

## Blakeney Then and Now

The Ramsay Women's Institute hope you enjoy their effort to record some of the history of the Blakeney area. This insert adds some details to the 20-minute DVD, such as the names of the people in some of the group photos, as well as excerpts from the 1871 Industrial Census of Ramsay.

A plaque erected by the Institute at the park in Blakeney on Nov.7, 2010, identifies the location of the area's early industries on a map and also carries the following text:

*When the first settlers arrived in this area in 1821, they recognized the potential for developing the water power here in the "Bay" area of the Mississippi River. They built a sawmill, a gristmill, and a timber slide to divert logs from the rapids into the "Bay" and on to calmer water. An inn at the Ninth Line corner provided lodging for those heading north to the lumber camps.*

*Known variously as Norway Pine Falls, Snedden's Mills, and Rosebank, the village received its present name of Blakeney in 1874. In 1865, the B & O railroad was extended towards Arnprior, passing near the village and opening up markets, so that by the late 1800s, Blakeney was a hive of activity with a flour mill, a large woolen factory, a sawmill, a cheese factory, a Presbyterian Church and manse, and a general store and post office. The first bridge, built of logs, provided a vital crossing in the Bytown Road and was replaced with the present one in 1918.*

*Nothing remains of the early industries but stone foundations, but many new houses have been added to the homes of the early inhabitants, creating a pleasant hamlet in what is now the Ramsay Ward of the Town of Mississippi Mills.*

*For more info check our website [www.ramsaywi.ca](http://www.ramsaywi.ca)*

### Train Station Photo c. 1920

Kate Young at Snedden's Station

### Blakeney Store Photo

James Steele, Mrs Charles Black, and her son Kevin

### Bennie's Corners Baseball Team c. 1920

Back row: Bob Toshack, Jim Snedden, Jack Lindsay, Bob McPhail, Alex Snedden, Hubert Needham

Front Row: Albert Naismith, Earl Gardener, Albert Syme, Greville Toshack, Peter Syme, Ossie McPhail