

The Pioneer Times

NEWS VEHICLE OF THE CLOYNE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



This photo was taken September 1951 – 70 years ago. The back of the photo identifies Gil, Frank, Otto Flieler, Jack, and Malcolm Miller heading out on a fishing trip. Otto Flieler and Malcolm Miller were professional fishing guides at Salmond's Resort on Mississagagon Lake. *Photo: Eileen Flieler Album, CDHS Flickr website.*

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Cloyne & District Historical Society
"Preserving the Past for the Future"

The Pioneer Times

Volume 19, No. 2, Fall/Winter 2021-22

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The Pioneer Times is produced semi-annually by the Cloyne and District Historical Society. It is distributed free-of-charge in printed form and by email. Products, services and positions of advertisers, correspondents and contributors are not necessarily endorsed by the Historical Society.

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President's Message

Hello to all our members, patrons and friends. Another year is drawing to a close and we have still been unable to have our general meetings. We really miss seeing everyone. We have decided that membership for 2022 will again be free.

Many exciting things have happened for our organization this year that help us have a positive outlook for the future. We participated in the Lion's Club Farmers' Market where we met friends old and new and acquired some new members.

Like last year the museum was open for a shorter period than usual but it was well attended. The staff of Rebekah Delyea, Josie Heyman, and Shana Johnson did a wonderful job. They accomplished many tasks that had accumulated over the winter as well as looking after guests and helping set up displays.

We acquired some wonderful artefacts from the family of Wilfred Laurier Lessard particularly three musical instruments. Another item in this collection was a scale from the store of his father-in-law Haley Stone. We are so appreciative of families who willingly share their rich history of this area.

The work on our new website has begun and we expect it will be up and running by March 2022. It will have several new features and will be mobile friendly.

Many thanks to all our committee and board members for their continued efforts and support this year. Special thanks to Wendy Hodgkin and Cathy Hook who are retiring from the Calendar Committee. They have given numerous hours of work and will be very hard to replace.

May everyone enjoy a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year. Hoping to see you all after the new year.

Shirley Sedore, President ❧



Calendar Committee Report

The 2022 Cloyne & District Historical Society calendar "Businesses Then and Now" was well received this summer, back after a one year break. Calendars were available at different locations this year including the Museum, Finnegan's General Store, The Kuriosity Shop, Anita Haircut, Flieler's family cottage and Northbrook Lion's Farmers Market. We continued to have local business support for our fundraiser and even gained new sponsors. Thank you to everyone who supported the fundraiser!

We have a limited supply remaining, please email wahodgkin@icloud.com to reserve, and arrangements will be made to get a calendar to you.

The calendar was produced for 18 years and has been a significant fundraiser for the work of the Society, however the committee needs a refresh. Would you like to learn a publishing software? keep things organized? find and write about new stories and friends? connect with advertisers? Please contact Wendy, wahodgkin@icloud.com, to learn more. The calendar's future will depend on you.

Wendy Hodgkin, Calendar Committee Chair ✂

In the Bookstore

Christmas is always better when there are a few books under the tree. Choose your gifts from the extensive collection that the Museum Bookstore offers. You shall find them all listed on our webpage. www.cloynepioneermuseum.ca

We have back in stock Linda Corupe's valuable history of The Addington Colonization Road. If your ancestors were from this area, you shall surely find them listed in "The Hard Road Ahead". It is available as a two-volume set, and is a "must" for serious researchers of the region.

"Massanoga, The Art of Bon Echo" showcases the five artists of the Group of Seven who painted in the park. Once more we are offering this beautiful collection of photographs, paintings, and stories of the park.

Do you enjoy fiction? Sheila McAuliffe has written a novel loosely based on the life of Dr Weston Price (the original

owner of Bon Echo) and his family. "The Good Echo" is a captivating story of loss.

The Bookstore does not charge HST. We have free local delivery for all your gift giving. Call Carolyn at 613 336-6858.

