

# GATHERING AT THE FORKS



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DESK

THE STORY OF WALLACEBURG



**DR. RON BROOKSBANK**  
WALLACEBURG CENTENNIAL CHAIRMAN



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**Wallaceburg Centennial Logo**



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# Gathering

# At The

# Forks

## THE STORY OF WALLACEBURG



BY

ALAN & FRANK MANN

DECEMBER, 1974

PUBLISHED BY STANDARD PRESS, WALLACEBURG

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# The Corporation Of The Town Of Wallaceburg

786 Dufferin Avenue  
Wallaceburg, Ontario, Canada, N8A 2V3

Telephone: (519) 627-1603

As we look back on the history of our very famous past and turn its pages, we find we have so much to be proud of. This book outlining Wallaceburg's one hundred years, will exemplify the contributions of our Citizens both past and present.

Our pioneers, against the greatest odds, founded our Town. Our leaders and dedicated citizens worked faithfully through the years to build our community into what it is today, — a progressive Industrial Centre steadily forging ahead. We are people who know the meaning of respect for our fellowman, no matter the race, colour, or creed, — always with a sense of Christianity and brotherhood.

As church bells ring out our One Hundredth Birthday, they will carry a message of pride, love and hope for all the tomorrows to come. May we continue to live in harmony to work and build our Wallaceburg.

*Mayer Ceile Beecham*

# Wallaceburg Centennial Committee

P. O. Box 1975

WALLACEBURG - Ontario

DR. RON BROOKSBANK - CHAIRMAN

BUS. (519) 627-3306


RES. (519) 627-5282

On behalf of the members of the Wallaceburg Centennial Committee, and citizens of Wallaceburg, I would like to acknowledge Mr. Frank Mann and Mr. Alan Mann for their dedication to preserving the history of Wallaceburg, in the preparation of this book.

The monumental task of compiling and editing material is self evident, and will provide a rewarding experience to every reader.

In those early days, one century ago, lumbering was the staple of our community. As the forests were cleared, and homesteaders broke ground, agriculture played a major role in the economic growth of our community. Today is an age of industrialization and once again confidence has been shown in Wallaceburg by the fact that there is more industry per capita than any other town of comparable size in the Dominion of Canada.

In this Centennial Year, the citizens of Wallaceburg can look back with pride over one hundred years of continued growth and prosperity. May we all join together to launch Wallaceburg into its second century with confidence and spirit of adventure, knowing that the leaders of tomorrow are prepared in Wallaceburg today.



R. C. Brooksbank,  
Chairman.



## *Preface*

*Compiling a centennial book has proven to be a large undertaking and, at the same time, an interesting task. By combining our own experiences and research, and referring to materials assembled during a lifetime hobby, we have hoped to capture, at least in capsule form, some of the highlights of Wallaceburg's 100 years.*

*Initially we hesitated to include individual reference in some of the accounts. It seemed that the inclusion of actual names would undoubtedly result in the omission of persons more deserving of such recognition. In this reference, we apologize to the hundreds who have been affected in this way. However, it is our feeling that by mentioning some names, these will be representative of the events portrayed, and at the same time, more enjoyable and realistic reading will result.*

*In our attempts to touch on a cross section of events and happenings, of the hundred years, we have tried to pay tribute to both sexes, various age groups and a variety of activities. Despite our valid attempts in this pursuit, many of the same names continue to appear. This is truly a testimony to their influence in the evolvement of our community. The earlier periods find scanty sources of written reference available. Despite the obvious editorial restrictions, we have attempted to include as much data as possible.*

*To those of you returning to your old hometown, we trust this book will bring fond remembrances of Wallaceburg. The old cliché, "Snye Water Brings 'em Back" must have brought about the desired effect. To Wallaceburg residents, the slogan "Come alive in '75" should serve as due reminder to experience the best of the centennial. It is our hope that this book will serve a twofold function, -that of an appropriate souvenir of the Centennial and a continuing reference.*

*Many were extremely helpful in the preparation of this book. Jim Woods and Max Heath of the Wallaceburg News were co-operative in permitting access to their files. Mrs. Robert Pridmore and the Chamber of Commerce were kind to offer the use of their research in connection with the L.I.P project. Mrs. Evelyn Babbitt aided greatly by researching the municipal files. Roy Mathany's outstanding photographs of the 1940's portrayed that era well. David Mann added his artistic talents by designing the cover. Marion Johnston offered many valuable layout hints. Doug and Helene Thompson spent many hours proof reading, for this we are very appreciative. Finally, our thanks are expressed to the many individuals who kindly offered information, advice and encouragement.*

*Alan Mann and Frank Mann*

*December 1974*

# SPANNING A CENTURY 1875 - 1975

1975 completes one century of local government in Wallaceburg. Many events have occurred over this period of time that have put us face to face with the present. How do we go about this task of facing the realities of modern times? One way is to review our history of those one hundred years and highlight the activities of the people who have developed our community to the horizon of becoming a prosperous city.

What is history? History is the spirit of the past and soul of the present, whether recorded or preserved only in the minds of men. It is the map of the road over which they have travelled from whence they came. It is the daily affairs of people, their manners, customs, homes and habitations. What record of the past provides a bright searchlight illuminating the daily affairs of the people? What preserves a more readable account than daily newspapers, pictures, records, human interests and people? There is no event in the life of a man or in the progress of a people too small to be of value. The columns of newspapers, private letters, in these are found the running record of the race, the history of a people or community, and in their work in the public improvements which they inaugurate.

The reason for conferring the name of "Wallaceburg(h)" upon a village owing its inception to representatives of the most intense order of Scottish Highlanders, is no mystery. The name was bestowed upon the post office, opened on the south side of the Sydenham River in 1834, by Hugh McCallum, the postmaster. He was one of the original Selkirk immigrants, having been but a boy when his family arrived.

The settlement in and around the plotted village of Wallaceburg took a decidedly favourable stride in 1850. The new centre of commerce grew into a great local significance under the influence of the lumber and timber trade, which began to assume vast proportions and attracted to this spot and beyond, considerable fleets of steam, sailing and tow craft. Each newly acquired factor of progress exerted in its turn, an influence in the attraction of others, until the permanency of Wallaceburg's status as a trade and navigable centre became firmly established.

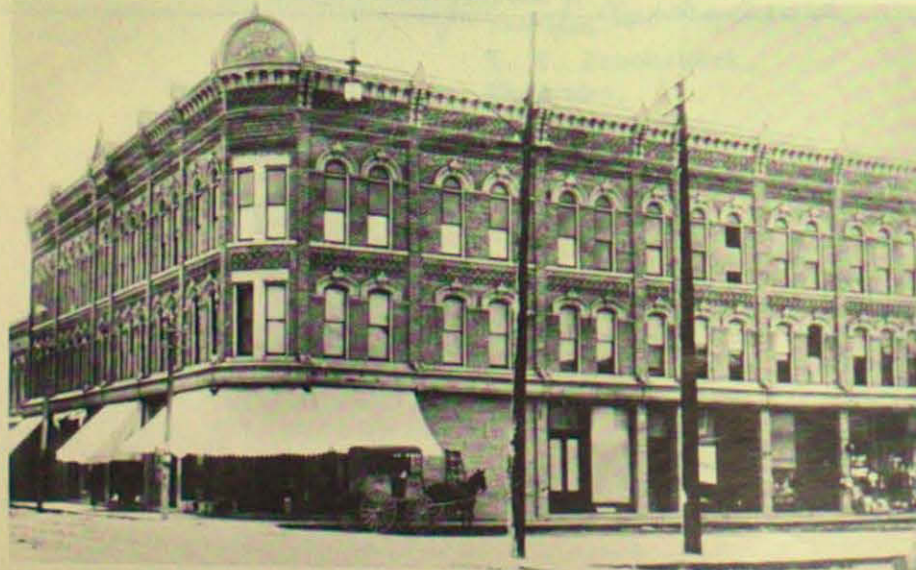
With the decline of the timber trade, that of agriculture advanced. The surrounding forests had been virtually stripped and it would be many years before regrowth would allow the resumption of the lumbering trade. Nevertheless, the economy of the village gained new worth as the emphasis on farming brought forth a new era of prosperity. The population increased and the growth of stronger village government ensued.

Separate incorporation was accordingly granted to Wallaceburg in 1874, taking effect January 1st, 1875 when the village council was elected. Alexander McDougall was first reeve while John Lillie, Joseph Beattie, Dr. J.B. Newman and Dr. George Mitchell comprised the first municipal council.

In the period of time between the incorporation as a village and the time of town status, some of the most conspicuous buildings were the town hall, built in 1876 on the present site of the Wallaceburg Hydro building and Our Lady of Help Roman Catholic Church built at an original cost of \$8,000 in 1876. Several new brick blocks graced the business section, the most notable being the Masonic Hall and post office on the north west Nelson-Wellington corner. Most of the business blocks were neat framed buildings. An effective fire brigade supplied with a steam engine and other approved appliances afforded some security from the ravages of fire.

In this period, the Methodist and Baptist churches were erected on opposite corners of Nelson and Wall Streets. Many other buildings of fairly large proportions were springing up in the core area.

A weekly newspaper stood sentinel over the material and social interest of the community. The journal called the "Western Advocate" was established in 1872 under the leadership of Asa Cronk and his partner McClellan. Shortly after publication began, the printing offices were destroyed by fire. Later, Cronk sold out to newly acquired partner Malcolm Ferguson, who changed the paper's name to the "Valley Record" in 1880.



BEATTIE BLOCK, NORTH-WEST CORNER OF JAMES AND NELSON, DESTROYED BY FIRE IN 1896.



This period also saw the construction of the Beattie Block on the north west corner of Nelson and James. This beautiful edifice was built by councillor Joseph Beattie in 1880 and became the showplace of the area. A tragic fire in 1897 destroyed the Beattie Block, taking two lives. The St. James Anglican Parish was built on James Street after the old church on Lafontaine was ravaged by flame.

The future of Wallaceburg was full of promise in this era. With the construction of the Erie and Huron Railway branch line from Dresden, the community was brought within easy access by rail to the eastern markets. Though the distance to Chatham by land was but 20 miles at that time, it discounted that advantage by the terrible turnpike road connecting the two communities.

The population of Wallaceburg in this period was about 1800, among whom were 348 ratepayers, owning property assessed at over \$175,000 which constituted a decidedly substantial foundation upon which to build the future of this progressive village. Industry was thriving, agriculture was taking over from lumber, brick buildings were replacing dilapidated wooden frame business blocks and people were erecting modern homes. Population was increasing and the town seemed to be bursting at the seams. It was difficult to retard progress when a new generation of people with modern thinking becomes a force in a community. Thus, in the year 1896, town status was incorporated. First mayor was Capt. James W. Steinhoff a logical choice since he had been such a driving force in the development of the community. Reeve was Charles Chubb, deputy reeve, Joseph Shaw. Delos McDonald was named as clerk. The town population was over 2,000 and geographically it covered over one square mile. The formal incorporation ceremony took place in 1897 on January first.

The new town council was faced with much work. Many bylaws were passed, including standard closing hours for bars and fence viewers to control wandering livestock within the municipality. A police commission was appointed, fire protection was improved and a local magistrate was empowered to administer law and order. The council placed the need for concrete sidewalks on their immediate agenda.

Early years of the twentieth century saw Wallaceburg firmly established industrially. With the successful establishment of the glass, sugar and brass factories, the town was set on its future. The next several decades showed increased prosperity, population increased and adjoining land was annexed. Miles of concrete roadway were built, beautiful homes in new subdivisions dotted the horizon, an arena and hospital along with modern schools highlighted the mid-twentieth century. An industrial parkway encouraged commercial and economic expansion. An ultra modern shopping plaza in south Wallaceburg signals a new era and complements the established business core.



**STEINHOFF & GORDON STAVE MILL, STARTED IN 1883 WAS THE BEGINNING OF WALLACEBURG AS AN INDUSTRIAL CENTRE.**

From 1875 to the present, the growth and development of the town, industrially and financially, together with the population growth has given us something for which we can be justly proud. The succession of the various mayors and municipal councils have brought us to this point in our development, making us proud of our generation for giving us such a wonderful place in which to live. The last 100 years have been years of transition from a small town outlook to a progressive one of achieving greatness and prosperity.

Let us not be too eager to grow past a certain point when we will be hemmed in and pushed around by too much growth and prosperity. We need the growth of culture and citizen environment as much as great industry and individual wealth.

## HOW IT ALL BEGAN

Prior to the founding of "The Forks" (Wallaceburg's original name) there was much unrest in Europe, and the rank and file of humanity was dazed and confused by promises, explanations and dire threats of what might happen. Big business was just rearing its head in some parts of the British Isles and was affecting the populace in various ways. Along the west coast of Scotland is a group of islands, one of them being known as Mull, where thirty families of crofters occupied farms which they rented from mainland owners.

One day all the occupants of the farms were told they had to leave the island at once. Owners of the land were going in for sheep raising on a huge scale and they wanted all the arable lands for grazing purposes. The crofters had to get out at once and find shelter elsewhere and they were gradually reduced to a very low level of existence. Their misery and privation aroused the sympathy and compassion of a titled countryman - the Earl of Selkirk and Baldoon, descendant of the famous Douglas family which was so colourful in Scottish history. The nobleman obtained from the British government grants of certain lands located in Canada on which he promised to place settlers. Arrangements were made to take care of 25 families from the isle of Mull and altogether 111 people made up the contingent of human souls which left Scotland on March 18, 1804, sailing on the ship "Oughton" of Greenock. Upon arrival at Quebec, French bateaux or small boats were employed to take the settlers as far as Fort Erie, and they eventually reached Amherstburg and finally "Baldoon," their new home on the banks of the Sydenham River. Selkirk named the settlement after "Baldoon Sands" near his home in south west Scotland, adjacent to St. Mary's Island.

On their way up from Quebec, about half of the party remained at Kingston to assist driving to Baldoon a herd of 1,000 sheep purchased by Lord Selkirk for the settlement. This party arrived later and the reunion at Baldoon was a memorable one. Log cabins were erected and highlanders started their life in Canada. Their lot was an unhappy one from the beginning. The low, marshy land and surrounding swamps brought on sickness including malaria. A number passed away and on top of the sickness, the war of 1812-14 brought its troubles in requests for men, muskets and food supplies.

After the Battle of The Thames, where Tecumseh lost his life, the country was left at the mercy of the Americans for a time and the old adage of "to the victor belongs the spoils" was carried out almost to the letter. General Hull, who commanded the garrison at Detroit, was in dire need of rations, so he sent General McArthur and his Kentuckians out to bring in what they could find. The Baldoon settlement was raided, stock and fodder were cleaned out completely, the settlers lost heart and many returned east, settling along the banks of the St. Lawrence River and in the Maritime provinces. Only nine families remained in the territory.

During the next 20 years, the families at the "Forks" progressed with modest success, but nevertheless they were able to carry on and establish a small but fine little community which they called "The Forks" because it was at the location of the present north and east branches of the Sydenham River.

### The Notarial Certificate in the Corner Stone of Town Hall 1876

The following was placed in the corner stone of the first town hall and was revealed when the tablet was opened.

Anno Domini 1876. The corner stone of this building was laid by Brother John Fisher, Pnyx Lodge, A.F. & A.M. No.312, the oldest resident of the place.

COUNCILLORS - REEVE A. MCDUGALL, CAPT. J.W. STEINHOFF,

DENNIS DUGGAN, MILES LANGSTAFF, W.J. McDONALD

Editor of Western Advocate - Asa Cronk  
Contractor for the Building - Joseph Lalonde  
M.P. for the County of Kent - Rufus Stephenson  
Governor General - Lord Dufferin  
Postmaster - D.B. McDonald

After a great deal of unfortunate litigation the corner stone has been laid where it now is.

Amongst the most prominent residents are: John Lillie, merchant; A. Fisher, telegraph. The other residents and amongst the lot who helped to build up the plans are Capt. Steinhoff and J.A. Lillie.

I certify this.

Wallaceburg, Ontario,  
September 11th, A.D. 1876

C.P.P. HUTCHISON  
Notary Public



**FIRST TOWN HALL ON SOUTH SIDE, BUILT IN 1875.**

**Residents of Wallaceburg and Vicinity in the Early Days**

- Arnold, Robert Jr. - Grocer and Provision Dealer, settled in 1865  
 Ayres, W.N. - Merchant tailor, came to Wallaceburg in 1858  
 Ayres, Albert - owner of livery stable, came to Wallaceburg from Devonshire in 1850  
 Bailey, N.A. - Banker  
 Becker, William - carriage blacksmith, came in 1858  
 Dobie, Daniel - Dry Goods merchant, settled in 1879  
 Ferguson, Malcolm - Printer, settled in Wallaceburg 1877  
 Fraser, Charles - Collector of customs and land surveyor, settled in Wallaceburg, 1863  
 Gillard, T.B. - Insurance agent, collector in 1879  
 Grant, P.J. - Owner of hotel and livery stable, settled in 1870  
 Heath, W.H. - Furniture builder and manufacturer, born in Wallaceburg in 1845.  
 Howard, John - Builder, born in England in 1838, came to Wallaceburg in 1854  
 Johnson, L.H. - U.S. Consul for 12 years, reeve of township  
 Judson, Lester - Painter, came to Wallaceburg in 1846  
 Lalonde, Joseph - Cabinet maker, builder and contractor, came to Wallaceburg in 1859  
 Langstaff, Miles - Farmer and land agent  
 Lundy, W.B. - Builder, captain of fire brigade, came to Wallaceburg in 1873  
 Lee, George - Watchmaker, jeweller and engraver, came to town in 1872  
 McDonald, D.B. - Postmaster, money broker and village clerk, born in Wallaceburg 1825  
 McDougall, L.A. - Farmer, Justice of the Peace, born in Sombra 1829  
 McKelvey, Alexander - Lumberman, Dealer in oak and square timber, came to Wallaceburg in 1851  
 McLennan, Farquar - Livery owner, settled in Wallaceburg 1853  
 Mitchell, Dr. George - Physician and surgeon, reeve of Wallaceburg, came here in 1867  
 Martin, Theo. - Boot and shoe manufacturer, came from England 1841  
 Mann, Samuel L. - Livery owner, came to Wallaceburg in 1873  
 Misener, H.M. - Lumberman and farmer, settled in 1872  
 Poat, W.A. - Carriage maker and blacksmith, settled here in 1875  
 Peck, W.R. - Ship builder and contractor  
 Ray, George - Carriage manufacturer, settled here in 1865  
 Smith, Calvin - Pattern and carriage manufacturer, postmaster, came to Wallaceburg in 1840  
 Somerville, Dr. J.A. - Physician and surgeon, came here in 1878  
 Steer, George - Farmer, settled in Chatham township in 1836  
 Shaw, Isaac - Farmer and lumber dealer, settled in 1852  
 Simpson, Joseph - Farmer, settled in 1857  
 Tassie, John - Implement dealer, settled in Chatham township 1875  
 Woolever, Philip - Farmer, born in Chatham township 1832

# A Patriarch of Early Times

The transition of Wallaceburg from a rural lumbering village to an industrial municipality was in the part due to Capt. J.W. Steinhoff. He was born in St. Thomas, Ontario, October 1, 1834. His family lived in Chatham until 1850 when they moved to Wallaceburg, and certainly became one of the town's best acquisitions. Young Steinhoff soon showed the initiative that was later to bring him widely accepted renown as a patriarch of early Wallaceburg. As a youth he worked with a lumber gang, drove a stage, laboured in a sawmill, became a head sawyer, farmed, and was cook on a vessel plying between Chatham and Kingston.

At the age of 21, he ventured into the shipbuilding business which was to prove his first love for many years. With his brother-in-law, he built a vessel near Detroit, sailed her upon completion and promptly decided to continue in this profession. In ensuing years, he built several vessels of varying lengths in his Wallaceburg shipyard. Steinhoff's first vessel was acquired when he traded 100 acres of choice Kent County real estate for a topsail schooner. In 1856 he served as master of the "Islander" a passenger vessel. With his newly earned papers, he was thereafter referred to as "Capt. Steinhoff."

His most famous Wallaceburg-built vessel was the enormous 221 ton passenger and cargo vessel "Dominion". It was launched on Canada's first Dominion Day in 1867 much to the delight of Steinhoff and the large Wallaceburg crowd who viewed her slip down the blocks. A proud moment came in 1876 when another vessel, his namesake "J.W. Steinhoff" was chosen to carry Lord and Lady Dufferin on a special cruise from Detroit to Goderich as part of their Canadian tour.

In 1887 Capt. Steinhoff retired from his sailing ventures and began to direct his interests to his extensive land holdings. For 15 years he was engaged in the banking firm of Steinhoff & Lillie and, in 1896, he established a flax mill. He owned 2560 acres of land in Kent County in addition to the same amount in Mississippi and Alabama. In 1908 his donation of 5 acres of choice land in east Wallaceburg had a long term effect since Steinhoff Athletic Park remains the centre of the town's outdoor recreational activities.



**CAPT. JAMES W. STEINHOFF IN BUGGY 1901.**

On March 11, 1891, a public meeting was proclaimed calling for the establishment of a glass works. The results are well known since Wallaceburg is still known as the "Glasstown of Canada". Steinhoff was one of the leading citizens spearheading the establishment of the glass factory and became the company's first president.

Capt. Steinhoff's deep interest in his community resulted in him being elected as the town's first mayor in 1896. He also served on council for three years. During his terms in municipal politics, many notable improvements in the town were made. He displayed foresight, wisdom and executive ability and must be considered one of the most influential voices in early Wallaceburg. Capt. James Steinhoff died in 1921 at the age of eighty-seven.

# Reflections of the Past

[This personalized account of reminiscences of early days in Wallaceburg is recalled by Frank Mann who was born in 1896 and has lived his entire life in his home town. The writer has devoted his life to the preservation and study of local history and was a "first hand" observer to many important events of years ago. In addition, he knew well many of the people who shaped the early history of our town.]

"Having spent my entire life in Wallaceburg, it afforded me the opportunity of knowing, over the years, many of the people who made history in Wallaceburg. My parents came here over a hundred years ago and their business brought many people to our place and gave me a chance to know and talk to them. Many of these people were old then, and the experiences they related that happened during their lifetime, extended back to the beginning periods of Wallaceburg.

The early social life centered around the churches and their activities, such as suppers, ladies aid and "busy bees" often organized by Mrs. Capt. Steinhoff, devout member of the Anglican Church. There were many afternoon teas, dressy affairs for the ladies and for the kids, Sunday School parties. Occasionally, the men would be coaxed out to fancy dress balls, but generally their favourite past time was frequenting the bars, which were strictly a man's domain.

The uncertain conditions of the roads limited travel. The horse drawn carriage was the main travel method and words are difficult to choose in describing the deplorable conditions of the roads. In the spring, ankle deep mud on James and Nelson Streets and in the summer and fall, the dust in unbelievable proportions, made travel either risky or impossible. Pavement and gravel roadways were unheard of and under the best of conditions, three or four miles per hour would often be the best one could muster out of the old nag. By necessity, one did not travel much in the old days and the family became a close unit.



