

## HARRY SMITH CONSERVATION AREA

Harry Smith Conservation of Belleville donated a 17.3 acre parcel of land to the Prince Edward Region Conservation Authority in memory of Harry Smith, with the condition that it retain its natural atmosphere and be developed as a day-use area. A stranger passing through the Village would never notice this remarkable area. In 1833 John Way and Owen Roblin traded properties with Roblin taking Way's land and Mill, and Way taking the east half of lot 76, on the east side of (now) County Road 23. In 1842, Owen Roblin abandoned the old Mill and built a new Grist Mill on top of the hill, powering it by water from Roblin Lake. It was a large 5 storey stone structure. He built a Saw Mill at the bottom of the hill and used the Grist Mill water to operate it. There was also a Shingle Mill and an Ashery below the 25 foot escarpment. The Mill closed in 1920 after operating for 78 years. Harry Smith bought the property and Mill in 1947. In 1963 the Mill was purchased by Metro Toronto.

The Mill Pond does not receive its water from Roblin Lake but from natural drainage from the west.

