

Political change came to the Village of Brighton in 1850

As a result of the 1849 Baldwin Act, an act was passed in the Territorial Divisions of Upper Canada Aug. 2, 1851 forming the United Counties of Northumberland and Durham and many other important boundary changes across the country. Brighton Township (46,719 acres) was created by taking a chunk of Cramahe and Murray townships. The first day was Jan. 1, 1852. The Village of Brighton (2,600 acres) was later incorporated Nov. 24, 1858.



BONNIE BROWNE

According to Mrs. Solomen, who was married in 1858, everyone had a flock of sheep and wool was picked, cleaned, and sent to the Butler carding mill to be made into rolls or spun. The spinning wheel and hand loom was a form of relaxation. Boots and shoes came from the shoemaker and were made from calf skin and cow leather tanned at the Brighton Tannery. The fireplace kept the family warm. Cooking was done in skillets, baking pans for bread, and big iron cooking pots hanging from a crane. Since locally milled flour was often very coarse these early housewives could

not use recipes but baked by feel. During the summer, hardwood coals were covered with hardwood to prevent it from going out. If this happened one made a trip to a neighbour to borrow fire. Quilting, logging, husking bees, and barn-raising were necessary for survival and only social events these early settlers had. Parents had to pay a fee for each child to attend school and offer a week's room and board for the teacher per child.

Local hamlets grew around mill areas. Although the settlements had little money

they were self-sufficient. The general store owner went weekly into the Village of Brighton with butter, eggs, lard, and hides exchanged for items needed by the area farms, like salt, sugar, and spices. Mills took wood, animal skin, and grain and supplied the material required by the area cobblers, harness makers, wheelwrights, bakers, and homemakers.

The 1851 census for Township of Brighton indicates there was one baker, nine merchants, six tailors, eight sawyers, eight coopers, 10 wheelwrights, 14 shoemakers, five tanners, and nine blacksmiths.

The Grand Trunk Railroad opened in 1856. A new source of income was available now that farmers could send their farm-fresh produce to the growing urban communities and were able to purchase early manufactured goods. By 1861, the Village of Brighton had a population of 1,082 and the Township 3,713.

Each year local farm acreage increased and during 1860s the United States Civil War era farmers lined the roads leading

to local ports like Gosport in the fall with wheat, planks, shingles, etc. Growing and harvesting wheat was a very labour intensive job. It was estimated a 10-bag democrat load of wheat would have taken the farm family up to 800 hours to produce.

When Canada was formed in 1867 the newly formed province of Ontario had a population of 1.5 million. The story goes when Sir John A. Macdonald, our first prime minister, came to the opening of the Murray Canal in 1886 Mrs. Peter Covell was able to obtain a \$10 donation from Mr. Macdonald to have his name put on a black satin quilt. This would be seed money to the Brighton Baptist Ladies Aid. By the 1880s still 80 per cent of the Canadian population lived rurally. The 1890 McKinley Tariff ended shipping to U.S. markets.

We hope your organizations have officially registered your 2011 events to ensure they are part of the 160th anniversary promotions. Help make this an unforgettable year Brighton residents will proudly remember for years. For more information, call Bonnie Browne at 613-475-0915.

■ CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP

NORTHUMBERLAND TODAY Feb. 10/11

Cramahe working on green initiatives

In a strategic planning session last month, Cramahe Council proposed the formation of a "green" committee. The purpose of the committee is threefold:

1. To assist Council and staff in the formulation of a Conservation and Demand Management Plan as required by the Green Energy Act.
2. To develop strategies to promote energy conservation by the public.
3. To develop strategies for renewable energy generation by the township and by busi-



Jim Williams
COUNCIL CORNER

ness and industrial organizations in the municipality.

Council has already started a number of initiatives which demonstrate the high priority being placed on Cramahe becoming a Green Community. These include:

- The application for funding to install water meters in all residences serviced by the

Colborne Water System. The installation of water meters will not only result in up to 30% reduction in daily water consumption but will also provide annual savings in the operation of both water and sewage treatment, delaying the need for an expanded sewage treatment facility by several years;

