of a drug store.

The Stone family had the building until 1937 when it was put up for sale.

R. L. Hawkins, a Tillsonburg entrepreneur, offered the unknown seller \$10,000.

However, that offer was refused because the building, for reasons unknown, had to be auctioned. Hawkins bid of \$6,000 was accepted.

It continued to operate as Hawkins Feed Store Co. until 1983 when the building changed hands again.

Juniper purchased the building for his needs about two and one-half years ago.

The main showroom of his business is built inside of the arena structure itself, keeping the

building's looks as original as possible.

He made it a point not to upset the outside of the building during renovations and even used reclaimed bricks in some outside work.

Hanging racks in the current cheese store were once used to smoothen the curling surface



BILL JUNIPER stands outside of his business, Harvest Trends Inc. The building was originally built as a curling rink just after the turn of the century.

SENTINEL REVIEW  
November 21, 1989

# A look at a decade of development in town

By ERIC SCHMIEDL  
of Ingersoll This Week

The 1980's brought a host of changes to the development face of Ingersoll.

Edward Hunt, town development officer, said "the decade of the 80's will go down in the history books of Ingersoll as an exciting time."

In his review of Ingersoll progress during the past 10 years, *Highlights of the 1980's - A Decade of Progress*, Hunt included points of interest on the development scene in a year-by-year breakdown which he discussed in an interview.

1980 19 new business startups, 12 closed

IGA built a new 12,000 square foot store on Charles Street West

Business Improvement Area established

new sidewalks for core area

Roper Canada Limited closed

Gabriel Shocks purchased the Roper plant

four new industries announced, three closed

Ingersoll Street from Clark Road to Culloden Road at Highway 401 completed

Ingersoll tent at the International Plowing Match near Woodstock draws large crowds

Hunt said even though Roper Canada Limited closed, it left the building which opened up an ave-

nue for Gabriel Shocks to enter into the Ingersoll industrial scene. For the plowing match, one of the "Welcome to Ingersoll" signs which adorn the entrances to the town was taken down, spruced up and placed near Ingersoll's tent where free coffee was served. The match turned into good public relations for the town, as Hunt said people were lined up at the tent to see what the town had to offer.

1981 highest interest rates in history

□ start of the recession  
□ 13 new business startups, 16 closed

□ expansions at Ingersoll Machine and Tool, Ingersoll Paper Box Ltd. and Sivaco Ontario Inc.

□ Ingersoll Casket Company closed

□ aerial map of the town completed

□ first ever County of Oxford tour hosted by Ingersoll, Woodstock and Tillsonburg

Hunt said interest rates "were going through the roof" during 1981 and the effects of the high rates carried on into the next year.

1982 □ recession year with above normal interest rates, layoffs and plant closings

□ 12 new business startups, 16 closed

□ shopping survey completed by the chamber of commerce

□ service industries Indel Controls, Delta Machine and Design and PD Enterprises opened for business

□ Ingersoll Fasteners completed a major expansion

□ Gainers Inc., CIL and Rothsay Concentrates closed their operations with a loss of 223 jobs

□ industrial land reserve fund established

□ county economic development study started

□ Ingersoll Cheese Co. sold to Anco Foods

Hunt said 1982 was a bad year but things could have been worse.

"We had some layoffs but not like some other communities," he added.

1983 □ growth and development activity gained momentum

□ 13 new business startups, 14 closed

□ store fronts painted

□ Gabriel of Canada closed

□ Collins and Aikman purchased the plant

□ two new industries, Co-Signs Inc. and Dorjon Ltd., opened for business

□ new industrial brochure prepared

□ Ingersoll Cheese Co. sold to Culinar Foods

□ county council rejects recommendations in county economic development study

1984 □ eight new business startups, 11 closed

□ P and H Foods purchased the Gainer's plant and production resumed

□ Inger Tool and Mould opened  
□ Ingersoll Machine and Tool and Sivaco Ontario Inc. completed major expansions

□ no plant closures

□ joint participation at trade shows launched by Ingersoll and Woodstock

□ new Agricultural Museum opened in Centennial Park

□ town's new industrial brochure was tops in the literature awards contest held at the IDAC convention

Hunt said Ingersoll's industrial brochure was chosen the best out of 24 entries at the convention. "We were pleased with that," he added.