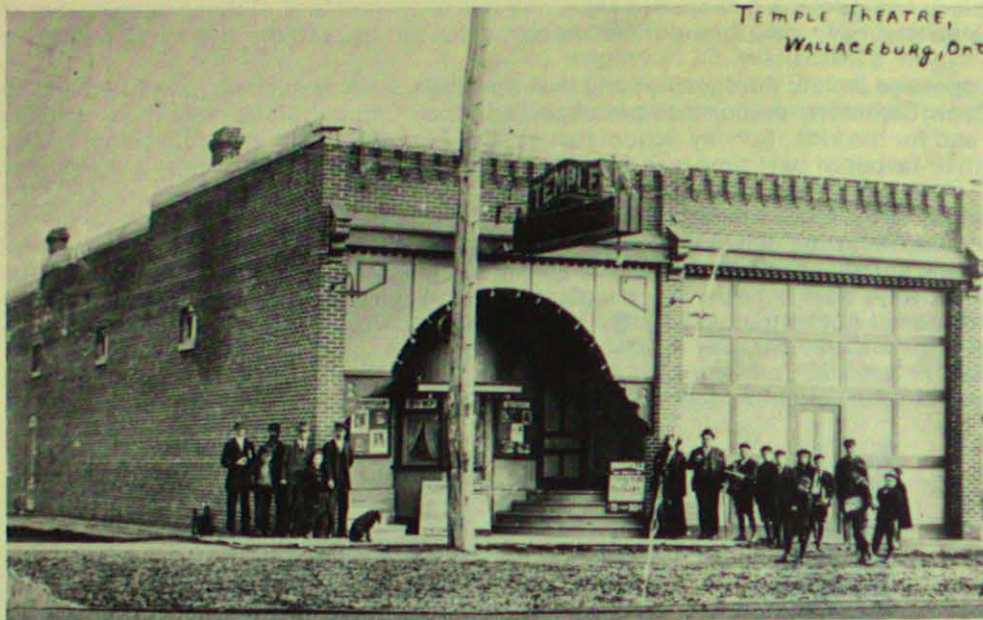
**NELSON STREET LOOKING NORTH FROM JAMES BEFORE PAVING IN 1902.**

Hardships were plentiful. Wages were low, even by standards then. A dollar a day was common, earned by 12 hours of hard work in the woods or in the mill. Unions were many years in the future but nevertheless, most were willing to work and the lot of the worker seemed to be a happy one. A little bit of cash, a pig for pork, some hens for eggs, a bottle stuffed away in the cupboard - what else did one need?

The front street brawls seemed to be a favourite past time. Most often, friendly conversation in the bars led to argument which was settled out on the street. A ring of spectators was formed and the combatants fought it out. Usually, there were no serious injuries, the spectators were satisfied, Constable Benn would let the fighters off with a promise to make peace and the original argument was either forgotten or resolved.

In the early days, Wallaceburg's buildings were constructed mainly of wood. Since cord wood was the main source of fuel in the winter, many fires, some tragic, were caused from carelessness or overheated stoves. Despite the often grave circumstances, fires provided a form of entertainment. Many of the fires were at night, and upon ringing of the fire alarm, most rushed to the scene, eager to help. With pails and containers of all descriptions, the citizens pitched in, since it took a while to rig up the team, light the boiler, rouse the firemen and locate the fire. There were no hydrants and hoses had to be strung to the Sydenham. As one would expect, very seldom would a fire be controlled.

I knew most of the early merchants in downtown Wallaceburg. This included the south side on Wallace Street where many of the stores were then located. Often I was sent to get a couple of pounds of steak at Murdock's Meat Market and six loaves of bread at MacKenzie's Bake Shop. We went to either Hurley's or O'Flynn and Burgess for 10 cents worth of coal oil for the lamps. Once a year I got new boots at Burgess' Shoe Store for about \$1.00 and socks for 15 cents. Many a time I would recommend one of the hotels to a stranger looking for a good meal. For 5 cents I remember one of the best thrills of the early days, the moving pictures at the Temple Theatre. I also recall quite vividly going to Chatham to see "Buffalo Bill" Cody in person. The real Mr. Cody had been to Wallaceburg the day before, trying to buy some horses from my dad. Although my father would not part with the horses, Buffalo Bill left two complimentary tickets for his wild west show.



**TEMPLE THEATRE CORNER OF JAMES AND CREEK STREETS.**

Wallaceburg had many people who could be called "characters". If they were on the stage today, to perform their act, they would likely be considered comedians. Most lacked formal education but their natural wit and character along with wisdom held them in good position where they always got the last laugh. Before you knew what had happened, these types could talk you into giving them a dime for a drink. Since one had to create his own form of entertainment, the practical joke was a popular past time. Even the very "proper" people were often the victims of such acts.

Captain Steinhoff has been considered as one of the most important builders of early Wallaceburg. He visited our place frequently and I got to know him quite well. He arrived in his buggy, pulled by a grey horse and usually a cigar was sticking out from his long white beard. He influenced many people and certainly deserves a place as one of Wallaceburg's greats. I went to school with Bill, Dud and Johnny Gordon, sons of D.A. Gordon, another person who was equal in status to Capt. Steinhoff. The Gordons, including Bill, did much in developing industry in Wallaceburg. John Scott, banker and ship captain, was another person I knew quite well. He was also well known for his humour. Many times I watched the men in the shipyard caulking the barges, under the supervision of Capt. McDonnell. I knew the Lees quite well, who were also important in the shipping industry. This reputation has certainly been continued by Donald Lee with his several vessels whose combined tonnage would likely surpass all the Wallaceburg owned vessels of all time. Herb Burgess knew all these people also and quite often we would talk about the old days in Wallaceburg. I could name many more of the greats of yesteryear who I knew personally, but there are too many. Most were good, hard working individuals, who lived by the standard, "a man's word was as good as his bond".

This was the way it was in the old days in Wallaceburg. Despite the hardships, people lived a fairly prosperous and happy life under these conditions. With less emphasis on the material side of life, demands were not as great, happiness and self respect were plentiful and psychiatrists were not needed!"

## Unsung Heroines

In researching the history of Wallaceburg, very little reference is given to the part played by women. However, the familiar phrase, "behind every good man is a woman" is undoubtedly applicable and their positive influence should not go by unrecognized. Early times were primitive, conveniences were few, yet in an unassuming role, the women of Wallaceburg, both past and present, were and are influential in the development of the community.

Taken as a matter of fact were unsafe wood stoves, outside water pumps, outdoor sanitary facilities, drafty pine planked floors, dim coal oil lamps, large families, primitive food storage...the list is endless. Nevertheless, the lady of the household was expected to function at her tasks regularly, be punctual with meals and hold her temper and above all look pretty on Sunday. What a challenge!

Most males felt in the early days that a woman's place was in the home. She was assigned the tasks of rearing and raising the children, keeping the house liveable and day after day coming up with a variety of meals. When hubby was delayed at the Dupont or Empire Hotel, she could not get him personally, since this was taboo for women. When he finally staggered home or was carried there by someone else, she patiently babied him and put him to bed. Disease and sickness were rampant, doctors were scarce, Doc Hird would come if called, but money for medicine was short and often the lady of the house ended up doing much of the doctoring.

Senna tea was always kept on the back of the stove as a "cure-all" remedy. Turpentine, goose grease and onion poultices were often put to use. Germs could not survive those remedies and now we wonder how the patient survived too! Brander's Drug Store often would come up with some elixir, if the hidden bottle of rye would not do the trick. Andrew O'Flynn, as still does his son Desmond, would slip an extra lemon in the groceries and tell the woman of the household to squeeze it into hot tea and the patient would feel as good as ever.



LADIES SHOWING OFF THEIR BONNETS.

After incorporation as a town in 1896, times improved and the prestigious gentlemen of the community realized that their wives were excellent political campaigners. Social functions came into vogue and often the conversation turned to politics. It was during this era that a rather strange social custom was popular in Wallaceburg. A lady holding an afternoon tea would have Colwell's print up calling cards, announcing the day of the week that visitors would be received. Ample preparations, including an array of freshly cut flowers, would be carried out. Promptly at 2:30, the ladies of the town would arrive and by custom they deposited their calling card in a fancy dish that was strategically placed in the hallway.

In later years, things improved for the women. Stonehouse's stocked some fancy dresses and petticoats along with high buttoned shoes and once in a while she had a chance to show them off. Occasionally there would be a wedding where the "glad rags" could be worn, but too often the black dress was needed for funerals. The mud or dust near Heath's or Cousin's & Burlingham's made a mess of many a neat appearing dress.

House parties became more frequent and often a violinist or vocal soloist would be the feature attraction. The lady had an opportunity to display her finest linen and dishes. Often, however, the party ended in somewhat of a disaster as the men would coax the violinist into an adjoining room, slip him drinks while he performed and waited with great anticipation for the moment he fell off the table.

The role of the woman has changed in contrast to pioneer times. We have an excellent example in Wallaceburg with Mrs. Cecile Bechard, an outstanding community leader and proven politician. It is somewhat fitting that as we enter our second one hundred years, we are led by a person who has proven that a woman is quite capable in handling a role that traditionally was dominated by men.

# Roots, Herbs and Onion Poultices

We now have excellent medical and hospital care in Wallaceburg, especially in the decades that have passed since the opening of the Sydenham District Hospital. However, it was not too many years ago that serious cases had to be referred to the nearest hospitals at Chatham. It was common for some of our doctors to make several trips a day to Public General or St. Joseph's during the pre-Sydenham Hospital days.

There were few doctors located locally in earlier days and as a result home remedies were common. Roots and herbs, along with some traditional "handed-down" cures formed the nucleus of many of the early family cures. Influenza and diphtheria epidemics hit Wallaceburg hard and the average life span was limited. Many youngsters died during these sieges and study of tombstones at Riverview Cemetery will reveal that numerous children failed to reach their first birthday.

Dr. William Hird was a well known medical practitioner in early Wallaceburg whose makeup embodied all the qualities of dedication and devotion to his chosen profession. Equally well known was his first car, a 1905 Ford. Prior to this, the good doctor would rely on his buggy and nag to take him on his house calls. Dr. Hird lived to the ripe old age of 97 and was one of the most respected citizens of Wallaceburg.



**DR. WILLIAM HIRD AND HIS 1905 FORD. PHOTO TAKEN IN 1910 ON NELSON STREET.**

Victor Lauriston's research indicates that Dr. John Bray, newly arrived from the American Civil War started the first medical practice here in 1863. Following him were Dr. Martin in 1864, Dr. Grant in 1865, and Dr. G. Newman in 1866. Dr. George Mitchell set up practice in 1868, followed by Dr. Standish in 1872, and Dr. W.W. Hay in 1886. Other early Wallaceburg doctors were Robertson, Knight, Somerville, Cowan, Scullard and Turner. Probably still remembered by many in addition to Dr. Hird who started in 1895 were: Dr. Charles Rowland, 1908; Dr. Harry Taylor, 1909; Dr. Stanley Richardson, 1913; Dr. William A. Cathcart and Dr. Bessie Cathcart in 1915; Dr. Eldon Tiffin, 1923; and Dr. H.C. Peco, 1930. The present medical staff shows Dr. Marvin Booth the veteran, who started practice in 1932 with others including Doctors, G.M. Burke, R.C. Brooksbank, J.R. Holmes, T.W. Lamont, R.W. Lauber, A.R. Ralling, S.J. Richardson, D. Hogan, W. Tamin, T. McElligott, D. Thorner, L. Thorner, W.L. Wilford, M. Steadman, P. Barg and C. Partington.

Many will recall some of the early dentists. Dr. Archie Campbell was not only a well known dentist, but was very active in community and political affairs. Frank Weese and Charlie Lawrence practised their profession for many years locally, while in later years Dr. Doug McGillivray, Dr. Maurice Brown and Dr. Jack Slaney serve the public. George Webb has been a local optometrist for several decades and now operates the Optometric Clinic with David Matthews, while Frank Ross was in the same vocation for many years. Felix Schwab is still involved with his chiropractic clinic on Wellington Street, being associated with William Currier and Fritz Zimmer. Bob Morrow, a Wallaceburg native, operates his chiropractic service on Margaret Avenue.



**DR. ELDON TIFFIN**  
**- MEDICAL DOCTOR**



**STARTED PRACTICE IN**  
**1923.**

## **“On the Beat” by Foot, Bicycle and Cruiser**

Policing of Wallaceburg in earlier times varied with modern methods and techniques. For many years the force consisted of two - the day officer and night man. The population of the community was much less and the man on duty seemed to be able to handle most situations. Most inhabitants knew each other and suspicious actions initiated rapid communication by word of mouth, thus deterring potential lawbreakers from carrying out their underhand motives.

Citizens helped the police keep law and order even though harmless pranks often kept the constable busy. Crimes were generally of the petty variety and a good stern lecture usually reformed the culprits. There were no fast “getaway” vehicles and consequently a thief had to be fast a foot in order to escape.

The officer on duty found much of his time settling squabbles that started at one of the local hotels. Rivalries were common, the North Branch lumberman versus the South Side, the Catholics and Protestants were often at odds, the various ethnic groups did not see eye to eye. Friendly banter would inevitably turn into a physical feud, often involving several individuals. The combatants would be thrown out of the hotel by the bouncer and the “meeting” would continue in the street. The officer was quickly dispatched and generally, using shrewd judgment, many a scuffle was allowed to continue until the battlers dropped from exhaustion. Seldom were arrests made under these circumstances. The constable insisted that amends be made, hands were clasped as a token of peace and often the men returned to the hotel as if nothing had happened.

Youngsters caught breaking the law were often treated with a good, stern lecturing from the officer. If appropriate, a good, swift boot applied to a strategic part of the anatomy often served as a deterrent. When word filtered home, a licking was administered in the same area. Many a local youngster learned his lesson when the officer took the boy back into an alley, administered some mild physical punishment which dispelled most illusions of continuing on a path of crime.



**NEW FIRE HALL AND MUNICIPAL OFFICE - BUILT IN 1902 CORNER OF WELLINGTON AND DUNCAN STREETS.**

As Wallaceburg grew, municipal officials saw the need for centralized police headquarters. In 1902, new facilities, including a jail and offices were erected on the corner of Duncan and Wellington Streets. This was in conjunction with other municipal offices. Soon the policeman got "wheels" and he was able to cover the town more easily. However the "foot walking" policeman seemed to keep in closer contact with the public resulting in better respect and understanding.

Two long time members of the Wallaceburg Police Dept. recall their earlier days with the force when part of their beat was covered by bicycle. Wilfred "Bill" Lewis joined the force in 1943 while a few months later of the same year Ray Shepherd, now a detective, became a member of the department. Pay was minimal then and the war years brought a shortage of material for uniforms and for several months they carried out their job in civilian clothes complete with a badge inscribed, "Police Constable". The entire force was made up of four men including the late Art McCallum who was likely the town's most popular officer ever, and chief Jesse Collins. Art McCallum had joined the force in 1941 while the chief succeeded former chief W.W. Worm.

Modern policing methods have become more sophisticated. Excellent forms of communication, ready contact with other agencies across the continent, formal training of recruits at police schools, specialization and philosophical approaches to law enforcement all have changed the role of the officer in blue. Nevertheless, we look back with pride and respect to some of the policemen of the past. Many will remember Charlie Warwick and Alfie Gould. Years before some of the officers were Hector McIntosh, John Cousins, Duncan Stewart, Charlie Benn and Charles Nightingale. In more recent years, some of the "veteran" officers include Walter Holmes, Bill Laprise and Jack Causley. Hank McFarlane is remembered also as a fine officer.

Ross Cushman is present chief of the Wallaceburg Police Dept., a post he also held from 1952 to 1967. Preceding him was Jesse Collins, who held top post from 1943 until 1952. Cecil Bowyer was chief until 1973, while present deputy-chief Walter Holmes headed the department during 1974.



1942 POLICE DEPARTMENT.

## Amid the Smoke from Red to Yellow

In early days, the majority of the buildings were constructed of wood, thus being susceptible to the ravages of fire. With the obvious need for fire fighting measures, the Wallaceburg Fire Dept. was organized in 1878. Vintage equipment included an engine and reel equipped with a single steering shaft. Five dollars went to the owner of the first team of horses to arrive to pull the rig. Quite often William McDougall was recipient of the prize. The fire signal prompted the fireman on duty to light the boiler and fire the engine. Hopefully a source of water would be nearby, but as was often the case, it was too late, or insufficient water pressure was exerted.

The first fire hall was located at the foot of Duncan Street. The building was noted for its unique belfrey where the alarm was positioned. Upon its signal, volunteers from all over town rushed to the scene. Most citizens did the same. The highly trained team of horses was rigged and in a few minutes, the primitive engine sped to the scene. They best was done, but often to no avail, as the dried out wood usually burned beyond control.

By 1896, after incorporation, John Gonyou was appointed as fire inspector. The fire limits were defined and a strong rapport was built up within the brigade. Members of the team were C. Hodges, John Welch, W. Mean, R. Haves, H. Sutherland, J. McDonald, J. Annals, C. Best, H. Brown, J. McDonald and J. McRae.



HORSE DRAWN PUMPER LEAVING FIRE DEPT. 1902. GEORGE PIERCE CHIEF AND T.B. DUNDAS MAYOR, ON RIG.

A new fire hall was built in 1902 on the south west corner of Duncan and Wellington. James Quennel was first chief of the new department and held this post until 1905. Elton Judson was chief in 1907. In these early years, holes were kept open in the Sydenham River all winter long in order to provide a ready water source. In 1895, William Farnell, Ed McDougall and M.J. Hurley were paid \$3.00 each for performing this task.

In 1915, a full time chief, Walter Barnes was hired, followed by Jack Bachus in 1915-16 and Clark Best who held the post until 1932. In 1923 the first motorized fire truck was purchased consisting of a Bickle pump and tank on an International chassis. This became the backbone of the force. In 1929, a Reo chemical truck was added to the force's complement, then ten years later, a Ford chassis was added and the original 1923 Bickle pump was placed on it. In 1949, the Reo was sold and a Dodge three quarter ton truck was purchased for pulling the rescue boat and the LaFrance pump. In 1958 purchase was made of two trucks, a pumper and aerial ladder which are still in use as first line equipment. In October of 1974, a spanking new King-Seagreave International truck was put into service. A notable departure was the fact that the truck was painted yellow, a safety feature during nighttime runs.



ADDITIONAL FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT

**THE NEW PUMPER 1944 - WALTER CONWAY, MAYOR ERIC MACDONALD AND DICK PERRIN, SECOND FROM RIGHT, WITH VISITING OFFICIALS.**

Fire chiefs during the past few decades included Ed O'Neil in 1931-32; Bob Sutherland 1932-45; Frank Hearn 1945-53; Cecil McDougall, 1953-55; George Forsythe, 1955-61; Irvine Remple 1961-66 and the present chief, Francis James who was appointed in 1966. Roy "Slugger" McIntosh has the record for longtime service starting as a volunteer in 1940 and returned after the war and rejoined the department in 1946 and has been a member ever since.

The department has relied upon volunteers over the years. In 1931, J. Foster was captain and the following were on the volunteer staff, Jack Bachus, Jack Ritchie, Roy Simpson, Herb "Casey" Doan, Herbie Alderson, Frank Hickling, Lem Bowers and Bill Young. In 1942, Jim Perrin was driver and the volunteer staff consisted of Garnet Winters, Lem Bowers, Herbie Alderson, "Huck" Hazzard, Frank Armstrong, Joe Shaw, William Foster, and H. McFadden. In 1948, Joe Shaw was captain and volunteers consisted of Herbie Alderson, Frank Armstrong, Norm Decedar, Bill Foster, Alex Perchaluk, Hugh McPhail, "Huck" Hazzard, Gord Sutherland, Donat Belanger, Garnet Winters and William Steer.

# A New Century Around the Corner

Wallaceburg's two earliest newspapers, the "News" and the "Herald" remain the most reliable reference source for information of the old days. Past issues, still on file at the News office reveal some of the interesting facts of the times and following are a few excerpts from their faded but informative pages.

-The new council elected for 1895 will consist of Reeve, Charles Chubb, Deputy Reeve, Joseph C. Shaw, and Council, D.A. Gordon, M. Cameron and F. Balogna.

-At the annual meeting of the Chatham, Dover and Wallaceburg Agricultural Society, the following officers for 1895 were named: T.B. Dundas, president, John Skinner, vice president, local director, T.F. Hinnegan.

-Market reports of February, 1895 show the following quotes: corn, 36 cents, beans, \$1.10, potatoes, 50 cents, eggs, 15 cents per dozen, hay \$7.00 and pork \$4.80.

-March 1, 1895 - The fire alarm which has not been heard for a long time, awoke our citizens on Thursday morning; the blaze was found to be the English Church which was past all chance to save it.

-March 8, 1895 - The Ontario government has purchased 2,000 of the Lee rifles, invented by James P. Lee and his brother John Lee.

-July 19, 1895 - "Don't lend your Herald to your neighbour, make them subscribe. Only 40 cents to Jan. 1, 1896 and if they won't pay that, they are too mean to live."

-August 30, 1895 - Mr. Warwick, Supt. of management of the Sydenham Glass Works, wishes us to say that all boys whose names have been entered on their list for employment are requested to report for duty at 2 o'clock on Saturday.

-On January 7, 1897, Colwell's Book Store and Music Emporium had the following hit songs for sale: "After the Ball, Seeing Nellie Home, Bonnie, Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomand, Rag Doll."

-January 14, 1897 - The Firemen and Hook and Ladder Company fought the greatest conflagration that ever occurred in Wallaceburg. The \$60,000 blaze completely gutted five stores and two offices of the Beattie Block, including the Queen's Hotel. Two lives were lost, that of Andrew Bard and Albert Ugle.

-February 3, 1898 - Thomas Wright and Theo Gonyou paid \$1.00 and costs for driving without bells; Gonyou fought desperately against the arrest but was finally overpowered by Chief Cousins and was fined \$10.00 and costs for assault.

-A good start was made towards a Public Library Board on Tuesday; present were Dr. George Mitchell, John Scott, D.A. Gordon, Andrew O'Flynn, J.P. Hickey, T.B. Dundas, J.W. Plewes and R. Sutherland.

-February 7, 1900 - The following were winners at the fancy dress carnival at Martin's Skating Arena; James Bolton, George McLean, Bert Side, Guy MacDonald, Lella and Byrel Taylor, Ernest McDonald, Almada Martin, Andrew Bolton, Rosa Warfield, Mabel McDougall, Rob Gordon, Ral Dobie, Lute Hooktwith, Josie Colwell, Harry Clancy, Will Colwell, Aubrey Forhan and Fred Martin.

-August 15, 1900 - The new concert band consisted of leader E.B. Snively, Charles Martin, John Wickens, Ralph Bouskill, Charles Sauvey, Andy Wickens, Fred Dulong, Bill Clifford, Joe Wickens, Ed Allan, John Annals, Will Taylor, W.C. Powers, Joe London, Albert Harrison, Charles London, Joe Harrison and E. McDougall.

-Oct. 25, 1900 - Right Hon. Sir Wilfred Laurier visited Wallaceburg accompanied by Hon. David Mills, F.F. Pardee, M.P.P., Robert Ferguson, M.P.P., Dr. Johnston, M.P., D.A. Gordon, mayor and T.B. Dundas.

