Cobourg. The population rose to 500. By 1900 the suitable timber on the north side of the lake was gone and the railroad and mills folded, people left for elsewhere and like the other lakeshore villages, Harwood became a tourist centre.

If you would like to take a detour along Harwood's old Queen Street, there are two designated buildings: On the right stands St. John's Anglican Church (1876) and on the left the former Sacred Heart Catholic Church (1884). Sacred Heart is now a private home and has been completely restored by its owner. The general store nearby was built of horizontal planks in 1869, the oldest surviving structure in the village. A provincial plaque at the community hall commemorates the railway and another one, a few miles south, was erected to the memory of railway workers who died of cholera.

Leaving County Road 18 at this point, bear south and take scenic Harwood Road through the rolling hills of the Oak Ridges Moraine to **Baltimore**, the oldest village in the township. The first settler, John McCarty of Irish ancestry and brother of the aforementioned Callaghan, started clearing land there in 1805. It is thought he may have named the village for Baltimore in County Cork, Ireland.

Because of its large creek Baltimore had a number of saw, grist and carding mills, some operating as early as 1820. At the bottom of the hill stands the only survivor: Ball's Mill was built in 1842 as a carding mill and converted to a flour mill in 1846 by a Scotsman from Berkshire, William MacDougall. Above the mill he also built the first brick house in Baltimore. It was originally a storey and a half but was later converted to two stories by the Ball family who purchased the mill in 1884. Until 1971 three generations of Balls operated the mill, known all over the district for its fine flour products. No longer operating, the mill is now under private ownership and designated an historic building. At certain periods it is open for tours. Contact the owner, Paul Rapati.

Turning off the Harwood Road and south on Highway 45, you pass through Baltimore village. Many of the original houses on the main street were destroyed by a devastating fire in 1919. The village once had two taverns, one of which is still in existence as a designated private home at

the bottom of Gully Road. The Pickering Hotel (1851) was the second brick building to be built in Baltimore.

After leaving Baltimore and passing the Columbus Inn watch for an old stone house on the right, built in the 1840s by James Weir. Further on is an intriguing dark log house buried in cedars. It was constructed in 1937 for Lachlan Burwash (1874-1940), arctic explorer and president of Burwash Yellowknife Gold Mines. He named his log house Eskimo Lodge. Its dark

colour is attributed to a mixture of corn syrup and kerosene Burwash said was also used by northern natives on their log houses.

You are now travelling through **Creighton Heights**, named for John Creighton, the second reeve of Hamilton Township in 1851. He built the stone house on the right on the top of the hill overlooking the southern boundary of Hamilton Township. At the bottom of the hill you may return to Highway 401. Δ

HISTORIC TOUR

No. 1

of HAMILTON TOWNSHIP

produced by the

Hamilton Township Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee

1993

AN HISTORIC TOUR OF HAMILTON TOWNSHIP

Are you a history buff interested in touring a section of old Ontario? Let LACAC take you on a round trip of approximately 30 miles through the Township of Hamilton. We suggest you begin your tour by either turning off Highway 2 in Cobourg at Burnham Street or taking the 472 exit off Highway 401 and heading north on County Road 18. Just over the highway bridge lies the southern boundary of Hamilton Township.

Named for Henry Hamilton, Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec (which then included both present Ontario and Quebec) from 1782-1785, the township was surveyed in 1796. After that date the first United Empire Loyalists took up land, settling north of present Dale Road and east of a cedar swamp on the Lake Ontario shore, now the site of Cobourg.

Continuing north the first settlement you pass through is the hamlet of **Precious Corners,** located at the Dale Road intersection. Its first house, long gone, was built for his bride c. 1811 by Callaghan McCarty. He was the eldest son of Charles Justin McCarty, who was denied U.E.L. status and reputed to be martyred in 1790 near Kingston as a dangerous Methodist preacher. Weary Methodist circuit riders, active in the area since the beginning of settlement, were always welcomed at Callaghan McCarty's home.

The hamlet was named for the Joseph Precious family who settled in 1829. On the left, up Dale Road, is the only remnant of the history of this family, eight surviving gravestones in a tiny abandoned cemetery now maintained by the township.

At this point County Road 18 joins the ancient trail from Lake Ontario to Rice Lake and follows the same route the natives used except for a few modern changes to straighten out dangerous bends. After you drive up Behan's Hill, once the rocky shoreline of prehistoric Lake Iroquois, drop into Hamilton Township's Municipal building. You may browse in the LACAC Resource Room where there are a number of items of historical interest. Watch for our heritage plaques throughout the township. The

designated private homes, however, are **not** open to the public.

Camborne village is next, settled around 1830 by William Hore. He named the village for his former home, Camborne in Cornwall, England, and built a sawmill and a pail and tub factory. Cornish Hollow Road to the east also commemorates his birthplace. Camborne United Church, built in 1898, is on the left. The original Bible Christian frame church was built in 1851 and located in the north east corner of the present cemetery.