1985 □ 13 new business startups, three closed

□ council placed a temporary freeze on the payment of lot levies to encourage development

□ Ingersoll made a submission to attract the proposed Toyota plant

□ Marbourn Energy Research Ltd. was welcomed as a new industry

□ P D Enterprises Ltd. closed with a loss of five jobs

1986 □ CAMI Automotive Inc., the General Motors/Suzuki joint venture auto assembly plant announces Ingersoll and the Township of South-West Oxford is the site for their 1.6 million square feet plant

□ 21 new business startups, 12 closed

□ Ingersoll's first "hi-rise" condominium was completed

□ Sivaco Ontario Inc. completed a 72,000 square foot expansion

□ Ingersoll Paper Box completed a 6,800 square foot warehouse addition

□ George Scott Machine Shop completed an 1,800 square foot addition

□ Infatool moved to new facilities on Ingersoll Street

□ Pinto Packaging closed with a job loss of seven

Continued on page 21

SENTINEL REVIEW -  
INGERSOLL THIS WEEK  
FEBRUARY 13, 1990



# Development in the past decade

Continued from page 2

- three municipally-owned industrial sites were sold
- Tillsonburg joined with Ingersoll and Woodstock in joint trade show and other promotion activities
- the county contributed to the joint promotional activities
- Hunt said the move for getting CAMI to come to Ingersoll started in June 1984. The site had been fully serviced by 1986, which helped to influence the CAMI people's decision. Having a ready labor force here was another factor in the decision, he added.
- 1987 □ 19 new business startups, 12 closed
- five subdivision plans activated and construction started on three
- Adam Oliver Housing Co operative formed
- Sertapak Inc. welcomed as a new industry
- Ingersoll Fasteners completed a 60,000 square foot addition
- Gledhill Transports, Underwood Shoes, Williams Form Hardware and Ingersoll Paper Box completed alterations and additions
- Inger Tool and Mould closed its operation, resulting in three lost jobs
- Collins and Aikman's was bought by the Wickes Corporation
- Delta Machine and Tool was purchased by Dave Swatridge
- three new promotion initiatives started by the three communities
- Hunt said the Adam Oliver project was a needed housing initiative in the town.
- 1988 □ 12 new business startups, 11 closed
- new 100 room Relax Inn announced
- Suzuki Ingersoll dealership opened
- increased residential activity
- four new industries announced: Elgin Parkes Wholesale, Premier Cleaning Contractors, Great Lakes Brick and Stone Ltd. and Gen-Auto Shippers
- two industries expanded — Ingersoll Machine and Tool by 14,000 square feet and Sivaco Ontario Inc. by 4,500 square feet
- DJ Custom Packaging closed with four jobs lost
- three municipally owned industrial sites were sold
- Taylor Construction of Brantford completed a 25,000 square foot industrial building for lease
- Oxford meets Japan seminars were well attended
- Suzuki Canadian House officially opened
- Japanese Welcoming Committee formed
- new lifestyle brochure produced

□ plans started for new indoor pool

The Japanese seminars were useful for people to get acquainted with the new culture, Hunt said.

□ 1989 building permit values topped all previous records

□ 174 residential units constructed

□ assessment increased 17.66 per cent

□ there were 25 new business startups, while 13 closed

□ last municipally-owned industrial site sold

□ CAMI started production of the Tracker line followed in the fall with car line

□ Nissho Iwai and Nifast welcomed as new industries

□ Sertapak Inc. expanded into a new 30,000 square foot leased building

□ Ingersoll Paper Box expanded its warehouse

□ Sivaco Ontario Inc. announced closure of the production lines with a job loss of 100 persons

□ Coyle and Greer Awards moved to Putnam with 70 jobs lost in Ingersoll

□ ARC Industries relocated to Woodstock

□ Samnah Business Park fully serviced and ready for sales

□ an investment group from England visited the town and county

□ a successful ad campaign promoting Ingersoll was run in Toronto

□ increased attendance at museums

Hunt said 1989 was the big year for expansion, as investments paid off.

