

It is not generally known that Bobcaygeon at one time had an M.P.P. He was a gentleman named Charles Fairbairn, and as far as I am aware he has been the only member of Parliament the village and district ever had. He was a farmer and a Conservative in the Ontario House.

The name Bobcaygeon, which sounds somewhat strange for those who are not familiar with the history of the country is derived from the French word "Besucage" meaning "beautiful wood". Some of the older settlers, however, maintain it is an Indian name and means 'Rapids' or 'Running Water'.

One thing is certain that the village is most picturesquely situated and is one of the handiworks of God. It is surrounded by water and nestles snugly in one corner of the Township of Verulam in Victoria County. The village was laid out by Thomas Need in the year 1832.

For several years past Bobcaygeon has become famous as a summer resort, and its beauty attracts visitors from every part of Canada and the United States. They find the climate invigorating, its quietude restful, and the waters surrounding Bobcaygeon supply an abundance of Bass, 'Lunge, and Pickerel.

It is interesting to note that this month of October marks the 108th anniversary of the United Church in Bobcaygeon, which was formerly the Methodist Church.

Many tales of devout life and heroic conduct used to be told of these early settlers who travelled miles on foot to church, and contributed to its support at the point of sacrifice.

Names of one time prominent members of the Church included: Mrs. William Kennedy, Samuel McLelland, Irvin Junkin, William Robertson, J. T. Robinson, James S. Wright, and Mrs. James Humphries.

It has been chronicled that George Buck was the first Recording Steward years ago, as well as a class leader. Other leaders include John McFeeters, John Junkin and William Cosh. Samuel McLelland was the first local preacher and a class leader.

The Bobcaygeon circuit extended originally within four miles of Lindsay and as far as Kinmount and Fenelon Falls.

Many preachers have been stationed at Bobcaygeon and the choir was at all times a distinct adjunct. In the early history of the church Mrs. R. Wright was choir leader and organist. Later the Cosh family, talented musically, gave unstintedly of their talents. Members of the congregation several years ago especially mentioned Mrs. Sarah Wright

for her outstanding service to the choir. Members of the choir in 1920 included organist Mrs. Howard Malcolm, Miss Sarah Wright, George Turner, Mrs. Irwin, Mrs. R. Junkin, Mrs. W. Provost, Mrs. Kelsey, Mrs. J. M. Whyte, Thomas Cosh, Isaac Lewis, Spurgeon Cosh, and Clayton Taylor.

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Time marches on, a fact that has been strikingly manifested in connection with the automotive industry and its various franchises in the Town of Lindsay.

The latest dealership franchise and service station to gracefully bow out of the picture is the one which has operated since 1918 under the name of Arnold Motors.

The late Thomas Arnold, a pioneer in the automotive business, will long be remembered as a man of vision. He started handling cars in the days when Mel. Robson and Fred Tillcock operated a service station at the south-east corner of Kent and Ridout Streets.

In 1918, Thomas Arnold purchased the property on Kent Street immediately west of the Grand Union Hotel, and being a progressive individual, he proceeded to do things. A livery stable operated by Ozzie Dagenais, as well as a farm machinery stand operated by Wes. Brethour, disappeared and the present Arnold Motors garage was shortly in operation. In later years the front of the building was modernized and apartments were built on the second floor of the building.

At first Mr. Arnold became the dealer of the McLaughlin car, followed by the Pontiac. He was a born salesman, a trait of character he developed while living on the Arnold farm, north of Lindsay, at a time when he sold meat on the market square.

Everybody appeared to know the hustling Tom Arnold. At one time he had the reputation of selling more GM products than any other dealer east of Toronto.

Ross Arnold became actively identified with the business following his discharge from the Army in 1944 and he has carried on a successful dealership since that time. Since 1937 Arnold Motors have held a franchise with the Chrysler Corporation.

During his connection with the automotive business Ross Arnold established hundreds of good connections and his reputation for fair dealing was never questioned. His many friends, both in and out of the automotive trade will regret to learn he had decided to give up the local franchise.

The present owners of the Arnold building, have not as yet decided what to do with the big building, although it is rumoured that they may establish