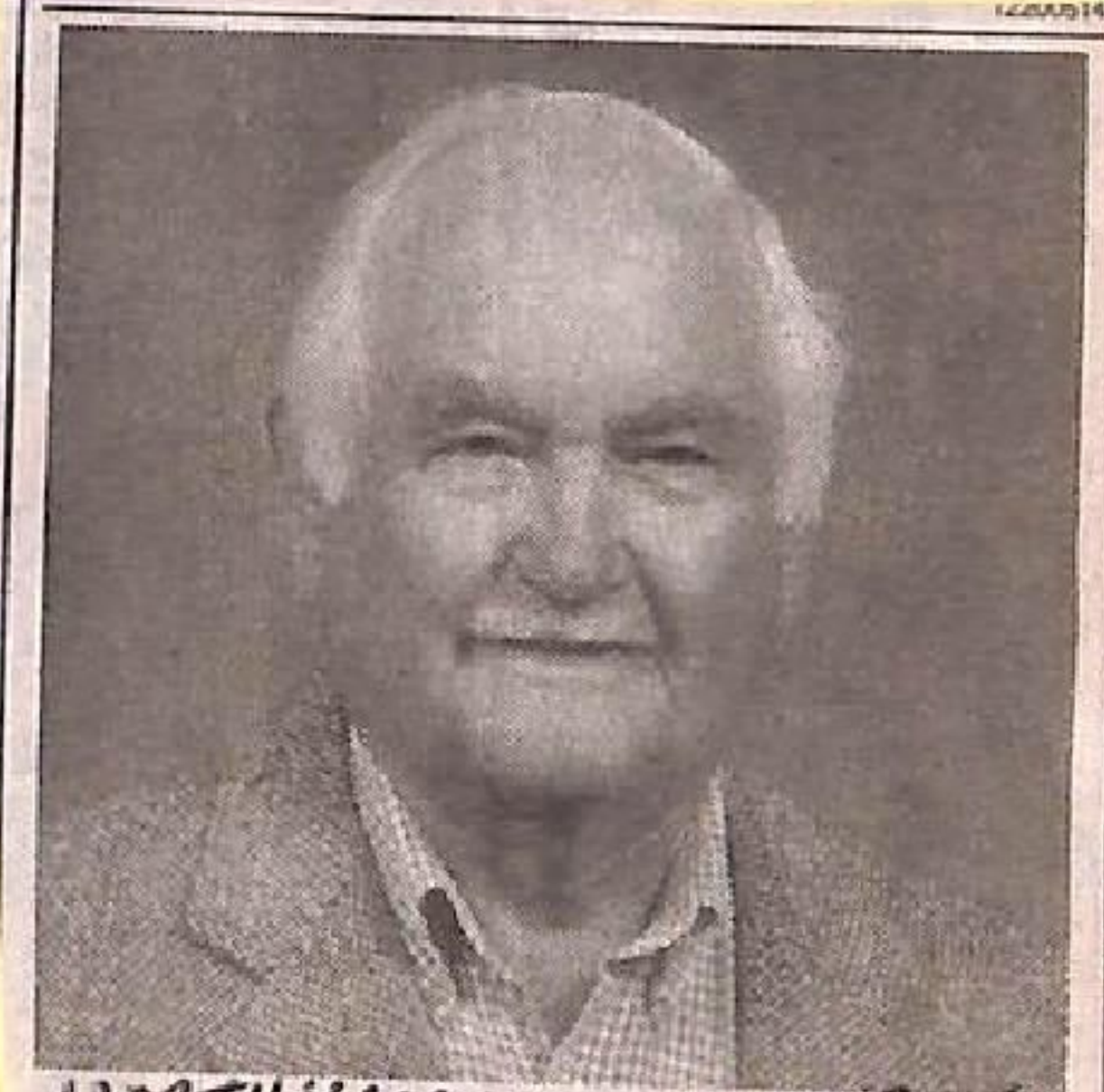
- The investigation of options to install and operate solar panels on township buildings as a renewable energy source. At the present time a proposal is being developed to place solar panels on

the roof of the Keeler Centre;

- Carrying out an energy audit on all township facilities;
- Encouraging the use of renewable energy sources in our new Industrial Park.

In order to accomplish our objective in becoming a Green Community we need your help. If you have ideas to share with us or if you are interested in serving on our committee, please contact the township office. Your involvement will be appreciated.

Jim Williams is deputy mayor of Cramahe Township.



NORTHUMBERLAND TODAY

CAMPBELL, Donald Raynor - At his residence in Cobourg on Friday, February 4, 2011, Donald R. Campbell, in his 88th year, former Reeve of Haldimand Township and member of County Council, was the beloved husband of Helen Mary Quinn Campbell (neé Cavalier). Dear father of Peter Quinn (Barbara), Judy Caldwell (Paul) and Mary McLaughlin (Mike). Predeceased by his first wife Helen Christine (neé Watson.) Grandfather of Alex, Brendan, Kieran, Morgan, Jen, Amy, Lucy, Nina, Ian and Aidan. Great grandfather of Freida and Renee. Don will be sadly missed by his extended Quinn family and grandchildren. He will be remembered for his wonderful sense of humour and his infectious laughter. A funeral service for Don will be held at the **MacCOUBREY FUNERAL HOME**, 30 King St. E., Cobourg on Tuesday, February 8, 2011 at 3 p.m. Friends may call at the funeral home from 2 p.m. till time of service. Following cremation, spring interment at Castleton Cemetery. Donations in memory of Don can be made to the Northumberland Hills Hospital Foundation or the charity of one's choice. Condolences to MacCoubrey.com. Feb. 7/11



Upcoming Wedding

Kathy and Ron McGuckin of Woodville and Kerry and Ed McDonald of Grafton are pleased to announce the upcoming marriage of their children, Laura and Andy. The wedding will take place in June of 2011. Congratulations!

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