

When Leslie Frost took part in the 44th anniversary service at the Union Church at Pleasant Point recently, he made special reference to the late Dr. Herbert Irvine, one of the founders of the beautiful church in the wildwood.

The reference brought back a flood of memories concerning the popular dental surgeon when he was an active outdoorsman and sports minded individual. He curled. He was an ardent fisherman. He was a lover of water and a yacht owner. He was a hunter and was deadly with the gun, and he also had one of the first "horseless carriages" in Lindsay."

Dr. Irvine owned one of the first Buick automobiles, a two seater with doors at the rear, but no doors at the front. It had a rubber-bulb horn and it had something no other car ever had, a heated steering wheel.

A friend of Dr. Irvine's, William Hall, who had a small machine shop on the north side of Wellington Street just east of the bridge, inserted a thin pliable tube around the steering wheel through which hot water circulated. In this way the drivers hands were kept warm during the cold months.

On one motor trip to Minden and points north, Dr. Irvine drove his car to take care of a round of dental appointments. The homeward trip led through Kinmount, and the Irvine car was one of the very first to attempt the hills in the north, and horses

were not accustomed to the contraptions.

The Irvine Buick had just made the brow of a steep hill and had the front wheels on the down grade when a team of horses being driven by a farmer, were noticed approaching. One look at the horseless carriage, which was not silent as far as the motor was concerned, and the team made a quick right turn. The wagon flipped over in the ditch and out spilled a woman and a load of groceries. The farmer clung to the frightened team for a few minutes but had to let go and the runaway horses disappeared a long way down the road.

Dr. Irvine brought the snorting motor to a stop and went to the assistance of the woman. He was able to pacify her ruffled and hurt feelings by promising to take care of the damages.

In another eventful journey, this time by water, the lanky surgeon was at the helm of his yacht 'Juanita'. It was a holiday cruise and his passengers included Dr. Devitt of Bowmanville, a fellow dentist; the former Millie Ward who wedded a Lindsay tonsorial artist Ben Sanderson who later resided in Saskatoon. Also on board was Mrs. Irvine, the former Bella Spence of Omemee; Miss Gertrude Davies of Wellington Street who married Fred Robinson, a Lindsay shoe merchant who also later moved to Saskatoon. The cook was a woman known as Ann.

The first stop after leaving Lindsay and skirting around logs and stumps in the Scugog River was at Pleasant Point, where a large tent was pitched for the night. Piles of fresh cut cedar branches covered with blankets became beds, and a coal-oil lantern flickered in the middle of the tent, showing light on both sides of the high curtain which separated men from women.

The morning breakfast, one of a number, whet the appetites, and everyone was on board the yacht early in the morning to continue the trip through the high locks at Fernelon, on through placid Cameron Lake and into Balsam Lake at the mouth of the Burnt River.

The passage of the yacht was blocked at the river mouth by a long boom log, and it was necessary that someone climb out on the front of the boat to unlock the log and allow the boat to pass. This was neatly accomplished but Dr. Devitt was not so successful when he went to the rear of the boat and leaned well out over the stern attempting to re-tie the boom log. Out he went into the river.

This was not too terrifying but the situation became different when he became entangled in thick weeds. Fortunately however he was hauled into the boat wet and exhausted, but thankful, especially the women who heaved a big sigh of relief.

The episode was forgotten as the little steamer plied its way up the then beautiful Burnt River, where in many places the boat passed under archways of overhanging trees. The homeward journey was accomplished in uneventful manner but the entire cruise and holiday was "something" in the days when boating was real pleasure.

Dr. Irvine loved the open spaces. He was wont to trip by car to the hills and glens around Janetville, where he was a particular friend of the late Sam Stinson and others. On many occasions, he along

with companions stalked stealthily into the bush in search of pheasants and usually bagged the quota. The same story can be told about partridge.

Fishing was another hobby of Dr. Irvine. He usually acted as a kind of guide and he was at times quite successful. Leslie Frost likes to refer to his old friend Dr. Irvine and tell of some of the exploits on local waters, as well as in the woods and on the waters in the beautiful Highlands of Haliburton in the days when game was plentiful and the hunting and fishing exhilarating.

The Irvine homestead was at the northwest corner of Kent and Adelaide Streets and later on Peel Street. Dr. Irvine and his wife were members of the Cambridge Street Methodist Church choir and often played the part of host and hostess. Dr. Irvine was for many years a member of the Official Board.

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History records that a number of Indian tribes, the Mohawks, the Hurons, the Iroquois and the Mississagas not only roamed the local area but also fought a number of battles. This fact is revealed in the following story from the pen of the late G. A. Lucas who will be remembered as a teacher in the Lindsay Collegiate Institute.

"The last races of purple and gold had faded in the west and under the 'soft splendour' of a midsummer moonlight there lay revealed a birch bark canoe drawn up on the sand bar that marks the north-eastern shore of Sturgeon Point. Ogemah, a noted warrior of the invading Mohawks encamped on the opposite shore and engaged in a clandestine love affair with Manita, a Huron maiden, had kept his tryst. Discovered by members of her tribe, he was slain and next morning, cold in death, Manita's body was found by his side. To this day their bones lie buried there at the foot of a great oak tree.

Long afterwards the tragic romance was recalled by the names of vessels that early plied these waters, the 'Ogemah' and 'Manita' existing now in memory only."

Before this event late in the sixteenth century, the area of the present County of Victoria was occupied by Huron Indians who lived in villages, one of which was located on the high land of the present Carew farm just west of the township line between Feneion and Verulam Townships. Camplain's records relating to his trips through these regions are well known. Though still all virgin forest, he remarks on the park-like nature of the trees along the shore. In imagination we can see him sweeping round the Point with his five hundred canoes filled with painted savages and landing to drive the game to the tip for slaughter.

Later, about the middle of the seventeenth century, a migration of Iroquois from south of Lake Ontario took place. The Hurons were driven from their hunting grounds and their villages destroyed. There is evidence of a Mohawk encampment amid the lofty forests that overshadowed the shores of what was later to be known as Sturgeon Point.

Retribution however befell the invaders and the midst of the eighteenth century, the warlike Mississaugas from the north - west moving down, fought a series of battles, one of which was fought between Blythe and Sturgeon Point and early settlers were accustomed to visit the scene of this struggle to secure relics.

of the conflict.

From the Indians, Mr. Jordan, who settled on the Fenelon Road in 1834 received an account of a terrible naval battle when two flotillas of canoes met in mid-lake between Ball and Sturgeon Points, the lake bottom being strewn with the bodies of hundreds of slain warriors."

These Mississaugas Indians for many years occupied the Scugog Island near Port Perry.

The late Dan Spence of Cambray once stated that the farmers living west of Ball Point through Cameron and as far as Cambray ploughed up many Indian relics.

Percy Skitch, a pioneer of Thurstonia Park, states that there is a huge boulder at the edge of the park where it skirts along Sturgeon Lake on which is a plaque bearing the words 'Peace Treaty Rock'.

Norman McConnell, and other residents of Pleasant Point, recall the days when there was an Indian Camp on the shores of Sturgeon Lake, at Pleasant Point, where Chief Johnston, members of the tribe and their families sold Indian made baskets and other articles to visitors. The late Chief Johnston Paudash, for many years a resident of Lindsay, was a relative of Chief Johnston.