Speaking personally, Hunt said

the "highlight of my career was the CAMI announcement."

Hunt's involvement in getting CAMI to Ingersoll actually began in 1966, when he was on town council. One of his platforms was to get industrial land for the town. He was part of a group which supported a study recommending the extension of Ingersoll Street to Highway 401.

"I don't think any of us, sitting around the council table in 1966, thought in our wildest dreams of a CAMI coming to Ingersoll," he said.

Hunt said council deserves credit for having the foresight to go on with the plan.

"Everybody worked together to bring about what's happening today," he added

Even though CAMI is a dominating factor in the town's industrial scene today, other industries here remain important. Hunt said he's been trying to work on existing industries as well as CAMI.

"(Developers) get so busy chasing smokestacks, we forget about what's already here," he explained.

They built village after their father died

# Ingersoll's sons made dream come true

**T**homas Ingersoll dreamed of establishing a community between Woodstock and London, Ont. Although a realistic dream, it never came true - for him.

Ingersoll met an Indian chief who encouraged him to settle in the area. So in 1802, Ingersoll bought 66,000 acres of land from the crown. He paid 12 cents per acre for the dense marsh land. He planned to bring 1,000 settlers from England to help establish a community.

When Ingersoll first arrived, there were no roads except an Indian trail. He built a log home for his family, trying to begin settlement. But only 45 people came to Canada with him.

In one year, settlers cut and bridged a road 10 feet wide through 25 miles of forest. In



1899, The Upper Gazette commended the early settlers for their, "heroic struggles and sacrifices." The Gazette said, "Every settler was under every possible discouragement common to a new country."

Life was too hard even for In-

gersoll. There wasn't enough people to build a community. In 1806, Ingersoll gave up his dream of settlement and moved to Etobicoke where he died in 1812.

After Ingersoll left, the small village remained fairly isolated

and unsettled. It was Ingersoll's two sons, James and Charles, that built the village.

**I**n 1817, the brothers moved to the village. It was then called Oxford. They bought their father's old farm, but the log cabin was in ruins. Although the area was heavily wooded, the soil was rich and productive. The brothers cleared enough land to build the first sawmill. They continued clearing land and built a gristmill and distillery. Before the Ingersolls built the gristmill, settlers had to walk to Hamilton for flour.

Ingersoll resident Agatha Simister wrote a brief, undated history of the town. She said around 1820, "Ingersoll was the town people came to in order to make money." Clearing the

land led to more industry. The town soon opened factories to manufacture machinery for lumber and agriculture work. The first foundry was established in 1837. The town had many shops such as a tannery and clothing store to serve residents.

The flourishing settlement was incorporated as a village in 1852. The south side of Ingersoll grew, while the north remained sparsely populated. But John Carnegie helped build the north. He travelled from Scotland and bought 158 acres of land. Most of it was turned into building lots. Simister wrote, "From the early houses built, there showed hopes of making the area a first-class residential area." Ingersoll was later incorporated as a town in 1865.

**I**n 1856, the town hall, clerk's office and market buildings burned. All books and council records were destroyed. But Ingersoll experienced a worse loss. In 1878, a disastrous fire wiped out almost all of the business section.

In Simisten's history of Ingersoll, it said. "Altogether, it looked as if Ingersoll might become one of the most important places in the province. Ingersoll is the forefront of modern progress."

Although the town grew quickly in its first decades, population was fixed at 5,000 for 40 years. Ingersoll now has a population of 8,500.