A JOURNEY INTO THE PAST

by Marcella Neely (*Continued from the Spring 2021 Newsletter*)

We just left the corner of Bosley Road and Highway 41. Heading north there are areas of rock and bush then a small blueberry and baking stand is on the east side in front of a private home. It is a seasonal business. People drive into this area from miles away for the wild blueberries. Harlowe Road is immediately north on the same side. (It will take you into the hamlet of Harlowe). Just in from the corner of Harlowe Road was the site of the Chimney Mine in the early 1900s. There were large deposits of quartz that lead to some gold and silver in the rock. Production was not sufficient to be profitable. The mine was eventually abandoned. We pass by more of the same rugged terrain before some flat areas begin to show. Along a little farther is Paquette's wood yard and home. This business supplies cut and split campfire wood to Bon Echo Provincial Park. Previously this property was a prosperous farm operated by the Hawley family. Long spaces of open land in this area may have also been farms in the past.



The Bey Mine, later called the Ore Chimney Mine, was located between Northbrook and Harlowe on the Harlowe Road (near the towerlines crossing the Harlowe Road) and was the largest mining operation in the area. John Bey discovered the gold. *Photo circa 1909: Carl Kaestner Album* (cont'd page 7)

TOM NEAL BIOGRAPHY

by Josie Heyman and Rebekah Delyea, August 9, 2021

It is hard not to notice those hardworking men and women who dedicate themselves to serving others. These are the selfless people who pour their time and energy into their families, their friendships, and their communities, all for the betterment of the lives of those around them. Upon hearing the stories of the sturdy folks who lived in the area, it becomes clear that there were many such people, among them is Tom Neal. He served the municipalities of North Frontenac County over many years.

Tom Neal was born to Ellen Neal (nee Hickey) and Martin Neal in Kingston, Ontario on September 10th, 1913. He was the eldest of what would soon be a family with eleven children. He spent the first five years of his childhood in Kingston before his family moved to Harlowe in 1918. They settled on Old Harlowe Road, now called Wintergreen Road, close to Neal Lake.

Tom had four brothers and six sisters, Don, Bernie, Elmer, Victor, Grace, Bessie, Iris, Irene, Lois, and Jean. As a child, he attended Pipe's School for his elementary education, as it was close to his home.

As a young man, Tom Neal had several different jobs. Before the war, he sold sewing machines. He also worked in Ajax, Ontario, at an ammunition plant, where he made powder for shells. During WWII, Tom joined the RCAF. He was stationed at St. Emile, Quebec, before going overseas to Yorkshire, England, as part of the Medical Corps.

After the war, Tom owned and operated a used furniture store on the north-east corner of the Harlowe intersection. In 1952, Tom married Violet Delyea and they had 5 children oldest to youngest: Darlene, Barry, Tom Jr., Pauline, and Tim.

In the same year, Tom bought a general store from Hugh and Jean Hillier on the north-west corner in Harlowe. In 1953, Tom became a councilor of Barrie Township and served until 1954, returning in 1961 to serve again for another three years.

Tom operated his general store until 1962, when he chose to sell to John Flieler and his wife, Joan. In 1967, he re-

turned to the north-east corner of that same intersection in Harlowe and founded another general store.

That same year, Tom became the Reeve of Barrie Township and in 1972, became the Warden of Frontenac County for a single year. The previous representative from Barrie Township to be elected Warden was Charles MacGregor, who served in 1921, making Tom the first representative from Barrie Township to serve as warden in 51 years. His goal as Warden was to keep costs for education as low as possible. He also hoped to stop a regional government from being implemented.

Tom ran his store until 1985. After closing it, he decided to buy back his original store. Jim Whaley had bought the store from the Flielers around 1975, and Tom found that it had been greatly expanded by John and Joan. He ran this store until passing away in 2001. After his death, the store was closed, as he had wished.

