

ACHIEVEMENTS

A significant event took place in the village of Ameliasburgh on Tuesday, August 20, 1991.

"Purdy Lane" was named in honour of Al Purdy, our local poet and author of now more than 35 volumes to his credit. Al lives on the south side of Roblin Lake and has made the comment that he feels very comfortable in his "A" frame dwelling. He's been here ever since the mid 50's.

Back in December 1990, Mrs. Edith Cairns, President, made a presentation to Ameliasburgh Township Council requesting that the short road from the top of the village main street down to Grove Cemetery and the Harry Smith Conservation Area be named "Purdy Lane". The original name of Hill Street appears on local maps but was seldom used as such. Mrs. Cairns wanted to recognize Mr. Purdy and his work and had the support of her group as well as the local council.

A group of interested citizens, W.I. members, the Reeve and members of council, Keith Taylor, General Manager of the Prince Edward Conservation Euthority, Mrs. Cindy Conder, Chairman of the Authority, Mrs. Cairns and the guest of honour, Mr. Purdy, all gathered to make it official. In a short speech of acceptance he said he was appreciative of the honour conferred upon him. He arrived on the scene in a white stretch limousine driven by a relative and greeted with applause. Mrs. Claire Lamont, of Picton was also present and consented to read one of Al's poems - "Great Flowers Are the Road".

The nameplate "Purdy Lane" hangs just below the sign indicating the Harry J. Smith Conservation Area just about the centre of the village itself. The roadway curves gently down a fairly steep hill to a picturesque cemetery and the mill pond which lies alongside the site of the first settlement called Way's Mills of 1829 or so. When Owen Roblin Built the mill named after him in 1842 it replaced the one under the hill. An appropriate plaque was erected down by the mill pond by the Smith family in 1984 and unveiled before a huge community picnic donating the land to be used as a recreation area. The Authority has done a massive cleanup and in doing so revealed a goodly number of stone foundations of the original settlement. They created a picnic site and a walkway around the pond.

Reeve, Bill Bonter, gave credit to Rednersville WI for initiating the event. The group present were all invited to a light lunch at the stone school now the present Ameliasburgh Library. S.S. No. 12 is another historical feature of this small community.

Ameliasburgh Garden Club planted annuals in the containter under the official sign.



l to r: Councillors Bob Bell, Bob Keene
Edith Cairns, Keith Taylor,
Cindy Conder, Bill Bonter
Al Purdy

l to r: Claire Lamont, Jean Stater, Fay
Wetherall, A. Lamont, Erin Stather,
Anne Donafeld, Chris Stather,
behind Cindy Donafeld, Bruce Graham



Pictures donated by
Daisy Wannamaker - Aug. 91