

Short History of The Twp. Belmont-Methuen

Following is a short history of the Township of Belmont and Methuen given by clerk Grant Daffoc at the opening of the new addition at the Township Hall on July 2nd.

In the year 1855, the Townships of Belmont and Methuen separated from the Township of Asphodel and became the United Townships of Belmont & Methuen, until the years 1863-64 when the municipality became known as the United Townships of Belmont & Methuen, Chandos, Cardiff, Harcourt and Brunton. This continued until 1865 when the Municipality once again became the Townships of Belmont & Methuen and has continued as such to the present time.

In March, 1883, the council of that year, Reeve John Brown and Councillors Wilde, Bonar, Anderson and Boyd, prepared plans to build a Township Hall. They made a contract with Napoleon, Preneuvau to purchase the land on present site, part of No. 6, Con. 6, Belmont and let the contract for building to Mr. Preneuvau for the sum of \$800. Mr. Preneuvau was paid \$400 in Sept. 1883 and another \$400 in December 1883. In December 1883 the council contracted with Mr. Preneuvau to lath, plaster and supply desk, table and chairs for the hall for the amount of \$150, and that this amount would be paid from taxes levied in 1884. This was paid in December 1884. At this meeting it is noted, that a resolution was passed authorizing the payment of \$1.00 for a cord of wood for use at township hall, the wood to be supplied by R. Anderson, and an order was issued to Mark Scott for the sum of \$2.00 for doors for the hall.

The Townships had deputy Reeves in the years 1887 to 1893 and thereafter did not have a deputy reeve until 1953. Twenty-four persons have served the township as reeve over the years, and a total of 90 persons have been elected to council (quite a number of these persons served several years). There has been a total of 9 deputy Reeves.

For a comparison of assessments and population as of 1918 and 1966: 1918 assessment \$226,250.00; 1966, \$1,526,000.00. Population 1918, 628; 1966, 1676. These figures are for residents only.

Belmont W.I. Hears About Leather Making

The February meeting of the Belmont Women's Institute was held in the Belmont council chambers on Thursday afternoon. The roll call was answered by naming an industry in your own county. There were twelve members and two visitors present.

An invitation was accepted to attend the March meeting of the Havelock Branch, and the weekly card parties on Tuesday evenings in the hall are to be continued. It was decided to have the kitchen of the hall renovated while the work is being done on the main building.

The course, "Accessories for the Home", will be held at the hall on March 12th with a pot-luck dinner. Anyone wishing to attend is to contact the leaders, Mrs. Don Althouse or Mrs. Francis Wrightman. Tickets are being made to sell on a fancy quilt.

Mrs. Viola Embleton, program convener on Canadian Industries, gave a paper on "How Leather is Made."

In the early ages people wrapped themselves in animal skins, but the skins soon decayed and rotted. Drying the skins made them last longer but they were stiff and rough. Then it was discovered that rubbing them with fat made them softer and more supple. This crude softening process still survives, especially with chamois and buckskin.

GRANDMOTHER'S DAY AT BELMONT W.I.

Grandmother's Day was held at the meeting of the Belmont Women's Institute in the Township Hall on Thursday. Guests were present from Trent River, Havelock, Marmora, Norwood, Stanwood, Rylestone and the north road out of town.

In a short business session, Mrs. W. Harris was appointed delegate to the Area Convention in Peterborough on Oct. 24 and 25. Mrs. E. Barker reported on the recent Rally held in Norwood.

The roll call was answered by giving an item of interest about your grandmother.

The program presented by convener Mrs. Viola Embleton was:

A travelling contest, won by Mrs. H. Wrightly, Havelock; readings by Mrs. H. Hartin, Mrs. Harris, and Mrs. Elsie Salter; vocal solo, Mrs. A. Kriedemann, with Mrs. M. Turnbull at the piano; violin selections by Mrs. F. Elmhirst, and Mrs. Grace Wrightly and Mrs. Hartin danced an old-fashioned waltz; selections by the Senior Citizens Glee Club with Mrs. Ross Pollock, pianist, and Mrs. H. Agnew, director.

Prizes were won by: Mrs. Barker, youngest grandmother; Mrs. H. Pollock, oldest Glee Club member; Mrs. D. Hoard, Mrs. Moore, Norwood, and Mrs. Oliver, nearest birthdays; Mrs. Alice Brunton, door prize; Mrs. Donald Elmhirst, newest grandmother; Mrs. E. Vaness, Trent River, nearest wedding anniversary; and Mrs. Hartin, oldest in membership of Belmont W. I., being a charter member, joining in 1915.

Lunch was served to 60 members and guests by the committee.