People who came to the area, specifically Big Gull Lake and Kashwakamak Lake, as tourists or cottagers came to rely on the Harlowe General Stores run by Tom. It was the place where they bought all their supplies. Neal's Store also kept a stock of moccasins, which had been made in St. Emile, Quebec. People from all over the world who came to the area benefitted from Tom's stores. In addition, he also ran a feed business.



Barrie Township Reeve Tom Neal wearing his Chain of Office, June 1976, is pictured here with Nancy Cannon, Clerk-Treasurer. *Photo: Tom Neal Jr. Album*

Tom remained in the position of Reeve for 22 years, until Bill Van Kempen was voted in from 1989 to 1990. However, Tom won back the position in 1991. After carrying out the final negotiations for the amalgamation of the municipalities, Tom retired from politics in 1997 at the age of 85.

During his years of service, Tom was part of many projects to help the community. He initiated a tar and chip program in order to pave roads in the area, as there were none at the time. He and J.R. Simonett were also responsible for the construction done on Harlowe Road to connect Henderson Road with Highway 41. He also helped to build a fire department in the community.

In addition to all of his other activities, Tom Neal was also a member of the Northbrook Legion, branch 328 and at one point, was the president of the local legion.

On November 8th, 1997, Violet died at the age of 69 at the Kingston General Hospital and she was buried in the Harlowe Cemetery.

A year later, Tom was honoured with the Chain of Office for Barrie Township to recognize his many years of service to the Municipality. He was the last officer from the Barrie Township to be awarded with this before the amalga-

mation of the municipality in January of 1998, when the Township of North Frontenac was formed.

On June 30th, 2001, Tom Neal passed away at the age of 88 years. Like his wife, he is buried in the Harlowe Cemetery.

Tom Neal's contributions were recognized again in January of 2016, when his photo and a certificate honouring him were hung in the Harlowe Community Hall. These continue to be a testament to his years of service and commitment to his community and to all the good he did during his lifetime.

The northern area of Frontenac County would not be the way it is today without Tom Neal. In his years of leadership and service for Barrie Township, but also through the connections he made with countless cottagers, tourists, and local people, Tom made a positive impact. He will be remembered as a man with a selfless commitment to his family, his friends and his community.

Josie Heyman is an English major at the University of Ottawa. Rebekah attends online classes in Creative Writing at Fleming College and is working parttime at the museum.



Tom Neal purchased the general store on the north-west corner in Harlowe from Hugh and Jean Hillier. The photo on the left above is Neal's Grocery c1950. Tom ran the store until 1962 when he sold it to John and Joan Flieler. Five years later he started another general store on the north-east corner. Jim Whaley purchased the original store, now significantly expanded, from John and Joan around 1975. Tom closed the store on the north-east corner in 1985 and bought back the original store – above on the right. He continued to run it until his death in 2001. The store was then closed as he had wished. *Photo: Tom Neal Jr. Album*

Bon Echo by Tracy Robertson

In August of 2021 Tracy Robertson was visiting the area with her family and stopped in at the museum. She discovered some facts about her grandmother, who had worked at the old Bon Echo Inn in 1927. Our treasurer, Ian Brumell asked if she would write about this experience.

Earlier this summer, my family and I visited the stunning Bon Echo Provincial Park as first-time campers to the site. I had expected to discover the rugged beauty of Lake Mazinaw and its surrounding area. Instead, I discovered something much more personal and meaningful.

It began when my son and I took a trip into the tiny town of Cloyne. We were in search of worms for a planned fishing excursion. After making a purchase at the local gas station, I noticed the Cloyne Pioneer Museum next door. I decided to go into the museum to look around. I had remembered my great-aunt telling me stories about how she and her sister (my grandmother) had worked at the old Bon Echo Inn back in the 1920s. I thought perhaps it would be interesting to see where my grandmother and her sister had once worked. They were recent immigrants to Canada in the mid 1920s. The two sisters had travelled alone by ship from Scotland to Canada. They were in their early 20s at the time and were happy to get work wherever it would take them.

