

# THE NEIGHBOURHOOD MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE ADOLPHUSTOWN-FREDERICKSBURGH HERITAGE SOCIETY

Issue Number 34

March 2026

## Archiving our History

Every issue of *The Neighbourhood Messenger* relies on archives for content. The AFHS maintains a small photo archive of local people and places. Some of these photographs we post on our website or on Facebook, while others are featured in the newsletter. The AFHS archive also contains a number of old newspapers, catalogues, township papers, letters, and diaries—many of which have been used to augment the stories we tell.

### Our Society

Members of the Adolphustown-Fredericksburgh Heritage Society have a common desire to deepen our knowledge of the history of our community. In researching and capturing aspects of our past, we seek to preserve, promote, and share our rich local heritage.

### Our Executive

President: Angela Cronk  
Vice President: Frank Abbey  
Secretary: Marg MacDermaid  
Treasurer: Jane Lovell  
Webmaster: Susan Wright  
Book Director: Joan Reynolds  
Communications Director: Jane Lovell

### Our Meetings

The Society meets on the third Monday of the month 5-8 times a year at the South Fredericksburgh Hall at 2p.m. Check for the next meeting on our website.

*All welcome!!*

### Our Website

<http://www.sfredheritage.on.ca/>

### Our Facebook Group



### Contact Us

If you have questions or suggestions regarding any aspect of the Society, including *The Neighbourhood Messenger*, please contact :

- Angela Cronk, President (373-8888)  
[angelacronk@gmail.com](mailto:angelacronk@gmail.com)

The Lennox & Addington Archives has long been a valuable resource in researching our past. More and more historical material is being digitized and made available in online archives, allowing us to search further afield for references to people and events of our townships.

Advances in artificial intelligence are also transforming historical research. Tools that can transcribe handwritten documents are proving to be a game changer. The ability to search through thousands of newly transcribed records—such as wills and deeds—helps us uncover previously unknown details and add greater depth to the stories we share.

## A Glimpse of the Past



AFHS Photo

### Unidentified group of children, Adolphustown Early 1920s

Clearly dressed for a special occasion—perhaps a birthday party—these children are wearing clothes that reflect children's fashion of the day. The girls, all sporting the newly popular “bob”—short hair with short bangs—wear large-collared or drop-waisted knee-length dresses. The two younger boys are dressed in a sailor suit and a two-piece buttoned ensemble, while the older boy opts for a simple tie.

***The Neighbourhood Messenger*** is an electronic newsletter distributed to members of the Adolphustown-Fredericksburgh Heritage Society.

Membership to the Society is free. In addition to ensured email delivery of the newsletter, Society membership entitles those interested in our local heritage to be kept informed of, and participate in, all aspects of Society activities.

Anyone can become a member by clicking [HERE](#).

**If you are not currently an AFHS member, please consider becoming one!**

## Area Telephones

Susan Wright



**The ladies are all opposed to the telephone. They don't care to have a young fellow whispering in their ears with his mouth twenty miles away.**

February 16, 1878 *Kingston Daily News*

### Information from local newspapers:

#### 1885

The Bell Telephone Co. put in six new telephones in Napanee this week. There are now about forty in use.

#### 1891

The township of Adolphustown will vote on a by-law on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April to raise the sum of \$500 for the construction of a telephone line between Adolphustown and Napanee.

The by-law voted on by the Adolphustown township electors, to contribute \$500 towards the construction of a telephone service to Napanee was carried.

#### 1893

The North American Telegraph and Telephone Company, having successfully laid their cable from Glenora, have opened a telephone office in Adolphustown.

**1894**

A.C. Parks, Hay Bay fruit farm, has placed a telephone in his residence.

The telephone system has lately been considerably extended here. Last year we were brought into connection with Picton, the wire crossing the bay at Glenora. Some private residences, Capt Chambers', D.W. Allison's, Henry Allison's, were connected with the central office, the village post office.

This fall the wires have been strung east to Conway store, Edward Phippen's residence and Allen Neilson's residence at Sandhurst; also south to Deseronto, with wires connecting with Dorland post office and several private residences; R. Hawley's and Benjamin Platt's on the south side of Hay Bay, and Soby's and A.C. Park's residences on the north of Hay Bay.

The public fully appreciate the convenience of the telephone and it is kept pretty busy. Frank Chambers, our energetic young reeve, deserves great credit in connection with its introduction for his untiring determination to get the telephone among us.

**1895**

[Bath] - It seems we are to be connected by Telephone with the outside world at last. Ten men in the employ of the North American Telegraph Co., have been at work for almost a week erecting poles between here and Sandhurst, at which place connection will be made with Adolphustown and Deseronto. It will be of immense advantage to business and professional men. The head office will be at the post office.

**1896**

The recent opening of telephone offices at Conway, Adolphustown and Dorland is a great convenience to the people of these parts, especially when they require the services of a doctor from Napanee or Bath.

**1908**

The talk of the day is the new telephone company. A short time ago, a meeting was held in the school house for the purpose of organizing a telephone stock company to run a line along the shore of Hay Bay with some connecting side lines. A committee was appointed and as a result of their efforts they have made arrangements for the placing of about 45 phones, and have got about \$2,000 subscribed for, beside securing the right to operate in North Fredericksburgh, South Fredericksburgh and Adolphustown. The new company called the Lennox Telephone Co.

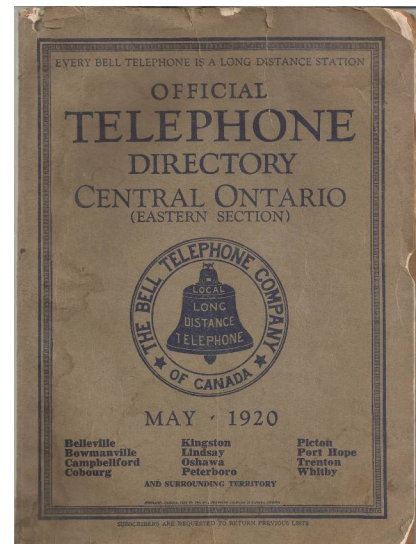
[Hay Bay] Telephone Poles Wanted – 500 Telephone Poles 25 feet long with 5-inch tops, sound and straight, are wanted by the Lennox Telephone Company. Quote price delivered f.o.b. at Napanee. The company also wants to hear from persons who would take the contract of digging holes, erecting poles and wiring the line.

**1911**

There will be a telephone meeting at Conway on Thursday afternoon, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, for the purpose of building a telephone line from Adolphustown through South Fredericksburgh to Napanee.

**1924**

The Adolphustown telephone subscribers are not satisfied with their service and want the Napanee office of the Bell Telephone Company to be made the central office for them. At present, a call from Adolphustown to Napanee has to go through Picton office.



Source: AFHS

Included in the 1920 telephone directory for Eastern Central Ontario were listings for hamlets such as Adolphustown, Conway, Sillsville, Dorland, Hawley, and Morven.

**1925**

Fred A. Perry, representing the Perry telephone system, has purchased from the Bell Telephone Co., all the Adolphustown system, also the long distance lines from John Haycock's point to Bath and Odessa.

**1928**

There was much anxiety expressed last Thursday when it was learned the telephone office was burned, as to when service would be resumed. Mr. Perry brought out a switchboard that afternoon and this was temporarily installed in the vacant store belonging to Dr. Duffett and service was resumed on Saturday.

Owing to the central office at Adolphustown being burned a short time ago, the telephone men have been busily at work repairing the lines and installing a new switchboard. Mr. Harold Hough has had a telephone installed.



1900

AFHS Photo

The Bogart store at Adolphustown with the telephone sign displayed from the front. The store was destroyed by fire on February 21, 1928.

**THE BELL TELEPHONE**

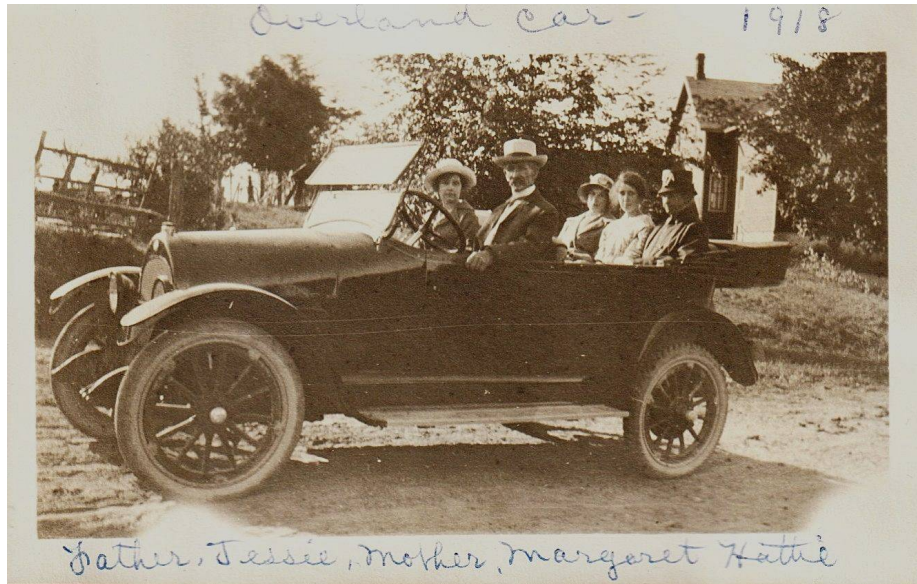
18-218. A real serviceable **Toy Telephone**, with bells to ring and ear trumpet to hear and speak through. Two instruments go with each set, and a voice can be distinctly heard through them from quite a distance. Special value. Price..... **24c**

Further information about the telephone service in Adolphustown and Dorland can be found in the [December 2016 issue](#) of the *Neighbourhood Messenger*, starting on page 12.