## PUBLIC SERVANTS

### Mayors of Wallaceburg Since Incorporation 1896-1975

1896 Capt. James W. Steinhoff  
1897 Charles Chubb  
1898-00 David A. Gordon  
1901 Charles Chubb  
1902 William H. Heath  
1903-04 Thomas B. Dundas  
1905 Frank Hinnegan  
1906-07 Hugh A. Stonehouse  
1908 Joseph C. Shaw  
1909-10 William J. McDonald  
1911-12 Charles Sauvey  
1913-15 Thomas B. Dundas  
1916-17 Dr. Archie Campbell  
1918-20 Harry Martin  
1921-22 William Clifford  
1923-24 Dr. Stanley Richardson  
1925 Frank Hinnegan  
1926 Dr. Stanley Richardson  
1927-28 Arthur St. Clair Gordon  
1929-30 Calvert S. Stonehouse

1931-33 Joseph T. Saint  
1934 Dr. Stanley Richardson  
1935-38 Edgar U. Dickenson  
1939-42 Allan P. Brander  
1943 Andrew Gilhuly  
1944 J. Eric MacDonald  
1945-46 J. Ashton Lillie  
1947-48 J. Eric MacDonald  
1949-50 William Glendinning (died in office) J. Eric MacDonald  
1951 Wilfred J. Picard  
1952-56 William Collins  
1957-58 John L. Thompson  
1959-61 Robert Newberry  
1962 George Clement  
1963-65 Allan B. Cousins  
1966 Nigel Savage  
1967-75 Mrs. Cecile Bechard



1914 TOWN COUNCIL.

**Reeves of Wallaceburg During  
Village Status 1875-1895**

1875-76 Alexander McDougall  
 1877-78 Joseph H. Beattie  
 1879-80 Dr. George Mitchell  
 1881 Lionel H. Johnston  
 1882 Alexander McDougall  
 1883-85 Dr. George Mitchell

1886-89 Thomas B. Gillard  
 1890 John S. Fraser  
 1891 Thomas B. Gillard  
 1892-94 John S. Fraser  
 1895-96 Charles Chubb

**Municipal Government officials 1939-1975**

**Council**

Babcock, Lloyd 55-56  
 Barg, Dr. Peter 70-71  
 Bechard, Cecile 58-60  
 Benn, Alfred 60-61  
 Bertrand, George 57  
 Bowers, William 54  
 Brown, Dr. Maurice 58-62  
 Burgess, John L. 63-64  
 Carter, Ted 50-57, 61-65  
 Clark, Don 72-74  
 Clarke, Fred 45-46  
 Collins, William 45-46, 48-51  
 Conway, Walter 44-46  
 Cousins, Allan 59-60  
 Daigneault, Robt. 58  
 Daw, Felix 68-69  
 Davies, William 61, 63-68  
 Dean, Grant S. 39-43, 45  
 Fish, Norman 56  
 Glendinning, William 48

Gordon, John 49-50  
 Green, Charles 46, 48-49  
 Haggerty, Earl 63-65  
 Hardie, Cam 59-61  
 Hawken, Drader 39-43, 62  
 Hazzard, Charles 44-46, 48-50  
 Hazzard, Wellington 52-55  
 Holmes, David 51-52  
 Holmes, Dr. Robt. 62  
 Huctwith, James 44-46  
 Hunter, Robt. 48  
 Jones, Randall 39-42  
 Knowles, Doug 51-54  
 Labombard, Helen 71  
 Labombard, Reg 49-50  
 Leach, Fred 44  
 Lillie, Ashton 39-44  
 Lucier, Len 57-58  
 Martin, Lawrence 39-43  
 Metcalfe, Robt. 65  
 Mickle, Glen 43

Paisley James 75  
 Newberry, Robt. 53-57  
 Nightengale, Frank 48-49  
 O'Flynn, Desmond 39-44  
 O'Flynn, Gary 70  
 Pearson, George 66, 68-69  
 Puskas, Lou 56-59  
 Quinlan, Thomas 72-75  
 Shepley, Lester 52-55  
 Shingles, Burton 50-51  
 Southgate, Robin 72-75  
 Steen, Edsel 71  
 Stirling, Frank 63-64, 66-71  
 Stonehouse, Lou 74-75  
 Stott, Harold 56-62  
 Sullivan, Barry, 72-73  
 Taylor, Clare 65, 67-70  
 Taylor, Joseph 62-64, 66-67  
 Thompson, Jack 51-53  
 Truan, Donald 65-75  
 Wells, Donald 65-67, 69-75  
 Wingerden, John 60-61

**Reeve**

Bechard, Cecile 66-69  
Carter, Ted 58-59  
Conway, Walter 52  
Cousins, Allan 61-62  
Frye, George 48  
Gilhuly, Andrew 39-42  
Green, Charles 51  
Hawken, Drader 46  
Huctwith, James 49  
Holmes, David 56-57  
Hunter, Robt. 53-55  
Lee, Donald 60  
Nightengale, Frank 50  
Savage, Nigel 63-65  
Taylor, Joseph 70-75

**Deputy-Reeve**

Babcock, Lloyd 57, 60  
Bechard, Cecile 61-65  
Conway, Walter 51  
Frye, George 43-46  
Green, Charles 50  
Hawken, Drader 44-45  
Hazzard, Wellington 56  
Hinnegan, Gordon 43  
Holmes, David 53-55  
Huctwith, James 48  
Lee, Donald 59  
Lucier, Len 63-64  
Metcalf, Robt. 66-67, 72-75  
Newberry, Robt. 58  
Pearson, George 70-71  
Savage, Nigel 62  
Shingles, Burton 52  
Shirley, Harry 39-42  
Taylor, Joseph 68-69

**Municipal Council 1975  
Town of Wallaceburg**

Mayor: Mrs. Cecile Bechard

Reeve: Joseph Taylor

Deputy Reeve: Robt. Metcalfe

Council: Thomas Quinlan  
Donald Wells  
Donald Clarke  
Donald Truan  
Lou Stonehouse  
Robin Southgate  
James Paisley

Water: Joseph Shaw, Cliff Luxton  
Hydro: Dr. Wm. Wilford, Allan Cousins  
Elected Kent County School Board Representatives  
Separate: Julius Vandenbossche  
Public: John A. Burgess, Lloyd Babcock

**Municipal Council 1875  
Village of Wallaceburg**

Reeve: Alexander McDougall

Council: John Lillje  
Joseph Beattie  
Dr. J.B. Newman  
Dr. George Mitchell



1938 WALLACEBURG MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AND OFFICIALS.

# The Notorious Black Goose

Amongst its many claims to fame, Wallaceburg has been well known for the famed Baldoon Mystery. Although events surrounding the alleged affair took place a few miles from the village proper, the characters and circumstances were closely associated with Wallaceburg. Close to a century and a half later, queries are still asked and theories abound concerning the strange circumstances of the events and happenings that took place between 1830 and 1840.

Many have scoffed at these events as being mere fantasy but the fact remains that unusual occurrences plagued the John McDonald household on the Snye and explanations defy truth. The story remains as part of our heritage, a reminder of the uncertainty of earlier times.

The original Baldoon misfortunes transpired in a log cabin along the Chenal Ecarte or Snye River just beyond the first bridge as one travels along #40 highway near the river. The original cabin was destroyed by flames as one of the initial strange happenings. Consequently, the McDonalds moved to another house and this building was soon to be known as the "Baldoon Mystery House". However, this was not the original haunted house associated with the details of the story.

Early passenger boats travelling out of Detroit, featured the Baldoon house as one of the sites to see during a cruise to Wallaceburg. The mysterious happenings were publicized in journals and newspapers across the continent. The mystery brought fame to the Wallaceburg area and for students of the supernatural a certain amount of aura still remains. Supposedly, bullets came crashing through the windows, strange noises occurred throughout the night, buildings suddenly burst into flames, pots and pans mysteriously flew from the table, the McDonald dog died suddenly. The family was suspended in a state of fear until their health was affected. The strange happenings continued, until by chance a silver bullet found its mark in a stray black goose and soon afterwards, a suspicious neighbour became mournfully ill. As suddenly as they started, the unusual events ceased!

Fact or fiction? Nevertheless, the Baldoon Mystery still lives on and remains closely associated with our heritage and history.



**THE HOUSE ON THE SNYE WHERE SOME OF THE BALDOON MYSTERY AFFAIRS WERE ALLEGED TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE.**



# Firing at Oak Trees and Flags

For many decades, historically-minded Wallaceburg residents have been conscious of the town's connection with the Lee-Enfield rifle. However, the details of this intriguing story are vague. For many years local officials have been attempting to suitably recognize this world famous name and hopefully the provincial government will see fit to erect a historical plaque in this regard.

For a great number of years, the name "Lee-Enfield" has been well established and respected internationally. Little known to many is the fact that the successful perfecting of the magazine box for the rifle, was carried out locally by members of the well known Lee family.

The original working model complete with box magazine is proudly possessed and valued highly by Donald Lee, a direct descendant of the inventors. In addition, Mr. Lee has preserved the hand made shells and related tools and equipment which played a very important part in the successful development of the famed rifle.

During the initial demonstrations, several bullets were fired across the Sydenham River into thick oak beams and at long range, accuracy was shown by shooting holes through flags, hundreds of yards away. Most of the experimental shots were fired at the rear of the original Lee Foundry and Machine Shop, east of the present Lord Selkirk bridge.

In order to present the story clearly, it is important to outline the early facts and circumstances. James Paris Lee was born in Scotland in 1831. He was the son of George Lee, a watchmaker and engraver who came to Canada and settled in Ayr, Ontario. James Lee gained from his father, a flair for working with delicate mechanisms, with special interest in guns. Young Lee went to Milwaukee where he established the Lee Firearms Company with their main product being the "Lee carbine" which was used during the Civil War.



**LEE BROTHERS SHIPYARD SHOWING BOATS "JOHN LEE", "JOHN WILKINS" AND "FRANKIE".**

More experimentation was conducted with a box-type magazine in New York and Connecticut. On many occasions, James P. Lee visited his brother John Lee of Wallaceburg, where the two worked together on the rifle, in addition to other devices. While in Wallaceburg, the two Lees, James and John made outstanding progress with the rifle. The device was complete except that the magazine failed to release the expired shells and would not move the next bullet into place. John Lee realized the problem and set out to make a steel spring which fitted into the magazine. He succeeded, with his contribution being the one feature previously incomplete. This spring pushed out the empty shell and put the next one into place with the bolt action. The completed rifle, pioneered by both James and John Lee was patented as the "Lee-Enfield" with the latter name referring to Enfield, Scotland.

The Lee-Enfield was patented first in 1879 and was adopted by many nations including England and Austria. Strangely enough the Canadian government turned down Lee's rifle even though they were offered the first rights. The British government gave James Lee a quarter of a million dollars for his invention.

As noted, the original Lee rifle, perfected in Wallaceburg, paved the way for improved models that followed. Our town played an important part in an invention that became world famous despite the fact that the details of this great event are not duly recognized. James Paris Lee spent much of his life in Wallaceburg and lived here in his declining years. He died in 1904. Rightfully, Wallaceburg should claim the distinction historically for its part in the invention of the rifle.

# Pranksters and Funsters at Work

Wallaceburg always has been a well known river town, in earlier days a calling place for ships of varying description. It is remembered that many of the boats calling at the port of Wallaceburg had as many characters as they did pieces of cargo. Boys, now, as in earlier days the world over, were, full of pranks.

One local incident which has been retold over and over dealt with Squire Lillie's court of justice. The Squire, local magistrate of the period, had two well known habits, one of convening his court wherever circumstances seemed to warrant, and the other of ascertaining in advance the state of a prisoner's purse and setting the penalty accordingly. Rule of the times was that one quarter of the penalty went to the county and the remainder to the magistrate.

On the occasion in question, a sailor from one of the ships in Wallaceburg harbour had come ashore and gone on a "pubbing" tour of the local watering spots. When his "sea legs" would no longer allow him to "come about" when hailed, he was apprehended by the policeman on duty and brought before Squire Lillie.



**OLD PUBLIC SCHOOL ON LISGAR STREET. PRANKS RANG BELL IN BELFREY TO AROUSE THE TOWN. THE SCHOOL BURNED IN 1915.**

The Squire who was the grandfather of Ashton, Mabel and Bessie Lillie, convened his court at the most convenient location, the parlour of the American Hotel on James Street, former location of Hazzard's Meats and now the Sound Shop. The magistrate heard the evidence, pronounced the sailor guilty of the offence and inquired if he had the money for the fine. The sailor replied in a negative manner and also indicated this his ship was about to leave Wallaceburg shortly. Squire Lillie imposed a sentence that stands out as an all time oddity of the courts. The sailor was told to go out and purchase enough apples to treat everyone in court and then he was free to go.

Hallowe'en always brings extra work for the local police force. Earlier days were no exception. Before the turn of the century, a group of Wallaceburg boys intent upon creating a little fun, proceeded to take all the lumber from a storage yard and piled it up in the middle of Wallace Street. Charlie Nightingale, the night officer saw what was going on from the shadows of a nearby building, but waited until the pranksters had completed the lumber transfer. With an officious power of authority, Charlie stepped out into the open and loudly proclaimed, "Stop in the name of the law, you are in for it for swiping lumber!" With a drop of his voice, he told the scared youths that they could escape arrest if they followed his orders. Naturally all agreed and with delight, Charlie ordered the boys to repile all the lumber neatly, back in its original location. While this task was being carried out, Nightingale sat down on the edge of the road, chuckling under his breath while the boys completed their penalty. When all was in order, the officer ordered the youths home under penalty of arrest if he caught them out again that night.

One local boy of a later period, now retired and who shall go nameless, was involved in one of the best known local pranks. This boy's mother, a stern member of the older generation of parents, had set a 9 p.m. curfew on her son's activities, ruling that he must be in bed at that hour every night. He went upstairs to his room at the prescribed hour.

What the mother did not know, however, was that her son was a member of a gang notorious for its nocturnal prowlings. They had a ladder hidden behind a nearby woodshed and every night upon signal, it was raised to the boy's window, and he made his escape true in the style of Tom Sawyer. One night they decided to investigate the bell tower of the old public school on Lisgar Street. They had decided that Wallaceburg needed a good awakening.

A long strand of binder twine was rigged up from the bell across back lots towards Lorne Avenue and Elgin. The twine stretched almost two blocks, where the pranksters could remain hidden but were still in view of the school. As soon as everything was ready, the boys scrambled down from the belfry, ran to the end of the twine and started to tug the line. The bell sounded strangely like the firebell in the town hall. The initial response was for the volunteer firemen to rush to their assignment. The renewed clanging told them they were on the wrong trail so they joined others who had been alarmed and began to search for the source of the noise. It was not long before they were led to the school. The twine was too high to be seen by the assembled crowd. Every once in a while the bell would clang again to the mystification of the crowd. Finally the youngsters tired of the sport, tied down the end of the twine and rambled on home. The crowd mumbling about ghosts and haunts, did likewise.

There is a sequel to the story which almost got a highly respectable woman into difficulties. The following morning she discovered the rope tied to a fence and unaware of what had happened (she must have been a sound sleeper), untied the twine to coil it for her own use. As she walked along, looping coil after coil over her arm, she could hear the school bell gently tolling, but gave no thought to the noise until the town watchman, who was now investigating, stopped to query her as to what she was doing. When she explained, he took her to the school and there pointed out that the other end was tied to the bell clanger.

Although not in the line of pranks, the local railway bridge was the scene of a humorous incident. An early engineer mistook a signal and backed several cars of coal off one of the approaches into the river when the bridge was open. During the "rum-running" days of the 1920's a local character who shall go anonymous was hotly pursued in his Essex, by the Wallaceburg police. He circled a couple of blocks near James Street to throw off his pursuers, then drove his car over the railroad bridge. After dumping his "liquid cargo", he returned via the same route, just in time to meet the police car bumping over the ties in chase. Needless to say the Essex was well frisked but released when the search revealed nothing. The driver later retrieved his cargo but carefully refrained from any further crossings by way of that particular span.

One of the most retold stories of early Hallowe'ens in Wallaceburg was the "dumped backhouse" caper. Yearly, a certain Wallaceburg citizen would find his outdoor backhouse dumped over by youthful tricksters. To repay them for the years of frustration, a clever scheme was devised by the property owner. Prior to dark of Hallowe'en evening, the backhouse was moved three yards from its usual location. The exposed hole was cleverly concealed with a light covering of sticks and underbrush. The ploy was successful, as when the revellers arrived to perform the annual dumping, one of the unwary plunged into the opening. Needless to say, this put an abrupt halt to the dumping, as concealed chuckles were detected nearby.

Sam Martin was a local citizen known for his adeptness in doing lettering and sign work. He persuaded J.S. Fraser, a prominent local barrister that this bare office window would be more presentable with his firm's name painted on the glass. Convinced of this need Fraser agreed and gave Martin the go ahead to complete the task. It was agreed that the work would be completed in the evening, dry over night and ready for business next day.

The following morning as Fraser approached his office, he was eager to see the results of Sam Martin's artistic endeavours. To his surprise and horror, he saw painted boldly on the window the picture of a boy with the seat of his pants tattered, his anatomy exposed with the inscription "J.S.F. Barrister" an obvious pun that was not too difficult to interpret by the passer by.

Such were the early days of Wallaceburg with practical jokes and pranks part of every day life.

## **The Stages Reverberated With Melodious Sounds**

Earlier days in Wallaceburg saw musical and dramatical presentations a popular form of entertainment. Such activities presented light relief from the drab day-to-day routines. Church groups were particularly adept in their interpretation of operettas and light drama. Charles Ayres, a name synonymous with music in Wallaceburg, led the Methodist Church on many such occasions during the early part of the century. J.W. Plewes organized similar presentations through the school while Ray Thompson and Sam Dunderdale were equally proficient. Many of the early stage productions were held at the old south side town hall. The upstairs auditorium and stage was a thespian's delight as Wallaceburg audiences were entertained there for many years.

Band music has been part of the local cultural scene for many years. Nightly, the Salvation Army band serenaded the crowd in front of the Tecumseh Hotel on James Street. The program was interspersed with a sermon and silver collection. "Dad" Simpson and Danny Hunt were assigned the task of flag bearers. The reputation of the various concert and marching bands is well known with three generations of the Ayres family leading the way. In 1962 a special Von Ayres Day was held honouring the third generation of the family. Von's father Charles and grandfather William all had a great influence on music locally.



**PARADE HONOURING VON AYRES - 1962.**

The old Temple Theatre was the scene of many memorable music and drama shows. Touring vaudeville groups visited Wallaceburg on their regular circuit with the Guy Brothers well received on many occasions. George Taylor built the Temple and for many years the site was managed by "Mick" McRae. During the 1930's, Glen Mickle's famous amateur nights provided diversion for Wallaceburg audiences as the nation was in the throes of depression. "Casey" Doan was given the assignment of using his long hook to pull the "booed" acts from the stage. The Temple was the scene of a wide variety of activities, including boxing, wrestling, drama and movies. Later the site was remodelled and became the Alexander Movie Theatre.

Perhaps one of the most highly discussed stage presentations of early Wallaceburg was the "Breach of Promise" mock trial. J.S. Fraser and A.B. Carscallen both prominent lawyers took part as did many other prominent citizens. The plot centered around a local lady suing for breach of promise. Local happenings and events were worked into the trial and the results were both startling and hilarious.

The upper floor of the Hydro Building on the south side also saw much use in the drama and musical field. Prior to the completion of the new high school stage in 1949, many Von Ayres-Doris Shaw produced musical operettas were held at the Hydro Hall. In recent decades the Hydro site has taken on a new lease on life as the Wallaceburg Little Theatre has assumed this facility and has presented top notch amateur productions, but with a professional touch. This group has done exceptionally well in reviving theatre type productions on a "live" basis.

Primrose Gardens, long operated by the Wickens family has been the scene of many enjoyable shows including the once popular minstrel shows. In earlier years "Peanuts" Clark, Pete O'Flynn, Ray Martin were some of the well known sidemen. Later years saw "Chubby" Norman, Bill Furtah, "Boney" Shepley, George Cairns, George Pearson, Art Fisher and others assume similar roles. These nights also saw huge musical presentations backed by a large chorus. Individual solos proved popular and were well received. The old Roman Catholic Parish Hall on Nelson Street was also the scene of various variety type shows.

Wallaceburg has boasted symphony orchestras throughout the years. The 1920's saw a very active group that took part in the various cultural functions. During the 1950's Matti Holli from Windsor led the local symphony orchestra that developed many fine musicians. Many may recall the strong Barber Shop style of music that was a dominant force locally for many years. In a similar style, the "Balladeers" consisting of Barbara Thornton, Helen Morrow and the Hill sisters, Shirley and Beatrice entertained at various gatherings. Musical groups at the local schools including the glee clubs and bands maintain Wallaceburg's musical tradition while the Little Theatre in their two or three plays per season add much to the town's cultural scene.



**MINSTREL SHOW AT PRIMROSE GARDENS - 1944.**

Ruby Gordon, daughter of D.A. Gordon gained international fame after intensive music study. Using the name of Jeanne Gordon she made a brilliant debut at the Metropolitan Opera in New York and her talented contralto voice made her famous for many years before retiring in 1937. Peter Yazbeck showed brilliance at the piano at an early age and rose to considerable fame as a concert pianist in the United States. Ralph Murphy made several top recordings in the pop musical scene and established himself as a writer of great repute in England.

Over the years, Wallaceburg has been endowed with exceptional musical talent. Coupled with a rich cultural tradition, many entertaining moments have been provided for the citizenry of the town.

## **The Not So Peaceful Sydenham**

From the beginning of settlement in this area, high waters have periodically played havoc with local inhabitants in the form of floods. Doug Mackenzie who has done extensive research on the Baldoon settlement, reveals in his thesis that the north-west portion of Dover Township was affected by high waters during the early years of the colony. Selkirk attempted to minimize the effect of flooding through a series of channels but they were not adequate to meet the challenge of a flooding Great Bear Creek (Sydenham) and Chenal Ecarte (Snye).



**FLOOD OF 1904 - NORTH NELSON STREET IN FRONT OF PRESENT LAPOINTE-FISHER NURSING HOME.**

Wallaceburg has been hit by major floods in 1893, 1904, 1927, 1947 and 1968. Less damaging floods have occurred on other occasions. During the logging days, June flash storms would float the many freshly cut logs piled along the Sydenham causing a "log jam". The 1904 flood saw the water as deep as 10 feet in some areas of the town. In some cases, Wallaceburg residents were forced to evacuate their homes via second floor windows. It was quite common to row a boat down Nelson Street in the spring. Michael O'Neil lost several hogs in the 1904 flood as well as losing his crops. There was not insurance then and many farmers suffered severe setbacks.

Many felt the 1968 flood was the worst on record, however, official figures through Alex Perchaluk of the Sydenham Valley Conservation Authority revealed that the 1947 disaster was eight inches higher. Dick Whale, a long time resident, maintained that the 1927 flood was the worst. Nevertheless, all of the major floods have been disastrous and have affected residents in various ways depending on the circumstances.

Unfortunately the two decade interim since 1947 found people caught rather unwary of the flood potential. Houses were erected on ancient river courses and on land that was once low and swampy. The area between the Arena and Running Creek was a swamp less than thirty years ago and high water conditions were bound to have its effect in that area. Many hundreds of trees have been cut and removed along the riverbanks, thus causing erosion, allowing the waters to spill over. In addition the natural root absorption of moisture from the soil has been minimized since the local woods have been reduced during the past century.



**1927 FLOOD - HOMES ON MARGARET AVENUE.**

The 1968 flood saw a co-ordinated community effort in aiding flood victims. Mayor Nigel Savage appealed to local agencies for assistance. Capt. Edward Noyle of the Fire Dept. co-ordinated efforts of army, volunteer and militia personnel in evacuating 325 residents from their homes. Darcy McKeough, M.P. for Chatham Kent, assured the mayor that all channels of assistance through the provincial government would be available. The Salvation Army, the local Red Cross, churches, welfare officials all pitched in as well as any others asked, in helping out. Primrose Gardens was used as an emergency centre. Those experiencing the 1947 flood recall that the "Hostel" now the Seaburg Hotel was used for a similar purpose.

With diversion channels, the Wilkesport dam scheme and a public awareness, measures are now being executed in reducing the effect of future floods and hopefully the community will not have to experience such disasters.

## **The "Roaring Twenties"**

Following the cease of hostilities after the first war, Wallaceburg, as did the nation in general, experienced a prosperous era often called a "boom" period. Industry became highly revolutionized, people were in a jovial mood, money became plentiful and times were considered good. Following are some remembrances of this period, yet to be clouded by the dark days of the next war.

The movie industry had its full impact on Wallaceburg. The Temple Theatre proudly announced in 1929 the first "talking pictures". Jack Holt starred in the first local talkie entitled, "The Donovan Affair". 1925 town council saw T.F. Hinnegan as mayor, reeve was Mac Sherwood, deputy reeve, Robert Drummond. Councillors were Calvert Stonehouse, Bruce Meredith, Joe Saint, Harry Shirley, Joe Farwell and Bill Gordon.

The Concert and Marching Band consisted of Calvin Toles, Ivan Wickens, George Scott, John Simonato, Dee Martin, Glen Mickle, Randy Purser, Ray Martin, Rollie Carscallen, George Dean, George Bowen, Dudley Gordon, Ashton Lillie, Jack McLean, E. Jacobs, Jack Burgess, and A. Murray. Concerts were quite popular then as the Alliance Sunday School presentation in 1926 revealed the following participants; Jean Badgley, Laura Brownlee, Margaret Colwell, Ilene Rothwell, Harry Hunt, Norma Brownlee, Bud Mathany, Margaret McIntyre, Glenn Crowe, George Colwell and Sam Dunderdale. Morrison Irwin who eventually opened up a large chain of department stores, bought out the grocery business of O.M. Post in the Forbes Block and opened his first 5 cent to \$1.00 store in 1926.