A mile or so further along you enter the village of **Lower Cold Springs.** Because it is about halfway between Cobourg and Rice Lake, which in pioneer times took almost a day of travelling by wagon over atrocious roads, this was a popular watering place for horses. Its name was first recorded by authoress Catharine Parr Traill in *The Backwoods of Canada (1836)*. There are four designated historic buildings here and one was a tavern c. 1838. Two earlier taverns (built c. 1830) once operated on the roadside. Allan McIntosh, one of the first settlers and tavernkeepers, became the foremost property owner in Cold Springs. He hailed from Edinburgh, Scotland, and attracted many other Scottish settlers who built the Presbyterian Church (1st 1850, present 1875) on the hill to the right, now St. Paul's United.

After leaving this village you begin to climb the heights of the Oak Ridges Moraine, deposited by the last glacier 11,500 years ago. On the top of the hill, 1,000 feet above sea level, is **Upper Cold Springs**. To the right, on a section of the original road, a McIntosh still operates an old-fashioned general store. Upper Cold Springs was settled primarily by Ulstermen and was once known as Derry. They built the Congregational Church (1st 1849, 2nd 1875) also on the right, now marked by a cairn in their cemetery, and there was great rivalry with the Presbyterians down the road.

Descending Pine Hill you enter the Rice Lake Plains, a great relief to early travellers because up to this point they had jolted through miles of thick forest. Before them they saw a grassy plain with glimpses of distant Rice Lake. It has been thought until recently that the plains had few trees because the native people had burned off all the vegetation to encourage the growth of deer grass.

Actually the first native people, who entered the plains 11,000 years ago, were hunting caribou and did no burning. Succeeding waves of native people occupied the area, some of whom grew corn, and many stone weapons and caribou bones have been found and identified. It was the Mississaugas, who came from north of Lake Superior 500 years ago, who started the burning and named the area *Pem-e-dash-cou-tay-ang, Lake of the Burning Plains*. It is now thought, because of the sandy terrain, the plains have always been grassy and are considered to be the easternmost prairie in Canada.

In the middle of the plains is the hamlet of **Plainville** named c. 1870. This area contains some of the best farmland in the township but was settled late, after 1850, because for many years the sandy loam was considered too dry and infertile.

Climbing up the other side of the plains you pass tennis courts on the left, formerly the site of a school built 1889. On the right is Plainville Public School, built in 1958 with later additions. Down the hill and around Swift's Bend get out your camera for a view of beautiful Rice Lake. The melting of the glacier was responsible for the drumlin islands dotting its waters.

Many early taverns were built on the shore to take advantage of the traffic between Cobourg and Peterborough. Several were located in the **Gore's Landing** area. There were also a number of licensed ferries operating after 1820 to take hopeful settlers across to Peterborough. Gore's Landing village was first settled by gentry who were attracted by its high location and the excellent fishing and hunting. In 1846, the first decent road was built from Cobourg, partially of planks, by Irish serveyor Thomas Gore, for whom the village was named. The travelling time between Cobourg and Rice Lake by stage coach was now an hour and a half instead of an uncomfortable day's journey. Because there was then no such thing as conflict of interest, Gore bought 60 acres on the lakeshore and surveyed the road through his property to his landing where ferries took on mail and passengers. Although Gore died at 38 he had amassed quite a fortune selling lots and left a wealthy widow and eight children. He is commemorated by a provincial plaque in Pioneer Park.

Gore's Landing is noted for its double-verandah frame houses and has always been a mecca for artists and writers. It has a number of designated houses. At one time two hotels vied for the many wealthy people coming to enjoy the scenery and sport. Alfred Harris, the largest landowner in the village, was also a tavernkeeper. Each of his hotels was destroyed by fire but his home, The White House built in 1854, still survives. A third hotel, built in 1849, is still in existence at the end of the Plank Road at the lakeshore, although much altered. On the government dock is a gazebo, the original designed by artist Gerald Hayward. Nearby is St. George's-on-the-hill, one of the prettiest Anglican churches in the province. It was built of cobblestone in 1909 with a bell tower designed by Hayward, who was buried in its cemetery, the oldest in the township. The original frame church was built in 1847 and Catharine Parr Traill attended the first service.

Taking a sharp right turn and continuing east on County Road 18 you pass Victoria Inn, noted in the summer months for accommodation and fine dining. It was built in 1902 by Gerald Hayward for his summer home and originally named The Willows. Its shingle-style with Art Nouveau touches was copied from similar homes in New York where he spent the rest of the year. Gerald Hayward was noted for his exquisite miniature portraits.

Two miles further along the road is the village of **Harwood** which also had early taverns and later hotels (all destroyed by fire); but although the ferry touched there, it was swampy and not considered healthy by early settlers.

In 1854, however, a number of wealthy Cobourg businessmen decided to build a railroad from Cobourg to Harwood, construct a bridge across Rice Lake's narrowest point and continue the line on to Peterborough. Harwood grew into a village, named for an American, Vivian E. Harwood, the owner of the property although she had never resided there. Sad to say the entrepreneurs didn't consider the damage that would be caused by lake ice and the bridge only lasted six years. All was not lost, however, and two large sawmills were built in Harwood in the 1860s, using log booms to float timber down the Otonabee River and shipping the lumber by rail to