Eaton's 1913 Spring & Summer Catalogue While telephone sets could not be ordered through the Eaton's Catalogue, toy versions were available.

## Times Were Changing

Duncan &amp; Ruth Hough



Source: Magee Family Album

John Magee Family in their new Overland car 1918

Front: John and Jessie Back: Margaret and daughters Margaret and Hattie

This picture shows my great grandparents, John and Margaret Magee and three of their daughters in what must have been their first car, an Overland in 1918. Intrigued, I investigated the 1918 issues of the *Napanee Beaver* in the Lennox & Addington Archives. I was surprised by the variety of automobiles available, even in war time, even in Napanee. The new technology was impressive. This was changing the way people lived.

Motor Vehicles were of interest to both urban and rural people. But mobility was most important to farmers and rural residents. Farmers finally had some money to spend. Prices of cheese milk stimulated by war time needs were at record highs. Livestock was worth more as well. Autos, very basic compared to today's models, had been engineered to be a practical alternative to the horse. Several brands were available.

*Overland*

**Light Four**     **\$975**  
Touring

Roadster . . . . . \$950  
Country Club . \$1110

All prices f.o.b. point of shipment.  
Subject to change without notice.

**Saving Time**  
No one now has time, energy or money to waste.

Get a car big enough not to cramp and tire you and tax your energy.

Get the Overland Light Four and save money.

Come in and get it today.

LENNOX AUTOMOBILE & MOTOR BOAT CO.  
AGENTS     NAPANEE



**Overland**

The Overland was built in Toledo, Ohio by the Willys-Overland company. It was advertised as the 'Thrift Car', roomy, comfortable and beautiful. It was priced at \$950 to \$1110 in 1917. The 4-cylinder vehicle featured electric starter and electric lights. It was claimed to be capable of reaching 50 mph. In Napanee, it was sold by the Lennox Automobile and Boat Company. In later years, Willys-Overland introduced the Willys Jeep and exists today as an ancestor of the Chrysler (Stellantis) Company.

*Napanee Beaver*  
July 20, 1917



Napanee Beaver March 15, 1918

**Chevrolet**

The Chevrolet car, named after its founder, Louis Chevrolet, a Swiss engineer and race driver, began production in 1916. Originally a high-end performance car, the price was later aligned to compete with Ford. Prices in 1918 ranged from \$825 to \$1825. The car was built in Oshawa as part of the recently formed General Motors.



Napanee Beaver February 28, 1919

**Gray-Dort**

The Gray-Dort was built in Flint, Michigan but was only produced from 1916-1924. It was billed as the "Car of Comfort with plenty of room back and front". It featured "50 inch ball cantilever springs" and was priced at \$850.



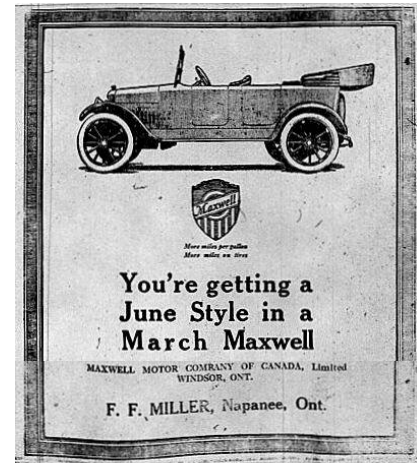
Napanee Beaver July 20, 1917

**McLaughlin**

The McLaughlin was built in Oshawa by General Motors but was the successor of the McLaughlin Carriage Company which had been the largest such company in Canada. The vehicles were built with a Buick power train and featured 6-cylinder engines. They were available in Napanee and Tamworth. Dealers promised to be open day and night and offered vehicles for hire. Repair work was promised to be done promptly by first class mechanics. Models ranged from \$925 to \$1900 with power ratings from 35 to 60 horsepower.

**Maxwell**

The Maxwell was first built in 1904 and was the first vehicle to have the engine in front of the driver rather than under the front seat. Maxwell became a major manufacturer, competing with Ford and General Motors. By 1917, the company had built 300,000 units on the same basic chassis and drive train. In 1918, they emphasized comfort and style, citing 24 improvements including 3-inch deeper seat cushions. In later years, Maxwell became over-extended and was absorbed by Chrysler in 1925. The 1926 Chrysler was very similar to the 1925 Maxwell.



*Napanee Beaver* March 21, 1919

**Ford**



Photo: Duncan Hough  
Model T

The Ford Motor Company was formed in 1903 and the Ford Motor Company of Canada was formed in 1904 to build vehicles for Canada and the entire British Empire. Between 1904 and 1908, Ford built eight experimental models (A, B, C, F, K, R, N, and S) culminating with the Model T which was produced from 1908-1927. More than 15 million Model T's were produced. The 4-cylinder engine produced 20 horsepower, allowing a speed of 40-45 mph. About 1920, an electric starter and electric lights became available. The engine was designed to run on gasoline but could be adapted to burn benzene, ethanol, or kerosene. The engine was designed to be cheap to build and be reliable over a wide range of conditions. The compression ratio was relatively low, making it easier to crank when necessary. Prices in 1918 ranged from \$475 to \$970.

Low cost, reliability and versatility made Fords attractive to farmers. Realizing this Ford directed advertising to the farm and rural population.

**Replace your Buggy with a Ford**

“More than 100,000 Fords are owned by people in Canada in preference to the old horse-drawn buggy and other makes of cars.

Your neighbors, and farmers in every section of the Dominion are abandoning the old buggies, selling their driving horses and buying Fords.

Ford cars are utility cars. They are built to endure the strains of constant daily use over rough roads. These are the tests every farmer gives his car. Ford meets them in a satisfactory manner. It is the Farmer's car, so why not replace your horse and buggy with a Ford?”

*Napanee Beaver*  
February 22, 1918



### Necessary Farm Equipment

**M**ORE and more the Ford car is looked upon by progressive farmers as necessary farm equipment, the same as the plow, the hay rake, the drill, the mower, the harrow and other labor and time-saving machinery.

A farmer with a Ford car can dispense with one or two of his horses and make the trips to town, railway station, creamery, or to the neighbours in one-third the time. In fact there is no farm machine made that will save the busy farmer and his busy wife so much valuable time as a Ford. And it's so easy to take care of—far easier than a horse. No bed to make, or hay and oats to get, no harnessing and unharnessing, and no stables to clean. The Ford practically takes care of itself.

Ask any farmer who owns a Ford if he would ever again try to get along without it. His answer will hasten your decision to own one.

**Ford**  
THE UNIVERSAL CAR

Touring . . .	\$595	Sedan . . .	\$970
Runabout . . .	\$575	Chassis . . .	\$535
Coupe . . .	\$770	One-ton Truck	\$750

F. O. B. FORD, ONT.

W. J. Normile, Dealer  
G. H. Richardson, Dealer

Napanee  
Tamworth

Napanee Beaver March 15, 1919

Every Farmer needs a Ford

"The Motor car is a greater convenience to the average farmer than the telephone, the rural mail, or even the grain binder.

The binder, which is considered a very useful implement, is rarely used more than a few days during the entire year. The rest of the time it stands idle, taking up space, while the automobile is available through all seasons and both day and night.

It is ever ready to run down the lane to the back field or pasture with a parcel or a message or take you and your family to town for a shopping purchase or on an errand to the neighbours.

The motor car is called upon whenever anything is wanted in a hurry. It is the most useful implement or convenience on the farm. It helps you conserve your energies and time for productive work and allows you and your family to accomplish more with less energy. You surely feel the need of a Ford. Why not order one today?"

Necessary Farm Equipment

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The motor car is called upon whenever anything is wanted in a hurry. It is the most useful implement or convenience for the farm. It helps you conserve your energies and time for productive work and enables you and your family to accomplish more with less energy. You surely feel the need of a Ford. Why not order one today?

