

Rural Mail - Telephone - Jitney Service

This decade found this community very well established, served by general stores. Another general store at McDougall P.O., one mile west of Admaston Station P.O., was conducted by Mr. P. Ferguson. Mrs. Ferguson continued the business for some years after her husband's death, finally selling the business to Mr. J.A. Lafleur, whose son J.J. still operates the business.

The Post Offices were now closer together and with the advent of Rural Route 2, Renfrew, the local offices were soon put out of business.

In 1910 the South McNaughton Telephone Line was built, also the Admaston Telephone Line. Those were joint stock companies, the subscribers on each line purchasing stock, in order to finance the building of the line.

In 1911 Balsam Hill Telephone Co., was built. Each of those lines was connected with the Bell Telephone Co. at Renfrew, but each company maintained its own line and paid the Bell Co. a yearly flat rate, also paid the Bell Co. for long distance calls made through Bell Co. hook-up.

By this time several pupils from this community were attending Renfrew Collegiate. The majority of those pupils journeyed to and from Renfrew by train from Admaston Station on the Grand Trunk line, as it was then known (now C.N.R.). Some years later in 1923 Mr. R.W. Brown began a Jitney Service for the benefit of the Collegiate pupils. The "Jitney" was a covered truck with seats along the sides. This service was an improvement over the train service, eliminating a two to three hour wait for the evening train home.

When the Jitney could not operate during winter months the pupils drove to and from school using horse and cutter.

The store and Post Office at McDougall was bought by Mr. Pat Lynch in 1950. The Post office was closed in 1969 and the first group boxes appeared to serve the ten or twelve families close by.

The Rural Telephone line from Renfrew to Admaston Station as at first proposed, has been extended to McDugall post office. 1910

Mr. James Reid of Admaston having resigned the position of postmaster of Fergusea, Mr. Thos. Culhane has been appointed to that position; Thos. A. Low, M.P., having received a petition with some fifty signatures asking him so to do. The proximity of Mr. Culhane's place to the school makes it especially advantageous to have the post office at his place. - Mercury.

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