

THE EARLY DAYS

Some confusion has existed as to just which cottage was the first built on Soule Beach. The earliest information we have been able to arrive at gives that distinction to a Mr. John Eldridge who erected a summer cottage overlooking the river in 1903. He named it "The Pines" after his home in England.

In 1906 a Mr. Althouse who brought school in London came upon the mouth of the river by boat and camped on the dunes. Finding the fishing to his liking he returned another year and in 1909 he erected a cottage and named it "Bona Vista". He was followed in 1910-11-12 by a number of others from London and it became known as Little London or London Row.

Camping or Cottage life in those days was indeed primitive compared to our present day stand-

ards. Wood had to be split for cooking and heating. Supplies had to be brought from a store at Soule Falls which was also the closest Post Office. So, moving a flat bottomed boat to the falls was the order of the day.

In those days entrance to the Beach was either by water or by two very sandy roads that even horses had difficulties in getting through and it was not unusual for the newcomers to have to wade and help push the wagons and themselves through the deeper drifts.

In 1927 new houses stood at the entrance to what is now the more business section, but with the completion of the temporary road in 1930 a steady influx of cottagers made their way into the Beach and spread North to the River and South to Stony Point and beyond.

Today we have over 2,000 Cottages situated on our seven mile stretch with an estimated population of over 15,000 during the peak season.

We owe our debt to those hardy pioneers like Mr. Eldridge and Mr. Althouse who first made acquaintance to Soule and Black what they found.

(We gratefully acknowledge a paper by Dr. A. E. Johnson for part of the above information.)

The Official Opening—Erland Lee Home



Erland Lee Home, Stony Creek, Ontario

SUEAN, LADY TWEDDEN, DR.

Lady Tweedden is the widow of the late Lord Tweedden who was Governor General of Canada from 1927 until his death in 1940. She lives in England and has always been an enthusiastic Women's Institute member.

When attending an Institute meeting in Lamb County in 1936, she suggested the Women's Institute should compile the history of their respective communities. In due time, the project was advanced and sponsored by the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, and the histories named in her honor. Now in 1973 there are over 1300 of these outstanding histories being compiled throughout the Province.

Let us have our LOCAL COMMUNITY fully recorded in our Tweedden History as a tribute to this wonderful Lady and as a fitting memorial to our community as we become involved in Regional Government.

As the following letter from Lady Tweedden states, she is most interested in our endeavours and wishes us further advancement in this worthwhile work.

Honor M. Walker
March, 1973

Quote:

Friday, January 19, 1973

"Dear Mrs. Walker,

I have been reading with so much interest your report of the Tweedden Histories — Christmas and its have showed up my answering of letters, but not my interest in your work.

I am so glad that so much is being done by you in the way of the Tweedden History workshops, and the scheme of doing "House Logs" seems to me an interesting one.

I hope that all old material is being carefully collected and put in fireproof safes or filing cabinets. So many papers have been destroyed by fire or flood in this country sadly enough.

I do want to send you my very best wishes for 1973, and my hopes that the work you are doing will flourish, and that all our fellow W.I. members will realize the historical value of our work.

Yours very sincerely,
Suean Tweedden

STONEY CREEK, Ont. — The Erland Lee Home, opened here last week, will be maintained by the Ontario Women's Institute as the headquarters of the world-wide organization. Born in 1897, Mr. Lee gathered 30 women together at a South Westchester Chapter's Institute to have a table talk about themselves. Out of this came a new women's organization and its original constitution was handwritten at a dining room table in the old home.

The Ontario W.I. has over 100,000 in the home and the province's 2,000 members will be associated in one year to build a worthwhile fund. The member donated \$1.00 and the National Federation of Women's Institutes in England sent 100 pounds sterling.