All prices subject to war tax charges, except trucks and chassis

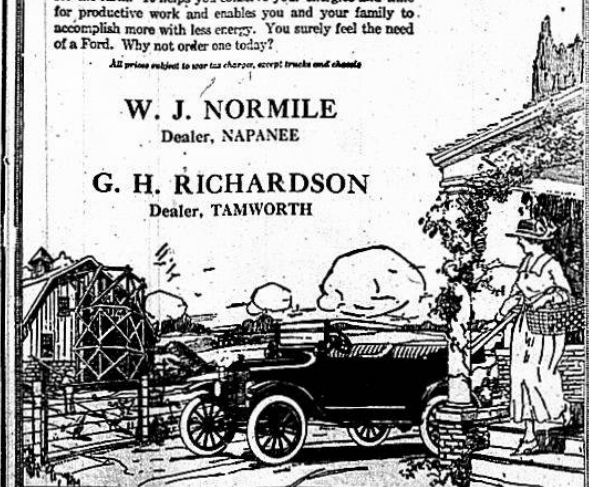
**Ford**  
THE UNIVERSAL CAR

Chassis . . .	\$535
Runabout . . .	575
Touring . . .	595
Coupe . . .	770
Sedan . . .	970
One-Ton Truck	750

F. O. B. Ford, Ont.

W. J. NORMILE  
Dealer, NAPANEE

G. H. RICHARDSON  
Dealer, TAMWORTH



Napanee Beaver June 14, 1918

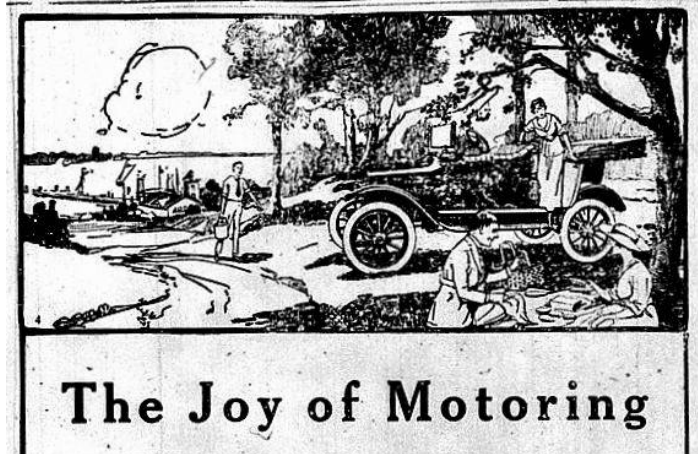
The Joy of Motoring

“Let the Ford introduce you to the beauties of Nature and the outside world. Let it take you into the country, or along the lake where the air is fresh and sweet.

A Ford car will open up new fields of pleasant possibilities for you and your family and at the same time serve you faithfully in business.

No doubt you have felt the need for a car, your wife has often said, 'I wish we had a car'. So why not buy one now? There is no other car that gives you such value for the money invested as a Ford. This is why the Ford car is so popular everywhere.

The Ford car is powerful, easy to drive, economical, enduring. It is the car you need.”



Napanee Beaver May 3, 1918

Does a Farmer need a Truck?

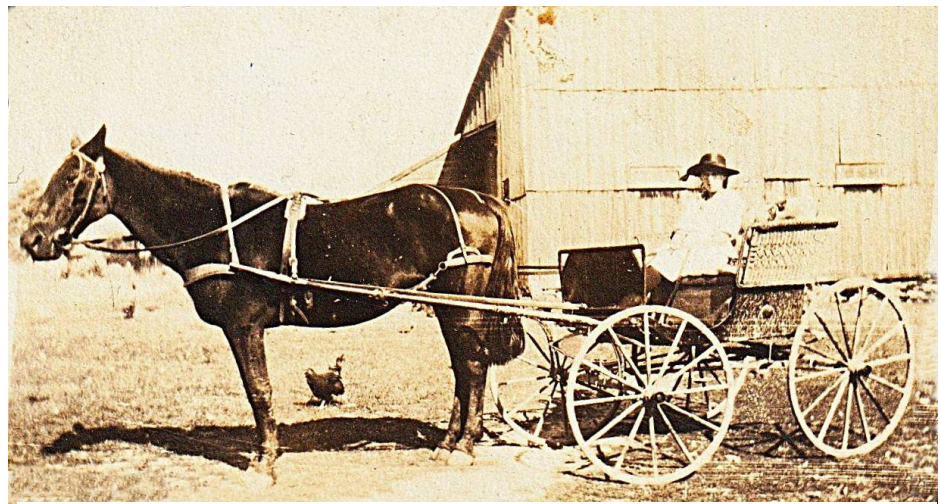
“The farmer with a Ford Truck practically lives next door to the market. He has a choice of markets. He becomes more independent. He can market when and where he pleases. He sells his crop at the very best advantage. And his hauling costs him less in labor and money. It is not only cheaper to haul with a Ford Truck, it is quicker and it is easier work. Consider the time and labor the farmer can save with a Ford Truck. With a team, the trip to town takes the better part of a day. A Ford Truck makes the same trip in two or three hours. When labour is so scarce, what farmer can afford to waste day after day of valuable time?



Napanee Beaver March or April, 1919

Ford One-Ton Trucks are now supplied, if desired, with standard truck bodies in two types, the Stake Body and the Express Body. In both Standard bodies cabs may be supplied with or without doors as desired.

See these complete Ford Trucks. Consider the matter from every angle: the cost of feeding horses against the cost of running a Ford Truck; the time you lose on the road; the money your lose by being so far from the best markets. There is only one conclusion you can come to. You will have a Ford Truck.”



Source: Marion Hough's Collection

1921 The horse is not done yet!



## From Salad Girl to Show Girl — Water-Skiing on Bass Cove

Jane Lovell

This story began for me, not with water skis, but with two yellow canoes. Shortly after my husband and I purchased a property on Ruttan's Point we found ourselves paddling our yellow canoe along the south shore of Bass Cove on a slow-motion collision course with another yellow canoe. The occupants of that second yellow canoe were John and Joan Rolph, the owners of a cottage on the shore just where the encounter occurred. We accepted the Rolphs' invitation for coffee, and after tethering our canoe to their dock, were welcomed into their summer porch. There, mounted high on the wall hung a pair of water skis. They belonged to Joan, and nearly two decades after first spying those skis, I have finally learned the story behind them.



Photo: Joan Rolph

While the Rolph family has a long history of summers spent on and in the water of Bass Cove, Joan's connection to the place reaches further back. Born Joan Allison, she grew up on the farm on which the cottage now stands. Lot 30 of Concession 1 in Adolphustown was deeded to Philip Dorland in 1801, and stayed in the Dorland family until 1928, when it was purchased by Joan's father, Frederick Hugh Allison. Bass Cove beckoned from the back of the farm and it was there where, in the mid-1950s, that Joan learned to water-ski alongside her cousin, Ace Allison.

In search of a summer job while still at high school, Joan replied to a help-wanted ad for kitchen work at Kirk Kove Resort on Big Gull Lake, just over an hour's drive north of Napanee. The allure: The ad noted that being able to water ski would be an asset. Joan got the job and started off as a "salad girl", preparing salads for meals served in the resort's dining room. In addition to her kitchen duties, she was also responsible for housekeeping in the resort's cabins.

When not needed in the kitchen, Joan was tasked with teaching water-skiing to resort guests. Ski shows were held on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons, and before long she was taking part. On

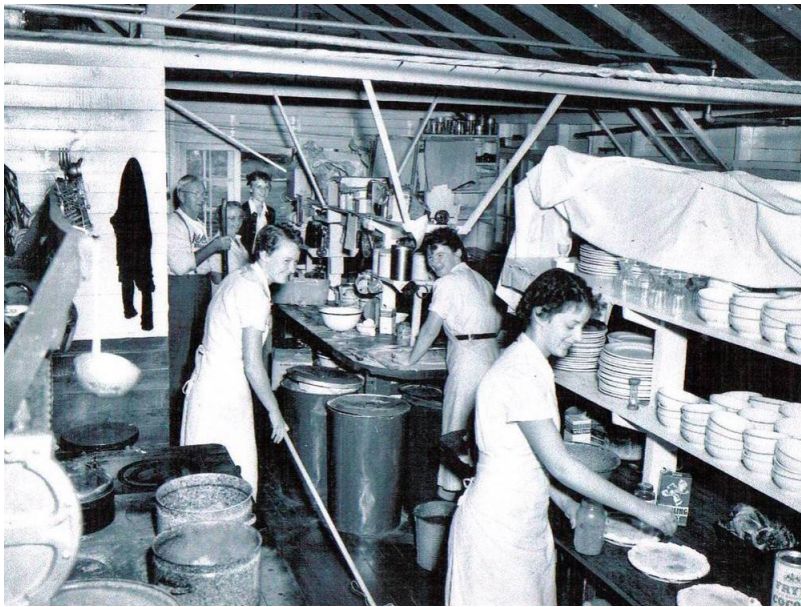
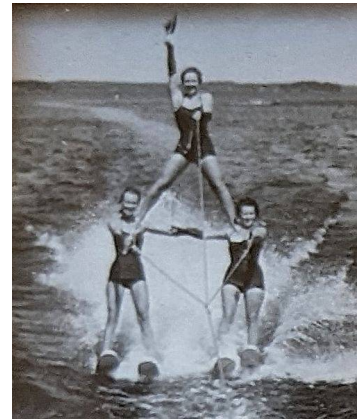


Photo: Cloyne & District Historical Society

Kirk Kove Kitchen Undated

non-show days, after serving lunch, Joan and the other staff practised "doubles"—a manoeuvre in which a "climber" rode on the shoulders of a base skier, performing tricks on and around them. Petite in stature, Joan was well suited to the role of climber; she found the moves came easily and learned them quickly. She also mastered the "pyramid", which had two climbers standing on the shoulders of three base skiers. "Flags" involved five girls towed abreast, each manipulating a pivoting flag fixed to the front of a ski so that the flags moved in sync with one another. Other routines included "ballet" (five skiers on single skis doing synchronized routines), and "back swan" (skiing backwards on one ski with second foot placed in loop on tow bar).