Inside the museum one of the volunteers explained to me that there was not much left of the Bon Echo Inn, as it had burned down in 1936. She pointed to the back of the museum where there was a small table, with some remnants and artefacts that had survived the fire. It was interesting to see old photos of the hotel, some remaining linens and pieces of chinaware that were on display. Then my eye caught a data book from 1927. The book contained some fascinating facts on the daily operations of the hotel. As I skimmed through the book, I noticed there was documentation on some of the hotel employees who had worked at the hotel during the summer of 1927. What I discovered next, took my breath away. There in black and white, was my grandmother's name, along with her sister's name. I discovered that my grandmother, Georgina "Ina" Grant, had worked as a housemaid at the Bon Echo Inn. She had specific instructions of the work expected of her. There was also mention of where she lived in Toronto at the time.

This discovery was incredible. To see part of my grandmother's history, right in front of my very eyes. Such detail about a woman that I admired so much! My grandmother and I were very close. Sadly, she died in 1973 when I was only 6 years old. But she left an indelible mark in my memory and on my heart. The old data book from the Bon Echo Inn was a discovery that I had not expected to make. But it has preserved part of my grandmother's life in a way that allowed me to gather some tiny, but meaningful insight, into a part of her life so long ago. The following year, in 1928, my grandmother would meet my grandfather. They would marry and go on to have two sons and build a successful life in Canada together. But I can imagine that her time working at the Bon Echo Inn had helped prepare her, in many ways, to her new life in Canada. Having the opportunity to discover this was truly special. I give thanks to the Cloyne Historical Society and Pioneer Museum for giving me the opportunity to "find" part of my grandmother's legacy!

Ken Hook, after reading this article, sent Tracy links to two photos from our Flickr site, Bon Echo Provincial Park album and asked if her grandmother and aunt might be in the photos.

Yes! My grandmother and great-aunt are in both of these photos. Incredible! Thank you so much!

In the first photo with the chef, the first person on the left is Bella Grant (my grandmother's older sister) and the third person from the left is my grandmother, Georgina "Ina" Grant. The photo is likely from the summer of 1927, not the early 1900s, as written in the photo caption. I remember my great-aunt telling me the sad story about the cook, who was from China. He was allegedly fishing alone one morning and drowned. That story always stuck in my mind. She did name him but the name now escapes me. She spoke fondly of him. The others in the photo I do not know their names.

The second photo: the first person on the left is my grandmother Georgina Grant and the third person from the left is Bella Grant.

I cannot thank you enough for sending these photos. It's so nice to be able to identify and preserve the past! I hope I can find a way to make a copy of these wonderful photos.



In the picture above left the first person from the left is Bella Grant, third person from the left is Georgina "Ina" Grant. Tracy Robertson found her grandmother Georgina's name in a Bon Echo Inn data book from 1927 that is on display in the museum. Georgina and her sister Bella travelled from Scotland to Canada in the mid 1920s and worked as housemaids at the Inn. In the picture above right the first person from the left is Georgina and Bella is third from the left. *Photos: Bon Echo Provincial Park Album.*

(A Journey Into The Past cont'd from page 3) We come to O'Donnell Road on the west side of the highway. The O'Donnell Family farmed a large portion of the land on the south side of the road for generations. Some of the family members still live there. We head further north and on the east side is Wintergreen Road. It was once called Old Harlowe Road.

Hook's Castle Building Centre is a little farther along and on the west side and is operated by Tracy and Sandra Hook and family. They purchased the vacant property in 1984 and built their house. Then in 1995 they built the store, originally under the Rona banner then Castle. It has had several upgrades since. Across the road is Bishop Lake Outdoor Centre owned and operated by Bob and Allison Yearwood since 1986. This property was previously the home of Bob's uncle and aunt, Clarence and Ruby Bishop who were among the founding members of the Pioneer Club. Bob built the trailer park during 1986/87 and added the store in 1998. The old barn on the property was once used as a fish hatchery by COFA (Conservationists of Frontenac-Addington).

