

Oct. 3/76

Warsaw honours Dr. Munro

The people of Dummer Township paid tribute Sunday to one of Warsaw's most beloved citizen, the late Dr. Donald D. Munro. On Sunday afternoon, a crowd of about 100 citizens gathered at the site of the new Dr. Donald Munro park to witness the unveiling of a stone cairn in honour of the late Doctor.

Dr. Munro was a general practitioner for more than 40 years in the hamlet of Warsaw and Douro and Dummer. Special tribute was paid to Dr. Munro's healing talents as well as his musical talents. In making the dedication of the memorial cairn, Father Leo Leahy, told the group on hand that "his creed was not only live and let live but live and help live."

The unveiling of the monument was done by the son of the late doctor, Hector Munro, and a first cousin of Dr. Munro, Mrs. Beatrice Choate. The only member missing from the dedication was Jean Munro, the daughter of the late medical officer.

Dr. Donald Munro was born in Rosshire Scotland in 1868. The Doctor moved to Warsaw and served the district for 47 years as doctor, coroner, medical officer, politician and musician.

Master of ceremonies for the Sunday Dedication service was Fred Crowe, who took over the dedication following a welcome and a singing of O Canada led by Thomas Davis.

The Park itself was dedicated by Mervin Baptie, the Reeve of Dummer Township. "This park will now and in the future be known as the Donald Munro park" said Mr. Baptie. The Reeve, in dedicating the park gave a brief account of how he remembered the Warsaw Doctor. "Dr. Munro was an accomplished violinist" remembered the Reeve, "he could reel up some of the best toe tapping music in these parts."

The dedication service, was held in two parts. The unveiling of the plaque and the dedications occurred outside at the park. Later in the afternoon the gathering adjourned for a lunch and talk at the Municipal Hall, where the Leahy Family provided entertainment. Rev. J.A. Nielson, Pastor of Warsaw Presbyter-



Beatrice Choate and Hector Munro get set to unveil the

Doctor Munro Memorial.

ian Church gave a short talk as well.

The Committee to construct the cairn were responsible for the Sunday afternoon dedication. Ollan Leahy, the chairman, and Tom Davis, Barbara Bell, Joyce Payne and Edythe Payne put in countless hours to make Sunday's service a success. They were assisted by the Warsaw Women's Institute, the Dummer Council, the Warsaw Legion, the Parish of St Joseph's and the Warsaw District Lions Club.

Perhaps the most moving speaker at the Sunday afternoon gathering was Reverend Father Leo Leahy. In dedicating the Cairn, Rev. Leahy gave a short valadiction to the memory of the late doctor.

"Dr. Munro was a man who believed in the right to be different," said Father Leahy. "His creed was not only live and let live, but live and help live."

Dr. Munro's father was a stone cutter, and the committ-

ee praised the work of Richard Armstrong in making the stone cairn up to the Munro standard.

WARSAW (Staff) — As is so often the case, lasting tributes to people are almost often made after their death. The late Dr. Donald D. Munro was honored here Sunday. Father Leo Leahy of Lakefield dedicated a plaque in the park named after the man who committed 46 years of his

life to helping the community. The hearty Scotsman delivered 3,000 babies in Dummer and Douro townships before he retired from practice in 1953 at the age of 84. That lifespan took him from horse-and-buggy house calls to the era of the automobile. But his love of the area reached beyond his profession. When a local hay crop failed, he purchased hay from western Canada to help the farmers. Later, during the world wars,

Dr. Munroe and the students he taught to play the fiddle put on concerts to raise money for the forces overseas. Moving to Canada at the age of two in 1870, he taught in the Blythwood area for nine years. But another adventure, a partnership in a tobacco farm, allowed him to save enough money to enter Trinity Medical College in Toronto. Then, in 1907, four years after graduating, he moved to the Warsaw and set up his practice.