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You Make and Meet Friends
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Canadian Legion Tournament Saturday Afternoon

**ACTON CITIZENS' BAND
CONCERT**

PUBLIC SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

Sunday, February 27

8.30 p.m.

FEATURING

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Of Guelph

TED DENVER, BANDMASTER

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**INDOOR BULB GROWING**

By Edward Pearson

Have you noticed narcissus and hyacinth blooming like spring in a neighbour's window, and wondered why you haven't the same lovely bloom in your house?

You can find out all about bulbs in wintertime in Indoor Bulb Growing by Edward Pearson, one of the many books of specialized information in the library.

Like the catalogues that keep arriving these days, it may lure you into trying new kinds of house plants, too.

**Visit New Schools
Throughout Halton**

Tentative sites for two new public schools were chosen last week when a representative of Town Planning Consultants met with Georgetown public school board.

Both sites are in the new Delux subdivision. The board, faced with extensive planning for future school population, has been doing considerable travelling this year. Schools—in Oshawa, Burlington, Oakville, Milton and Lowville have been visited, preparatory to choosing an architect for the new Georgetown schools.

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Halton's Pages of the Past**Travelling Mississauga Tribes Shored Longboats
Along Lakeshore Where Oakville Now Stands**

BY GWEN CLARKE

Long before the first settlers arrived in Halton County the Indians were making good use of what is now the lakeshore at Oakville. Here, after a trip across the lake or along its shore, the Indians would beach their longboats, make camp, or maybe follow a trail through the forest to inspect their trap-lines, leaving the Indian women to look after the catch of salmon, venison or game birds which the tribesmen had brought home with them.

In fact, when Halton County was first surveyed it was found that so many of the Mississauga tribe, under Captain Joseph Brant, had pitched camp along the lakeshore that the Government, probably choosing the line of least resistance, decided to allocate to the Indians 960 acres of land as a Reserve. That Reservation is where the town of Oakville now stands.

Sold by Auction

Some years later the Reserve was sold to the Crown. On July 10, 1827, the Surveyor-General, Thos. G. Ridout, announced that the entire property would be sold by public auction at Crook's Mills, Nelson, on the 10th day of the following month.

The sale took place and the buyer was Colonel William Chisholm. Col. Chisholm lost no time in securing a charter from the Government of Upper Canada for construction of a harbour, to be ready to admit vessels early in 1830.

Col. Chisholm was an astute business man and saw a great future ahead for the oak-stave industry. His harbor facilities were available for the type of vessel necessary for the transportation of slaves across the lakes to the United States and Quebec. His optimism was not misplaced. Not only did Col. Chisholm prosper but the oak-stave industry—from which Oakville derives its name—provided many of the settlers with a livelihood, not only in the Oakville district, but as far back as Ballinafad.

Sixteen Waterways
Settlers, in the primitive methods of their time, fished during the summer, worked in the bush during the winter, felling the great white oaks and stacking the staves and lumber in great piles along the banks of the Sixteen until spring break-up. The Sixteen at that time was a much deeper and wider river and had sufficient volume to float staves, logs, masts, rafts and sawn lumber down to the lakefront at Oakville.

Many other settlers contributed in no small degree in laying the groundwork for Oakville's future prosperity and if the following incident is typical of the early pioneers they were certainly men of integrity, courage and independence.

The McCroney family was one of the first to settle in Halton County and was soon associated with the saw-mill industry. One member of the family, William McCroney, owned one of the largest saw-mills in the county. In 1870 this was entirely destroyed by fire along with a good deal of new machinery recently installed. The loss was about \$3,000 and there was no insurance to cover it. At the request of a number of the leading businessmen who held Mr. McCroney in great esteem, a public meeting was called by Mayor John Barclay to offer regrets and financial assistance if such was required by Mr. McCroney.

A resolution to that effect was passed unanimously. At that point McCroney rose, thanked his fellow citizens for their goodwill but declined their offer of financial assistance, because, as he put it, "he still had the youth, strength and energy to paddle his own canoe." As proof of this statement Mr. McCroney started to rebuild his saw mill almost immediately. The following year he was elected mayor of the town.