**1927 PARADE SHOWING KILTIE BAND - CHARLIE WARWICK ON LEFT.**

The local "halls of learning" at the high school level consisted of E.U. Dickenson as principal and staff of W.W. Tanner, George Braitwaite, Miss Ada Shaw, Miss F.E. Rodman, Miss Cameron and Miss Clougher. A sign of the prosperous times was the opening of the Ontario Boat and Engine Works by Jack Beebe. Sleek, speedy pleasure craft were produced in Asselstine's former garage site. March of 1927 saw the opening of the new hydro building on the site of the old town hall. Bill Clifford was hydro chairman and T.E. Hinnegan was mayor.

A new field house at Steinhoff Athletic Park was erected in time for the town's intermediate lacrosse club, the "Alerts" to begin their season. This 1924 team reached the provincial final but lost to a strong Brampton side. The 20's saw a serious flood hit Wallaceburg in 1927 when most of the town was inundated by the ravaging waters of the Sydenham. The same year Wallaceburg celebrated a diamond jubilee with a giant reunion of old boys and girls gathering for the occasion. The airplane made its presence known as local stuntflyer and pilot Dean MacDonald showed his routines in his "Flying Jenny".

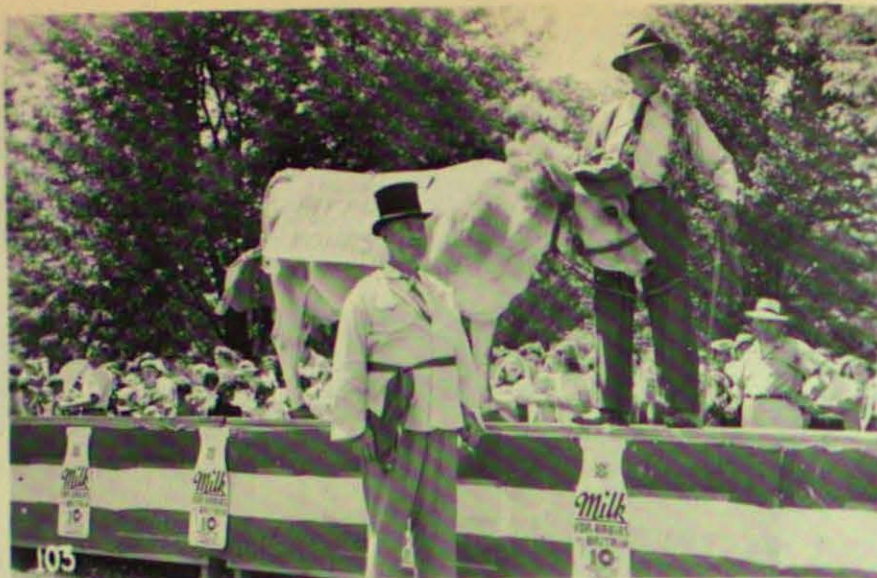
Prohibition in nearby United States added to the adventure of the times. Several Wallaceburg residents got into "rich quick" schemes by ferrying "booze" to the States under the guise of stating on the export forms that they were headed for Cuba or Mexico, in a fifteen foot rowboat! Passenger boat cruises in and out of Wallaceburg were popular at the time with the "Thousand Islander" embarking thrice weekly from the foot of Nelson Street. The Mitchell's Bay area by now was a duck hunter's paradise and more and more boats from town headed that way in the hunting and fishing season.

Jim Cooper started a new tobacco factory when a building was erected for the curing and drying process. "Lucky Jim's" became a popular brand of cigarettes in this new venture of 1927. Increased assessment of 1929 saw the mill rate set at 48 a reduction from the previous year. The glass, brass and sugar plants were in full production as the town's largest employers.

1929 saw the horizon dimmed as the devastating Wall Street crash had its impact around the world and Wallaceburg was affected. Yet the 1920's will be remembered as happy times as the next two decades brought hardship and grief to a world that was just getting back on its feet.

## Do You Remember When...

- ..Wagons full of sugar beets were lined up for blocks along Wallace Street waiting for processing at the Sugar Company?
- .."Casey" Doan proudly displayed his car "The Silver Streak" on James Street?
- ..The Chamber of Commerce set up a hitchhiker's stand on the corner of Murray and King Streets? It was for use by servicemen only.
- ..Traffic passed in both directions on downtown James Street and parking was allowed on both sides?
- ..Horse races, fall fairs, track and field meets were held at Saint's Park?
- ..Putsy Pierce's and Spencer's Blacksmith Shops were located on Fork Street?
- ..Syl Apps of the Toronto Maple Leafs disappointed the young boys of Wallaceburg by failing to show up for a banquet?
- ..Wallaceburg's best swimming spots were at British American Beach on north Nelson and The Coal Dock on Emily Street?
- ..An inter-church basketball league operated with most games played upstairs at the Hydro Hall?
- ..Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent spoke at a Rotary Club banquet and to commemorate the occasion, school children were given coins which were promptly tagged "Louie buttons"?
- ..John Gibson sold the best fudge in town from his little store across from Central School?
- ..The Avro Anson airplane crashed north of town and almost every boy in town had a souvenir from the wreckage?
- ..Bread and milk were delivered by horse and wagon and George Frye delivered his meat in a similar fashion?
- ..Glen Mickle and his crew installed the flood lights at Steinhoff?



**DOMINION DAY 1943 - MAYOR ERIC MACDONALD AND HERB "CASEY" DOAN ON STAGE.**

- ..Herds of cattle were driven right through the main street of town?
- ..Every boy had to have the experience of an expedition to Chicken Island, which years ago seemed miles and miles away from town?
- ..You used to walk many blocks to and from the school skating rinks, on your skates, and when you got home your feet were so cold you cried?
- ..You could buy a huge ice cream cone at Juddy's for a nickel?
- ..There was a bitter rivalry between D.A. Gordon and Central and between the Catholics and Protestants?
- ..A couple of teenagers bought Jack Hardick's old 490 Chev. and proudly cruised it around town?
- ..The area behind the arena was swamp and each spring this was where you caught tadpoles?
- ..The Fiesta Jets football team played a game at Steinhoff in a fog so thick, the opposing linemen had difficulty seeing each other?
- ..Meat was rationed during the war and little blue tokens were needed to make a purchase?
- ..The old car was part of a display amongst hundreds of tires at the Auto Wreckers on James Street, present site of the Municipal building?
- ..One of the most common expressions amongst teenagers was, "I'll meet you at Lloyd's around eight"?
- ..Ern Harrison sold Studebakers at the "Y" in 1914 and Doug Stewart sold McLaughlin-Buicks at the same site?
- ..The huge elm tree to the rear of Guy MacDonald's house and one almost as large just south of the Presbyterian Church on Duncan Street?
- ..MacKenzie's Bake Shop sold 6 loaves of fresh bread for 25 cents and enough round steak for a family of five could be purchased for a quarter of a dollar at Bill Clifford's Meat Market?
- ..Before paving, spring saw mud at least 6-8 inches thick on James Street?
- ..John Raspin operated the Canada Dry warehouse in the rear of the Cramer Building on Wellington Street?
- ..Premier Electric Light Company on Emily Street provided hydro electricity for Wallaceburg?
- ..The old Arlington Hotel burned on Wallace Street in the early 1940's?
- ..The excursion steamer "Put-in-Bay" took hundreds of Wallaceburg residents on a cruise to Port Lambton in 1951? A trail of small cans followed the boat in and out of Wallaceburg.
- ..Mirwin's Park opened in 1934?
- ..1,000 baseball fans were attracted to Steinhoff Park when Wallaceburg defeated Algonac in a game to raise funds in support of the 1946 Windsor tornado relief fund?
- ..Each Hallowe'en pranksters would run a meter cover up the Central School flagpole?
- ..The mob of kids in Colwell's buying supplies the first day of school in September?
- ..Alfie Herman bought one of T.E. Eaton's huge Studebaker cars and proudly ran it around town?
- ..Glen Mickle took a Wallaceburg crowd to Manitoulin Island on the boat "Annette"?
- .."Pop" Gurd sold the most tasty french fries in town?
- ..When there were not parking meters on the curbs of Wallaceburg's streets?
- ..The open air dance floor beside the Parish Hall on Nelson Street?
- ..Kids kept themselves busy for hours playing, "kick the can"?
- ..High top boots and breeches were status symbols while another era looked upon penny loafers and zoot suits as the "in thing"?
- ..Traffic was controlled at the James-Duncan intersection by a "silent policeman", a marker in the middle of the street?





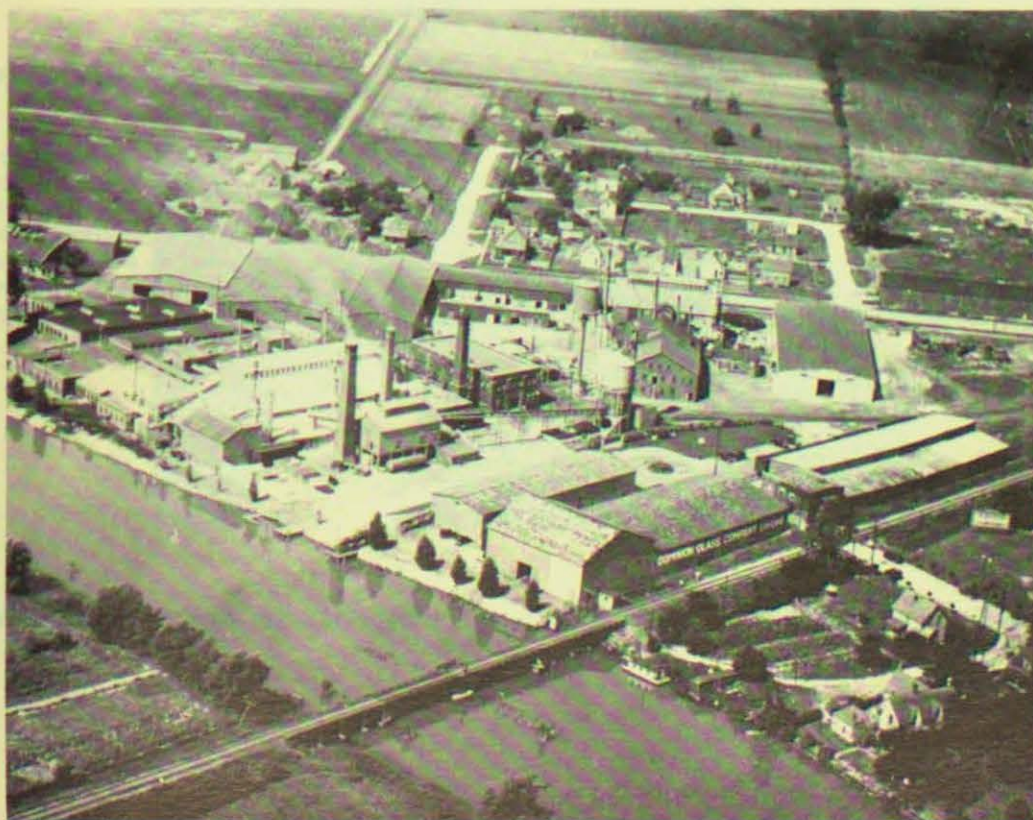
"SILENT POLICEMAN" - JAMES-DUNCAN INTERSECTION 1926.

## From Glass and Brass to Plastic and Bats

The town's earliest industry was lumbering. Surrounded by lush forests of hard oak and elm, the first half of the 19th century saw freshly cut timber stacked on every available spot along the banks of the Sydenham. Timber was king and the prosperity spurred the early development of the community.

In the mid 1800's, a financial recession caused a temporary setback in the lumbering industry, which in turn, adversely affected the growth of Wallaceburg. However, by the time the village was incorporated in 1874, growth was stimulated as the lumbering industry once more prospered despite the gradually receding forests.

Capt. James W. Steinhoff was prominent in transforming Wallaceburg from a lumbering village to an industrial community. Steinhoff, along with his nephew, David Alexander Gordon, established the Steinhoff & Gordon Cooperage in 1883. This seemed to be the beginning of major industry in Wallaceburg.



DOMINION GLASS COMPANY FROM THE AIR.

### **Sydenham Glass Company**

A public meeting in March of 1891 had a profound and long lasting effect on Wallaceburg. At this meeting, the establishment of a glass works was suggested. Several leading citizens including Steinhoff, D.A. Gordon, John Gordon, Dr. George Mitchell, Dr. W.W. Hay, J.C. Shaw and others strongly supported the move. Thomas Harrison and Capt. William Taylor had carried out some experiments with local sand deposits to see if it was suitable for glass making. In their makeshift laboratory in the back of Harrison's Jewellery Shop on James Street, results proved encouraging.

After initial setbacks and difficulties, actual glass production got underway in 1894. In 1913 the Sydenham Glass Company merged with the Diamond Glass Company, being incorporated as the Dominion Glass Company. The rest is history as the firm became the backbone of the community, being the town's largest employer. Due to the products being shipped across the land, the town has become known as the "Glasstown of Canada". Henry Hardt was first general manager and was succeeded in ensuing years by James Greer, James King, T.W. Bassett, T.B. Dundas, Don Gordon, Edward G. Davies and George Crowe.

### **Wallaceburg Brass and Iron Manufacturing Company**

In 1905, D.A. Gordon, Herbert W. Burgess and Herbert McDougall incorporated the Wallaceburg Brass & Iron Manufacturing Company. Operations commenced initially in the old south side Town Hall. As expansion developed, a new brick building was erected on Wallace Street in 1911. A wide line of plumbing supplies were produced as Wallaceburg's name was carried far and wide. Herbert W. Burgess, one of the founders of the firm, was general manager for several decades and remained very active until his death in May of 1972. In recent years several subsidiary firms were established and the company name was changed to Waltec Industries. However, for many years hence, the company will be referred to as the "Brass" and it will be difficult to forget Herb Burgess who did so much for his hometown and certainly merited his title as "Mr. Wallaceburg".



**HERBERT W. BURGESS, FOUNDER OF THE BRASS IS SHOWN WITH LORD SELKIRK XI DURING A VISIT IN 1967.**

## **Schultz Die Casting of Canada and Associated Firms**

Arthur St. Clair Gordon established the Schultz Die Casting Company in 1931. With a unique process of pressure die-casting, facilities were originally set up in a vacant Wallaceburg Brass Company building on Wallace Street. By 1937, a new building was erected. Peak production was reached during the second war when additional manufacturing space was needed.

In 1939 a Schultz subsidiary was formed called Sydenham Trading Company. A new building was erected on Forhan Street where the most modern methods of electroplating were done.

Always the enterprising individual, "Bill" Gordon established the Gordon Manufacturing Company in 1947 on Wallace Street. Here, aluminum casting was produced.

In 1945, Gordon was instrumental in establishing the National Pressure Cooker Company of Canada. A new building was erected in west Wallaceburg and as a sideline, the popular Martin Motors line of outboard motors were produced. The building is now occupied by Wally Enterprises, a branch of Hillerich & Bradsby.

All of the Gordon associated industries are no longer located locally, with the largest, Schultz, transferring to Lindsay in 1959. Nevertheless, they all played an important part in maintaining the backbone of Wallaceburg during the first half of the century. "Bill" Gordon was important to Wallaceburg, his home town, and he was to be considered one of the greats in developing the town as an industrialized community.

## **Wallaceburg Sugar Company**

In the 1890's, neighbouring Michigan beet sugar factories contracted for beet acreage with many Wallaceburg area farmers. D.A. Gordon envisioned the possibility of establishing such an industry locally. By 1900 his dream became a reality and the Wallaceburg Sugar Company was established. By 1909 the Ontario Sugar Company of Kitchener merged with the local plant and became known as the Dominion Sugar Company.

Labour shortages resulted in many Belgian and Dutch workers coming to Kent County to carry out the cultivating, thinning, and topping process. The importation of these workers to the beet industry had a long term effect as many remained in the area and form the backbone of the present agriculture community.

A declining market coupled with competition from imported sugar cane eventually forced the closing of the local plant. Nevertheless, the prosperous years of this firm had a long reaching positive effect in developing the economy of the area. The old Sugar factory buildings are now occupied by St. Clair Grain & Feeds.

## **Other Major Wallaceburg Industries**

The past few decades have brought new members to the growing Wallaceburg industrial family. Large scale plants such as North American Plastics, Eaton Yale Limited, Hillerich & Bradsby, Luster Corporation, Libby McNeil & Libby, the various machine and tool plants and other diversified enterprises have all combined to form a strong industrial base. Some of the older firms such as Benn Iron Foundry, Hawken Milling, long established locally, continue to perform a strong community service as patriarchs of the industrial family. All local industries large and small alike serve as the pulse of the community in maintaining a healthy economy. Many firms have come and gone but the outlook is optimistic as Wallaceburg continues to hold a prominent spotlight in contributing to the wealth of her province and country.

# Big Blow at the Green House

The Retirees Club of the Dominion Glass Company often recall in their conversations the early days at the "Glass" when artisans referred to as the "glassblowers" closely guarded their particular secrets of skill when the process was done by hand. Many who were skilled in this trade came to Wallaceburg from the Montreal area and many of their descendants still reside here.

Richard Crosby was an early foreman of the "Flint House" and Tony Lacourse was boss of the "Green House". The latter name which still sticks today was named for the particular type of glass produced in one segment of the operation. These foremen watched over the "blowers" who had a hot, tedious task. They had to reach into the tank with a blow tube and scrape up just enough for the particular article they were producing. The glassblower enjoyed a special status and was rewarded accordingly. Often his daily wage would be several times that of a labourer. They were permitted to choose their own work group and were even allowed the concession of regulating their own working hours. In fact on particularly hot days the blowers would shift their working hours to the cooler evenings.

Some of the glassblowers led a "nomad" existence, moving from plant to plant. In fact the various plants formed a circuit for these men as often they would move along to plants farther east or towards the south where glass plants were springing up in United States. Quite often their reputations preceded them as a former co-worker at the local plant on a previous occasion, would turn up in the new place of employment.



**BILL "SKID" ROBSON AS A GLASSBLOWER WITH GEORGE CROWE AND RILEY BACHUS LOOKING ON.**

Many nicknames, characteristic to the various tasks of the process, evolved. The port through which the glass gatherer worked was called the "bootleg". He transferred the hot blob from the furnace and gave it to the blower. A "snapper-up" was assigned the task of cleaning any molds that may be used. A "carrying-in" boy rushed the finished product to a long oven where special controlled heat would colour the glass.

Fires were rather common due to the intense heat. A careless blower or snapper may have dropped the molten glass on some combustible material resulting in a blaze. In 1900, the Green House fire saw the flames move so quickly that the workers had to flee for their safety. Fireproof construction was virtually unknown and buildings were baked tinder dry by the heat from the huge furnaces. Several other fires of serious proportions have occurred at the Glass over the years.

Automation spelled doom for the glassblowers. Mechanical pressing and blowing machines shoved the hand blowers aside. Sadly, they were transferred to routine machine jobs that produced glassware in an impersonal assembly line. Nevertheless, the legends of early glass blowers like Riley Judson, Hugh Greenwood, Alfred Crist, Danny Jones will long be remembered. So will the skills of people like Robinson, McNaughton, Schwartzback, Linn, Bachus, Murphy, Thorne and many others.

# The Empire Oil Refinery, a Vanished Industry

West of Wallaceburg, along the winding River Road, the extension of Wallace Street, now is a modest industrial area in comparison to half a century ago. The St. Clair Feed grain elevators, Maple Leaf Mills at the site of the old Sugar Factory and Jessop Steel Company are now located on this strip. In addition to the C & D Sugar plant, this area once boasted a large oil refinery, an explosives factory and two brickyards.

The refinery was a large one, employing more than 100 workers in its operations which included a fleet of tankers and two barges to bring in Pennsylvania crude oil from Cleveland, Ohio. Established at approximately the same time as Sarnia's huge Esso plant, the Empire Oil Company was in full operation. It extended almost 200 yards from the Sydenham River to the railway, with a frontage of more than one hundred yards, built up completely in riverfront dockage.

Operating units were in the front of the lot, including the stills for boiling and separating the crude oil into its component parts and refining and purifying facilities. Back of those were the big storage tanks for both the crude and refined products, and at the rear of the lot was the company office and a large warehouse. The refinery turned out a full variety of oil products, including gasoline, kerosene, greases, lubricants, paraffin wax and tar. W.S. Calvert, a Petrolia native, was general manager of the company which had its head office in Toronto.

Heading the tanker fleet was the "EnArCo", first oil tanker on the Great Lakes. Other ships of the fleet were the "Trotter" and the "Hamilton". The company also operated a large wooden tow barge.

When operations ceased in 1927, part of the plant was moved away and the balance allowed to crumble into ruins. The Empire Company was caught up in the rapid changes in the oil industry which resulted in consolidation of many smaller units into the major firms. The tanker fleet and docks also went into discard. The "Trotter" ended up in Hamilton while the "Hamilton" was submerged in the East Passage of the Snye. The wooden tow barge met a more spectacular end. Tied up at the company dock, she caught fire one night. The roaring blaze, fed by the oil soaked timbers, lit up the sky for many miles. Her charred hulk still lies in the silt of the Sydenham River.

Oldtimers can still recall another spectacular and costly incident affecting the refinery. By error a workman opened the wrong valve in the plant, and allowed a full tank of crude oil to flow into the Sydenham. For weeks after, the river was coated with the thick fluid which eventually flowed through the Snye and into Lake St. Clair to stain the white-hulled steamers and pleasure craft of the day. Although the refinery was side by side with powder works, there was never any serious difficulty to lead to a disaster.

All that remains of the Empire Refinery today are heaps of rubble and debris to the rear of the present Jessop Steel Company. The rest of Wallaceburg's once thriving oil refinery is but a memory.

## "Canada's Inland Deep Water Port"

One of Wallaceburg's most favourable assets, especially in early years, was deep water navigation. With easy access to the nearby Great Lakes system via the Sydenham and Snye Rivers, it was possible to make connections to ports hundreds of miles away. In fact during the boom days of lumber trade, shiploads of barrel staves left the port of Wallaceburg directly for England.

Shipbuilding on the Sydenham was inevitable. The neighbouring forests provided ample wood for the construction of vessels of varying sizes. Skilled shipbuilders developed a prosperous and reputable trade. Remembered are William Taylor, W.J. McDonnell, John Lee, Capt. J.W. Steinhoff, James Rhody, Jack Scagel, Fred Harris, William R. Peck and J.S. Fraser. These artisans produced many vessels ranging from McDonnell's 4 ton "Uncle John" to J.S. Fraser's 432 ton steam barge "Jean Fraser" built in 1926. Vast quantities of choice Kent county timber were transported throughout the freshwater highways by these Wallaceburg-built craft.

Many industries were attracted to Wallaceburg because of the excellent shipping facilities. The Canada and Dominion Sugar Company had numerous foreign registered steamers tie up to load refined sugar. Large self unloading vessels brought sand and gravel for local roadways. Passenger vessels such as the "Thousand Islander," "Omar D. Congar," "Ossifrage" and "City of Chatham" made Wallaceburg a regular port of call carrying passengers on excursions to Tashmoo Park, Sarnia or Windsor.



**"SUPERIOR" FAMILIAR SIGHT IN WALLACEBURG DURING 1930's AND 1940's.**

The downtown government wharf was extremely active during the 1930's and 1940's being the focal point for the shipping of locally produced goods. The "Superior" and "A.A. Hudson" of the Northwest Steamship Company, with their familiar greenhulls became so well known locally that hardly an eyebrow was raised as they slid through the Central Bridge. The "John R. Emery," a busy little steam-puffing sandsucker, scraped the bridges so many times on her way to Babcock Supply Company on the North Branch that many thought that this was part of the ritual of entering port.

The completion of the vast St. Lawrence Seaway in the 1950's spelled doom for the small lake boats that could navigate the waters to Wallaceburg and as they disappeared, fewer and fewer vessels of this type were seen locally. However, lake freighter travel to Wallaceburg remains at a trickle as grain boats make a few trips per season to the grain elevators in south Wallaceburg. In addition, the occasional gravel boat will venture as far as Wallaceburg. As a contrast, 1936 saw over 265 visits to the port of Wallaceburg by lake vessels.