Soon, Joan became proficient enough that she was relieved of her other duties to step into the show whenever one of the regular skiers was unavailable. Before long, she joined the show team.



Photos: Joan Rolph

Joan Allison performing at the Kirk Kove Ski Show 1957 & 1958

Established in 1932 by George Kirk and his family, Kirk Kove was later operated by George's son Donald and his wife Bessie, and subsequently by their son Ken. In the 1950s and '60s the resort was also co-owned by Ken's cousin Guy Weese and Guy's wife, Bonnie. Having spent their winters in the early 1950s as professional show skiers at Cypress Gardens in Florida, the Weeses brought their show to Kirk Kove in 1955. Local summer staff were trained as performers, and the bi-weekly ski shows quickly became hugely popular. In the September 3, 2004 issue of *Kingston This Week*, Ken Kirk reported that attendance during the decade following the show's inception grew to an estimated 500–800 spectators per performance, drawing audiences from Kingston, Belleville, Peterborough, Ottawa, and surrounding regions.

**KIRK-KOVE TOURIST RESORT**  
 BIG GULL LAKE  
 (or Clarendon Lake)  
**ARDEN, ONT.**  
 (Home of the Aqua-Flyers Ski-Show)  
 Excellent Accommodation  
 CATERING  
**BANQUETS TURKEY DINNERS**  
**THANKSGIVING DINNER**  
**SMORGASBORD 12-1 p.m., Wed. and Sun.**  
 June 15 - Oct. 15  
 Spacious Dining Room — Recreation Hall  
 Cabin for Refreshments  
 —Write for Merlus and Prices—

*Kingston Whig* August 26, 1957



Photo: Cloyne & District Historical Society

Kirk Kove Ski Show in the 1950s or 1960s showing audience seated on bleachers on the shore  
 The very popular Dining Room is the structure built over the water. The attached kitchen was to the far right.

For the three summers Joan worked at the Kirk Kove Resort, she lived in the staff cabin. On Sunday evenings she and the other live-in staff would drive to the nearby village of Arden, often simply to use a telephone, as there was no phone at the resort.

In addition to the ski shows, the performers competed in tournaments and participated in photo shoots for promotional materials for the resort and Ontario tourism brochures. Joan took part in many of these activities, including a performance on Rice Lake near Peterborough for the 1958 launch of Johnson's then-revolutionary 50-hp outboard motor.



KINGSTON GIRLS have formed a part of the Kirk-Kove water ski troupe all summer. They will take part in the Land O' Lakes tournament scheduled for this weekend. Above are Roberta Wiltse, Regent street, Donna Lemon, Alamein drive, Judy Cain, McMichael street, Joan Allison, Adolphustown and Sandy Singleton, McMichael street.

Kingston Whig September 3, 1958



"World's-first" Ride for Bonnie Weese, Jo Kennedy, Marion Mitchell, Joan Allison

Toronto Star September 28, 1958

To demonstrate its power, the motor pulled seven skiers from a standing position on a dock into the waters of Rice lake and then into the pattern of a beautiful water ballet.

From the August 1, 1959 *Ottawa Journal*:

[In replicating the Cypress Gardens ski show at Kirk Kove, Guy Weese uses] high school students who work as his lodge as talent. Weese takes the five best girls from his staff of 18, combines them with four boys and puts them through a rigid skiing practice program that takes up three hours a day. After two weeks he manages to come up with a ski show with amateur talent worthy of professional rating. His acts are made up of girls and boys ranging from 16 to 18, many of them hailing from the Kingston and Gananoque area. His wife [Bonnie] who has taken part in previous shows and is a talented skier herself, designs and makes all the costumes worn by the girls.

**INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE BOSS**

Guy Weese makes suggestions to performers Joan Allison, Donna Lemon, both of Kingston.



INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE BOSS.

Guy Weese makes suggestions to performers Joan Allison, Donna Lemon, both of Kingston.



Photo: Joan Rolph

**1958 Ski Show lineup in front of the Kirk Kove Recreation Hall**

**Joan Allison is second from the left, with Bonnie Weese fourth in the lineup.  
Guy Weese is at the far right with Bonnie's father Stan McLean beside him.  
Ken Kirk is fourth from the right.**

During the Christmas break of 1958, Bonnie and Guy invited Joan to perform with them in the Cypress Gardens ski show. Once there, however, Joan learned that because she was under 21, she needed written parental consent to ski. Instead, she was offered work as a "Garden Girl."

Cypress Gardens was established in 1932 on Lake Eloise in central Florida by Dick Pope Sr. and his wife, Julie. Opened to the public in 1936, the extensive botanical gardens laid the foundation for what would become one of America's first theme parks. Water-skiing shows began in 1943, and "Southern Belles" were introduced around the same time. These young women, later known as "Garden Girls", dressed in elaborate gowns inspired by the region's antebellum history, and were stationed throughout the gardens to greet visitors and pose for photographs.

As a member of the Garden Girls troupe, Joan chose each day's costume from a wardrobe of more than 100 Southern Belle gowns. The Garden Girls shared a dressing room with the female skiers, and it was there that Joan met and became acquainted with three world champions who were among that season's ski show performers. Also appearing as Garden Girl over the Christmas holidays was Mary Ann Mobley who had recently been crowned Miss America for 1959.

While at Cypress Gardens, Joan met Bert Parks, the longtime host of the Miss America telecast. At the time he was also hosting NBC's game show, *County Fair*, on which Joan was invited to appear as one of the Garden Girls.



Photo: Joan Rolph

**Garden Girls Joan Allison & Mary Anne Mobley, Miss America 1959**

It turned out that Joan was not only barred from skiing in the shows at Cypress Gardens but, because of state labour laws, was also unable to receive pay for her work as a Garden Girl. In lieu of wages, however, park owner Dick Pope Sr. made sure that a pair of Cypress Garden water skis and a Nancie Rideout slalom ski were sent to Joan's home in Adolphustown. Nancie Rideout had been a regular performer in the Cypress Gardens Ski Show in the years before Joan visited. In addition to performing in the ski shows, Nancie took part in competitive ski jumping, winning the World Championship title in 1957 at Cypress Gardens and again the following year in Milan.

Joan last skied as a member of a show team at the 1959 ski show at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto. While excited to be part of such a well-known Canadian event, Joan found the skiing itself extremely unpleasant—mostly due to the very polluted water. Much more agreeable was reprising the role of a Garden Girl of sorts—this time aboard a Hawaiian-themed float.



Photos: Joan Rolph

At the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto 1959

Top: "Ballet" and "Pyramid" routines

Above: Joan Allison aboard the Hawaiian float. Themed floats were towed around the lagoon between skiing acts.

The Kirk Kove Resort's bi-weekly ski shows came to an end in the 1960s as tourism patterns and resort entertainment changed. Ken Kirk remained active in the world of water-skiing and later went on to direct the ski show at Expo '67. Although Kirk Kove is no longer owned by the Kirk family, it continues as a family-run business focused primarily on fishing, but still offering opportunities for water-skiing.

Cypress Gardens remained the "Water-Skiing Capital of the World" for decades, with ski shows serving as a signature attraction. Ownership of the park changed hands several times before it closed in 2009. Within a year, the property was purchased and reopened as Legoland Florida—with the ski show still a staple entertainment. As public interest declined and operating costs rose, the decision was eventually made to discontinue the ski show, with the final performance taking place on December 30, 2024.



Photos: Joan Rolph

**Left: Joan Allison with a cast member from the Cypress Gardens Ski Show also performing at the CNE Ski Show 1959**

**Right: Joan Rolph with her Nancie Rideout slalom ski at her cottage on Bass Cove 2025**

And those Cypress Gardens skis that arrived in Adolphustown in 1960? Joan used them for many years before they were eventually retired. The pair now gracing the wall of the summer porch at her cottage serves as a clue to Joan's brief stint as a Show Girl—an exciting chapter in the life of a farm girl from Adolphustown.

Joan left the farm after her summers at Kirk Kove, but she has returned almost every year to spend her summers on the shores of Bass Cove, where she continued to ski recreationally into her 70s. Joan's children and grandchildren have inherited her love of life on the water, and the farm—still in the family—has transitioned from a place of summer play into a year-round home for the next generation.