Above photos, showing Thames Street in Ingersoll, give some indication of the changes that have occurred over the years. The left photo, taken from a postcard provided by Ingersoll merchant Kent



Shoultz, is believed to have been taken in the late 1920s or early 1930s. The right photo, shot from the same general area, was taken recently by Rural Roots columnist Jane MacDougall.

SENT IN BY REVIEW February 19, 1990

# Ingersoll's face changed in the 1980s

By LUCY SCHUBERT  
of The Sentinel Review

The 1980's brought a host of changes to the developmental face of Ingersoll.

Edward Hunt, town development officer, said "the decade of the 80s will go down in the history books of Ingersoll as an exciting time."

In his review of Ingersoll progress during the past 10 years, *Highlights of the 1980's - A Decade of Progress*, Hunt included points of interest on the development scene in a year-by-year breakdown which he discussed in an interview.

1980  
19 new business startups, 12 closed

IGA built a new 12,000 square foot store on Charles Street West  
Business Improvement Area established

new sidewalks for core area  
Roper Canada Limited closed

Gabriel Shocks purchased the Roper plant  
four new industries announced, three closed

Ingersoll Street from Clark Road to Culloden Road at Highway 401 completed

Ingersoll tent at the International Plowing Match near Woodstock draws large crowds

Hunt said even though Roper Canada Limited closed, it left the building which opened up an avenue for Gabriel Shocks to enter into the Ingersoll industrial scene.

For the plowing match, one of the "Welcome to Ingersoll" signs which adorn the entrances to the town was taken down, spruced up and placed near Ingersoll's tent where free coffee was served.

The match turned into good public relations for the town, as Hunt said people were lined up at the tent to see what the town had to offer.

1981  
highest interest rates in history  
start of the recession  
13 new business startups, 16 closed

expansions at Ingersoll Machine and Tool, Ingersoll Paper Box Ltd. and Sivaeco Ontario Inc.  
Ingersoll Casket Company closed

aerial map of the town completed  
first ever County of Oxford tour hosted by Ingersoll, Woodstock and Tillsonburg

Hunt said interest rates "were going through the roof" during 1981 and the effects of the high rates carried into the next year.

1982  
recession year with above normal interest rates, layoffs and plant closings  
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service industries Invel Controls, Delta Machine and Design and PD Enterprises opened for business

Ingersoll Fasteners completed a major expansion  
Gainers Inc., CIL and Rothsay Concentrates closed their operations with a loss of 223 jobs

industrial land reserve fund established  
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Ingersoll Cheese Co. sold to Anco Foods  
Hunt said 1982 was a bad year but things could have been worse

"We had some layoffs but not like some other communities," he added

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13 new business startups, 14 closed

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Gabriel of Canada closed  
Collins and Aikman purchased the plant

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new industrial brochure prepared

Ingersoll Cheese Co. sold to Colmar Foods  
county council rejects recommendations in county economic development study

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eight new business startups, 11 closed

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Inger Tool and Mould opened  
Ingersoll Machine and Tool and Sivaeco Ontario Inc. completed major expansions

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joint participation at trade shows launched by Ingersoll and Woodstock

new Agricultural Museum opened in Centennial Park  
town's new industrial brochure was tops in the literature awards contest held at the IDAC convention

Hunt said Ingersoll's industrial brochure was chosen the best out of 24 entries at the convention. "We were pleased with that," he added

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11 new business startups, three closed

council placed a temporary freeze on the payment of levies to encourage development

Ingersoll made a submission to attract the proposed Toyota plant

Marbourn Energy Research Ltd. was welcomed as a new industry  
P D Enterprises Ltd. closed with a loss of five jobs

1986  
CAMI Automotive Inc., the General Motors/Suzuki joint venture auto assembly plant announces Ingersoll and the Township of South West Oxford is the site for their 1.6 million square feet plant

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George Scott Machine Shop completed an 1,800 square foot addition

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Photo Packaging closed with a job loss of seven  
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Suzuki Canadian House officially opened

Japanese Housing Committee formed  
new lifestyle machine produced

plans started for new indoor Japanese sentai mats were useful for people to get acquainted with the new culture, Hunt said

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building permit values total previous records  
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CAMI started production of the Tracker and followed in the fall with car line

Nissho Inval and Nifast welcomed as new industries  
Serlapak Inc. expanded into a new 30,000 square foot building

Ingersoll Paper Box expanded its warehouse  
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Continued on page 3

## Continued from page 2

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It was part of a group which supported a study recommending the extension of Ingersoll Street to Highway 401.

