

The South Brant Rural Telephone Line (con't)

At the end of each year the Shareholders held their Annual Meeting. A President and Vice-Pres. were elected each year, as well as a Secretary-Treasurer and two Auditors.

The Line was divided into two parts. The East half was No. 137, the West half 192. Two repairmen were appointed to look after the Line, install Batteries, and make any adjustments necessary. For this they were paid 30 cents per hour.

The Shareholders each paid \$80.00 per share. There were sixteen shareholders in 1923.

In 1918 the Line on the Durham Road was sold for the sum of Three Hundred Seventy Dollars. In 1953 when the company ceased to operate the system was overbuilt by Bell Canada.

"The Company was a Service System, consisting of a line or lines, with associated telephone, but without switching equipment; this switching equipment, required for exchange and toll service, was provided by Bell Canada at the Walkerton exchange. The Company paid a specified amount for each subscriber per year to the Walkerton exchange for this service.

In 1910 a telephone Co. was formed on the east end of the South Line. It was called "The Brant Telephone Company Ltd." There were five shareholders - James Metcalfe, Geo. Francis, Peter Grein, Wm. Blake and Geo. Metcalfe. Their meetings were held once a year in their houses. They each put in a small amount of money to build the telephone line. In the following years many neighbours became subscribers for a rental fee. At last there were about seventeen on the line so it was busy most of the time. This was not satisfactory. Long distant calls were cheap at that time. When the dial system came in 1963, the Brant Telephone Co. sold to Bell Canada.