While water-skiing no longer commands the popularity it once did, the waters of Bass Cove still beckon the occasional skier along with those who have taken up wake-boarding or tubing. Bass boats and jet-skis provide the thrill of speed along with their silent counterparts: sailboats and windsurfers. More sedate water-craft also frequent the bay: paddleboards and kayaks and the occasional yellow canoe—or two!

## Clippings

## WOOD CONTRACT.

**W**ANTED for the Steam-Boat CHARLOTTE, EIGHT HUNDRED CORDS OF WOOD, of which three fourths must be beech and Maple, and one fourth, dry Pine, or Tamarack, all split fine, to be delivered at the following places so as to be convenient to put on board, viz. at Prescott, Brockville, Gananoque, Ernest Town, Adolphustown, Hallowell, Roblins and Solmes, in Sophiasburgh, Bellville, River Trent and the Carrying Place.

Tenders for furnishing any part of the above, directed to SMITH BARTLET, will be received until the 1st of December next.

Kingston, Nov. 16. 1818.

Kingston Gazette  
November 17, 1818

## Information Wanted.

**A**N ITALIAN LAD about 14 years of age, named GENSEPPE CAPRONI, left the employment of his master at Cobourg in December last, and came to the neighborhood of Kingston. He was last heard of in the employment of a farmer at Adolphustown. His father is now living in Kingston, and is anxious to obtain any information which may lead to his recovery. Address GIOVANNI CAPRONI, care of D. CHISACCHI, Kingston.

Kingston Daily News  
June 5, 1856

While Amos H. Allison was fishing at Hay Bay he landed a maskinonge which weighed 34 lbs. It was 8 inches through and the jaws when opened, measured 5 inches. This is the biggest fish caught in the bay for years.

Daily British Whig  
September 21, 1887

## ELOPEMENT.

**W**HEREAS, my wife Susannah has left my bed and board without my consent, I do hereby forbid any person or persons harbouring or trusting her on my account, as I will pay no debts of her contracting after this date.

RICHARD <sup>his</sup> <sub>mark</sub> YOUNG.

Fredericksburgh, 26th Sept. 1831. 1wp

Upper Canada Herald  
September 28, 1831

Mr Henry Huffman, of South Fredericksburgh, recently sheared a yearling Leicester ram lamb, from which he took a fleece of wool measuring fifteen inches in length, and weighing nineteen pounds.

Kingston Daily News  
May 23, 1872

**A CURIOSITY.**—On Saturday last, “the natives” of this good and loyal town were surprised by the unusual appearance of a flag, attached to the top of something, which in the distance appeared like a military sentry box. On closer inspection, it was found to be a portion of the trunk of an enormous Sycamore tree, hollowed out, roofed, shingled and supplied with two windows.—The tree from which this curious house was made grew in Adolphustown, and is *Eighteen feet six inches in circumference.* We have been informed, that there is a larger Sycamore, now standing, near South Bay, in the Township of Marysburgh.—[ib.]

Upper Canada Herald  
February 11, 1845

John Phippen, of Conway, who has been suffering for the past two weeks or more with what was supposed to be a felon, has found it necessary to go to the hospital in order to have the finger amputated.

Weekly British Whig  
January 21, 1897

# Then and Now



Photo: Judy Smith

East Section of the Three-Section House 1944



Photo: Judy Smith

1995



Photo: Google Street View

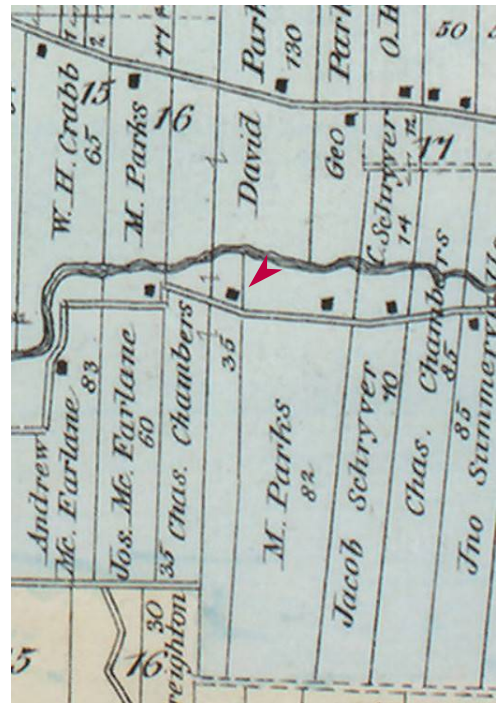
2012 Unchanged in 2026

## 3377 Big Creek Road

West Part of the Gore Lot  
between Lots 16 & 17  
Concession 4  
North Fredericksburgh

Deeded to James Shaw in 1822

After changing ownership several times, the lot was bought by Charles Chambers in 1862. The property remained in the Chambers family for four generations and 135 years.



Meacham Illustrated Historical Atlas of Frontenac, Lennox and Addington Counties 1878

In addition to several other properties, Charles Chambers owned the west 35 acres of the Gore Lot between Lots 16 & 17 in the fourth concession of North Fredericksburgh.

The house is between Big Creek and the road to the south.

## Reflections

In this issue of the *Neighbourhood Messenger*, we present another instalment of **Reflections**. For material for this column, we invite readers to share stories from the past—anything from a memorable event to everyday moments or how things were once done. Please consider becoming a contributor!

### Memories of My Old Home at Big Creek

Judy Smith

Let me tell you a little about my home on Big Creek Street (West).

The Chambers came to the Creek area in 1840. I lived in my great-great-grandparents' homestead with my parents Glynn and Irene and my grandfather Herbert Chambers. My parents bought the farm from my grandfather in 1937. Grandpa continued to live with us until his death in 1972. The farm stayed in our family until it was sold after Irene died in 1997.

There were three doors across the front of the house.



Photos: Judy Smith

The 1995 photo, left, shows the house with its three front doors.

Little had changed since the photo on the right was taken nearly four decades earlier.

The right-hand shot shows Irene and Glynn heading off to church in 1959, a year after the insulbrick siding had been installed and the windows and doors newly painted in preparation for their daughter Judy's wedding in September 1958.

The first door on the west (left side of the photo above) led to our kitchen. The kitchen was long and fairly wide. It was a typical one: cookstove, wooden table and chairs, day couch, rocker, my grandfather's big chair at the front window, a sideboard behind it. Linoleum on the floor, lace curtains and blinds, coal oil lamps, a gas lamp hung over the kitchen table. My dad always warned me not to touch the mantle bag as it would break easily.

Behind the cookstove was a wood box. You might get money for an allowance if you filled it. There was also a clothes rack to dry clothes. Sometimes a little lamb or runt pig would be in a box behind the stove. Those were my playmates as I was an only child and sure loved their company.

Off the kitchen was my parents' bedroom which had a bed, dresser, hooks on the walls for clothes, and a window that looked into the back yard.

I slept on a couch in the kitchen during the winter, but come summer, I could sleep upstairs in back bedroom in the east end of the house.



Photo: Judy Smith

Back of House Undated

A woodshed was beside the kitchen. It held wood and kindling for the fires, hooks to hang barn clothes, a gas-powered washing machine, a copper boiler to heat water for wash day, tubs and stools. I strongly remember turning the crank on the ringer rollers that drained the clothes of water. If you didn't pay attention you could get your fingers badly pinched. The woodshed also held our ice box that kept things cold. We used Frosty Lockers in Napanee for meat and fruit.

**NAPANEE CREAMERY & FROSTY LOCKERS**  
 P.O. BOX 614 PHONE 106  
 Napanee, Ont. Jan 2 1959  
 Sold to Mr. Ray Gudge

POUNDS	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	AMOUNT
	NAPANEE BRAND - 1st GRADE		
	L & A WHEY BUTTER		
	<u>Locker 324</u>		
	<u>Dec 2/58</u>		
	<u>Dec 2/59</u>		<u>10.00</u>

LOCKERS ARE DUE IN ADVANCE

NUMBER OF BOXES \_\_\_\_\_ CHARGED TO CUSTOMER \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ CREDITED TO CUSTOMER \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED BY \_\_\_\_\_  
 DELIVERED BY \_\_\_\_\_

**10** THE SUNG PRESS LTD., OTTAWA, ONT.



Source: L&A Museum & Archives

After commercial refrigeration became widespread—and before rural electrification and large home freezers were common—Napanee Creamery and Frost Lockers offered freezer space for storing meat and frozen produce. A receipt (left) shows that in 1959 the annual locker rental was \$10.

A promotional calendar from 1935 (right) listed the operator as Gordon McNevin and noted that the business was “Centrally Located for Your Convenience”. Frosty Lockers, at 10 Dundas Street West, first appeared in the Napanee telephone directory in 1947. The building, insulated with thick blocks of cork, was demolished in 1977.

The second door led to the dining room. Wainscotting was halfway up the walls, there was a large oak table and chairs, round-fronted china cabinet, studio couch, two easy chairs and a small coal stove. Coal was brought from Vine’s Yard by the Napanee River. The coal stove would need a scuttle of coal each night. We went to the coal bin in the garage for this. We had to wait for gas to burn off the coal before we got much heat. There were always ashes to deal with from the stoves. You used these in the outside toilet.

