

Dec 18/85

# History of Horton Township in works

The history of Horton Township book is well underway and should be in the book stores by the fall of 1986.

"It's a full two year project for us," Doris Humphries said Friday afternoon. She has been working on the project for about one year and to date has compiled many interesting stories on the township, beginning with the earliest explorers in the 1600's and the first known settlers in the mid 1800's. The book will have many authors, each with an interesting story to tell, and a large collection of photographs.

Humphries explained the book will be an accurate history of the township with chapters on the early settlers, schools, churches, cemeteries, sports, organizations, politics, century homes, council, women's groups, industry, farming, logging, boats, profiles on township people, business, special events, the railway and others. She is attempting

to find information on residents of Horton who served during the wars.

### Sneak preview of book

For history buffs, the earliest known white men to step foot in Horton Township, although it wasn't called that at the time, were Etienne Brule and Nicholas de Vignan who were on a scouting expedition for Champlain. These men travelled up the Ottawa River and went as far as Allumette Island. A short time later, in early June 1613, Samuel D Champlain followed the same route up the Ottawa River.

Horton Township was named after the British member of parliament Sir Robert J Wilmot Horton (1784-1841). He was interested in getting families from the poor areas of Scotland and Ireland to settle in Canada where "pine trees grew tall for ships' masts, rivers teemed with fish, forests provided furs and farmlands provided a

livelihood for ambitious settlers".

The actual founder of Horton was C J Bell in 1824 after a career in the military. He built a small grist mill, the first in Renfrew County, a saw mill and lumber slide. He also had a mercantile business and established a post office in 1832.

However, the earliest settlers had surnames that are very common in the township today. Among the residents of Horton in 1842 were David Barr, Alex Stewart, William Martin, James Gibbon, Charles Mayheux (Mayhew), William Richards, Duncan Fergusson (Ferguson), Robert Edie (Eady), Ezekiel Cole and William Payne.

Many people have done a great deal of research for the History of Horton book. Longtime council member and clerk Bill Humphries has compiled a complete story on the reeves while Peter Brotherhood wrote about it's

famous landmark, the pinnacle.

As a centennial project in 1967 the Junior Farmers placed a plaque on all century homes in the township. A chapter in the book will take a close look at these homes, most of which are still in use today. In 1967 the oldest home was owned by Gertrude Early and built in 1833 with Ephriam Gilmore's 1836 coming in a close second.

Humphries has been compiling a list of interesting pieces of information and these will also find a place in the book. Horton had a winter skating carnival in 1907 with a number of people dressed in costume and Bob Ferguson, 10 or 12 years of age at the time, saw his first aeroplane in 1924 or 1925. Sports is of special interest to most everyone in the

township and there will be stories on the famous wrestling brothers, Alex and Larry Kasaboski, and horse racing.

A great deal of hard and dedicated work has gone into this history book which will no doubt be treasured by residents in the years ahead.

Humphries stated the book will be ready to go to the printers next spring with

## Letters

### Setting the facts straight

Dear Editor:

As chairperson of the committee preparing the Horton History for publication in 1986, I wish to thank you for publicity given. Through several notices in the Chit Chat columns a year ago and through publication of Castleford Womens Institute activities you have kept the public aware of our project.

The article in Dec 18 issue "History of Horton Township in works" although generally well written and correct, has a serious error regarding the Junior Farmers' centennial project. The plaques were awarded to mark century 'farms' not 'homes' as the article in-

Castleford Women's Institute Tweedsmuir History

The home owned by Gertrude Early was not a century home, the farm was. Nor was there a home on the Gilmore property of that age. Few of the earliest homes remained in 1967.

The stone houses of Harvey Ferguson, Peter Barr and C C

Johnston were century homes built in 1848, 1856 and 1859 respectively.

Your reporter had a lot of material to peruse in a short time and misunderstood the century farm article.

I appreciate the listing of various topics we hope to cover and anticipate receiving written stories and

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interesting pictures by March 1, 1986.

Doris Humphries

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