Close by on the north side is a small green house, home of Stafford and Annie Hunt. During the 1990s this was all you would see on the property. It has since been sold

to Doug Potts who moved his deck & dock building business into the previously open area. A workshop building has been added. On the same side the next property was once the site of Paterson's Lumber Yard. This was a gem for the community. Stan Paterson could accommodate any unusual lumber requirement and did so willingly. If you needed a 20-foot length of oak or a 2-foot sliver of a board, it made no difference. Stan was also a meticulous craftsman. A shelf or cabinet or moulding was no problem. Describe it and he could make it. Sadly, the business closed in 2000. Also at the lumber yard, from 1993 to 1999, Dorothy Pethick operated her bookkeeping business.

Across the Highway is a bungalow that is now a private residence. During the early 90s Ken and Elaine Douglas ran a building supply business from there. They sold it to John and Karen Fleming who previously owned a lumber business south of Denbigh. The Cutler family bought the property from the Flemings. For a time, they sold corn, tomatoes, and apples in the yard. As the children became teenagers, they set up an ice cream kiosk along the driveway.

A little farther north, on the east side is Tim's Auto Body and home of Tim and Lorraine McDonald. Hwy 506 runs east along this property towards Plevna. The small

brick house on the corner was Savigny Real Estate then Michael Hunt Real Estate. Local photographer Amy Kay has recently opened the Tweet Boutique at this location. On the west side of Hwy 41 a golf course was built and operated for several years and is now vacant. Addington Road 3 branches out about 200 metres along. We pass through some rugged landscape then on the east side of the highway just before the hydro towers, are the house and outbuildings that were Bill Volk's home and greenhouse. Residents looked forward to his spring starter plants and the beautiful hanging florals.

Across from the hydro towers, set back in the trees, Jake Shiner built a home, then a store and a heating business Hearth at Home in the 2000s. The buildings and business have since been sold. On the same side the blue church building was originally the Cloyne Anglican Church and next to it is the school. It is one of the few remaining junior kindergarten to grade 12 schools. Before the school, this property was the store and cabins business operated by the Wise Family. Nowell's Garage on the east side was built by Bernard Inwood. He sold it to Harvey Brooks who later sold it to Eric Nowell (John's father). He tore it down and built the new garage. It has had additions and upgrades since the 90s. I remember a small bake shop at the back of it that had the best cinnamon buns ever. North of the garage are private homes. The one resembling a church was once the vibrant Cloyne United. Next is the Public Health office and Little Pond Road. The Health office building was once a store with home attached, then in the 1960s, the Mountain Aire Restaurant operated by the Journals.

Across from there is Finnegan's General Store. This store has survived many generations and owners: John Graham, Philip "Mont" Wickware, Joseph Wise, Wheelers, Harvey Spencer, Gibson and Watson, Don and Doreen Goodfellow, John Russell and Ed Yanch, Brian Cleland and John Grand. Holden's Hearth and Home operates out of the building north of the general store.

Across the road is the much-used Town Hall. It was also the Township office at that time. Sharing the parking lot is the Pioneer Museum that houses local history, archives and artefacts. Across the road from the museum is the Cloyne post office then a few homes and the Mazinaw Inn Motel. This was the Cloyne Motor Inn during the 1990s. Across the highway where we see the Shell Station, was the



Glen and Jean Watson in front of Watson's Mini Market. Built in the 1970s, Watson's became known for their high quality meats. *Photo: Ken and Elaine Douglas Album*

Cloyne Mini Mart owned and operated by Glen and Jean Watson. Glen told of his inexperience when he first bought the store, not at all familiar with meat etc. Over the years his acquired skills were passed on to his employees. Meat from this store became known all over the Province. Many summer residents would purchase a freezer order at the end of the summer to take home with them. When Glen retired, he sold the store to Maurice & Rose McFadden and Tim & Lorraine McDonald. They called it the Cloyne General Store and continued the finest quality meat reputation. They bought the big white chair from Dick and Olive Hook and eventually sold the store to Cory & Lisa Keller and Sonia & Robbie McLuckie who later sold it to the current owners. This is a nice place to stop, gas up, have a snack, take pictures in the big chair and stretch your legs.