Vine’s Yard—listed as Napanee Fuel & Supply Co.—appears in the 1953 Napanee telephone directory below the entry for Frosty Lockers.

Three phone numbers are given for the coal yard: one for the office on Water Street along the Napanee River; a second for the Bridge Street home of the proprietor Harry Vine; and a third for the Vine cottage at Sans Souci, a cottage community on the south side of the river, to the west of town.

NAPANEE CREAMERY & FROSTY LOCKER	
	10 Dundas W. 106
Gordon McNevin Res.	689-J
Napanee Distributing Station Selby Rd.	77
Napanee & District Collegiate Graham	351
<b>NAPANEE DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE</b>	51 Mill E. 616
<b>NAPANEE EXPRESS</b> Publishers	109 John 134
<b>NAPANEE FLOUR &amp; FEED MILL</b>	14 Market Sq. 283
<b>NAPANEE FUEL &amp; SUPPLY CO</b> Office	6 Water W. 575
H W Vine Res	11 Bridge E. 244
Summer Res	921-R-11

My grandfather slept up over the dining room in a slanted-ceiling bedroom. He only had a small register in the floor and the stove pipes for warmth.

Opposite his bedroom was a large open attic. A place for storage, of course, but my dad hung his muskrat hides up there on stretchers to dry before he sold them. One year he caught enough muskrats to buy himself a new Ford Truck. Cost — \$1200. Dad and grandpa would skin the fat off the hide right in the kitchen, using razor blades, and throw the fat on newspapers laid on the floor.

## Good Catch Of Muskrats Near Napanee

NAPANEE (Staff)—The catch of muskrats this year in the Napanee and Hay Bay area has been considerable, Ontario Lands and Forests Department officials report.

An estimated 10,000 muskrat pelts were sold here in April. A royalty fee of five cents per pelt must be paid to the department.

Although the muskrat season starts in November, most trappers here hold the pelts until a Montreal buyer makes an annual buying trip here in April or May.

The muskrat season ends on the last day of April this year. This is an extension of nine days.

\* \* \*

*Kingston Whig*  
April 28, 1959

## SIMPSONS-SEARS

New Low Price  
For the Gift She Has Always Wanted!

### Fur Jacket

Selected Muskrat Backs

Deluxe dyed muskrat pelts in semi-length 2-skin lengths. Fashioned from only selected pelts, densely furred and dyed a glowing baum martin shade. The classic shawl collar buttons up snugly to the throat. Deep set cuffs, 2-button closing, lined with satin throughout. Sizes 10-20.

**\$139**

LOW MONTHLY  
PAYMENTS ON  
SIMPSONS-SEARS EASY  
PAYMENT PLAN!



\$14 DOWN GIVES HER THIS  
GIFT OF A LIFETIME.

*Kingston Whig*  
December 18, 1959

The "Good Catch" of the 1958-59 season (left) would certainly have encouraged participation in the following year's hunt.

From the October 3, 1959 issue of the *Kingston Whig*:

Open Season for Winter Trapping: Muskrats, north of No. 7 highway, November 1 to April 30; south of No. 7 highway including Prince Edward County, November 1 to April 21.

Persons engaged in hunting or trapping fur-bearing animals must be in possession of a license with the exception that a farmer or any of his sons residing upon his land may hunt or trap on his land.

You could go from the kitchen and dining room into a small pantry with open shelves and a white sink to do dishes. Hot water was from a reservoir on the stove. Some of the tea towels were bleached sugar bags. We had a pump in there too for the cistern in the cellar below. The pantry had a door to the cellar steps. The cellar had a dirt floor, shelves for canned goods, and bins for the potatoes and vegetables.

The third door led to the hall on the east side of the house. A wide stairs led you up to the two bedrooms with beds, dressers, blanket boxes, hooks on the wall for your clothes and windows for air.

Off the hall downstairs was a large living room with an archway to another living room. There was a box stove for heat, chesterfield and two chairs, end tables, an old small round stand, a large library table, two knick-knack shelves in corners, linoleum floors, lace curtains, and over the front window was a large red pane of glass, still in place today.

We didn't use this part in winter as it was too cold. It was a great place to store your 100-pound bags of flour and sugar and a large round block of cheese from the Union Cheese Factory.

The house must have been in two sections as there was a foot gap between the main house and the east end part. We always felt a draft at the hall door that led into the dining room, so my mother would lay a rug against the door in winter. I always thought our house was cold in winter, but you must remember winters were much more harsh in those days. There were storm windows to put on in winter and take off in the summer.



Photo: Judy Smith

**Judy Chambers and Porky in front of the  
East Section of the Three-Section House 1944**

**The middle and east doors can be seen in this shot. Also clearly visible are the dilapidated veranda floor and skirt as well as the broken steps leading up to the middle door. Only one bay of the veranda retains its graceful arch decoration.**

The early pictures of my home in 1944, two years after I was born, showed the house in very bad repair. A number of years later my dad tore the wooden veranda off the front of the house and poured a cement stoop across the front of the dining room and east end. Cement steps led up to the kitchen door and steps up to the woodshed. When my dad poured the cement walkways, he woke up to a disaster the next morning. The chickens had come from their coop to the house and walked in all the fresh cement. It is a wonder that all those chickens didn't lose their heads!!

A pump in front of the house gave us water for the water pail with dipper, and bath water, as there was no bathroom until we got hydro in 1952. This pump is still used today for watering flowers. In summer you might need to prime it.

Before the hydro came you used a coal oil lamp to go down to the cellar or up to bed. Lanterns were used to go to the barn.

When the hydro came, we got an electric washing machine, fridge, lights in all rooms, and finally a black and white TV. People thought you had to sit in the dark to watch it. Funny idea!!



Photo: Judy Smith

**Chambers Barn 1948  
Built in 1946 by Gary Provins & Donovans**

My mother always wore an apron in the house. She made lots of bread puddings and custards, bean soup, and fried chicken. We ate porridge or fried eggs at breakfast and coffee and toast made on the cook stove. She always worked alongside my dad milking, haying, and getting winter wood. They had a big garden every year.

My grandfather was more than just a grandfather. He was my best friend who played cards, I Spy, and Hide the Button. One time he hid the button in my mother's flower pot in the window. I never did find it. Grandpa was my babysitter when my parents were away. Grandpa would give me 10¢ or 25¢ when I went to town on Saturdays. Big money in those days for a little girl to spend.

Sunday visiting was popular in my childhood. We would have relatives come for a visit and stay for supper. Thus some poor chicken lost its head that day!!



Photo: Judy Smith

**Five Generations of Chambers 1960**

**Darlene Smith (2 weeks), Judy Smith (19), Glynn Chambers (50), Herbert Chambers (73), Maggie Chambers, née Conley (93)**

My parents and I always went to church and Sunday School at Anderson United Church in the morning. We would visit my great-grandmother Maggie (Mrs. George Chambers), a dear old lady who lived to the age of 96. As a child, I remember she always had cookies in a jar, homemade fresh bread and jam, or brown sugar pie made out of leftover pieces of pie crust. She was strong on "Please" and "Thank You".

In the summer of 1958, my father did all the house over outside with insulbrick and painted all the doors and windows. I was married that September to Lyle Smith, a farmer from Dorland.

This past summer I had a chance to meet the present owners of my old homestead and they graciously let me and my daughter Jennifer tour the house.

Changes galore, but it still felt like home. When they were doing renovations they found a BB gun wrapped in papers in the wall. They also found a window facing east in my grandfather's bedroom. It had probably closed off when the east section was put on. The new owners kept the wainscoting in the dining room. My biggest surprise was they took the woodshed and made it into their downstairs' bedroom.

**The garage blew down in 2025.  
Still remaining is part of the concrete  
foundation inscribed with:  
"1945 War Over April 9"**



Photo: Judy Smith

**Chambers Garage Late 1940s**

A happy home gives you lots of memories, plenty of laughter and lots of love.  
I had all these in my old homestead.

## Feature Article from our Website

Susan Wright

# The Sillsville Grave Robbery

Spring 1899

The full account of the robbery and the ensuing trial can be found on our website [HERE](#).

Mrs. Mary Jane Young died on Friday, April 28, 1899 at the age of 63.

She was buried the following Sunday in Sillsville Cemetery.

On Monday morning, a friend informed her son, John Young, that the grave of his mother had been 'disturbed'.

John made his way to the cemetery and found that it had indeed been tampered with.

The grave was opened up, and the coffin found empty.

Mary Jane was the daughter of John and Anne Schryver.

She married Amos Young c1857, and they had nine children;

James, Philip, John, Emeline, Catherine, Luke, Anna, Jacob and Mary.

Her husband, Amos died nine months after Mary Jane, in January of 1900.

A funeral notice for Amos states that he died of consumption at the age of 66, was a widower, a Methodist and left five grown sons.

It is believed they are both buried in the Sillsville Cemetery, although there is no stone or other marker that we are aware of.