The first settlers in the Oakville community were naturally white people, most of them of British descent. But about 1850 Oakville became a place of refuge for many of the slaves who escaped from the United States before the Civil War. Some of them, taking advantage of the lake shipping came in as stow-aways on freight boats; others were assisted by "the Underground Railroad" a secret organization of Negroes in the Southern States, with "stations" in other parts of the continent to assist their colored brethren in a break for freedom.

Good Citizens
Once the Civil War was over Oakville, for a number of years, was the chosen spot of the colored people for the annual Emancipation Day celebrations. Most of the Negroes in the Oakville district proved themselves to be honest, industrious God-fearing men and women, and made good citizens. But not all of them stayed in the busy harbour town. Some of them preferred the

backwoods and wandered to the northern sections of the county, as far distant as Nagsaweya.

Besides its harbour and shipping facilities Oakville soon became noted in other ways. The soil proved to be excellent for the cultivation of fruits. For many years Oakville has been well-known for its strawberries and other small fruits—and for tree-fruits too. This in turn led to the establishment of fruit-basket factories and other allied industries.

Oaks Brought Fame
Oakville might, in many ways, be likened to the great white oaks which brought it fame. From a very small beginning it put down roots. From its main stem came many

branches. As the town prospered many fine homes were built. The well-wooded country, with the additional beauty of its waterways, made it a most desirable residential district for the well-to-do. To keep pace with the needs of its growing population Oakville was soon well supplied with churches, schools, hotels and stores. From its very early days its main highway has been the beautiful Lakeshore Road. The Indians began it, the white man improved it. And falling away from the road is the shoreline, beyond which is the harbour where lake and river meet, making Oakville one of the beauty spots in the county of Halton.

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**SPEAKERS, SPECIAL ITEMS HIGHLIGHT
YEAR FOR LAKESIDE CHAPTER I.O.D.E.**

The 36th annual report of Lakeside chapter, Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, was presented at the group's last meeting. The report follows in its entirety.

It is with pleasure that I present to you, the members of the Lakeside chapter, I.O.D.E., a summary of records for the thirty-sixth year in the chapter's history.

During the year the chapter held nine regular meetings in the Legion Hall. With a membership of eighty-six, including five "out-of-town" members, the roll-call averaged forty-five. One new member was welcomed into the chapter during the year and four members moved from Acton.

At the beginning of the year, a program was arranged which would, apart from our regular business, include guest speakers, current events, films, a Christmas and masquerade party.

We had the honor of having throughout the chapter year, as guest speakers, Mrs. K. Knox, who gave a very interesting talk on the Elizabeth Fry Organizations and Mr. Ray Costerus, pastor of the Baptist church, who spoke of China, his place of birth, telling us the characteristics of the Chinese people and their philosophy of life.

Rev. E. A. Currey showed slides and gave an interesting talk on his experiences during the last war in Europe. He dealt particularly with the burial of the Canadian soldiers abroad and the care given their graves since the end of the war.

Mrs. R. R. Parke, told a delightful story of a Negro parson in the south, explaining "How Come Christmas" to a group of children, and she also read a selection called "Wanted, a Minister's Wife."

At different meetings during the year it was a pleasure to have as our guests Mrs. Pearl Barber of Georgetown, who rendered a delightful piano solo; Miss Sheila Paul, who gave violin selections accompanied by Mrs. Frank Cakes at the piano; and Joseph Seelan, who gave accordion selections.

Mr. Ted Hansen showed two films entitled "Sing Song and Skimo Summer." A beautiful vocal solo was rendered by Mrs. Jean Leishman, one of our own members, and Mrs. Stella Adamson, our delegate to the Provincial Convention at Hamilton, gave a report which proved interesting and educational to the members of our Chapter.

On Remembrance Day and Decoration Day, the members paraded, attended services, placed a wreath on the cenotaph and plants and flags on the graves of veterans.

Nineteen members of Lakeside chapter joined with other organizations in a canvass to raise money for the Canadian Institute for the Blind (Building Fund).

Our money-making projects for the year were as follows: our annual bazaar, dance and the sale of Christmas cards, which all proved very worthwhile.

During the year, the Lakeside chapter I.O.D.E. has fulfilled its many obligations generously. Aside from education, there were numerous donations from the chapter fund as follows: Poppy Fund, Hurricane Relief Fund, British and European Relief Fund, Seamen's Amenities Fund, Food Fund for

the sick received flowers and cards or a personal visit. Cards and flowers were sent to the bereaved. Silver spoons were given to each newly-born babe of Chapter mothers.