After our stop at the Cloyne Shell Station, we turn right to continue northward. Looking quickly to the left we see Milligan Meats. This building was once a very well stocked hardware store run by two Salmond brothers. It was the "go to" location for campers and tourists. We filled up water containers at their outdoor tap any time of day or night, we could ask questions about the area and count on plumbing answers or discuss problems. It was later sold to Doug and Jane Muston who operated it as Home Hardware. It was vacant for a few years until Brian and Joanna Milligan bought and renovated it in 2018. Folks were delighted to see the Cloyne quality

meat return. On the right-hand side is the Free Methodist Church, then Spencer Road. Directly across from Spencer Road is Skootamatta Lake Road. This road runs past the Cloyne waste site then circles back past several lake access roads and back to the highway. Further along on our right you will see tennis courts. Behind these there is a baseball diamond. The Cloyne Recreation Committee oversees these. Directly across the road is Mike Scott's small engine repair business. This was once the home of Dick and Olive Hook and the huge white Muskoka chair. Dick built the chair in 1989 to mark the location of Lazy Days Gifts & Crafts. Mr. Hook previously was a general contractor then built and operated with Mrs. Hook the Delibrook (then Freshmart in 1985) in Northbrook. Lazy Days was created after their retirement from the grocery business.



Lazy Days Muskoka Chair - Biggest in the East! The big chair was built as a tourist attraction in 1989 by Richard and Olive Hook when they operated the Lazy Days gift shop. *Photo: Richard and Olive Hook Album*

Approaching Snider Road on the right we acknowledge this family's contributions to the area. Andrew and Elsie Snider farmed and raised their family on this road. They were among founding members of the Pioneer Club, contributed local history to the book "The Oxen and the Axe" which is still a local best seller and donated the land for the Fire Hall. Relatives Ted and Verna Snider and family operated a service station and restaurant on the corner. On the way to the cottage, a stop for Verna's pie was a "must". It is now The Maz selling paddle boards, camp supplies and ice cream. The Fire Hall is next, built by local volunteers and staffed by volunteer firefighters. Another Snider relative's Sand and Gravel business is next. In the early 90s the pit was much smaller, and Bert had one normal dump truck and a backhoe. He was one of few excavators in the area. While he dug,

his wife Judy drove the dump truck. Over the years they grew the business and now their son Trevor operates it.

Now we come up to Head Road which is steeped in local history well worth exploring. Jack Head's family had a 96-acre farm at the end of the road. On it they grew vegetables, raised horses, livestock, chickens, ducks, geese and more. Across from the farm was the Star of the East Gold Mine. Also along the road was Snider's Depot. Next is the southernmost shore of huge Mazinaw Lake and then Smart's Marina. Jim and Barb Smart bought it as a growing business from John and Barb Lester. Eventually their son, Steve and his wife Pauline bought and gradually expanded it. Enjoy their history at www.smartsmarina.com



Jim and Barb Smart are seen here in front of Smart's Marina. They operated the business from 1974 until 1990 when they sold to their son Steve and his wife Pauline. *Photo: Ken and Elaine Douglas Album*

Still on the right hand side is Levere Road named after another early family. Like most of these side roads it leads to a lake and cottages. On the right in a valley is a lovely private property that was once Holiday Haven Tent and Trailer Park. A little farther and on our left is the north end of Skootamatta Lake Road. It can be followed to more side roads, lakes, and cottages. Coming up on the right is South Mazinaw Heights Road.