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Hunt said council deserves credit for having the foresight to go on with the plan.

"Everybody worked together to bring about what's happening today," he added.

SENTINEL REVIEW

PROGRESS 1990

March 27, 1990

# Plenty of projects brewing to

By MARK REID  
of The Sentinel-Review

**INGERSOLL** — While the debate over the indoor pool complex — now officially called a community centre — continues to be a somewhat hot item, the town's parks and recreation department is bringing other plans to a head to better serve the residents.

In a co-operative effort with the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, some 30 acres of parkland along the banks of the Thames River will be developed for passive recreation activities, says Ray Boogaards, parks and recreation director.

Trails for hiking and walking will be developed in John Lawson Park over the summer months. Picnic tables will also be placed in this passive recreational area.

In the future, Boogaards hopes the trails there can be utilized by cross-country skiing enthusiasts, but there is little chance this will happen in the coming winter months.

The department has acquired 32 acres of parkland, bringing its total to 98.

Edward Park, a typical neighborhood play park with swings, is just over an acre in size and is to be developed in the Walnut Grove subdivision.

And, with three more subdivisions coming on stream, three more neighborhood parks will have to be constructed.

## AROUND THE ARENA

While the construction of an arena is penciled in the books to begin in 1995, the parks department could have known as early as last week if provincial monies had been granted for the first step of the Ingersoll District Memorial Centre's resurrection.

Boogaards himself would like to see a new arena twinned with the current one, but in the meantime there is plenty of work to be done to get the existing facility in shape.

If all goes according to Hoyle, Elobicoke-based DSJ Consultants will be hired to perform an energy audit on the 31-year-old facility, in addition to the fire hall and the public works building.

"From there, the Ministry of Energy will pay us back 50 per cent of our costs of that energy audit and then from there the energy auditor will recommend changes to the building.

"The Ministry of Energy will pay 75 per cent of the changes to the building to make it more energy efficient," says Boogaards.

Last year, the arena building's utility bill totalled just under \$38,000. Incidentally, the \$154,330 brought in by the arena covers about 75 per cent of its \$207,075 expenditure tab.

Boogaards says if the study is completed there should be no problem in getting the grants because of the arena's age. There are holes in the doors, a ceiling curtain could be installed along with new lights to decrease energy consumption.

"A lot of time it's colder out around the rink than it is outside," says Boogaards. "...it's just like opening the doors and letting the heat go out.

The Daily Sentinel-Review, Progress 1990, Thurs., March 29 & Supplement to The Midweek Advertiser, Tues., March 27, 1990 Page 3C

## bolster recreation

As for a new arena, Boogaards would like to twin the existing one as a cost-saving scheme.

"I would like to twin this facility because we're already got the one ice machine," he said from his arena office. "We've got the staff already and we'd only have to hire maybe one full-time person versus the three or four full-time people if we actually went with a separate facility."

Boogaards notes it is possible to add to the existing building at the rear or the south side, but the decision lies in the hands of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority because the site is in a flood plain control area.

In addition to that factor, a study would have to be completed to ensure there is a need for a second ice surface in Ingersoll.

"We wouldn't want to build if there wasn't an actual demand for it," he says.

"To get a Wintario grant, we'd have to have a consultant come in and do a feasibility study on it...in that feasibility study they would more or less indicate the best location for it."

## POOL NEWS

The Maude Wilson outdoor pool of Thames Street, South, will be in operation this summer, but in all likelihood the pool, built during the 1950s, will accommodate its last swimmers this year.