### The Body-Snatchers.

Lawyer W. G. Wilson, of Napanee, who gained considerable prominence as the counsel for Robert Mackie, has been retained by Mr. Young, of Sillsville, to push the prosecution of the parties who robbed the grave of the remains of Mr. Young's mother. The crime has caused a good deal of natural indignation in Sillsville and the neighbourhood, and there is no disposition to allow that horrible night's work to go unpunished. Mr. Wilson is in Kingston, where he interviewed Stafford Grimshaw, the Queen's student, to whom the body was addressed.—Belleville Ontario.

*Kingston Daily News*  
May 5, 1899

### The Body-Snatching Case.

On May 1st the dead body of an aged woman, named Mrs. Jane Young, arrived at Kingston, packed in a barrel, addressed to Stafford Grimshaw, Kingston. It was charged that the body was stolen by a man named Hill, from a graveyard at Sillsville, in Lennox county. To-day Hill was placed on trial at the County court sessions. Mr. E. G. Porter, of this city, is defending the accused.—Belleville Intelligencer.

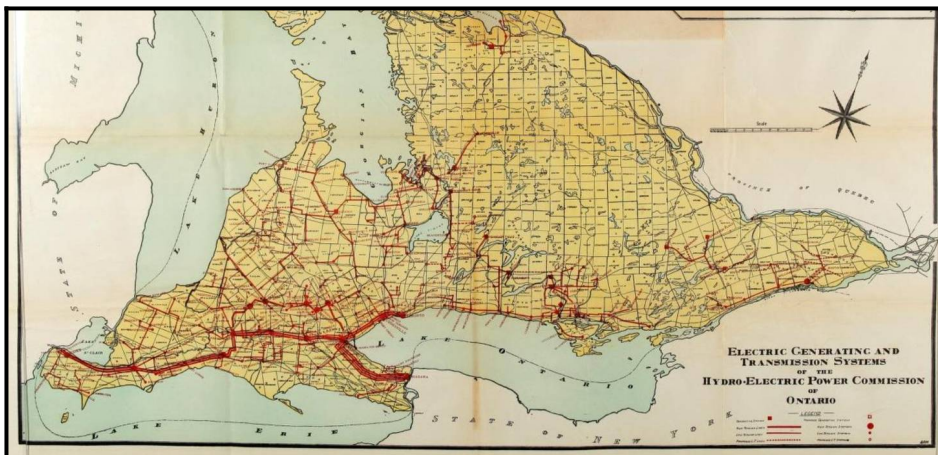
*Kingston Daily News*  
June 15, 1899

## Hydro Changes Household Chores

Duncan & Ruth Hough

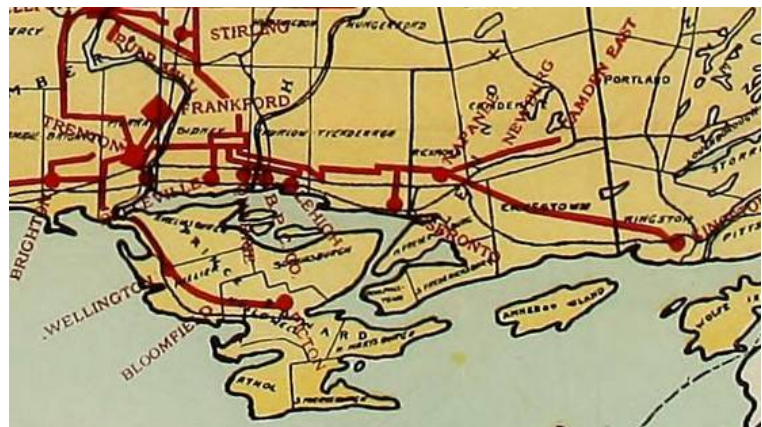
Thomas Edison patented the electric light bulb in 1879, stimulating a change from oil and gas lamps to electric light. Electric streetcars and industrial machines increased the demand for power.

In 1900, Niagara Falls Park and Railway developed a power plant producing 150,000 Kw at Niagara. At the same time, four other private companies were developing another 300,000 Kw of capacity. There was huge debate over public/private interests in electrical generation and distribution. In the Provincial election of 1905, James Whitney (who would become premier) declared "The Water Power of Niagara shall be free as the air." A year later, the Hydro Electric Power Commission (HEPC) was created with the mandate of bringing power generation and distribution under public control. Two massive generation projects were built at Niagara in the 1920s. Transmission lines were gradually extended from generation sites to centres of population.



Transmission Lines 1919  
Province of Ontario, left,  
Napanee area detail, below  
Source: Twelfth Annual Report of  
the Hydro-Electric Power  
Commission of the Province of  
Ontario, 1919

Early electricity in Napanee was provided by a generator located in the "Big Mill" located on the river bank just east of East Street. The generator was powered by water supplied through a canal running from the falls beneath the Gibbard plant.

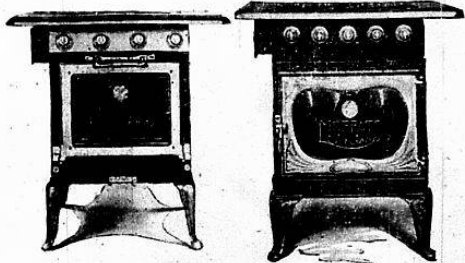


According to an article on Napanee in the Toronto Globe & Mail's *Saturday Globe*, from November 25, 1893, "Along the canal bank on the west side of the river are several factories and mills, all of which are supplied with water power. The same

power drives the huge engine in the water works department and also runs the machinery in the electric light building." In 1911, the Seymour Power and Electric Company bought an existing power house in Napanee, probably the one mentioned in the 1893 article. Seymour had built a generating plant on the Trent River, north of Campbellford in 1909 and had purchased a power house in Port Hope in 1911. Between 1911 and 1914 the company built a large project at Healey Falls on the Trent River. Seymour was absorbed by the HEPC in 1930.

Transmission lines from the Trent River area had reached Napanee and then Kingston by 1919, no doubt greatly increasing the electrical capacity in town. However, it took years for "Hydro" to reach rural areas. Sillsville and Conway got electricity in the early 1930s. The UEL Cheese Factory in Dorland was electrified in 1937. For the Third Concession of Adolphustown and the eastern part of little Creek Street, Hydro didn't arrive until the late 1940s.

A "Hydro Store" existed in Napanee in 1918 and electrical appliances became available. Advertising for the new appliances showed how electricity changed household tasks forever.



Model E-31  
\$60.00

Model E-21  
\$80.00

### COOK BY HYDRO

You may consider your kitchen complete now, but after you have experienced the comforts and savings of an Electric Range, you will know real cooking joy.

On a hot summer's day—when you have cooking to do, meat to roast, pies to bake, and lots of other things that only mother knows how to make—that is when you will appreciate the convenience of no fires to tend, no ashes to carry, no black pans to scrub.

Then you will really appreciate the comforts of having all the heat in the stove—under instant, perfect control—and a clean, cool room to work in.

Summer is not here yet, but it's coming very soon. Now is the time to get a Range and be prepared.

**UNTIL JUNE 15th**

is the only time you can get a Range at such a low price. Special arrangements with the manufacturers gives you this golden opportunity. After June 15th regular prices will be restored.

Act quickly. Come to our office and see real cooking done on the same kind of a Range we'll put in your home.

**HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER  
COMMISSION OF ONTARIO**

NAPANEE Ontario

Napanee Beaver June 7, 1918

### IRONING THIS WAY IS ALMOST AS EASY AS KNITTING

"Knitting requires only the knitter's hands. Ironing with the Hydro iron needs her hands and eyes. It does not need her thoughts. They may be planning the upcoming family picnic or a new dress. Work that does not take the thoughts, does not tire. It goes on and is done before we realize.

How different from the old way! Could anyone keep her thoughts off the hateful task of ironing in a sweltering kitchen with scorching fingers, worries about keeping the fire up, over heated or under heated irons?

### THE HYDRO IRON

is ready in 3 minutes with exactly the proper heat. It holds that heat the same till the work is done. No heat on the hands. The Hydro Iron costs only \$4.50 and is guaranteed to take you comfortably through 200 weekly ironings—5 years of satisfaction."

### COOK BY HYDRO

"You may consider your kitchen complete by now, but after you experience the comfort and savings of an electric range, you will know real cooking joy.

On a hot summer day, when you have cooking to do, meat to roast, pies to bake and lots of other things that only mother knows how to make, that is when you will appreciate the convenience of no fires to tend, no ashes to carry, no black pans to scrub.

Then you will really appreciate the comforts of having all the heat in the stove under constant, perfect control and a clean, cool room to work in.

Summer is not here yet, but is coming very soon. Now is the time to get a Range and be prepared.

Act quickly. Come into our office and see real cooking done on the same kind of Range we'll put in your home."



### Ironing this way is almost as easy as knitting

Knitting requires only the knitter's hands. Ironing with the Hydro iron needs her hands and her eyes. It does not need her thoughts. They may be planning the coming family picnic or a new dress. Work that does not take the thoughts, does not tire. It goes on and is done before we realize.