Driving through a stretch of wooded area we are on Bon Echo Provincial Park property with the entrance to the campground coming up on our right. Interesting history and a beautiful park to be explored here. More forest before we see North Mazinaw Heights. On the northeast

corner we remember Bon Echo Villa created by Weldon and Patricia Bahm which is now private property. The Villa was a booming business with a marina, cabins, store and snack bar. Who could forget the delicious warm donuts? Lineups early in the morning watching them bounce along the belt, eagerly waiting for the bags to fill. Later owners included Ron Douglas then John Postma. Further north on the east side was Pine Crest Marina. Previously this was Pine Crest Villa owned by Bob and Ina Newman (purchased from Jim Boales in 1964) – at one time the largest marina on the Mazinaw offering groceries, cottage rental, gas and motor sales and propane. The Newman's sold in 1974. There were several owners after them. In the 90s Henry and Louise Hogg ran it as a Marina. Eventually they sold it to Adam and Kelly Snider who later moved the business to it's current location (Kelly is Ina's granddaughter).



Pine Crest Villa as it looked in 1974 when Bob and Ina Newman owned it. It was located at 17213 Hwy 41.
Photo: Ina (Grant) Newman Album

About two more kilometres and we've come to Mazinaw Lakeside Resort and Cottages on the left. It was MacKenzie's Restaurant in the late 70s, 80s and early 90s. The military regularly stopped here and often added slashes to the collection on a post. It also was Heather's Restaurant North for a few years after that – same owner as Heather's that was south of Northbrook and is now Addison's Restaurant. On the right, following the lake, still the Mazinaw with the north shore revealing Brown's Tent and Trailer Park. This park was previously the Brown family farm. Irvén and Jean Brown were among the original directors of the Pioneer Club and contributed articles to "The Oxen and the Axe". As we drive further north there is a small brown frame house on the left. It is the former Massanoga

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MacKenzie's Restaurant ad in 1977-78 Land O' Lakes Vacation Guide. It was open 24 hours from July 1st to Labour Day. *Photo: Land O' Lakes Tourist Association Album*

Sawyer Stoll schoolhouse (18128 Hwy 41). For many years Ron and Dorothy Pethick operated a general store on the east side of the road at 18237 Hwy 41. Machesney Lake Road turns off to the left and another large lake a little farther on the right-hand side is MacAvoy Lake. On its shore is the former site of Sun n' Sand Restaurant, a popular spot for plentiful servings of home style meals. It was deserted for several years then opened as the Moosehorn Restaurant. It is now a private residence. A few kilometres north is a stretch of an open area often referred to as "The Flats". On the right several houses were built close together among the trees. One of these served as a First Aid sta-



Now a home this was once the Massanoga-Sawyer Stoll School. It closed in 1962.

Photo: Ken and Cathy Hook Album

tion at that time. Pine Crest Marina is further north and on the left side of the road. We soon arrive at Ashby Lake Road that leads to a beautiful large lake surrounded by cottages. On the corner was Scott's Shopping Centre. They sold snacks, ice cream, camping supplies etc. The store is missed by everyone in the area. Continuing north about 4 kilometres is Buckshot Lake Road on the right heading to Vennachar. The blue building on the corner was once a small store with a Sears catalogue counter. Down a hill and into a valley on the right is a general store, snack bar and LCBO outlet called Rosie's Cafe. It used to be 41 Stop with gas pumps, store and no LCBO. Coming up on the left is Denbigh Lake then Bridge Street. This street takes you into the hamlet. In the early 1900s there were several blacksmiths, two stores and a grist mill in Denbigh but the demise of the logging industry reduced their ability to operate profitably although Glaeser's General Store and Post Office continues to thrive. Directly across the highway from the Bridge Street entrance was Roy Berndt's service station, now vacant. Moving on up another hill we approach the intersection of Hwys 41 and 28. On

the south west corner, we see the sign for the Swiss Inn and Restaurant with many memories of delicious Swiss influenced meals for travellers and locals. New owners are gradually restoring the Inn.

