

# "Living, Lasting Legacy" Saugeen Bluffs Park

by Helen Geissinger

A large group of dignitaries from local townships and representatives of Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority, plus MPP Gary Gurbin and MPP Bob Kessock attended the official opening of the Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Area, June 21. The Ministry of Natural Resources, under whose auspices the SVCA operates, was represented by Bill Foster, assistant deputy minister for Southern Ontario.

The ceremony, held under sunny skies, was attended by a large crowd, including 18 members of the Sutherland Clan, descendants of James Saunders, schoolmaster, postmaster, and first Reeve of Paisley. Also present were representatives of Conservation Authorities such as Upper Thames and Catfish Creek.

Bill Foster, whose section of the Ministry of Natural Resources looks after conservation authorities, noted, although only established 35 years ago, these bodies now control over 300 designated areas and receive 30 million dollars in provincial grants. The Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority has received about \$200,000 from provincial funding to assist in land acquisition and development. Saugeen Bluff's park now has camping and fishing facilities, nature and horse-riding trails, and a multiple use area. SVCA controls 13 conservation areas, on which it is demonstrating soil, water and resource management and has planted thousands of trees.

He paid tribute to the memory of the late Robert Sutherland, of Sutherland Insurance Co., Guelph, who was a direct descendant of James Saunders, first Reeve of Paisley. Robert Sutherland's anonymous contributions supported the SVCA in its land acquisition programme and, along with provincial funds, made develop-

ment of Saugeen Bluffs possible. The park is a living memorial to the foresight and generosity of this family.

Saugeen Bluffs has already been in use for family camping and organized groups such as Girl Guides and Boy Scouts for about 3 years. It is also home to a maple syrup festival which involves many school groups as well as family visits. The conservation area comprises 507 acres, with 140 serviced sites for tents and small trailers, nature trails, day use areas, organized group campsite, and some pasturage for which local farmers tender. Snowshoe and cross country ski trails are open in winter along with facilities for Boy Scout winter camping.

In all, the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority looks after 16,900 acres; 13,500 acres are "agreement forests", managed by the Ministry of Natural Resources for timber production and ancillary uses. Other lands are under intensive recreational use or are managed by the SVCA such as Greenock, Swamp.

Private contributions such as those made by the Sutherland family are administered by the SVC Foundation, and are used as designated by the donor. Provincial funding is geared more for water management. About 80 per cent is spent on combatting erosion occurring in the 1,720 square miles of the watershed.

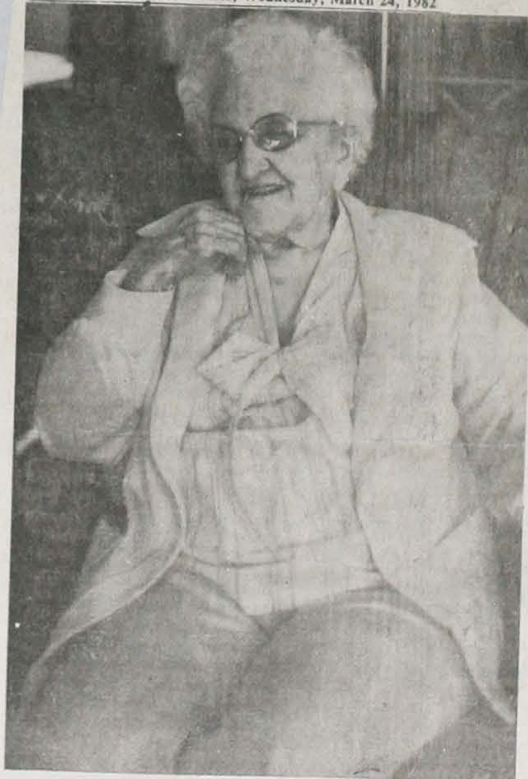
The SVCA employs 25 full time personnel, 20-25 residents in the vicinity of the various Authority lands, who work most of the year, and 37 students hired for the summer to work either on the land or for local municipalities who request SVCA assistance. Port Elgin is considered fortunate in that erosion and related problems are not extensive within town borders.



Unveiling of Saugeen Bluffs sign marked official opening of park. Left of sign [L-R] Bill Foster, Assistant Deputy Minister, Natural Resources; Art Speer, Bruce County Warden; right of sign

[L-R] George Grant, member SVCA and MPP Bob McKessock talk with Mrs. Robert Sutherland, Sr.

Page 12A, The Beacon Times, Wednesday, March 24, 1982



Mrs. Maude Cluley takes a moment to reflect on 91 years of life, on her birthday Monday. Friends and family paid respects to Mrs. Cluley and were returned with birthday cake, coffee and the friendly greeting and reminiscences of the birthday lady.

## Schildroth's celebrate 59th anniversary

On June 19th, 1988, Margaret and Bill Schildroth celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary. Family members gathered at the home of Harry and Anne Schildroth for the special occasion.

In attendance were their three sons and daughter, Harry, Shirley, Jack and Russell, as well as their spouses. Several grandchildren and great-grandchildren were also present. Those who were unable to attend in person were there in thought. Some brothers, sisters and nieces of the bride and groom of 59 years also attended.

A wrist corsage and boutonniere of yellow roses were presented and worn by the happy couple during the afternoon.

Best wishes were extended by cards, chocolates and flowers.

Thank you to our family for making our special day so enjoyable.

Marg and Bill Schildroth



William McDonald (left), Chairman SVCA and Mrs. Robert Sutherland, Sr., examine plaque honouring her late husband, an anonymous and generous donor to SVCA land acquisition throughout his lifetime. Irwin Lobsinger (centre left) founding Chairman SVCA and SVCF, and Robert Reichenbach, Chairman, Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation, look on.