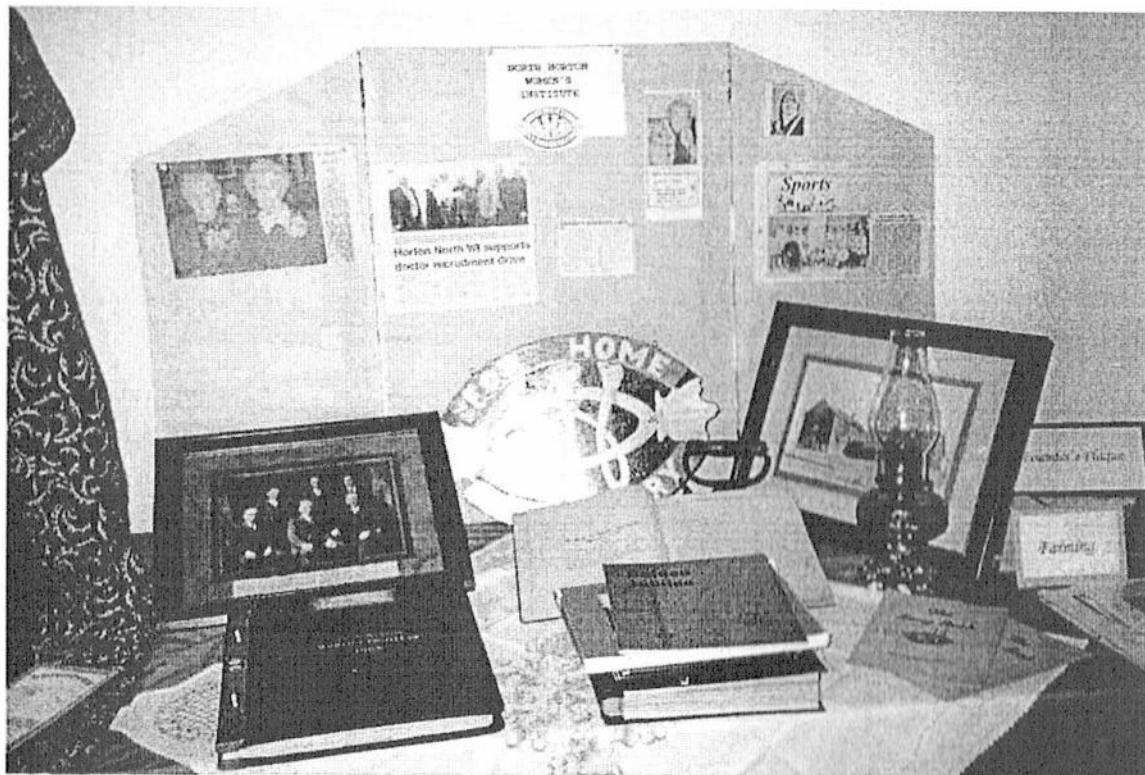# Horton North

Horton Township was first surveyed in 1825 and named after R.J. Wilmot Horton, an English Member of Parliament who was active in promoting emigration in Canada. The first church services were held in Bonnechere Mission in 1828 by the Methodist Church. The first white child, Ira Mayhew, was born in what is now the town of Renfrew in 1829. Ross and Horton Townships separated in the year 1851, seven years prior to Renfrew's separation from Horton.

The Bonnechere river enters Horton Township at lot fourteen, concession one, it runs an easterly course and enters the Ottawa River at lot six, concession ten. The river was not only a physical barrier but a social barrier creating a dividing line between the mostly Scottish southern portion of the township and the north-eastern section inhabited largely by Irish Protestants living on stony or poor soil. Christopher James Bell built a timber slide at the first chute in 1829 and in 1832 the Bonnechere provided power for a grist mill, there was also a sawmill at the first chute in the early 1930s.

When the roads were named for the civic address system in the 1990s the names of many of the founding families were used. Driving through the township today you get tell where the first families lived by the name of the road. Farming has always been an important part of life in the township and still continues today.