Our journey from Kaladar to Denbigh ends here. I hope you have found it interesting. At the end of each driveway we passed there is a home, along every road, businesses and villages. Everyone has stories and memories and memories of stories heard. Please share them. One line, one paragraph or one page, we will record and print them, preserving the past for the future.

More detailed information of the places we've noted is printed in our book, "The Oxen & the Axe" and on the internet. Copies of our books are available in the Pioneer Museum, from website www.cloynepioneermuseum.ca or locally by calling Carolyn 613 336-6858.



All photos are from the CDHS Flickr website.

We lose friends

Muriel Meeks VanNess
(1940-2021)



There is a little log cabin at the corner of Skootamatta Lake and Jacques Bay Roads that is right out of a fairy tale. Every spring the extensive gardens around it burst into colour with the flowers that Muriel planted lovingly over the years.

Sadly, she left us on May 22. We shall miss her, not only for her love of flowers, music and dogs, but for her attachment and contributions to the area's rich history.

Muriel was the great-great granddaughter of Denison Meeks, (born in 1826) who came to the area in 1858 as one of its first settlers. His descendants, built the cabin as a retreat for Muriel and her husband John.

She was a director of the CDHS from 2007-2011 where she made many contributions to the Calendar Committee directed by Dave Deacon. Her meticulous journaling and collecting of photographs from days past can be found in some of the calendars from that period. Other pictures have been posted on the "Flickr" page of the CDHS website. Because she had an amazing memory and was a great story teller, travelling the backroads with her was an adventure like no other. Some of her family's stories are found in "The Oxen and the Axe" and her genealogy is well documented on Ancestry.com.

Muriel was beautiful in every way. We send our sympathy and love to her children Lana and Ted.

Carolyn McCulloch

Because of the uncertainty in planning events in a COVID-19 free 2022, The Cloyne and District Historical Society shall again offer free membership next year (2022). Using the attached form, make sure that you notify us at Box 228 Cloyne On K0H1K0 if your contact information has changed.



THE CLOYNE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Box 228, Cloyne, Ontario. K0H 1K0 Email - pioneer@mazinaw.on.ca Website - pioneer.mazinaw.on.ca

3 Ways to Support the Cloyne and District Historical Society and the Pioneer Museum and Archives in 2022

1. If you were a member in 2021, you are automatically a member for 2022 and the fee of \$10. is waived. If you were not a member in 2021, but would like to join with no fee for 2022, check in the box below where it says "Membership". You will receive notifications of all our activities, particularly when we are able to get together again post-pandemic.

2. Become a Patron or renew your status as a Patron of the Museum. You will receive recognition (unless you request otherwise) of your status on a Roll of Honour displayed at the Museum and a charitable receipt. Two newsletters a year will be mailed to you free of charge. Patron fee is \$25 per household.

3. Make a donation which will be anonymous unless you request otherwise. You can direct the donation to general operating funds of the Society or to the Endowment Fund for the future of the Society. You may wish to make this in memoriam or in honour of someone. Charitable receipts will be issued for donations of \$10 or more. Donations of \$100. or more (exclusive of membership or patron fees) given between June 2021 and June 2022 entitle you to be named on the 2021 Donors List displayed at the museum.

You can choose one, two or all of the above. Please fill out the form below and submit the total by cheque payable to the Cloyne and District Historical Society and mail to the above address

Name:		Address:	
City:	Province:	Postal Code:	
Email:		Phone:	

Membership. FREE FOR 2021

Patron of the Museum (\$25 per household)

Donations	To General Operating Funds	\$
	To Endowment Trust Fund - For the Future	\$
	Memorial - In loving memory of the late:	\$
		\$

If you have **not** chosen the Patron option and would like the 2 newsletters mailed to you rather than accessing them on line, please add \$8.00 for total postage.

Total \$

For our records, please sign and date this form

Member No.
(Office use only)

Receipt No.
(Office use only)

Signature:

Date:

THANK YOU FOR JOINING, RENEWING, DONATING !!