The services at home and abroad committee worked in co-operation with the Public Health Nurse and doctors throughout the year to give assistance whenever possible; clothes were gathered for a needy family; gifts were sent to three boys in the hospital; food parcels were sent from time to time to two elderly ladies in England; the chapter, with the assistance of the Rotary Club of Acton, arranged for boxes of food and fruit to be given to appreciative families at Christmas. Flowers were sent to shut-ins at Easter and Christmas time. Members contributed gifts for Clayton Fryer's Eskimos.

We wish to thank our regent wholeheartedly for her tactful and untiring efforts on the completion of such a successful and eventful year, and all the members of the executive for their generous time and thought. Also, all those who so willingly assisted us with our projects or helped us in any way.

May we, the members of the Lakeside chapter I.O.D.E. stimulate our interest with pride and loyalty to our chapter, and maintain the solid foundation of the past for Queen and Country, and may our motto never die: "One Flag, One Throne, One Empire."

Submitted by:
Helen Otterbein,
Recording Secretary,
Mary Hinton, Regent.

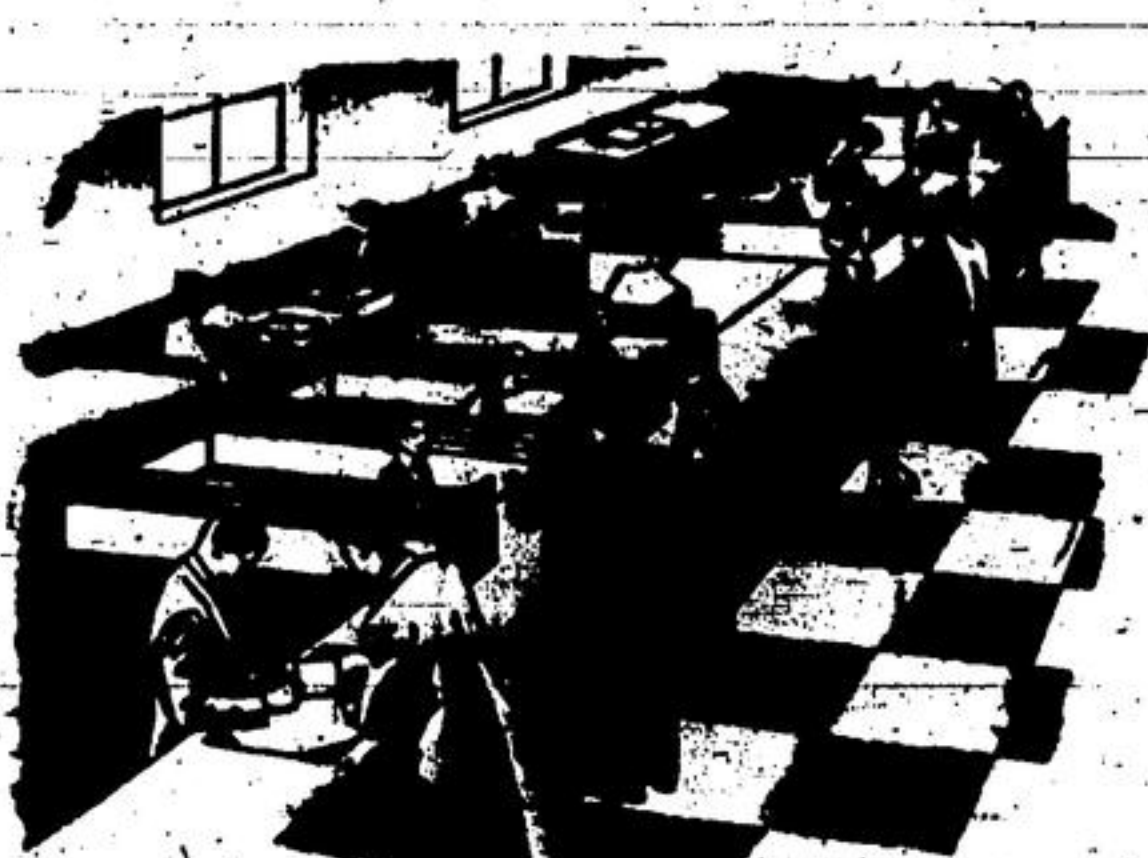
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