

BUS TRIPS, PICNICS AND TOURS

On a beautiful warm sunny day (June 28th) 1990, our President, Edith Cairns, organized a bus tour for W.I. members and anyone interested to go along and visit the Conservation Areas in the county. Twenty eight took part in the day's events, taking along a picnic lunch.

We met at the Township Hall in Ameliasburgh, and from there to the Harry J. Smith Conservation area. Our guide came from the main office in Picton, and told us the land for this area is 17.3 acres (7 hectares) and was donated in 1983. It comprises a small pond, surrounded on 3 sides by a 25 meter escarpment which provides excellent viewing opportunities. It was the original site of the early village of Roblin's Mills. Foundations of the early buildings can still be seen. In 1842 the mill was built at the southern end of the pond, milling mostly flour. In 1963 the mill was dismantled and rebuilt at Black Creek Pioneer Village, Toronto.

From here we moved on the Massassauga Point. A total of 24 hectares of mainly cedar, a small grove of bur oak and an abandoned quarry all within sight of shore. This land was purchased in 1971 and in its heyday was the centre of much recreation with tourist boats landing near the hotel at the point. Steamers such as the "Annie Lake", "Aletha" and "Brockville" were familiar names.

Then on to the other end of the county to "Little Bluff" in South Marysburgh. It was at one time a strategic port where farmers delivered their goods to the storage facility for export to the United States. From 1860-1890 the main Crops were barley and hops. The ruins of the facility can still be seen. There are 70 acres at this site. We ate our lunch here overlooking the clear waters of the bay.

Our next stop was Macaulay Mountain, the headquarters of the Conservation Authority. The main building houses exhibits of all the county's conservation areas, plus washroom facilities, and offices. We had a short business meeting here around the picnic tables, while our guests rambled on the walking paths. There are many birdhouses here built by county residents. Area comprises 172 hectares of woodland, a pond and all with the mountain in the background.

The rest of the bus trip involved a coffee/tea break at Angelinè's - a recently opened tea room in Bloomfield. We could choose from a variety of fine desserts and a short social time. This ended a most enjoyable day arriving back in Ameliasburgh in the late afternoon.

l to r: Margaret Vandavelde  
Fay Wetherall  
Marlene Corfield  
Daisy Wannamaker  
Helen Corfield  
Margaret Durrant  
Jean Vanclief  
Vivian Green  
Mabel Rattray (with hat)  
Anna Way  
Ruth Peck  
Edith Cairns

Photo contributed by Daisy Wannamaker

