

# History Hunters finish their final chapter

By Jane Cunningham

Their book was published 20 years ago but the final chapter wasn't finished until last week, when the Saugeen History Hunters disbanded.

The Saugeen History Hunters were formed back in March of 1983, when Saugeen Township Council held a meeting to determine whether there was enough interest in writing a history of the township.

Kent Lamont and Charles and Helen Kelly stepped forward to form the committee that would put it together. The three got together last week to reminisce about the year it took to get all the information together that went into Roots and Branches of Saugeen, their 331-page volume of local history that was published in October, 1984.

"We assigned everyone a separate section," Helen Kelly said. "I worked on the administration chapter because I worked for the township."

Kent Lamont did recreation and tourism, and there is a wonderful picture in the volume of Kent and his wife, Brenda, driving their four-horse Commercial hitch at the CNE.

All but 17 of the 2,020 books printed have been sold and, as the group prepared to disband, they decided to place those remaining at the Bruce

County Museum.

"It's a sad day to see this committee disband," Lamont said. "But so many of the original group aren't even around now."

"A second book could still be done, but we'll leave that to others. I would like to say that that committee was a great one to work with. That book came together like an international ploughing match."

Following the book, the committee erected a stone cairn at the site of the old township office to commemorate the pioneers. Later, an antique grader was refurbished and placed near the cairn.

The Saugeen History Hunters decided to donate funds to three associations when they disbanded. They have already donated \$2,500 to the Bruce County Museum and have another \$800 to give, \$1,000 to the Bruce County Heritage Association and \$1,000 to the MRI fund at the hospital.

Charles Kelly still finds the book of interest. "I can sit down for an hour with it and learn things I never knew before," he said, and he grew up here and went to SS #14, Bruce.

He remembers one winter, after a particularly dry summer when they only had turnips to eat, his grandmother said, "But that wasn't too bad, until we



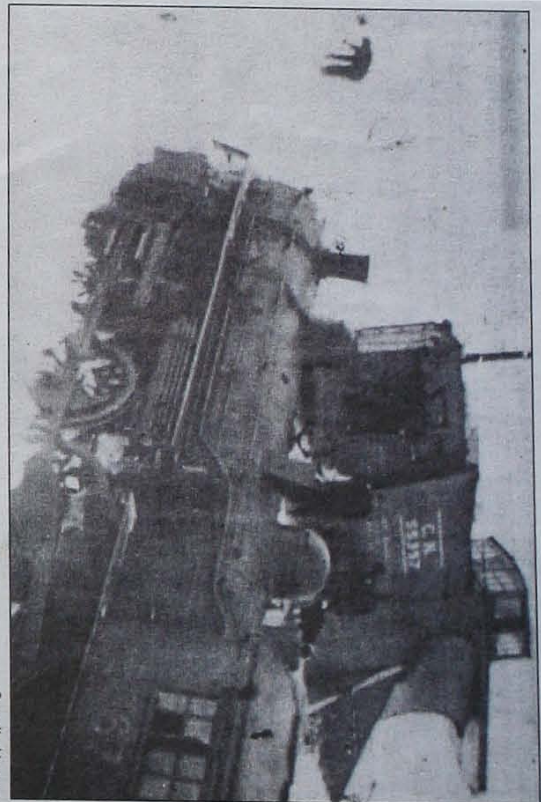
In 1980 the Saugeen History Hunters gathered for a group shot to be used in the publication of Roots and Branches of Saugeen, a book for which they compiled the information. Back row, from left to right: Mrs. Alex Heard, Miss Jean Black, Mrs. Roy Chappell, Mrs. Grant Clazie, Mrs. John

Underwood, Mrs. Richard Fenton, Charles W. Kelly, Mrs. Morris McVittie, Roy Chappell, Norman Beech, Kenneth Gowanlock, Robert Leeder. Front row, left to right: Mrs. John Peirson, Mrs. Charles W. Kelly, Kent Lamont, Harold Sutherland, Mrs. James McEwing.

ran out of salt."

The Saugeen History Hunters have seen a lot of changes, but for them the most disturbing are the family farms that are no longer actively farmed.

There was a big book launch back in October, 1984 at the Cedar Crescent Casino on the beach as part of the bicentennial celebrations. As 2004 comes to a close, there will be three cheque presentations, as the Saugeen History Hunters continue to benefit their community.



One of the worst lengthy snowstorms in Grey and Bruce counties occurred in January, February and March of 1947. A train is shown off the tracks due to extremely deep snow north of Dobbinton in March of 1947. Many men were brought in with snow shovels in an attempt to help the situation. The CNR train was finally back in operation after help arrived from Palmerston.

Supplied image

FLASHBACK: Winter storm