As large vessels became infrequent locally, pleasure craft appeared in increasing numbers. In fact earlier years saw two different boat building industries thrive. Eric MacDonald produced his well known "Mac Craft" speedboats on Nelson Street, while the racy looking "Bearcats" were produced, beginning in 1927, by Jack Beebe of the Ontario Boat and Engine Works in Dick Asselstine's old garage. Bob Houtekier was test driver.

## **Where Did the Names Come From?**

It is interesting to learn of the historical derivation of the names of our streets, schools and parks. Street names in the core area are associated with early citizens of the town and it is appropriate that they are perpetuated in this way. Some citizens were honoured by having schools and parks named for them.

Although not official names, early residents referred to the Bruce Street area as "Tiger Alley", scene of street scuffles in earlier days. "Marsh Avenue" was quite well known also, the name derived from early French descent settlers, "Lamarsh".

Wallaceburg was given its name by Hugh McCallum who was the postmaster in 1834. Originally spelled "Wallaceburgh" the settlement had been known by various other names and McCallum saw fit to choose a name in honour of the great Scottish hero Sir William Wallace.

Prior to the official acceptance of the name Wallaceburg, the community was known by other such names including the following;

"The Forks" due to the three way branching of the Sydenham River, the north, east and west arteries. In later years, this same name was used to designate the confluence of the Snye and Sydenham Rivers near the original Baldoon Settlement.

"Forty Thieves" named by neighbouring Indians who were robbed of goods that were left in their canoes while visiting the local whiteman settlement.

"Babyville" after James Baby who surveyed what is now the downtown business area and earliest section of Wallaceburg that was settled.

"Glasstown" was a nickname for Wallaceburg that came in later years. Since Wallaceburg's largest industry is the Dominion Glass Company, it was inevitable that the community became known internationally as the "Glasstown of Canada".

Sydenham River received its name from a similarly named river in England. Early Indians referred to the river as "Jonquakamik".

Some of the older street names and their significance are given, along with a few of the more recently named.

Forhan Street - Peter Forhan, merchant, farmer, built the first commercial brick buildings in Wallaceburg.  
Hiram Street - named for Hiram Little, a well known pioneer settler.  
Fraser Street - J. S. Fraser, barrister, member of pioneer family.  
Margaret Avenue - named after wife of an early Wallaceburg surveyor.  
Mill Street - a saw mill was on this site in early days.  
Gillard Street - honouring Thomas Gillard, early storekeeper.  
Selkirk Street - named after Lord Selkirk, founder of Baldoon settlement.  
Dufferin Avenue - for Lord Dufferin, governor general in 1876.  
Arnold Street - George Arnold, farmer, who owned land in the Arnold Street industrial park area.  
Montgomery Drive - Gen. Montgomery of British Army, second war.  
McNaughton Avenue - Gen. McNaughton, Canadian militarist.  
Wallace Street - Sir William Wallace, great Scottish hero.  
Lawrence Avenue - Lawrence "Tony" Martin, industrialist, donated land site for Sydenham District Hospital.  
Dora Avenue and Hilda Avenue - Mrs. Emily Dora Hilda Martin (Mathany) wife of Lawrence Martin.  
Thomas Avenue - Dr. Thomas Martin, son of Lawrence Martin.  
Sandra Crescent - Mrs. Sandra Lehnen, daughter of Lawrence Martin.  
Diane Drive - Diane Martin, daughter of Lawrence Martin.  
Martin Park Road - in honour of Martin family, Harry Martin, mayor of Wallaceburg 1918-20.  
Brander Avenue - Allan P. Brander, pharmacist, mayor 1939-42.  
Colwell Street - Colwell family, merchants, newspaper publishers.  
Joseph Crescent - Joseph Janssen, farmer.  
Gordon Street - A. St. Clair Gordon, industrialist, mayor 1929-30.  
Warwick Drive - Robert Warwick, contractor.  
Phair Avenue - Jack Phair, contractor.  
Ashton Street - J. Ashton Lillie, member of pioneer family, mayor 45-46.  
Dauw Avenue - Felix Dauw, merchant, land developer, council member.  
Bertha Street - named for wife of Felix Dauw.  
Beth Street - named for Elizabeth Dauw, daughter of Felix Dauw.  
Francis Street - Frank Dauw, son of Felix Dauw.  
Gregory Drive - son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dauw.  
Lillian Street - named for wife of J.L. Thompson, land developer.  
Cecile Avenue - in honour of Mrs. Cecile Bechard, community worker, mayor of Wallaceburg.  
Taylor Crescent - named for Clare Taylor, in building trade and councillor, 1965-70.

### Wallaceburg Parks

Steinhoff Park: land donated in 1905 by Capt. Steinhoff, first mayor of Wallaceburg, 1896.  
King George Park: home of Optimist baseball, named in honour of King George VI of England.  
Bill McDougall Park: named in honour of long time parks board member, early sportsman.  
Gordon Park: named for A. St. Clair Gordon, industrialist, mayor of Wallaceburg, Member of parliament.  
Kinsmen Park: a project of local Kinsmen Club, oldest service club in Wallaceburg, chartered 1933.  
Frank Murdock Park: longtime parks board member since 1932, hydro employee, outstanding athlete.  
Glen Mickle Park: newest large park in south Wallaceburg named for outstanding community worker who was the unofficial recreation director in earlier years.  
Crothers Conservation Area: Bert Crothers, noted horticulturalist and florist who beautified town with his skilled floral garden arrangements.

### Wallaceburg Schools

D.A. Gordon Public: David Alexander Gordon, referred to by Victor Lauriston, historian, as the "creator of modern Wallaceburg."  
H.W. Burgess Public: Herbert Wesley Burgess, "Mr. Wallaceburg", noted industrialist, founder of Wallaceburg Brass Company.  
A.A. Wright Public: Arthur W. Wright, respected citizen associated with Canada & Dominion Sugar Company.  
W.T. Laing Central Public: William Laing, principal of Wallaceburg High School until 1949, later Dept. of Education official.  
Mary Jane Public: Mrs. Mary Dawdy, prominent for her work with handicapped children.  
Calvin Christian School: John Calvin, religious Reformation leader of the 1500's.  
St. Elizabeth Separate School: Elizabeth Dauw, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Felix Dauw.  
The remaining Separate Schools were given religious names.

The Sydenham District Hospital and Sydenham Pool were named after the Sydenham River whose branches cover most of the local area. The Memorial Arena was named in honour of the many soldiers who paid the supreme sacrifice during the world conflicts.

Steinhoff Cenotaph on the corner of James and Nelson was donated by Capt. James Steinhoff, one of the influential citizens of early Wallaceburg.

Dundas Bridge was named in honour of Thomas B. Dundas, mayor of Wallaceburg on five occasions, principal of the High School and manager of the Glass factory.

Selkirk Bridge honours Lord Selkirk, founder of the Baldoon settlement.

Webber Auditorium was named in honour of Wilfred Webber who was a long time member of the Wallaceburg High School Board. The E.V. Ayres Library at W.T. Laing School recognized the many years of service as music supervisor by Von Ayres.

# Spires and Pulpits

## Our Lady of Help Roman Catholic Parish

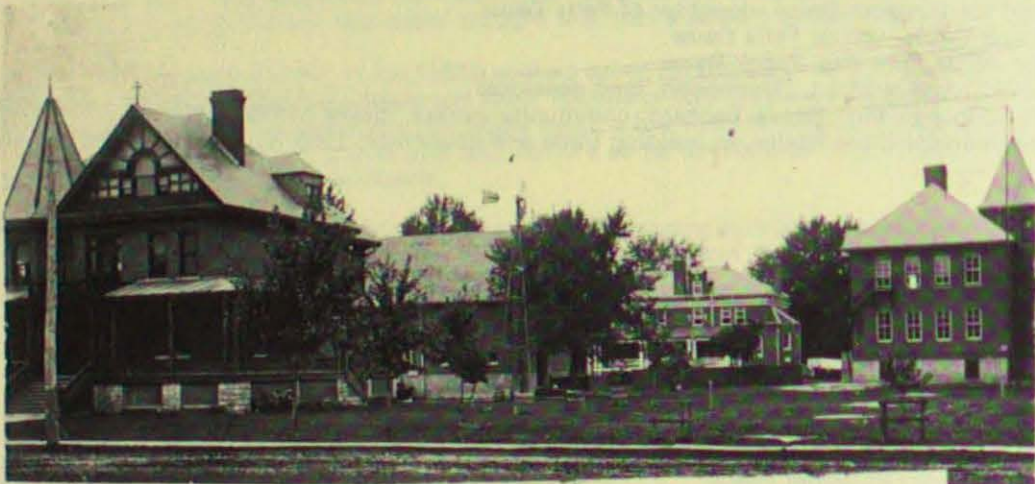
Early records indicate that Jesuit missionaries ministered to the spiritual needs of Roman Catholics in the Wallaceburg area. In 1862, Father Goether built the first local church which was also used as a school. Father Ryan led the drive for the erection of the present church on Duncan Street. This is perhaps the most elegant building in Wallaceburg. Father Ryan was succeeded by Fathers Ronan and Brady. During the latter's appointment, the present convent was erected in addition to the old Our Lady of Help Elementary School.

In 1919, Father John Brennan was parish priest and, during this time, a large influx of Belgian and Dutch settled in the community and many were of the Roman Catholic faith. Under Father Brennan's guidance, the St. Thomas Aquinas and Merici High School were built. Father E.P. Goetz succeeded and remained as parish priest for the next 14 years. Upon his death, Father Leo J. Kelly was appointed.

The number of parishioners was increasing so it was decided to build a second parish on the south side of Wallaceburg, the Holy Family Church. Father Bernard Laverty, a former curate, was named administrator of the new parish which included an elementary school and manse. During Father Kelly's administration, further expansion of facilities resulted with the new Merici High School and St. Elizabeth Elementary School being built.

Father Kelly died in 1963 and was succeeded by Father O'Donnell. During his appointment, Christ the King School was built and the Merici High School was closed, with students being absorbed into the District High School. Father O'Donnell was succeeded by Father Spencer and Father Earl Pare in 1968. Presently the parishioners are also served by the latter and Fathers Wilfred Bourque and Dobrowski.

Some of the assistant pastors that have served are: Fathers J.V. Bell, J.P. Glesson, G.P. Blonde, J.J. Young, J.A. Cook, F. Brennan, A.L. O'Donnell, J.M. Baillargeon, J. Uyen, H.M. VanVynckt, B. Laverty, S. Noavin, R. VanVynckt, M. Ryan, J.J. McCormick, R.M. Shantz, J.G. Mooney, J.G. Winter, F.J. Costello, G.C. McPhee, J.P. Boyde, J. Marentette.



**ROMAN CATHOLIC RECTORY, MERICI HIGH, CONVENT, OUR LADY OF HELP SCHOOL.**

## Trinity United Church of Canada

In 1842, the Methodist Wesleyan congregation erected their first church on the corner of Lafontaine and Elizabeth, present site of a bicycle shop. This church was utilized until 1873. It was then used by the Anglicans until it was finally destroyed by fire in 1895. In 1874, a larger church was erected on the corner of Nelson and Wall Streets. The corner stone was laid by William Becker who did much of the planning for the new building. Mr. Charles Fraser was first organist and an everlasting tradition of fine music was established under the leadership of Charles Ayres, father of Von Ayres who later led the choir for many years.

As the congregation grew, the need for larger church facilities was evident. A new church, the present Trinity United, was opened on May 24, 1914, on the corner of Wellington and Creek Streets. Rev. Reid was the last minister of the old church led services in the new building. Von Ayres was choir leader and Madeline Parker Bolt was organist.

A Christian education building, "Trinity Hall" was added in 1958 and extensive renovations were carried out in the church entrance and basement areas. Ministers who served throughout the years including the Methodist and Wesleyan congregations were: 1863 - S.C. Phelps, W. Yokum, 1864 - W. Irwin, S. McNames, 1871 - Rev. Thomas Calvert, Rev. J. Reynolds, Rev. Middleton, Rev. Smith, 1889 - Rev. Millyard, Rev. Hayhurst, 1896 - Rev. Buggan, 1897 - Rev. Butt, 1899 - Rev. J. C. Cook, 1903 - Rev. Garbutt, 1906 - Rev. Cousins, 1910 - Rev. Howson, 1912 - Rev. J.C. Reid, 1917 - Rev. A.E. Thompson, 1921 - Rev. E. Armstrong, 1925 - Rev. M. Tait, 1925 - Rev. J. H. Johnson, 1928 - Rev. R. Hicks, 1932 - Rev. David Williams, 1950 - Rev. Levi Hussey, 1955 - Rev. George Wylie, 1961 - Rev. William Slinn, 1966 - Rev. Wm. Bickford. Victor Brown served as assistant minister with Rev. Bickford.



## First Baptist Church

The Wallaceburg First Baptist Church was organized in May of 1866 with services held in the home of James McDonald. By 1872, a church building was erected on Nelson Street. First pastors were Biblical students from Woodstock College. During the next few years, the following ministers served: Reverend Lee, Dunlop, McColl, Vining, Farmer, Charlesworth and Baker.

A lot was purchased on the corner of William and Wellington Streets and a new building was erected in 1903. Rev. W.A. Guntin was minister of the new church. The first baptismal candidates were Ray Thompson, Charles Hodges, Edith Gunton, Mrs. Norman Zavitz, Mrs. Linn, Jennie Mann, Miss Adair and Mazie Anderson.

Ministers during the next several years were 1907-11 - Rev. W.T. Roberts, 1911-14 - Rev. F. Oliver, 1914-20 - Rev. S. Saunders, 1920-24 - Rev. J.S. Leckie, 1924-29 - Rev. A.C. Campbell, 1929-32 - Rev. D. Cameron, 1932-36 - Rev. J. Duncan, 1937-43 - Rev. L.M. Smith, 1943-50 - Rev. J. McLeod, 1950-53 - Rev. Frank Smith, 1953-58 - Rev. H.E. Burritt, 1959-64 - Rev. G.L. Stebner.

On May of 1963, five acres of land were purchased at the end of Napier Street. The parsonage on Elizabeth Street was removed with a new minister's home being erected on Highland Drive. The church building was torn down to make way for a town parking lot. In 1969, an impressive Christian Education building was erected on the new property, allowing for future expansion. Rev. F.L. Stone served the congregation from 1965-1970 with Rev. R. Babbey, the present pastor.

## St. James the Apostle Anglican Church

In 1864, Rev. William Green was appointed first incumbent minister of the Anglican Church which was then called "Holy Trinity". He was succeeded in following years by Reverends Campbell, Hastings, Thomas, Bearfoot, Miles and Franklyn. Holy Trinity Church was located on the south west corner of Elizabeth and Lafontaine Streets. During Ash Wednesday of 1895, the church was destroyed by fire. Temporarily services were held in the Oddfellow's Hall. Capt. James W. Steinhoff, a staunch church member and strong force in the community, donated a site for a new church on James Street.

The new minister, Rev. Alex Corbett designed the building. The first sod was turned in Sept. of 1895. On March 16th, 1896, the new church, to be called "Church of St. James the Apostle", was built.

In 1911, a handsome, three-storey, red brick building with a basement was built. In 1924, Steinhoff Memorial Hall was added. 1959 saw a new addition as Ray Kidd, People's Warden, turned the first sod for St. James Hall which offered much required space. Rectors of Church of St. James Apostle are as follows:

1895-97 - Rev. A. Corbett  
1897-98 - Rev. F.E. Roy  
1898-01 - Rev. H.H. Tancock  
1902-05 - Rev. T.H. Farr  
1905-08 - Rev. J.R. Newell  
1908-09 - Rev. F. Ryan  
1909-11 - Rev. E. Hockley  
1911-15 - Rev. A. Charles  
1916-19 - Rev. A. Calder  
1920-32 - Rev. F.V. Vair  
1932-36 - Rev. M.B. Johnson  
1936-43 - Rev. E.F. Bishop  
1943-44 - Rev. J. Caley  
1945-50 - Rev. A.H. Jared  
1950-56 - Rev. R.R. Sadleir  
1956-61 - Rev. H.R. Montgomery  
1961-71 - Rev. James Waring  
1972- - Rev. A.G. Fairhead

## Knox Presbyterian Church

Although the Presbyterian Church history goes back as far as the Selkirk settlement, the first local church was built in 1852 on the north-west corner of James and Johnston Streets. The first preacher in the new church was Rev. John Malcomson. The first ordained minister was Rev. D. McKerracher in 1879 and he was succeeded by Rev. Donald Currie in 1881. It was at this time that the church was moved to the present site on Duncan and Elizabeth. However, in 1899, tragedy struck as the church was demolished by fire. Rev. Currie worked diligently in subscribing funds for a new building. By 1901, a new red brick building was dedicated but Rev. James Nicol was the new minister, replacing Rev. Currie who resigned.

In 1907, Rev. Murray C. Tait was inducted and remained until 1925. During his ministry, the church was enlarged and remodelled in 1914. A second entrance and a tower were added, along with a choir loft. At the rear, a Sunday school was built. With church union causing a congregation split, 1925 saw Rev. D.J. Lane appointed and he remained for six years. On December 29, 1931, a call was extended to Rev. Fred Goforth and during his ministry there was a rising interest in young people's work. Rev. E.A. Wright came to Knox Presbyterian in 1937 and remained until 1944. During his tenure, many interior changes were made.



**KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ON CORNER OF ELIZABETH AND DUNCAN STREETS.**

Rev. James Fleming, a veteran of the First World War, accepted the call and was inducted on November 30, 1944. Membership in the church grew rapidly. Extensive interior and exterior work was carried out in preparation for a Centennial service in 1954, celebrating 100 years of Presbyterianism. Rev. Fleming remained until 1959 when Rev. Robert Currie assumed the ministry. He stayed for 15 years, during which time the exterior of the church was sandblasted and the congregation increased in numbers. Rev. J. Riddell accepted the call in September of 1974, after Rev. Currie transferred to Alvinston. During the Centennial of 1954, the following made up the Kirk Session: James Deshane, Earl Crawford, Rev. James Fleming, William Colwell, John McIntosh, Kenneth Colwell, Eldon Burgess, Robt. Swan, Wilfred Laing, Dr. Marvin Booth, Samuel Cubitt, Peter Forbes, Alfred Gould and Robert Causley. The Board of Managers of 1954 consisted of John Burnett, Robert Hendry, Don DuChene, James Burnett, Wilfred Webber, Douglas Bruce, Archie Hoggarth, James Burgess, George Cairns, Don Lee, Bert Trampleasure, Ken McKinnon, Jack Scott, Ed Robb, Lester Sneypley.

## **The Three R's and Down Below**

Few schools were organized before 1810, but amongst the first Baldoon settlers Angus McDonald and Hugh McCallum later became teachers. The latter became the first instructor locally, despite some misgivings of Lord Selkirk, founder of the colony. The first Baldoon school was near the location of the old Sugar factory. Early records indicate that a log building on north Nelson Street was used as both a municipal building and school of instruction about 1835. The next Wallaceburg school was on Lafontaine Street to the rear of Joe Shaw's residence. This was used until the first large school was built on Lisgar Street in 1870. This building was destroyed in 1914 when the boiler exploded. The present Central School building was erected by the following year.

When the new Our Lady of Help Church was built in 1878, the old church which stood on the adjacent corner, was utilized as a school for Roman Catholic children. Later, the building was moved behind the rectory, eventually bricked over and used as Merici High School. Myles McCarron was a well known Separate School teacher. These early schools had planks for seats, were poorly lighted, either too hot or too cold and were controlled by the traditional stern strict school master who had within easy reach a blue birch rod. The school curriculum consisted of three R's and it was not until later years that a little diversification such as Sewing, Physical Education and Commercial subjects crept in. Organized sports were unheard of with the only recreation being the long walk to school. Patriotism was emphasized and often the principal would call "hall assembly" when "The Maple Leaf Forever" was sung. The student wrote many compositions and became familiar with the writings of Scott, Longfellow and Shakespeare. Grammar, spelling, and penmanship were stressed with the proverbial "rap on the knuckles" resulting if writing became shoddy.

Many potentially educationally inclined students were deprived of the opportunity of gaining a continuing education. The "school of hard work" which was held 12 months a year at home under the professorship of "father" often was the continuing education facing most boys after some basics were learned at the schoolhouse uptown. Many girls were more fortunate and continued with their education until they were accredited with their matriculation.

If you lived in the country, chances of continuing school were slim indeed. Needless to say, there were not schoolbuses then. Some rural students desiring high school either boarded in town or commuted. Stanley Richardson, father of Verne, Laird and Jay, was intent on becoming a doctor so he overcame the commuting problem by travelling daily on his pony.



**THREE LONGTIME STAFF MEMBERS AT THE HIGH SCHOOL - S.R. BALKWILL, W.T. LAING, AND ARCHIE HOGGARTH.**

Part of completing a "rounded" education in early days was "downstairs" learning, that is, spending time with the caretaker in the boiler room. Many boys enjoyed their time "down below" chatting with some of the early caretakers including "Daddy" McClinton, Jim MacKenzie, Mr. Trampleasure, Jimmy Burnett and others.

The teachers of course had a great influence on the students, often not realized until later in life. Early schools in Wallaceburg had many fine teachers including Miss Walker, Miss McCallum, Miss Scafe, Josie McCallum, Mrs. Lunday, Evelyn Payne, Grace Taylor, Jennie Welch, Elfleda Loyst, Evelyn Ralph and the various members of religious orders at the Separate Schools. The High School reminds many of Ada Shaw, S.R. Balkwill, Archie Hoggarth, Claire Weir, Arnie Schell, Nora Quigley. Who could forget the days when you had to face the principal such as E.U. Dickenson, W.T. Laing, Jim Stewart, Lloyd Dredge or Clarence Granger?

Now the education system has become much more sophisticated and diversified. Wide opportunities are available in modern surroundings coupled with expert instruction. The education system is continually undergoing changes, a direct contrast to the routine yet effective system of years gone by.

Following are the administrators for the present schools in Wallaceburg:  
 Wallaceburg Dist. Secondary School: William Green, principal; James Clarke, V.P.  
 St. Thomas Aquinas Separate School: Edward McCarron, principal  
 Holy Family Separate School: Ellis Dawson, principal  
 Our Lady of Help Separate School)  
 Christ the King Separate School): Donald Myers, principal  
 St. Elizabeth Separate School: William Carruthers, principal  
 Calvin Christian School: S. Vanderlaan, principal  
 D.A. Gordon Public School: Neil Clow, principal; Ken Oakley, vice principal  
 W.T. Laing Sr. Public School)  
 Central Public School): James Teetzel, principal; Alan Mann, vice principal  
 A.A. Wright Public School: Nicholas Senyck, principal; Robert Paxton, vice principal  
 H.W. Burgess Public School)  
 Mary Jane Public School): Charles Rowland, principal

## **Squeaky Floors to Stereo**

One of the town's longest standing institutions is the Public Library. In 1906. Mr. Norman Gurd suggested asking the great American philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie, for a grant of money in order to establish a local library. In all, Carnegie donated \$11,500, although the original request was for \$7500. The original site, once an Indian burial ground, was purchased for \$1350 from C.J. Johnson and Mrs. H.E. McDonald. Councillors Sam Mann and John Gibb sponsored the resolution to make the necessary purchases and maintain a free library.

McNairnie Brothers were given the main building contract while McGregor and Westmore were given the brick work contract. James Taylor was foreman of the painting crew while Dr. George Mitchell was clerk of the contract throughout. Work was completed in 1906 and the building remained basically intact for the next 60 years. In 1967, the town took on an addition as a centennial project with the Hon. Judy Lamarsh performing the official opening.

The library is a credit to our community. The ultra modern design, carpeted floors and piped in stereo music offers a marked contrast to the old days when one was faced with a long flight of stairs and gingerly tip toed over the squeaky floors in trying to avoid the traditional "hush up" signal from Miss Gibb or Mrs. Allen.

# Community Spirit at its Best

For many years the need for a modern recreational complex was discussed but the project seemed too formidable and plans failed to materialize. Martin Martin's old roller rink was long ago torn down and the old Temple Arena had been turned into a movie theatre. However, the return of young veterans from the second war provided the necessary spark from which grew the present Memorial Arena. Fred and Cal DuChene along with Harold (Pard) Martin launched the idea and a mass meeting was called to bring it before the public. Frank "Cap" Glassford, Ashton Lillie and Jack Burgess were named trustees and Edsel Steen as treasurer.