And still the arguments over the Victoria Park-based community centre continue. Supporters of the project, like Boogaards, are confident that Queen's Park will grant the necessary monies to allow construction as ruled following an Ontario Municipal Board hearing last year. In fact, there has been no contingency plan developed in case the grant is not forthcoming.

Boogaards stresses the community centre will be a drawing card for the municipality in its bid to

draw new residents. The Maude Wilson Pool is anything but.

"I don't think it will be worth even coming up and trying to fix it," says Boogaards.

"The building itself, it's got huge gaps in between the bricks, the chimney is falling apart, the pool shelf itself, in a lot of cases, it's in bad shape."

As for the plumbing, no one is sure what shape it is in.

"We're going to put it together this summer and hope that it lasts," he continued.

"We will get through the summer with it. We're very fortunate that we've got Fred Plews on staff, he'll be down there quite a lot making sure it stays together."

## THE NEW POOL AND MORE

The proposal calls for the construction of a leisure pool complex in Victoria Park. In addition to a leisure pool — with four lanes for competitive swimming — the community centre will accommodate a meeting area, a fitness room, and three squash courts.

While the design will block the existing horse track, the softball diamond will stay with no loss of ground. The complex takes up only a small portion of the park.

The facility also offers plenty of viewing points for the various activities. It accommodates the disabled. The pool design includes a ramp into the water where an area for youngsters and conversation area can be found mixed in with not one but two slides.

Boogaards says he is not sure how opposition letters will impact with the government, but he remains optimistic the grant monies will come after the Liberal government sets its budget.

"I'm really confident that we are going to get the grant. Right now there's no discussion about what happens if we don't," Boogaards

added the request for just over \$700,000 was held to the government's second announcement phase of recreational grants because it is one of the larger ones.

The leisure complex design has been in the town's books following an 1984 re-think study on the originally-proposed rectangular pool proposal.

Basically, the study concluded with the leisure pool recommendation because "of the fact Woodstock had one — a traditional pool — Tillsonburg has a traditional pool, why should you really basically compete with those two municipalities?"

The community centre is expected to cost over \$3 million. A total of \$350,000 has been set aside through reserves and fund-raising efforts, the municipality will debenture \$2.6 million after the \$774,000 grant is announced. Construction will take 10 months to a year.

The centre will allow the department to offer more programs including a wide selection of swimming events. Boogaards notes the programs will operate on a schedule so they do not occur at the same time similar programs are running in Woodstock and Tillsonburg.

Adult learn to swim and aquafit programs will also be offered.

Notwithstanding what the community centre will offer, the department is looking to offer more programs this summer. The recent spring break day camp was a success and a similar camp for the summer months is being looked at.

Currently, a study of the needs of seniors is being conducted in town. If a Summer Employment/Experience Development grant can be obtained, the department will hire a student for a door-to-door canvass in regards to what people participate in, where they go to do it and

what would they like to see offered in town.

"Program wise, I think we have been keeping up with the demand up until now, but I think with the new population...we are going to have to get into a lot more now," says Boogaards, adding he sees an increase in young families and

people moving from cities coming to town.

"All of these people coming to town are going to want the services that they are used to. And that's when we are going to have to start expanding our present services to accommodate them."

SENTINEL REVIEW -

PROGRESS 1990

March 27, 1990

## you asked us

**Q**uestion: When did Ingersoll start? Was the town always called Ingersoll?

**A**nswer: Originally called Oxford, the settlement was founded by Col. Thomas Ingersoll in the late 1700s.

The history books tell us he arranged to settle the area in 1793 and brought his family here in 1795. He remained for only a few years but left an indelible mark on the new community.

Contrary to popular belief, the village was not named after Col. Ingersoll but after his son Charles.

Town clerk Gerry Staples said Ingersoll was incorporated as a village in 1852. The first reeve was John Galliford. The Town of Ingersoll came into being in 1865.

SENTINEL REVIEW -

INGERSOLL THIS WEEK

June 12, 1990