How different from the old way! Could anyone keep her thoughts off the hateful task of ironing in a sweltering kitchen, with scorching fingers, worries about keeping the fire up, over heated or under heated irons?

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For sale only by

### THE HYDRO SHOP



Napanee Beaver September 13, 1918



**My ironing used to look like a mountain**

IRONING day was my worst day in the week. Bending over the hot stove and scorching my fingers on the irons wore on my nerves, and I would end the day a complete wreck, almost impossible for the family to live with.


**THEN I GOT A HYDRO IRON**

IRONING now is almost a pleasure. The stove is out and the kitchen is cool; my iron is always just the right heat; I do not have to run back and forth to the blazing fire. Ironing takes much less time than it did.

The Hydro Iron costs \$4.50 and is guaranteed for 5 years. Do you know that it is only 1½ cents per ironing for all that comfort?

For sale only by

**THE HYDRO SHOP**



*Napanee Beaver*  
September 20, 1918

**MY IRONING USED TO LOOK LIKE A MOUNTAIN**

“Ironing day was the worst day of the week. Bending over the hot stove and scorching my fingers on the irons wore on my nerves and I would end the day a complete wreck, almost impossible for a family to live with.

**THEN I GOT A HYDRO IRON**

Ironing now is almost a pleasure. The stove is out and the kitchen is cool; my iron is always just the right heat; I do not have to run back and forth to the blazing fire. Ironing takes much less time than it did. The Hydro Iron cost \$4.50 and is guaranteed for 5 years. Do you know that it is only 1½ cents per ironing for all that comfort?

150 Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, Office, Dundas  
77 Sub Station.....Selby rd  
195 Lineman's Residence.....Water

**The Napanee Hydro Shop**  
Official Telephone Directory Central Ontario (Eastern Section)  
The Bell Telephone Company of Canada November 1919

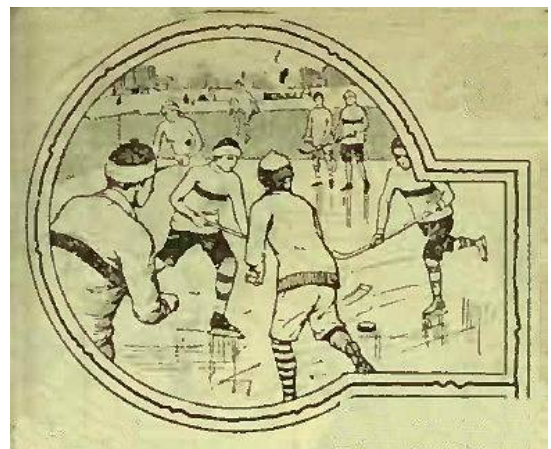
**And Furthermore...**

The following feedback was received for the [November 2025 issue](#) of the *Neighbourhood Messenger*.

For the **Lace 'em Up!** article:

Judy Smith recalls that the fields along Little Creek near Anderson Church in North Fredericksburgh occasionally flooded, making a large skating surface. Rounds of wood served as benches and for night skating a bonfire was lit. Often out until midnight, families could warm up by the bonfire drinking hot chocolate and eating cookies.

Lois O'Hara believes the Adolphustown Rink was just north of the Loyalist Parkway and west of County Road 8, where the ground flattens out after descending the hill from the highway.



Eaton's Fall & Winter Catalogue 1920-1921

In the **Trip to California** article, the house seen in the background of the photograph of Edna Allison and her father Joseph was profiled in the [November 2018 issue](#) of the *Neighbourhood Messenger*.

Lois O'Hara has the following to add about the house in Adolphustown village:

The house in the picture of Edna and her father is the house where Amelia [Allison] lived, after living in "the brick". After Amelia, her daughter Mary lived there and my brother Merton and I would take our Grandmother [Annie Allison Davis, Mary's cousin] "out" to visit Mary. We liked to do that because Mary had shelves along the west and east walls of her living room. These shelves were filled with books. My favourites were Erle Stanley Gardiner books and Mary encouraged us to borrow them. Then we could take them back and get some more.



AFHS Photo

circa 1920s

*[Editor's Note: Born in 1853, Amelia Elizabeth Membery married David Wright Allison, 32 years her senior, in 1876. The following year they moved into the large newly built brick house—"the brick"—currently used as a museum and research centre in the UEL Park.*

*When D.W. died in 1906, his considerable holdings in Adolphustown Village and elsewhere were inherited by his heirs. Title for the small wooden house pictured in Lois's article was transferred to D.W.'s brother Cyrus Ryerson Allison in 1907, as part of settling D.W.'s estate. The 1911 census finds Amelia living alone in Adolphustown Village, presumably still in the large brick family home. However, that house was sold in 1917 and the 1921 census has Amelia living in the small wooden house with Cyrus Ryerson's widow Catherine Jane. When Catherine Jane died in 1930, the house was then transferred to Amelia's daughter Mary Laura Allison.*

*Amelia died in 1940. Mary retained ownership of the small wooden house until 1955.]*

## AFHS News

Angela Cronk

### Happy Spring!

Here we are once again looking for that warm weather to arrive and stay! Our group is looking forward to our **Annual Fish Fry** that will signify that spring is here and time for our outdoor activities sprucing up our various cemeteries. It is a continual challenge to see how we can keep ahead of the overgrowth that threatens to hide the headstones and markers of our predecessors.



### Heritage Spring Dinner

Sunday April 19, 2026  
View Displays from 4:30 pm  
Dinner Served from 5 – 6 pm

#### RESERVED IN ADVANCE ONLY

email [jane.lovell@kos.net](mailto:jane.lovell@kos.net) or  
text or call 613-373-0199

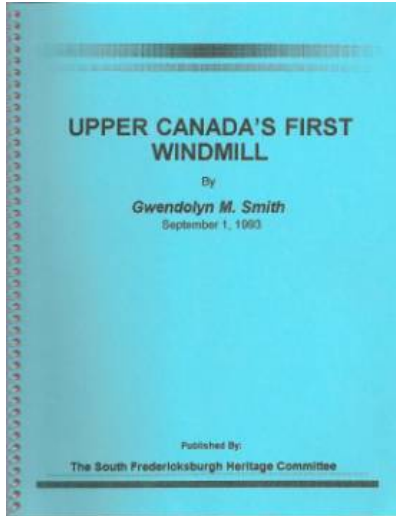
#### Tickets

Adults	\$25
Children 6-11	\$10
Children 5 & under	Free

Join us as we celebrate our history as told through dozens of displays and many artifacts

Free draws Cash Bar

## From the Book Shelf



### Upper Canada's First Windmill

Gwendolyn M. Smith

Research and documentation confirmed a windmill was built on the Bay of Quinte shore adjoining the Upper Gap. During the War of 1812, the windmill also provided defensive support against the American fleet.

This publication served as a source for additional research that led to the **Windmills and Cannon Balls** article appearing in the [June 2012 issue](#) of the *Neighbourhood Messenger*. When further information later emerged that cast new light on the windmill's history and purpose, a [Supplement to the Neighbourhood Messenger](#) was released.

See our [AFHS Books](#) page on our website for a full list of AFHS publications, along with a brief description of each book.

## A Curious Thing

Angela Cronk



April's Curious Thing

Andrew Quackenbush responded: I believe the unidentified "curious thing" in the November newsletter must be an igniter for gas lamps as shown in [this picture](#).

### What is this thing?



Please contact [angelacronk@gmail.com](mailto:angelacronk@gmail.com) if you recognize this item.

Do you have some weird thing hanging around your home or barn? Take a photo of it and send it in – we can feature it here in a future issue.

## From the Attic

We are looking for old photos and documents from Adolphustown, North and South Fredericksburgh. ***Just about any old photograph would be of interest: photos of people, homes, farms, schools, churches, or community or family events.*** Even if you do not know the people or places in the photos, maybe someone else in the community does. Old publications relating to township businesses, schools, and churches often contain fascinating details of life in their era.

Some specific items we are looking for:

### OLD PHOTOS or Real Photo POSTCARDS:

- The Adolphustown Town Hall
- The South Fredericksburgh Town Hall at Sillsville
- The U.E.L. Cheese Factory, Adolphustown
- St. Paul's Church, Main Street Adolphustown
- The Old Store at Adolphustown
- The Old Hotel at Adolphustown
- Conway Store
- Conway Wharf
- Phippen Cheese Factory
- Fredericksburgh Train Station
- McDowall Presbyterian Church
- Camp Le Nid
- Glen Island
- Tarry Hall

### CORRESPONDENCE:

- Letters or postcards bearing postmarks from local towns and villages
- Correspondence to or from someone serving overseas during either WWI or WWII

### BOOKLET:

- Constitution and Roll of Officers and Members of Camp Le Nid, 1902

If you are looking for any specific photos or documents, let us know and we will add it to our "Attic" list. **Newly added items will be highlighted in blue!**

### Contribute to *The Neighbourhood Messenger*

We publish *The Neighbourhood Messenger* several times a year. If you have an old photograph or newspaper clipping to share, or a story to tell, let us know. Please send submissions to [jane.lovell@kos.net](mailto:jane.lovell@kos.net).

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