The idea was readily accepted and public campaigns for the necessary funds were launched. Despite several setbacks, the ultimate goal of \$120,000 was raised. Volunteer labour and public spirit took over at this point. Forty captains organized 15 man teams digging trenches, pouring concrete and handling general construction work. Painting, plumbing and electrical work was graciously donated by public spirited local firms. It was estimated that this volunteer scheme saved the building committee in excess of \$70,000. The arena gradually took shape with temporary bleachers being installed and during the first winter of 1948-49 natural ice was installed. Even the children got into the act as Hazzard Brothers donated several hundred pounds of ice that was chipped away in small pieces to aid in obtaining a solid base for the first flooding.

The following fall, the artificial ice pipes were installed and the first sheet of artificial ice in Wallaceburg's history was ready on November 3, 1949. Barbara Ann Scott, a winner for Canada at the 1948 Olympics, brought her famous "Skating Sensations" show to Wallaceburg as the first major ice presentation. The ice palace has been going strong ever since.

Frank Mabey from Hespeler was hired as the first arena manager and he was succeeded by John Tomiuk, Harold Ribson and Donald Pepper.

The Wallaceburg public was once more called upon to demonstrate a strong community spirit when the long discussed indoor swimming pool project was revived. For many years, the local Kinsmen Club had discussed the possibility of launching such a project and finally in late 1971, construction began. In order to gain optimum use of such a facility, it was decided to incorporate the pool with the Wallaceburg District Secondary School as part of a community education concept. This time the public's part was strictly financial, as a project of this type was not feasible on a volunteer construction basis. A fund raising group was set up and Jack Lacey was named as chairman. Dean MacDonald's company Mac Construction, was given the building contract and in mid 1972 the project was completed.

It was decided to name the complex Sydenham District Swimming Pool and offices for the recreation director and pool director were incorporated into the design. The local schools now use the pool regularly as part of their physical education program while numerous courses for the general public are available.

As early in time as before the First World War, public opinion weighed in favour of a local infirmary. In fact, a substantial amount of funds were subscribed with Mrs. Clayton Baughman being one of the biggest boosters in the campaign. Plans indicated the Grand Avenue area as a site for the proposed addition. However, the hospital idea did not materialize until many years later when the Sydenham District Hospital was completed in 1956. Again the Wallaceburg public rallied to the cause and public response paid for a large proportion of the facility. H.W. Burgess was charter hospital board chairman and held this post for many years. Sydney Renton was the first administrator with Bernice Haley, the director of nursing. In 1967, a new wing was added and in recent years, facilities have been expanded to include an intensive care section. A very active Hospital Auxilliary has been instrumental in supporting hospital services in addition to providing much needed equipment. Their longest continuing project is the Tuck Shop in the reception area. Mrs. H.W. Burgess was charter president.

Norman Dearlove preceded Stan Holland as administrator while Wilfred Webber assumes the post of board chairman. a large and competent staff complements a wonderful facility which remains the pride and joy of the entire Sydenham Valley community.

## Bones, Rowboat, Slugger, Jug and Mud

Although information of sporting history in early Wallaceburg is difficult to uncover, it is certain that the town has been well popularized by its tough, skillful lacrosse teams. It is known that in 1903, the local side, field lacrosse style, battled Durham in a final at St. Mary's and won provincial honours. Strong local squads continued for the next decade or so until interrupted by the First World War. It was in 1921 that the game was revived locally with some of the old veterans such as Riley Judson, Ivan Wickens, Guy MacDonald, Elmer and Will Heath and others leading the way. The game thrived for the next few years with Steinhoff Park being the scene of many famous battles, especially with the arch rivals from Sarnia. By the late 1930's, the trend was towards a newer adaptation of the game, "box lacrosse". Wallaceburg teams were entered in the old Michigan-Ontario League as late as 1941 when the attempt had to be abandoned due to the war.

Following the cessation of hostilities, an outdoor box was set up at Steinhoff and new wars were renewed--this time lacrosse variety. Frank Murdock, a star of the field lacrosse days, coached the locals who played valiantly against stronger Sarnia, Windsor, Detroit and Toledo squads. The tide turned in 1949, when action shifted indoors when the Memorial Arena opened. Imported players bolstered the team, now known as the "Red Devils". Ralph Gordon, Hank Pearsall, Les Kelly, Drake Tunney and Bill McArthur were some of the players brought in and the move paid off, as during the early 1950's, several provincial titles were won.



**1921 WALLACEBURG JUNIOR LACROSSE TEAM.**

By the late fifties and early sixties, area lacrosse interest dwindled and it was only through the hard working efforts of many local officials that the game in Western Ontario did not disappear completely. The game gradually picked up, a trend across the country, and in 1968, the ultimate occurred, when the Red Devils were matched with Nanaimo, British Columbia for the national title. During this era, perhaps the most exciting player locally was George "Jug" McGaffey who toiled for more than twenty years in his favourite game. Ed Landon was named to the Lacrosse Hall of Fame in 1973.

1973 was the last season for the seniors, the end of an era. However, the emphasis swung locally to minor lacrosse with a strong junior team taking over as the main summer attraction. With a complete "homebrew" lineup, fans were reminded once more of the old days when "local sons" on the playing fields kindled a strong following from the sporting public.

Hockey, baseball and for a while football have taken turns in catching the fancy of Wallaceburg sports fans. The availability of ice dictated the frequency of hockey matches in earlier days. Outdoor pads were set up at Steinhoff and at the schools. Some hockey was played in Wallaceburg's first arena, Martin's Roller Rink. Owen Zavitz, an early sports veteran, recalls his 1915 squad which also had Edge Morris, Bones Wickens, Wilf Manning, Bill Gordon, Joe Lockhart, Bill McFadden, Guy MacDonald and R. King in the lineup.

During the early 1940's, Wallaceburg was entered in a Kent league with games played outdoors behind the old high school. Cal DuChene and his brother Donald did much of the organizing. One of the first town leagues was formed and played outdoors. A long line of top notch high school hockey teams was underway. By 1949, the long awaited indoor arena was ready and the modern era of hockey was launched. Bill Asselstine and Murray Huckle coached the first minor program and within a year midget and juvenile teams acquitted themselves well in provincial playoffs. 1952 saw the local juveniles, coached by Howard Marshall and Eric Pettinger, win provincial honours. The Froz-n-Foods, Red Devils and Hornets represented the adult level of hockey. In 1957, the Senior Hornets won Ontario honours in a series that finished in May. During this era, players were brought in from Sarnia and Chatham. Exhibition games were played with N.H.L. teams from Boston, Detroit and New York.



**1955 WALLACEBURG HORNETS O.H.A. SR. "B".**

Many entertaining junior teams represented Wallaceburg, but the locals were always up against stronger, larger centers who likely had a bigger bankroll. Garn Cameron sponsored the first junior team of the modern era and many recall "Gunboat" Vines and Jean Paul Petrie, along with Doug Hillis, who were brought to town by Frank Mabey, the first arena manager.

By the 1960's, high school hockey was dropped from the program, senior hockey locally was priced out of business, junior teams were uncertain but minor hockey flourished. Registrations increased, the calibre picked up and many locally groomed players advanced to semi professional ranks. Brian Skinner and Henry Jaruga made the International League, while many other local boys made a name for themselves in Intercollegiate ranks. Wayne Small, son of Maurice Small, one of Wallaceburg's biggest boosters was named to the Hall of Fame at Brown University and later coached in Europe. The junior Lakers provide an entertaining brand of hockey at present, while an industrial loop serves as an outlet for adult age players.

Football provided thrills for the local sporting public over the years. Strong "orange and black" high school teams produced many memorable encounters especially with arch rival Sarnia and Chatham teams. Jack McLean, a graduate of the scholastic teams, went on and played with the Sarnia Imperial Grey Cup teams. In later years, John "Corky" DuChene played professionally with Sarnia while Doug MacKenzie played three seasons in the Canadian Football League with Saskatchewan. After the Second World War, the days of the "Fiesta Jets" saw the local seniors matched with strong entries from Sarnia, London and Chatham. Gary O'Flynn, a tough tackle on the "Jets", refers to these teams as the "world champions", a title in jest, but they were glorious days and provided many entertaining moments. Their biggest booster, Jack Bachus, is remembered with his famous "hearty, hearty boys" chant, roving up and down the sidelines boosting the local boys on to victory.

Arnold Schell, coach of the many strong high school football teams brought his "maroon and white" squad to a western Ontario title in 1954. In later years, under the banner of the "Tartans" the fine gridiron encounters have continued in this fine fall sporting classic.

The past decade finds baseball on somewhat of a decline. Although a junior team has been active locally in 1973 and 1974, it does not command the interest once given to local teams. In fact, the once well groomed Steinhoff Park diamond has been removed and with it went many fond memories of years gone by. During 1944, Frank Murdock, along with a strong host of helpers, organized an industrial baseball league with games played on the Steinhoff layout. Crowds of over 1,000 were common. By 1947, interest led to the formation of a strong minor ball league. Numerous minor and intermediate provincial championships were won by Wallaceburg teams. Don "Junior" McLennan, a graduate of the minor setup, advanced to the professional levels in the United States. Intermediate baseball continued until 1965, when the A & M's was the last senior team representing Wallaceburg in the 1960's. The minor baseball league, long sponsored by the Optimist Club continues to function. The earlier days of baseball in Wallaceburg recall some of the stalwarts such as Joe Rankin, the Bachus boys, "Rowboat" Thompson, Tony Martin, Bill McFadden, "Mud" Judson, Paul Morasse and many others who entertained fans for so many years.

Wallaceburg, a true sporting town, has supported many forms of athletics over the years. Figure skating has been in, right from the start of the arena in 1950. Susan Asselstine, Diane Dauw, Janet Brewer are some of the local girls who have performed with professional shows. In 1933, the local golf links were opened. Bill Collins first played at Baldoon in 1935, continues to play a fine game and is considered the veteran of the club. Tennis was first played on an organized basis on the old courts and next to the present Hydro building. In the early 1920's action swung over to the present Steinhoff Park location. The past decade has seen the game grow tremendously and a third court was added with further expansion necessary due to the large following.



LAWN BOWLING ON SOUTH SIDE GREEN - BILL HOCKIN, SON CLIFFORD, JIM BEATTIE, CHARLIE COLWELL, BILL COLWELL, ESSIE PARKER.

Lawn bowling, once enjoyed the position of being Wallaceburg's most popular participation sport. In recent years interest has dwindled despite the fact that the local club boasts one of the finest greens in Western Ontario. Will Colwell, Jimmy Burnett, Essie Parker, Bill Hockin, Johnny Welch were some of the early favourites while in later years Drader Hawken, Eleanor Colwell, Vi Murdock, Dr. Bob Holmes showed fine form in this fine old English game. It is hoped the next few years will see interest rekindled in order that lawn bowling will again regain its rightful place in the Wallaceburg sporting scene.

With the opening of the Curling Club, new avenues have been opened up on the winter sports menu. Bowling has been a long time favourite in Wallaceburg. Many recall the Wicken's Bowling Alley upstairs on James Street, while in later years Classic and Starlite Lanes provide excellent facilities. Archery is popular at the C.B.D. Club and shows signs of wider acceptance. The influence of many European immigrants developed and maintained a strong interest in soccer, the world's most popular sport. A well organized minor soccer league has paid rich dividends as many members of the senior team received all their training through the local leagues. In addition, soccer has become a popular addition to the sports program of the local schools.

Boxing enjoyed immense popularity locally a few years ago. "Battling Billy" Cathcart and "Slugger" McIntosh were local favourites when bouts were staged in the old Keystone building. The wrestling matches at the old Temple Arena saw many an entertaining evening with Ernie Campbell and Joe Johnston locked up in many duels. "Butch" Down went on to the professional wrestling ranks. Monday nights found hundreds of boat racing fans lining the banks of the Sydenham during the 1950's. Don Benn and Art Delorme coaxed unbelievable speeds out of their modestly powered hydroplanes. With races now held on the north branch of the Sydenham River, Jimmy Lee along with the fearless Ross Robertson continue to keep this form of sport in the public eye.

Improved facilities, ultra organization, scientific coaching methods have resulted in a higher calibre of play during recent decades. Volleyball, basketball, gymnastics, are all taught on a technical level which also allows for wide participation and involvement. Oldsters may recall when physical activity consisted of twenty toe touching routines in the aisle of the classroom. A hockey stick had to last all winter while Eaton's catalogue served as makeshift shin guards. One puck per fifty kids was common while football season resulted in many bruises due to the scanty padding. Face guards? They were unheard of then.

The opening of new parks, the amalgamation of the parks, arena and recreation boards into the Community Centre Commission and the development of the community education program pioneered by Bill Green, Ken McPhail and Bill Shore, have all helped in providing leisure time activities for a wider cross section of the community. School facilities are now open in the evening for public use. A wide variety of recreation activities under director Terry Bell fulfill a need for all age groups. The opening of the spacious Sydenham District swimming pool provides year round activity in a safe, supervised environment. A new approach to recreation promotes not only the traditional sports but offers all kinds of activities geared to all age levels. This is a marked but beneficial contrast to the old days when sports were strictly on a volunteer, amateur basis.



DISCUSSING GROUND RULES 1944 - CHARLIE GORMLEY, UMPIRES GARNET WINTERS AND HANK GEROW AND LORNI GOODMAN.

# Like Father, Like Son

A business or profession that continues on into succeeding generations under the same family name is a testimony to a strong devotion to family ties, and at the same time is a fine reflection on the public image that has been built up over the years. Many such firms in Wallaceburg are now into their third generation, and in some cases the fourth generation has a hand in the family business.

A few concerns were started during the last century and are still going strong. Mann's Garage which evolved from Samuel Mann's Livery and Dray Service was started in 1873 on the same site as the present garage. Frank Mann entered the firm early in the century and was instrumental in beginning the auto phase of the business as the horse and buggy days were ushered out. Don Mann, present owner, entered the family business in 1952.

J.S. Fraser a well known barrister in early Wallaceburg, opened his practice in 1875. His grandson, John W. Burgess was called to the bar in 1930, and John A. Burgess joined his father in 1967.



**No. 36 A**  
**INTERIOR OF SHAW AND SHAW HARDWARE EARLY IN THE CENTURY. FROM LEFT IS AN UNIDENTIFIED CUSTOMER, JOSEPH C. SHAW, UNIDENTIFIED CUSTOMER, HARRY MARTIN, FATHER OF RAY MARTIN, WILFRED SHAW, FATHER OF PRESENT OWNER JOE SHAW, BEN MILLMAN, CLERK, AND DEE SHAW, FATHER OF DORIS SHAW.**

Shaw's Hardware has been part of downtown James Street since 1878 when Joseph C. Shaw established the firm. Wilfred entered the hardware in 1904 and his son Joe, has been with the family store since 1936. The name "Colwell" has been familiar locally since 1896 when a store was opened on James Street. Several members of the family were involved with various concerns commercially including the newspaper and variety store line. Hugh Colwell maintains the family name as part of the Wallaceburg business family, with his stationery store which he opened in 1967. John Glendinning opened his clothing store in 1895 and the late Pringle Glendinning entered his father's business in 1913. The Zavitz family has been part of the south side commercial area since 1903 with the hardware and grocery outlets. Ephriam Zavitz, followed by Owen in 1910, were the early members of the hardware store while Robert and Edward, who started in 1948, are now the operators. Ewan Zavitz has operated the grocery since 1938.

The name Carscallen & Carscallen has been associated with a law firm since 1895, when A.B. Carscallen started his practice. Roland, his son, entered practice in 1925 and Charlton, the third generation member, since 1957. Frank Hyde started his law practice in 1934 and son Garbutt made it a partnership in 1962. Dr. Stanley Richardson opened his medical practice in 1913, while son Jay followed in his father's footsteps in 1959. "Flowers by Crother's" has been heard locally since 1903 when James Crothers opened his greenhouse. Son Bert took over in 1927, and his daughter along with husband, Bob Dawe, have operated the family business since 1965. O'Flynn & Burgess have sold groceries since 1900 when Andrew O'Flynn Sr. entered partnership with Clifford Burgess. Desmond O'Flynn took over in 1931 and the third generation finds another Andrew, son of Desmond, as owner since 1961.



Other long time Wallaceburg firms that have passed into succeeding generations are given along with pertinent dates.

**Patterson Motors:** started by Gordon "Pat" Patterson in 1921, succeeded by son Shirley in 1945, and David Patterson the third generation since 1972.

**Lozon's Barber Shop:** established by Clarence in 1922 and now operated by Bernard "Bun" Lozon since 1953.

**McCreery Grocery:** Cecil McCreery originated the business in 1915 and son Norman has been with the firm since 1929.

**Fox Construction:** Specialists in sidewalk building, John Fox came to town from Chatham in 1912 and started his business. Son Walter Fox joined his father in 1922 and Perry Fox representing the third generation has been with his father since 1967.

**McFadden Electric:** Bill McFadden started the business in 1922 after many years with the Wallaceburg Hydro. Son George took over in 1961 while Barry McFadden has worked with his father since 1968.

**Mathany Sheet & Metal:** Eddie Mathany left his profession as a glassblower and started his tinsmithing business in 1927. Lem Mathany has operated the firm since 1951.

**Mac Construction:** Started by J. Eric MacDonald in 1944. son Dean MacDonald has been with the firm beginning in 1958.

**Dean's Dry Goods:** Grant S. Dean purchased the men's clothing and dry goods business in 1912 from Snively & Sauvey and nephew Ralph Dean has been associated with the firm since 1946.

**Benn's Iron Foundry:** Started by Alfred E. Benn in 1932, sons, Alfred Jr., now retired, and Donald assumed control from their father.

**Newkirk's Plumbing and Hardware:** George Newkirk started the firm in 1923 and the present owner, son Murray, has been in the family business since 1939.

**McCarron's Plumbing:** The firm was launched by David McCarron in 1932 and son Michael joined the business in 1959.

**Leach Jewellery:** Fred P. Leach started the business in 1926 while son Robert Leach has been with the family firm, starting in 1954.

**Jackson's Drugs:** Norm Jackson started the drug store in 1945 and son Stanley has been associated with the family business on a full time basis since 1966.

**Matthew's Insurance:** Les Matthews was a local agent beginning in 1936 and his nephew Ray Matthews took over in 1949.

**Sullivan Real Estate:** Maurice Sullivan started the firm in 1944 while son Barry joined his father in 1967.

**Wallaceburg Brass:** Herbert W. Burgess was one of the original founders in 1905, along with Herbert MacDougall. Son James Burgess has remained with the firm for many years after graduating from university.

**Hawken Milling Company:** A.J. Hawken was manager of the King Milling Company in Sarnia for many years. In 1907 his son Drader Hawken took over and remained as head of the firm until his retirement in 1971.

**Martin Insurance:** Ray Martin bought out McDougall & Chubb which started in 1893 and became owner of the firm in 1914. Son Harold "Pard" Martin assumed control in 1946.

#### "Pictorial Flashbacks"

Colwell, Trevor, Mohan, Johnston, Mathany, Hamilton - These are some of the photographers who recorded on film the pages of the past. Some of their work is included on the following pages along with accompanying descriptions.

## "Pictorial Flashbacks"



ALEXANDER THEATRE.

"Meet you at the Alex". This was a familiar cliché a few years ago when movie entertainment did not have to worry about the inroads of television. Situated on the southwest corner of James and Creek Streets, this popular movie house provided enjoyment to all ages and popularized the Durango Kid, Hopalong Cassidy, the Phantom, Laurel and Hardy, and numerous other Hollywood greats. This corner had a long standing history as an entertainment mecca as the famed Temple Theatre and Arena was situated here. The old silent movies were introduced to Wallaceburg years ago at this location, along with live dramas, euchre tournaments, talent shows, boxing matches, and various other forms of entertainment. The Capitol Theatre outlived the Alexander by surviving until 1970. The ornate and colourful interior of the "Cap" made it one of the showplaces of the community and proved to be one of the most popular spots in town for many decades. Inset shows the Capitol Theatre marquee after the last movie was shown. For a short while the interior was redesigned and dances were held by the last owners Bob and Doreen Irwin.



**ANDREW O'FLYNN, ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF O'FLYNN AND BURGESS GROCERY.**

"O'Flynn and Burgess". This combination is as well known as Currier and Ives or salt and pepper to Wallaceburg residents anytime during the past 70 years. Andrew O'Flynn and Clifford Burgess started a partnership in the grocery business in 1900 at the corner of James and Duncan Streets. In 1931, Desmond "Pete" O'Flynn entered the family business after his father, one of the founders, passed on. The store was a fixture in downtown Wallaceburg for many years until it moved to the Dufferin corner across from Loblaw's. A fire destroyed the site in 1960. The business moved to 234 Nelson Street, the present location and maintains the long standing tradition of a friendly "corner grocery". The firm entered the third and fourth generation as Desmond's son Andrew assumed ownership in 1966. The present owner's son worked part time in the store giving it the distinction of spanning four generations. Photo shows one of the founders, Andrew O'Flynn, as he stands in front of the store's well stocked shelves.



**THE WALLACEBURG NEWS.**

The Wallaceburg News has been publishing continually since February of 1896. It has been long associated with the Colwell family. Shown are two sons of the founder, Charles Colwell, on the phone and George Colwell on the right. Verna Sutherland, a long time employee in the office of the "News", is shown at her desk during one of the busy days at the small publishing plant on James Street in 1944.

Mr. and Mrs. William Colwell came to Wallaceburg, after experience in the publishing field in several western Ontario centres. A fancy goods and book store was opened and this eventually became Colwell's 5 cents to \$1.00 store which was operated in later years by Kenneth, Alice, Ruby and Eleanor Colwell.

In 1918, Colwells bought out their only newspaper competitor, The Wallaceburg Herald Record. When George Colwell died in 1957, the paper was operated by Hugh Colwell who assumed control until the paper passed out of the Colwell family and was taken over by the Bowes Publishing Firm.

In modern times there have been other Wallaceburg newspapers. In 1949, "the Wallaceburg Standard" was operated for a short time under Douglas Knowles and Cam McDonald. The "Wallaceburg Illustrated" was published by Bill Collins during the early 1960's. In 1972, Gary O'Flynn, a local boy and member of a well known Wallaceburg family, started the "Courier", a tabloid form newspaper. Distributed free to all residents of the vicinity, the popular paper has become an important voice in the local communication media.



**KINSMEN SPONSORED PAPER DRIVE - 1943.**

The Wallaceburg Kinsmen Club was chartered in 1933 and since then this fine group of ambitious men has contributed in an outstanding manner to the community. Particularly prominent over the years was the "Milk for Britain" campaign during the Second World War. Through various projects, thousands of quarts of milk were sent to the children of Britain. Pictured is a group of 1943 Wallaceburg youngsters standing in front of the Capitol Theatre. The Kinsmen arranged with Harvey Sills, theatre manager, to allow free admission to a child who brought a bundle of newspapers. A favourite Henry Aldrich movie was featured at the time and the response was excellent.

Adults in the picture at the back are Police Chief Jesse Collins, James Huctwith, Harvey Sills, Hugh McPhail, Joe Chapman, Joe Shaw, Bob Branscomb, Frank Hyde, Jack McQueen of the Provincial Police and Jack Burnett. Some of the children recognized are Alice and Howard Schmidt, Billy Fox, Jimmy Rothery, Lois, Don and Lyle Stratton, Maurice Rivet, Allan and Marion Highfield, Stew Bradburn, Herb Anthony, Gord Chinnick, Alice Crawshaw, Tom Martin, Buster Robinson, Doug Mackenzie, Bob Delorme, Bill Burnett, Jim Lapointe, Don Dubeau, Harold Sands and others.



