

Admaston Township

(cont'd)

The Opeongo was opened as a Colonization Road in 1854. Many taverns and "stopping places" were operated along this historic lin in Admaston township. Culhane's at Ferguslea was the last to close. A woollen mill was built at this place by Ephraim Reid who came from Scotland and named the place for his former home. Here woollen blankets and homespun materials were woven. The mill was burned three times and rebuilt.

The dam was built on the creek leading from Reid's Lake to the Bonnechere River. The last time it was rebuilt by Donald Campbell who operates a sawmill at Ferguslea.

The first settlers transported their supplies along the Opeongo Line which led through Shamrock (now on Highway 132) in the winter to the shanties while their wives and children remained on the farms to care for

the livestock. There were real hardships suffered by these people in the "Winter of the Deep Snow". The South McNaughton Road is presumed to have been the first road cut through the woods in the township.

The Bonnechere Valley Women's Institute was organized in 1914. It has a joint Centennial project with Horton township to establish a small park along Highway 17. Rosebank W.I. was organized in 1943 and started improvement of the Rosebank cemetery and restoration of Rosebank Church as a historical project.

Balsam Hill W.I. was organized in 1946 as a successor to UFWO which disbanded in 1944. Their Centennial project was the purchase of No. 2 school as a Women's Institute Hall.

In 1950 Mack Gibbons was the world's Alfalfa King and in 1951 William T. Briscoe won the World's Championship at Chicago for peas. In 1960 Mervin Gibbons, son of the present reeve, showed the champion steer at Ottawa Winter Fair.

Reeves of Admaston were William Gibbons, 1860; Peter Campbell, 1862; Thomas Whelan, 1863; William Harris, 1865; Thomas Whelan, 1965 - 66; George Cardiff, 1866; William Harris, 1867;

Elias Moore, 1869; William Harris, 1869; Elias Moore, 1870; Peter Campbell, 1871; David Farquharson, 1892; Stephen Whelan, 1886; Jeremiah Lynch, 1905; P. H. Bolger, 1912; Michael Quilty, 1917; R. J. Ferguson, 1923; Michael Quilty, 1929; Duncan Campbell, 1931; John L. Hodgins, 1948; Harry Gibbons, 1965.

The first clerk of the township was George Brown and brother of the great grandfather of the present clerk, Miss Myrtle Brown. He held office from 1860 - 64 when Alex Brown was appointed. Clerk appointed in 1882 was John Barnard who was succeeded by Thomas Lyons, 1883; George Berlanquet, 1883; John Connolly, 1889; Thomas F. O'Gorman, 1906; Robert Brown, 1909. Mr. Brown held this position for 33 years when he was succeeded by his daughter, Miss Myrtle Brown, who will complete twenty-five years of service as Admaston township clerk in September, 1967.

Century farms in this municipality are owned by W. G. Bowes, R 2, Renfrew; John Harvey Crozier, R 3, Renfrew; James C. Campbell and Sons, Admaston; Jack D. Campbell, Admaston; David Farquharson, R 2, Renfrew; Clinton Ferguson, R 2, Renfrew; Alfred T. and John A. Gibbons, R 2, Renfrew; Hartley Henderson, R 3, Renfrew; Thomas Kennelly, Admaston, R 1; Gerald McDonald and Sons, R 2, Renfrew; Harold R. Mayhew, R 2, Renfrew; Leonard Quilty, R 4, Renfrew; John Whelan, R 4, Renfrew.