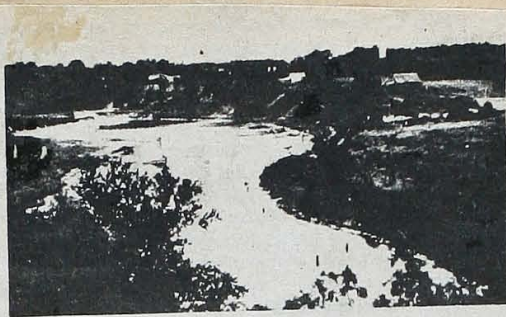




Hundreds of fishermen test their skills during the fall run of rainbow trout immediately downstream of Denny's Dam.



View of the Donaldson farm looking upstream from south bank of the Saugeen River. At the far right is Denny's Dam and at the left are the Donaldson's buildings. Cars of fishermen line the township road. 1974

Authority moves to acquire Indian historic site

The Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation under Chairman Irwin Lobsenz has taken on the ambitious task of raising \$12,000 to aid in the purchase of a unique historic site near the mouth of the Saugeen River two miles upstream from the Town of Southampton.

The property which is presently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Donaldson was occupied by Indian bands as early as the year 500 B.C.

Excavations in 1960 by archaeologists from the National Museum of Canada revealed remnants of an ancient settlement on the north bank of the Saugeen River.

Included in the many features uncovered at the site were two house structures, a cemetery and several refuse mounds. Scraping planes, knives, hammer stones and anvil stones, copper axes and bone needles were also located on the site.

Evidence also shows that the site was the jumping off point for an aquatic highway linking Lake Erie and Lake Huron via the Grand and Saugeen River systems.

To prevent the 64-acre property from falling into the hands of private developers the Authority took out an option-to-purchase in October and instructed its Charitable Foundation to solicit funds through private donations to cover the Authority's share of costs.

Approval of a Provincial grant of \$25,000 towards the acquisition on the property was announced by the Minister of Natural Resources in December.

An added attraction of the Donaldson property is its strategic location on the north bank of the river adjacent to the Lamprey Control Barrier and Fishway operated by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

The barrier, which is open to the general public, prevents lamprey from migrating up-

stream to spawning beds in the Saugeen River tributaries.

Locally, the barrier is known as Denny's Dam and is named after John Denny who bought the mill rights at the site in 1856 and soon after erected a grist, saw and woolen mill.

By 1897 the rights had been purchased by the Saugeen Electric Light and Power Company in order to supply electricity to the Towns of Southampton and Port Elgin.

Due to the heavy fall runs of rainbow trout, coho and cockanee salmon, the river between Denny's Dam and its mouth at Southampton is extremely popular for fishing.

Ministry of Natural Resources officials at Denny's Dam have seen as many as 650 anglers crowded along the banks of the river on Thanksgiving weekend. Catches are obviously good.

Preliminary plans call for the development of interpretive facilities emphasizing the outstanding historic qualities of the site.

Mr. William Finlayson of the Anthropology Department of Erindale College in Mississauga views the Donaldson site as one of the largest and most important of its kind in all of Southwestern Ontario and hopes to continue his excavations once the property is acquired by the Authority.

Plans also call for improved access to the river and establishment of facilities such as parking, toilets, garbage containers, etc. for fishermen using the area.

It is hoped too, that the historic use of this site as a jumping off point for the aquatic highway can be restored by promoting its use as a terminal point for the present day Saugeen River Canoe Route.

Feasibility studies are presently underway for a series of public access and stop-over points along the main Saugeen River between Hanover and Southampton.



(Times Photo by John Norman)

AS PART OF THE CENTENNIAL BALL, last Saturday night, Port Elgin Senior Citizens' Square Dancing Group exhibited their talents in a special square dance number. Shown above are couples of the group in full swing. Left to right, Mrs. George MacKinnon and partner-brother, Bert Dunlop; Irving Grieve and partner-sister Mrs. Mel Black. Also in the group were Clark White, Bev. Nuttall, Ed Snyder and Elsie Webb. 1974

Page 14 - THE PORT ELGIN TIMES, Thursday, M., 23, 1974



Seen above, left to right, Mrs. Maurice Gowanlock, R. R. 1 Allenford, Mrs. George Pollock, R R 5, Paisley and Mrs. Harry Kennedy, R R 3, Tara, Public Relations Officer, new President and Past President, respectively of the Bruce Centre District Women's Institute.