**BOB JACKS ORCHESTRA 1948 - FRONT L. TO R., BOB JACKS [PIANO], MARG LASHMORE, HELEN CHAIKA, JOHN DUCHENE, JOHN HUTCHISON, BERT TRAMPLEASURE, DAVE FORSYTHE, JOHN DUGIT. BACK - CURLY KING, MURRAY CARR, GORD HAZZARD, LYLE STRATTON, BOB MANN.**

The Friday night dance at Primrose Gardens was a "must" for many Wallaceburg and area teenagers during the 1940's. The Bob Jacks' Orchestra was featured for the majority of these gatherings and popularized the "big band" sound in this area. The band was put together in 1939 and remained intact until 1953. In 1969, Gary O'Flynn, one of the Friday night regulars, headed a committee that brought the "Jacks" sound back once more. Most of the old band members were contacted and a huge reunion dance was held in conjunction with the Gondola Festival. Primrose Gardens was the scene that night of one of Wallaceburg's biggest evenings, as many acquaintances were renewed after a lapse of several years. The band was so popular that public demand brought it back once in 1970 and for two engagements in 1971.

Shown is Bob Jacks' 1948 orchestra, with the leader at the piano to the left. In front are vocalists Margaret Lashmore and Helen Chaika, John "Corky" DuChene, John Hutchison, Bert Trampleasure, Dave Forsythe, John Dugit, the only original band member who played in every performance of the orchestra. In the back are Curly King, Murray Carr, Gord Hazzard, Lyle Stratton and Bob Mann.



**FIRST ELECTRIC CAR FROM CHATHAM 1904.**

Great hopes were held for the Chatham, Wallaceburg & Lake Erie Railway which came into being after a charter was granted in 1903. The full realization of the electric rail service running from Wallaceburg to Erieau was never realized even though service continued until 1930. A series of misfortunes along with heavy financial problems and the increased popularity of the motor car spelled doom for the "C.W. & L.E." Shown is the gathering at the inaugural run of the county's only electric railway.

In the picture from left are Chas. McGregor, Herbert Burgess, P.T. Barry, Joseph Shaw, Hugh Stonehouse, Mr. McKenzie, Albert Harrison, John A. Anderson, Robert Riddell, J.H. Fraser, James Quinnell, Dr. Knight, Capt. J.W. Steinhoff, Alex Bourne, Harry Mitchell, Bernard Mohan, Dr. A.R. Robertson, Charles Colwell, Frank Hinnegan, Charles Benn.

This panoramic view of the old "Hotel Dupont" was the forerunner of the present Wallaceburg Inn on the corner of Wallace and McDougall Streets. Prior to the construction of the Dupont, the Arthur House stood at the same site. Charles Dupont, owner, is shown in the foreground, while some of his employees and customers stand on the front steps.



**DUPONT HOTEL - BUILT BY DUPONT AND CAPT. MORAN AFTER THE ARTHUR HOUSE BURNED. NOW THE WALLACEBURG INN.**

Restaurants, billiard halls, stores, and street corners are favourite "meeting spots" of friends for friendly conversation or a brief "chit chat". Many will remember some of these places where the genial hosts would have been millionaires if they had charged for "sitting rights". Left picture shows Dee Shaw and Bill McFadden around the old "pot-bellied" stove at Shaw's Hardware on James Street. Likely the chat centered around a baseball game, as Bill McFadden was an expert on the subject.

Centre shows Frank "Cap" Glassford reading one of Lou McDougall's magazines at the old news stand near the Duncan Street bridge. A favourite spot for both young and old, "Louie's" was where you read two or three magazines, returned them to the shelf and bought two cents worth of candy before leaving.

Street corners are a good place to "swap talk" as Police Chief Jesse Collins exchanges a good story with Herb Seed and Ivan Wickens in front of the Bank of Toronto on James Street. The three are shown in the right photo.



**MEETING PLACES - 1944 - DEE SHAW, BILL MCFADDEN, "CAP" GLASSFORD, LOU MCDUGALL, HERB SEED, JESSE COLLINS, IVAN WICKENS.**

For many years, local marching and concert bands and the name "Ayes" were synonymous. Three generations of this fine musical family were directors of local musical groups. During the last century William Ayres was the local director, while his son Charles, resumed leadership in 1890. To continue a family tradition, Wallaceburg's "Mr. Music" E. Von Ayres led the local marching and later Kiltie Band for close to 50 years.

The 1914 Marching Band of Wallaceburg is shown in the photograph. In front, kneeling are Ray Thompson, Sam Dunderdale and Von Ayres. Standing are Reg Steer, Bill Booker, E. D. Snively, Ray Martin, Ivan Wickens, Earl Wickens, Emerson Hooper, Bruce Bourne, Stan Brown, Charles Shaw, James Christie, Bill Thompson, Randy Purser and Ashton Lillie.



**WALLACEBURG BAND - 1912.**

Teenagers of the contemporary era would likely consider an "oldetyme" dance rather "square" - an indication of how times and tastes change with the years. Shown is a teen age group of the 1940's as they "do their thing" during one of the weekly Teentown gatherings at Primrose Gardens.

Seated in front are Barney Brownlee and Bobby Vergote. In the back are Marion Mummery, Theresa McGrail, Doug Mathany, Elsie Bachus, Doreen Norman, Des Cleary and Eileen Gibson. The theme of the gatherings was varied, but the majority of the dances saw the popular Bobby Jacks' Orchestra on the bandstand throughout the 1940's and early 1950's. The "Wicken's Gang" was a fixture at Primrose with Ivan and son Doug on the scene with the Wellman boys, while Hilt Stratton was the amiable ticket taker.



**BOBBY SOXERS' "OLDE TYME" PARTY HELD AT PRIMROSE GARDENS DURING WARTIME.**

Evidence of Wallaceburg's once proud reputation as "Canada's inland deep water port" is exemplified in this array of ships that were familiar locally during another era.

Upper left shows the "Claremont" of the Dominion Sugar Company Limited. This freighter was engaged in transporting refined sugar to various lake ports. Upper right shows two schooners, "Grampian" and "Paisley". They too were involved in sugar trade. They were towed backward to Dresden by tug to the sugar factory that was operated for a short while by Capt. James Davidson and associates.



**CLAREMONT - RAPID KING - TUG, SCHOONERS PAISLEY AND GRAMPIAN - SUPERIOR.**

Bottom left shows the "Rapid King" operated by the Northern Navigation on the Detroit-Chatham-Wallaceburg passenger route. Arriving at the foot of Nelson, this sleek vessel would pick up local excursionists and take them to Detroit and return for a mere \$1.25.

Perhaps the most familiar vessel to visit Wallaceburg was the "Superior". Weekly, either the Superior or her sister ship the "A.A. Hudson", both of the Northwest Steamship Co., would arrive at the downtown Wallaceburg Government Dock and take on a load of local wares. Many a young Wallaceburg teenager earned a "few bucks" by loading sacks of sugar or cases of Heinz beans into the holds of one of these ships.



The interior of Kennedy Veterinary Clinic or as it was more commonly known "Doc Kennedy's Vet Office" is shown in a photograph taken during the first decade of the century. The vet was a very important person in the community since there were so many more horses that were important to the locals, especially the farmers. He was on call day and night and generally it was necessary for him to travel considerably in order to administer to the needs of the community. Dr. Kennedy's office was located on Fork Street on the site of the old Lambton-Kent Creamery.



**DR. KENNEDY - VETERINARIAN WHOSE OFFICE WAS LOCATED ON THE SIGHT OF THE WALLACEBURG CREAMERY.**

Cool, crisp autumn days remind local sports fans of the glorious days of the Fiesta Jets and Red Devil football teams. During the late 40's and early 50's, Steinhoff Athletic Park saw many a rugged pigskin encounter involving valiant locals who were often outscored but not outthusted. John "Corky" DuChene was the most illustrious of the Red Devil graduates as he played several seasons with the professional Sarnia Imperials of the Senior O.R.F.U. Harold "Pard" Martin and Bill Mahoney coached the 1948 squad who were embraced in a league with London, Sarnia and Chatham. Front: Larry Trotechaud, Dwain McGill, Gus Lalonde, Gary O'Flynn, Bill Dunlop, Jerry Rothery. Centre: Bill Cathcart, Mike DuChene, Roger Carpentier, John Bolton, Murray Huckle, Bill Glendinning, Laurie Walker. Back: Pat Gilhuly, John DuChene, John Harvey, Ron Stratton, Art Baddily, Charlie Conway, Peter Mitchell, Guido Marini, Harold Martin, Des Cleary.



**WALLACEBURG RED DEVILS SR. "B" O.R.F.U. - 1948.**

Wallaceburg's unofficial recreation director of yester-year was a quiet, unassuming individual better known as Glen Mickle. He would spearhead anything from a horseshoe tournament to a boxing match. Perhaps he was best known, however, for his part in organizing "Amateur Night" at the old Temple Theatre. During the depression days of the 1930's, these enjoyable productions did much to raise the morale of the community by offering light entertainment. Local hopefuls went on stage to "do their thing" and if the audience did not approve, "Casey" Doan with his shepherd's hook would jokingly pull the entertainer from the stage in rhythm to the cheers of the jesters. Mickle's 1932 Temple crew is shown, from left, Harvey McDonald, George Conway, Harry McGaffey, Bud Harris, #5 Jack Harris, Casey Doan, Walter Quinnell, Chappy Adkins, Bill McDougall, # 10 Ed O'Neil, Bob Hastings, Jim Goodman, Harry Fish, Fuller Norman, # 15 Roy Judson, Don Murdock, Frank Hickling, Dolph Houle, Bill Foster, #20 Jim McGuire, Bert Woodrow, Peanuts Clark, Glen Mickle, Frank Murdock, #25 Joe Johnston, Bill Conway, Fred Harris, Babe Lawson, unidentified, #30 Bill Davis, George Harris, Lyle Johnston, Mudpout Weir, Mud Judson, #35 Ed Theriault, Fred Lucier, Joe Furtah, Lorne Goodman, Bob Weir, #40 Anno Boulton, unidentified, Orrin Judson, Syd Brettell.



AMATEUR NIGHT CREW - TEMPLE THEATRE - 1935.

Remember Bunny's and Juddy's? Monday morning saw the rehashing of the weekend sports scores, the impromptu meeting or a friendly "chit-chat" at these popular downtown restaurants. Every day was just as busy at these establishments where thousands of cups of coffee and tons of ice cream were dispensed. Garnet Judson, the amiable proprietor of his well patronized dairy bar on Dufferin Avenue at the present site of the Municipal Building, was always ready to blend his excellent service with friendly conversation. Clare "Bunny" Sutherland had the best ice cream sundaes in Western Ontario in his popular spot on James Street, now the site of Simpson Sears. Bunny is shown dispensing one of his specialties to Jimmy Burnett while Lem Bowers looks on in approval. Margaret Hearn, a long time Bunny's employee, is shown in the back ground. In the other photo we see George Knight, Lyle Johnson and Bill Steer sharing one of Juddy's malts.



The old "general store" once the hub of the community has generally passed into oblivion, victim of the modern trend to specialized merchandise. Many such stores were social centres with the old pot bellied stoves witness to some great arguments, along with profound decisions of great magnitude.

Shown is the interior of Howard Brothers' General Store which stood on the southwest corner of Nelson and James. This 1918 photograph shows Will Howard on the left, Alex Wark, a customer, Omar Howard, Mrs. O'Leary, seated, a customer, Joe Howard and on the right, clerk Will Jackson.



HOWARD BROTHERS' STORE 1918.

In the early days of Wallaceburg when sanitation was a problem, but pollution was but an obscure word, Mark J. Ford offered an essential service. For a nominal fee, Mr. Ford would clean sanitary facilities - outdoor style, of course. The "50" on the sideboard indicates cost of service - 50 cents per barrel. The photograph was taken on Nelson Street in front of the present Police Dept.



EARLY SANITATION

# This and That

## Chamber of Commerce Presidents 1936-1974

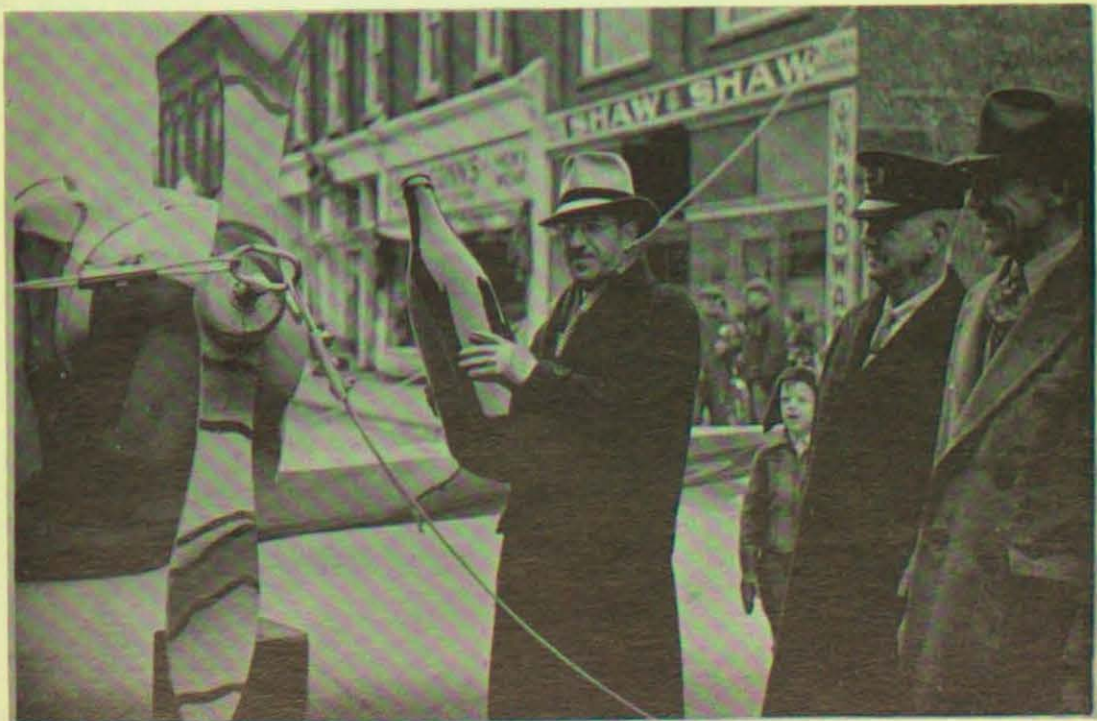
1936-39 - Edward G. Davies  
1939-42 - Roland Carscallen  
1942-45 - William Spero  
1945-47 - Allan P. Brander  
1947-49 - Frank Martin  
1949-50 - Lyn Ayres  
1950-52 - Eric MacDonald  
1952-54 - Norm Jackson  
1954-55 - Harold Martin  
1955-56 - John Simmons  
1956-57 - Jock Appleton  
1957-58 - Frank Hyde  
1958-59 - Robert Hunter  
1959-61 - Jack Thompson  
1961-62 - Donald Benn  
1962-63 - Maurice Malott  
1963-64 - Norman Neal  
1964-65 - Norm Southern  
1965-66 - Verne Richardson  
1966-68 - Leonard Lucier  
1968-69 - Al Gray  
1969-71 - Lou Puskas  
1971-74 - Miles Duffus  
1974- - Robert Irwin

## Members of High School W.O.S.S.A. Purple Bowl Football Team 1948

Charlton Carscallen, Robert Irwin, Morley Carscallen, John Stirling, Laurie Walker, James Tumelty, Bill Glendinning, Doug Thompson, Bill Laing, John DuChene (capt.), Don Mann, Bob Mann, Lloyd Truan, Leonard Salisbury, Archie McArthur, Gerry Gilhuly, Hugh McDougall, Frank Forbes, Ted Stevens, Lonnie Thompson, Albert Celotto, Ken Armitage, Tom Crawford, James Sheeler, J. Arnold Schell (coach).

## Wallaceburg High School Teaching Staff 1957-58

W.W. Allen (principal), Ardell Grainger, Gladys Allen, S.R. Balkwill, Zelma Barteaux, Ralph Beacroft, Robert Blake, Beatrice Campbell, Angela Daechsel, Vincent Elliott, Frank Ellis, Gordon Farquhar, Gladys Feir, Gladys Frost, Elsie Glassford, Jean Griffith, Robert Jacks, Jack Lee, Patricia McCaig, Robert McLean, Elaine Ough, Nora Quigley, Douglas Thompson, Gloria Thomson, Mike Vorkapich, James Wallace.



**MAYOR ALLAN BRANDER CHRISTENS SPITFIRE BUILT BY GLASS WORKERS IN 1942. CHIEF CHARLES WARWICK AND THE BOY LOOKING ON IS DOUGLAS "RED" THOMPSON.**

## High School Teaching Staff 1926-27

E.U. Dickenson (principal), W.W. Tanner, Mathematics; George Braithwaite, Science; Miss Ada Shaw, History and French; Miss F.E. Rodman, French and English; Miss Cameron, Art, Geography and English; Miss Clougher, Commercial.

## Officers of Wallaceburg Agricultural Society 1919

Harry Martin (mayor), D.A. McCreary, Orié Crowe, James Langstaff, W.H. Colwell, Chester Crowe, Glen Mickle, C. Brown, Alex McCreary, George Norman, George Dawe, Robert Southgate, Charles Harrett, W.C. Gordon, Joseph Coveny, Harry Forbes, Isaac Little, E.W. Shaw, H.J. McDougall.

## Members of Knox Presbyterian Women's Missionary Society 1954

Mrs. J. Smith, Mrs. H. Morgan, Mrs. J. Fleming, Mrs. J.F. Webber, Mrs. R. Thorner, Mrs. G. Whale, Miss M. Burgess, Mrs. T. Ritchie, Mrs. R. Swan, Mrs. H. Greenwood, Mrs. M. Merritt, Mrs. J. Henderson, Mrs. A. McKibbin, Mrs. G. Hazzard, Mrs. E. Fitzgerald, Mrs. T. Wallace, Mrs. E. Lane, Mrs. W. Heath.

## Advertised Shoe Prices at Stonehouse's Dept. Store, 1896

Ladies' Kid Oxfords with patent tips, \$1.00 per pair

Misses' Button High Heel Shoes, \$1.00

Ladies' Tan Oxfords, 65 cents

Men's Heavy Work Shoes, \$1.00

Men's Extra Fine, Razor Toes, a beauty at \$1.75

## Scoutmasters 1936

Troop 1-Anglican - Clyde Woodrow

Troop 2-First Baptist - Roy Mathany

Troop 3-Trinity United - Albert Brunt

Troop 4-Knox Presbyterian - Jack Forbes

Troop 5-Roman Catholic - Wilf Broad

## Members of Electric Hurricanes Intermediate "A" Hockey Club 1956

Bud Hooper, Eldon Vanspybrooke, Tommy Burns, Jim Kearns, Don Mann, John Emery, Al Mann, Lowell Dalgety, John Coveny, Corky DuChene, Mike DuChene, Butch Lennan, Ken Armitage, Tommy McGee, Bucky Hystead, Tom Bishop, Huck Johnston, Henry MacNally, Dick Kozak.

## Corporation, Town of Wallaceburg Employees, 1932

C.B. Jackson, clerk; J.E. Caughey, town manager; H.L. Jackson, tax collector; A.B. Carscallen, magistrate; Burgess & Fraser, solicitors; Joe Millward, foreman PWD; Archie Campbell, pumping plant; Alfred Gould, chief of police; Charles Warwick, night policeman; Cecil Armstrong, cemetery caretaker; Dr. H.A. Taylor, MOH; Ed O'Neil, fire chief; Miss M. Purser, stenographer; Sid Brettel, waterworks foreman; Neil Campbell, street cleaning; William Lucier, flushing; street cleaning; Dr. L.S. Side, V.S.; Miss C. Kitmer, nurse; Bob Sutherland, fire engine driver; Jack Burgess, assessor; Doug Stewart, hydro manager.



"REGULAR CRONIES" AT EUCHRE, SAM HICKMAN, BILL HOCKIN, OMAR HOWARD, HERB BURGESS [STANDING], CLAYTON CRAMER, DEE SHAW, FRANK CAREY.

### Members of Oddfellows Lodge Orchestra, 1941

Max Phenix, trumpet; Louis Hewer, saxophone; Bill Hancock, cello; Bert Trampleasure, saxophone; John Dugit, saxophone; Lyle Lapointe, bass; Ray Stevens, piano; Stan Brown, drums; George Scott, violin.

### 1921 Wallaceburg Junior Lacrosse Team

Jim Murphy, Bill Wallace, Gerald McCarron, Albert Mooney (coach), Jack Foster, Ed McIntyre, Herb Pitts, Rene Mallaeau, Howard Teeter, Bill McDougall, Ivan Wickens (executive), Glen Mickle (manager), Newsy Lalonde, Stan Goombridge, George Dean.

### Students of Miss Josie McCallum, Wallaceburg Public School, 1910

Jennie Harper, Zella Judson, Ella Fennacy, Madge Fulton, Eleanor Dickenson, Clara Woodrow Jean Fulton, Miami Mitchell, Norrein McDougall, Bernice Norman, Maud Fisher, Marion Landon, Rose Lawson, Mary Woods, Abbie Fennacy, Helen Holmes, Lottie Brown, Mae Pearl Early, Bessie Templeton, Fred Shaw, Herbie Pitts, Len Gillard, Clayton Steer, Leonard Hystead, Billie Teeter, Kenneth Greece, John Fairbanks, George Charles, Peter McIntyre, Billie Woods, John Knight, Bill McDougall, Roy Clark.

### Teachers, Wallaceburg Schools, 1932

Central: Mr. I. Hammond (principal), Miss Payne, Miss Taylor, Miss Lloyst, Miss Jackson, Miss Mickle, Miss Nelson, Miss Shaw

D.A. Gordon: Mr. Caldwell (principal), Miss Welch, Miss Burgess, Miss Deyo, Miss Bowles, Miss Witherell, Miss Taylor

Separate Schools: Rev. Mother Bernard, Rev. Mother St. Dominick, Sister Sylvia and seven assistants

High School: Mr. E.U. Dickenson (principal), Mr. Laing, Mr. Balkwill, Miss Shaw, Miss Miller, Miss Sedgwick, Miss Blonde, Miss Cameron.

### First Principals, Royal Arch Masons, Sombra Chapter From 1906

Henry Roebuck, R.R. Stokes, G.W. Smith, W.W. Stover, H.P. Stover, J.D. Dalgety, N.B. Roach, H. Selman, W.E. Stover, E.E. Cousins, T.M. Irwin, E.W. Shaw, E.U. Dickenson, G.L. Boyce, A.W. Deem, A.G. Campbell, W.S. Rose, C.H. Harris, W.H. Colwell, E. Hackett, D. Boyle, W.G. Laing, A. Bruce, A. Lillie, J.R. Myers, J. Burnett, R. Greenwood, D.F. Johnson, J. Stott, D.M. DuChene, A.B. Cousins, V. Richardson, W.C. Laing, E.K. Rupert, G.G. Pearson, I. Scott, T. MacNally, K.R. Colwell, M.S. Holling, J. Walton, G. Lauzon, L. Dredge, L. Richardson, A. Eagleson, A. Ward, J. Kucera, T. Kenny, H. Grealis, A. Gray, W. Kellett, G.C. Phair, G. Eagleson, G. Wingerden, F. Baker.

### High School Basketball Team Girls, 1923

Veronica Ouellette, Eleanor Dickenson, Angela Dickenson, A. Cole, L. Carey, M. Swartz, M. Mitchell, H. Hinnegan, E. Pierce.



OTIS MCLEAN WHOSE FAMILY SETTLED IN WALLACEBURG IN 1830.

## District High School Board, 1949

Russ Hunter, Robert Truan, Frank Mann, Ashton Lillie, Earl Rupert, Dave McCreary, Nigel Savage, Wilfred Webber, Bert Payne, Jack Hamilton (chairman).

## Presidents of French Canadian Women's Club

Mrs. Emile Lalonde, Mrs. Peter Bechard, Mrs. Herman Foster, Mrs. Lawrence Labadie, Mrs. Edgar Bechard, Mrs. Armand Gorry, Mrs. Alfred Carpentier, Mrs. John Davis, Mrs. Vern Smith, Mrs. Edmond Matthews.

