

Page 13

More letters

The Walker House revisited

Editor and friends of the Walker House:
A man named Paddy Walker
In 1850 came
And built the hotel that we love
The Walker House by name.

History walks through every room
Ghosts of the past long gone
How Paddy changed the River's course
With a lot of men one dawn.

Who knows what weary traveller
Came to this inn of old
Did the stagecoach really drop them off?
What long lost tales they told.

We cherished all the legends
Tried to keep it as it was
Exactly, room by room
The bar, the mirror - the halls.

Fifty years we loved that place
And welcomed all who came
Many a man was nursed to health
In this building of historical fame.

Old houses have a tale to tell
The Walker House has thus
Echoes of all who through the years
Walked in these halls - were one of us.

Food and shelter were offered
A listening ear we lent
Paddy would approve - In fact
I think each soul that came - he sent.

January the 23rd
In 1995
The Walker House, our pride, -
caught fire
Marie and her chair got out alive!

The people were all wonderful
The firemen were so brave
The ambulance attendants
And police - all tried to save
The Walker House - and we stood by
And shivered in the snow
Praying the fire could soon be out
The damage would be low.

To anyone who said a prayer
As the fire kept raging on
For the firemen, for me, or my dear
old house
Till every hope was gone.

The people of the neighbourhood
Dear relatives and friends
All came or called with their
support
With food and help did lend.

How can we ever thank you all
For your concern and care
It's times like this we feel the love
And humanness we share.

Our gratitude we hope to show
To all who helped in any way
Your thoughtfulness we won't
forget
Appreciated each passing day.

So now we're just in 'Limbo'
waiting for the word
..... building



The Walker House hasn't changed much since this early 1900s photograph from the Scougal Collection. The hotel is one of Kincardine's oldest buildings. It was constructed in 1851 by Paddy Walker.



The Walker House sustained much fire damage to the centre section in a fire late Monday afternoon. (Wassink photo)



...s spring or summer. An exact date will depend on when provincial politicians can be at the centre.