

## BENT RIVER

Position 45<sup>0</sup>13'N 79<sup>0</sup>32'W

The dispersed community of Bent River is located just south of Highway 141, about 18 miles southwest of the town of Hunstville.

The community was part of Watt Township until 1971 when the township joined with other communities to form the Township of Muskoka Lakes. Bent River's population at that time stood at 88.

Among the early settlers of the hamlet were the Kingshotts, Youngs, Fullertons, Beathunes, Greers and Eatons.

The village was originally called Bent Riverdale, but at the suggestion of A. J. Clements the name was shortened to Bent River. Mrs. James Young was the first postmistress when a post office was opened at Bent River in the early 1900's. Roy Bunn was the last post master at the time of its closing in 1967.

The first school was a small frame building erected in 1887. It was later replaced by a brick structure, but the school closed in 1966 and a new public school was opened near Ullswater. The old Bent River schoolhouse now serves as the Women's Institute Hall.

Early church services were held in the Bent River schoolhouse but the Anglican congregation now worships in the church in Ullswater.