## Listing in Wallaceburg's First Telephone Directory, 1885

James Beattie, fruiterer, Nelson St.  
Charles Chubb, res. on Euclid Ave.  
Chubb & Swainson, insurance and general agents, James St.  
Erie & Huron, general offices, Wallace St.  
A. Fisher, agent of Grand Northern & Western Telephone, James St.  
Fraser & Brabaw, grocers, Nelson St.  
James Little, meat and vegetable, James St.  
Harvey Morris, hoops and staves  
Mitchell & Stewart, doctors, Duncan & Wellington  
G.A. McCann, residence, Elizabeth St.  
G.A. McCann, druggist, James St.  
W.D. McRae, lumberman, Nelson St.  
F.W. Robinson, dry goods, James St.  
Shaw & Wooliver, hardware, James St.  
Capt. J.W. Steinhoff, residence, Wallace St.  
Steinhoff & Gordon, hoop and stave mill  
Steinhoff & Lillie, bankers, Nelson St.  
West & Davis, hardware, James St.  
Wilson & Langwith, planing and saw mill, Wallace St.

## Vessels of Lee Marine Ltd., owner Donald Lee, Wallaceburg Native

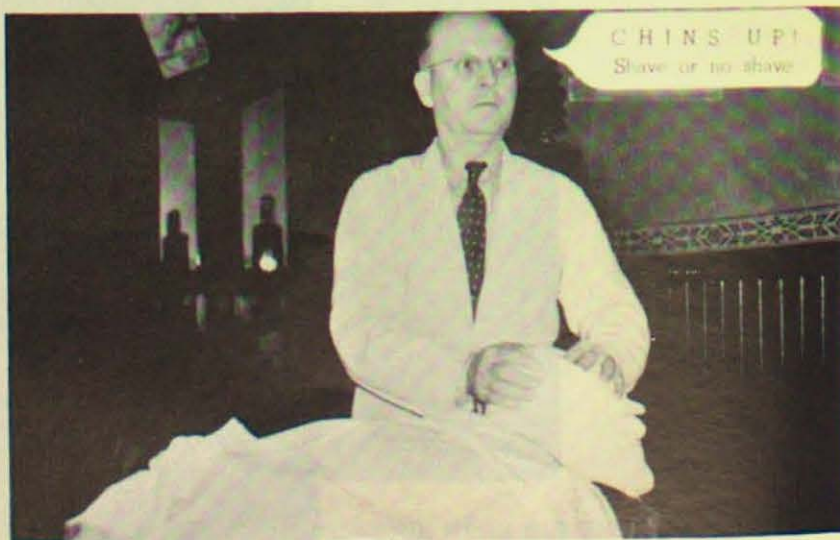
Helen Lee, 1954, St. Heliers, 1961, Brockville, 1963, Assiniboia, 1968, Normac, 1969, Dana T. Bowen, 1972, Inland Seas, 1973, Marmot, 1974, Nancy Lee, 1974.

## Employees of Stonehouse Limited Honoured During 50th Anniversary, 1930

Ida McDougall, Jennie Burroughs, Ches McDougall, Bill Moore, Chas. Thompson, Chas. Shaw, L.H. Cascadden, John Hinnegan, Annie Hinnegan, Rose Hinnegan, Min Badder, Hugh Monroe, Bill Cousins, Alice Hodges, Lillian Bicknell, Edith Green, Kate Sutherland, Ed McIntyre, Lucy Beaton, Emma Taylor, Bertha Wellman, N.T. Harding, Jack Neil, Isaac Neil, Muriel Wooliver, Nellie Hall, Hazel Eberts, Helen Palmer, Clara Sly, Muriel McClure, Annie Hall, H. Walton, Cecil Bruton, Rosetta Arnold, James Aitkens, Phil Goodman, Phil Brasseau, Roy Stonehouse, John Reynolds, Bill Colquhon, Jennie Best, Maggie Logan, Hannah Best, Maude Hookwith, Biddie Martin, Cove Murray, Jessie Johnson, Mrs. Dan Eberts, Ella Pitts, Irene Clutterbuck, Azelia Rothery, Edge Morse, Floyd Jones, Jack McIntyre, Frank Nightengale, Ernie Warrenner, George Webber, Harold Cousins, Elsie Eberts, Edith Frost, Don Fish, Blanch Little, Laura Gillard, Clarence Gatzke, Albert Houston, Lou McDougall, John Zavitz, Roy Kelly, Ada Shaw, Louise Delorme.

## Prices of Farm Produce in Wallaceburg, May 1894

Wheat 50 cents bu.  
Dressed Hogs \$6.00 cwt.  
Butter 20 cents lb.  
Corn 47 cents bu.  
Potatoes 75 cents bag  
Eggs 8 cents doz.  
Cheese 12 cents lb.



AB MCKIBBON POPULAR WALLACEBURG BARBER.



## Local Business Firms 1923

Bill's Music Shop  
S.D. Crother Dry Goods  
Harrison's Foundry  
Clifford's Meats  
Johnston's Photo & Music Shop  
Cousins & Burlingham  
Baughman's Fashion Shop  
J.D. Cleary, Chevrolet Dealer  
McNairnie Insurance  
Wallaceburg Lumber Company  
J.A. Taylor Ford Dealer  
Temple Theatre  
Jim O'Flynn Boots & Shoes  
Harris Drug Store  
Frank Ross Optical Shop  
Adam's Bakery  
William Hockin Shoes  
Cousins Bros. Grocers  
Harrison the Jeweller  
Stonehouses Limited  
Fry's Cafe  
T.D. Fixter, Jeweller  
J. Sniffer Boots and Shoes  
Snively & Sauvey Clothes  
H. Sutherland Ice Cream  
Dominion Crystal Sugar

## Some Local Businesses in Wallaceburg 1949

Frost's Jewellery, James St.  
Bob Gould's Market 327 James  
McDougall's News Stand 27 Duncan  
Barne's Bakery 123 Water  
Geo. Yazbeck's 904 Wallace  
Pollock's Men's Wear 528 James  
Warrener's Smoke Shop  
Cudmore Motors 1419 Dufferin  
Consolidated Lumber 644 Wallace  
Heath's Furniture 461 Wallace  
Linda's 351 James  
Schultz Die Casting  
Newkirk's Hardware 525 James St.  
Roy's Food Market 1263 Wallace  
Nightingale's Drugs 24 McDougall  
Hugh's Specialties 348 James  
Lloyd's Restaurant 815 Dufferin  
Hazzard's Ice & Fuel 1 Wallace  
Gurd's Dairy Bar 538 James  
Hazzard's Meats 473 James  
Elliott Motors 445 Murray  
Branders Drugs 342 James  
Abel's Drugs 516 James  
Greenmelk of Canada

When the Sydenham Glass Company was incorporated, the company name was advertised on the building roof. The following Wallaceburg News account describes the work as follows: "The name was painted on the rounded roof top where ladders could not reach. Oldtimers relate how Hugh Blake McDougall taking the place of scaffolding, supported Sam Martin, a local painter, on his broad shoulders until the job was completed. The paint job was so well done that for many years it could be seen and read from the town's Central bridge - and was pointed to with pride by the townsfolk as the crowning result of local creation and effort."

## Newly Elected Officers Concord Chapter No. 19 Pythian Sisters 1948

Marie Reaume, Arlie Dougherty, Vida Eagleson, Jean Hearn, Chris McMillan, Kay Cowan, Betty Brown, Jean Huctwith, Lena Brown, Vera Sutherland, Hazel Hewer.



July, 1959, the following players were prominent in the Optimist Squirt Baseball League: Dick Lalonde, Don McFadden, Richie Robson, Gary McIntosh, Dave Perrin, Gary Smith, Brian Denning, John Mathany, Dan Harris, Daryl Shepley, Greg Gurd, Al Knightly, Barry Cornelius, Mike Poissant.

## The Wallaceburg Horticulture Society officers for 1919

T.B. Dundas, Rev. Archibald C. Calder; E.U. Dickenson, Mrs. J.E. Gordon, William Heap, George Taylor, Mrs. A.D. Brander, Mrs. S.D. Crothers, Mrs. Chas. Sauvey, E.G. Arnold, Charles Colwell, William Hockin, Omar J. Howard, James O'Flynn, Rev. M.C. Tait, E.W. Shaw, A.B. Carscallen.

## Local Business Concerns in 1919

Merchant's Bank, A.A. Werlich, manager, C.A. Norsworthy, accountant  
John Scott, Money to Loan  
Bank of Toronto, E.E. Parker, manager  
Bank of Montreal, S.J. Jarvis, manager  
Cousins Bros. Grocers  
Findlay McRae, barber  
Somers & Clifford, Old reliable meat market  
J.C. Crothers, florist  
T. O'Donnell, grocer  
W.E. Grainger, electric wiring, plumbing  
Sherwood's Greenhouse  
S.D. Crothers, clothier  
Baughmann's Fashion Shop  
Miller's Drugs  
Wallaceburg Cooperage, barrels, barn timber  
W. Reaume Garage  
J.A. Beattie, insurance agent  
Howard's Store, groceries, provisions, crockery, boots  
T.F. Hinnegan Insurance  
A. Ronson, meat market  
Sparta Cafe, Clay Campbell, proprietor  
McDougall & Martin, Insurance, real estate, Grand Trunk tickets  
Bruton's Pure Food Bakery  
W.H. Heath & Son, furniture



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HITCHHIKER'S STAND NEAR D.A. GORDON SCHOOL IN 1942.

In January of 1944, the following pictures were showing at the Wallaceburg theatres; CAPITOL - "Sonya Henie's latest and most colourful picture, "Wintertime" featuring Jack Oakie, Cesar Romero, Carol Landis, Woody Herman and his Orchestra.

ALEXANDER - "In Old Monterrey" starring Gene Autry, Smiley Burnette, Gabby Hayes. Also, Chapter 10 "The Sea Raiders" starring the Dead End Kids.

A 1940 Wallaceburg News advertisement showed the "Hudson Six" of that year selling for delivered price of \$1010 at Mani's Garage on Lafontaine Street.

The Dominion Day Golf Tournament of 1944 at Baldoon was won by Desmond "Dee" Martin with a score of 76. Cecil Taylor was second with 80, while Tony Martin and Bobby Jacks tied with 83. Other participants were John Frankland, Bud Stacey, H. Weatherall, Harley Taylor, Rod Gale, Bill Collins, Jack Stacey, A. Sutherland, Grant S. Dean, Les Genner, Jack Forbes, Art Ford, Elmer Perry, Cecil Kilbreath, Austin Orendorff, Geoff Clark, Ed Turner, Stew Bulmer, Bomain Kilbourne, Don Thorner, Jerry Shaw and Bob Reecke.

The town directory of 1940 listed the following butcher shops:

James Christian, Fraser & Blake  
George Frye, 531 James  
Alphonse Dooremont, 473 James  
Charles Hazzard, 768 James  
Bob McFadden, Forhan & Dufferin  
John Oosterling, 127 Nelson  
Walker & Zavitz, 32 McDougall

#### The Legion Chapter Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire Officers 1941

Mrs. G.C. Henderson, Mrs. F. Weese, Mrs. E.C. Morse, Mrs. J.P. Glendinning, Mrs. Drader Hawken, Mrs. W. Ambler, Mrs. G. Allen, Mrs. W. Hill, Mrs. G.L. Boyce, Mrs. W. Hayes, Mrs. G. MacDonald, Mrs. W. Jordan, Mrs. F. Nightingale, Mrs. F.P. Leach, Mrs. R. Stevens, Mrs. F.K. Stratton, Mrs. M. Conn, Mrs. F. Hyde, Mrs. J. Scott, Mrs. C. Hockin, Mrs. E.R. Tiffin, Mrs. G. McQueen.

In 1863, when Wallaceburg was a small village, there were 6 hotels:

Albion House, Richard Peck proprietor  
Ferry House, George Fish, prop.  
North American Hotel, Angus McLeod, prop.  
Royal Exchange Hotel, D.W. Black, prop.  
Wallaceburg Exchange, George Yeats, prop.  
West's Hotel, Thos. West, prop.

In 1883, the stage left Wallaceburg for Chatham at 8 a.m. Single fare was \$1.00 while return fare was \$1.50. Connections could be made with the Canada Southern Railway.

In the same year, the steamer "Hiawatha", with John Scott as master, left Wallaceburg daily for Sarnia at 6 a.m. Single fare was \$1.00 with return trip \$1.50. The steamer "J.C. Clark" sailed from Dresden to Sarnia three days a week. Passengers from Wallaceburg were picked up enroute. The "Byron Terice" sailed from Dresden to Detroit tri-weekly and the "J.W. Steinhoff" went from Chatham to Detroit.

In October of 1944, the Wallaceburg Separate School held a field day. Organizing events were Ted Gilhuly, Austin Orendorff, D'Arcy O'Flynn, Rev. B.K. Laverty, Rev. Robt. VanVyncht, Rev. E.T. Goetz. The day started with a ball game between teams captained by Cliff Muxlow and Tommy Lauzon. Some of the field day winners were: Wheelbarrow race: Ken Guertin, Henry Debergh; Horse back race: Cliff Muxlow and Roger Carpentier; Girls' Relay: Mary Freeburn and Bonnie Houle; Bunny Race: Barbara Guertin, Jean Jauniaux, Shirley Gibson; Boot and Shoe Race: Joan Countryman and Marion Babbitt.



**JAMES STREET DOWNTOWN DURING WARTIME PARADE.**

The Junior Chamber of Commerce in 1940 listed the following members: Bill Walker, Murray Newkirk, William Smith, Roy Mathany, A.S. Ralph, Jack Dent, Rolf Greenwood, George Crowe, Art Clarke, Bob Jacks, Brian Campbell, Allan Cousins, Stan Glover, G.W. Savage, Neil Burgess, George Yazbeck, Verne Richardson, Norm Boyce, Bob Hastings, Ed Turner, George Hammett, John Laba, Tom Campbell, John Lillie, John Gordon, Don Parrish.

Wallaceburg's First Viewing of the movie "Gone With the Wind" was at the Capitol Theatre in April of 1940. All seats were reserved.

Wallaceburg Ramsays were entered in a lacrosse league with Essex, Windsor and Sarnia in 1940. On the local team were Sheff, Beattie, Churcott, Taylor, Furtah, Slater, McIntyre, Brown, McVean, Glover, Lashmore, Sharpe, Barnier, Holmes and Simpson. The next year the team entered, but was forced to withdraw from the schedule since many of the local boys were called overseas.

### 1912 Wallaceburg Public School Class of Miss O.M. Sills

Elfleda Lloyst, Bella Black, Martha Knittler, Fern Watson, Mildred May, Ruth Soper, Ethel McNairnie, Allan Brander, Harriet Brault, Elsie Hird, Verna Sutherland, Vera Yeats, Morley Piggott, Winnifred Murdock, Cecil Reynolds, Lyle Gordon, Willie Evoy.

A February 1912 Music Concert at the Temple Theatre featured the "Ewart Orchestra" consisting of Archie Ewart, violin, R.C. Steer, coronet, Ray Martin, pianist, Stan Brown, traps, Von Ayres, soloist. Others on the program were Eddie Piggot, comedian, Rosco & Sims, vaudeville act, Harry Hurst, director.

Sunday School Superintendents at the Anglican Church have been Dr. Charles Lawrence, Charles Wright, Horace Masefield, Roy Benjamin, Allan Young, Arthur Errey, Gordon Webb, Mrs. S.L. Coleman, Ruth Giles, and Thomas Chatterton.

### Hornet Hockey Executive of 1958-59

Ken Welch, president, vice presidents: Glenn Hazzard, Garn Cameron, Secretary: Cliff Luxton, Treasurer: James Lawson, Manager: John Poole, Trainer: Vaughn Judson, Directors: James Burgess, Joe Shaw, Maurice Brown, John Wingerden, Ray Lutz, Jack Weir, Paul Laba, Frank Mabey. Members at Large: Drader Hawken, J.L. Thompson, Phil DeCedar, Ed Davies, H.W. Burgess, Don Benn, Vic Findlay, Norm Jackson, Bill Joyce, Ralph Haycock.



LADIES OF THE RED CROSS PREPARING BUNDLES FOR OVERSEAS IN 1943.

### Members of Wallaceburg Municipal Body 1930

H. Shirley, R.K. Asselstine, T. Fish, R. Drummond, J.T. Saint, W.B. Sharen, C.S. Stonehouse, S.T. Pierce, C.B. Jackson, A.J. Delorme, H.L.B. Jackson, J.E. Caughey.

### C.Y.O. [Catholic Youth Organization] Basketball Team 1940

L. VanWatteghem, Devriese, DeCleer, F. VanWatteghem, Riedl, O'Neil

### Captains of Euchre Team, Tournament at Primrose Gardens, Jan. 1944

Glass 1 - C. Stewart  
Glass 2 - E. Malo  
Glass 3 - C. Goodman  
Glass 4 - A. Vandebossche  
Glass 5 - E. MacNally, Chip King  
Brass - F. Pettifer  
Zephers - L. Kilbride  
Dover Centre - D. Murdock  
Becher - V. Patterson  
Moose - T. McClinton  
Legion - A. Bushey  
K of C - D. Normandin  
Walpole - C. Jacobs

Sugar - C. Young  
Greenmelk - A. King  
Dairy - C. DuChene  
Kent Hotel - C. VanWatteghem  
Port Lambton - S. Pearson  
Sombra - W. Johnson  
Tupperville - E. Shaw  
Dover Centre 2 - G. Montgomery  
Bus. Men - Casey Doan  
Electric - J. Kearns  
Benn's - A. Benn  
Dresden - R. Law



**JAMES STREET LOOKING WEST FROM NELSON STREET - 1937.**

**1926 Intermediate Hockey Club**

Goal: Judson - Defence: Lawson, McLean, Campbell - Forwards: Blackwell, Wickens, Willson, VanAvery

**1923 Minstrel Show at Temple Theatre**

Cast: William Bennett, R.K. Asselstine, E.V. Ayres, Ellen Shaw, Lynn Gordon, Dudley Gordon, Annie Purser, Des Martin, Alex Bruce, Mrs. W.H. Mitchell, E.U. Dickenson, Norm Ayres, Desmond O'Flynn, Mrs. J.N. McDougall.

**1934 Wallaceburg High defeated Sarnia Collegiate 11-9 in Football**

Members of Wallaceburg team were: Furtah, Gausley, Martin, Pierce, Booth, Glover, Truan, DeCleer, Bowers, Johnston, Wooliver, Griffith, Kenealey, Clark, Colwell, McGaffey, Taylor, Norman, Young, Richardson. Referee was Donald DuChene.

In May of 1912, the Public School played the Separate School in a friendly softball game. Members of the teams:

**Public School**

Dean MacDonald  
Charles Coyle  
Gerald Brander  
Bob Gordon  
Gordon Dundas  
Allan Brander  
Herman Forhan  
Harry Judson  
C. Southgate

**Separate School**

James Griffin  
Snakes McCarron  
John O'Meara  
John Plonkey  
Earl Clancy  
Ed O'Neil  
Thomas Coyle  
Mike Coyle  
Moritz Goudreau

The last major Old Boys' and Girls' Reunion was held in 1936. Members of the reception committee were: Henry Booth, John Blake, Bill Clifford, Tom Fields, Dr. Hird, Parker Hodges, George Mickle, Josh Armstrong, Sam Courtis, Dave McCreary, Tom Delorme, John Fry, Myles McCarron, John Rotner, Fred Davis, Joe Hess, Jim Boulton, Jim Dunlop, Andrew O'Flynn, George Travis, Tom Brunt, Ed Judson, Clark Best, Bill Charlton, Tom Fry, Hugh Blake McDougall, Harry McGarvey, Frank Bassett, George Evans, Henry Labadie, Fin McRae, John Rankin, Dr. Thorne, George Warrenner, Jerome Knittler, Sam Martin, Harry Mitchell, Charles Wade, Charles Benn, Fred Groombridge, Willie Joe Lamarsh, Joe Farwell, Dick Little, Dinky Fennacy, Dr. A. Campbell, George Whale, John Welch, Art Woodward, George McCreary, Tom Yazbeck, Ches McGregor, George Davis, Henry Spencer, Jack Beattie, Jim Campbell, A.B. Carscallen, George Dawe, Jim Golloghy, John Hickman, Bill Quennell, Charles Wooliver, Alex Bourne, Peter Forbes, Bill Lockhart, Dunk Stewart, Antoinne Trudell, Frank Carey, Dan Eberts, Gus Punneweart, Bill Biden, John Vincent, Ab Pardo, Gab Hess, Rudolph Berlege, Ed Mayhew, Ed Shaw, Fred Rose, Charles Howes, Case Bogaert, Charles Stewart.

Strange, there were no women on the committee!

Known members of the Bob Jack's Orchestra, beginning in 1939 until 1971 were Gord Welch, Tommy Platt, Dean MacDonald, Alan Lillie, John Greene, Bill Laing, Bob Laing, Chuck Ross, John Reid, Bob Morrow, Norm McCreary, Pete Mitchell, John Hutchison, Murray Carr, Ray Stevens, Leonard Kroon, Gord Sutherland, Dorothy Dickenson, Helen Chaika, Bonnie Lou Stonehouse, Jack Craven, Fergie Ewing, Ray Hazzard, Bill Christian, Bob Mann, Gord Hazzard, Al Crist, Jack Stacey, Harold Truan, Lyle Stratton, John Dugit, John DuChene, Dave Forsythe, Don Boyce, Glen Wicks, Bert Trampleasure, Tom Crawford, Curly King, Doug Wickens, Margaret and Dorothy Lashmore, Jack Fish, Bob Leach, Murray Taylor, Ferucio Celotto, Dave Mann.



**WALLACEBURG HYDRO POWER LINE GANG 1942. TED MCCLINTON [AT DOOR], ELDON SEED [STANDING], FRANK MURDOCK AND JOHN DUFFY.**



Office of the  
Minister

Ministry of  
Energy

416/965-4286

Queen's Park  
Toronto Ontario

I offer my sincere thanks to the Wallaceburg Centennial Committee for the commendable work they have done in organizing the events of this memorable occasion and for affording me this opportunity to congratulate every citizen of Wallaceburg for the many achievements that the Town can boast.

I am pleased that the Provincial Government of Ontario has been able to contribute to the enhancement of Wallaceburg through the development and construction of new roads; bridges; sewers; senior citizens' accommodation; a new motel; flood control measures; OHC housing; day care facilities; and a variety of other measures which have helped to make Wallaceburg one of the finest Towns in the Province.

As impressive as our past achievements in Wallaceburg have been, even more impressive are the prospects of our continued contribution to the future. Given the enthusiasm and the "family spirit" of the Wallaceburg community, as exemplified by the 1975 Centennial celebrations, I know Wallaceburg will continue to produce opportunity - the greatest product that any Town can offer.

Sincerely,

W. Darcy McKeough  
Minister of Energy  
and M.P.P. for  
Chatham-Kent

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Dr. J.R.Holmes M.P.  
Lambton-Kent



Room 330  
West Block


HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CANADA

At the official ceremony, unveiling the Provincial Plaque commemorating the founding of Wallaceburg, I have a vivid memory of Frank Mann's presence. A man who has shared his historical interests with the community and enriched our lives with his writings.

That event marked the passage of a century since the foundation of Wallaceburg, during which memories are dulled by time and fiction. The author recalls to mind the reality, tragedies, sacrifices and progress of that era which has contributed so much to the ultimate success of his book.

It is gratifying that our history has now been recorded by an acknowledged authority - a service which I am pleased to commend in this preface. I am certain that others will find in this book, as I have, not only fascination evoked by deeds of courage, ingenuity and industriousness, but also appreciation of what we owe to those who have preceded us.

Member for Lambton-Kent

  
Dr. J. R. Holmes.

House of Commons

Canada 1974

WALLACEBURG CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE



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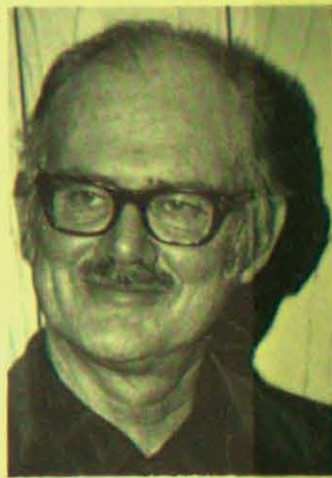
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Advisor

