

In those early years there was much religious fervour, and in the year 1860 two large churches were erected. The Methodist Episcopalians built the stone church on the hill, which is now Grace United Church. The Primitive Methodists put up a large frame building on Amelia Street, which is now owned by the Royal Canadian Legion.

Village Name

You may ask why the village was named Sydenham ? In 1841 the Kingston newspaper reported that at a public meeting of residents, Squire Wm. Holditch suggested that the village of Sloat's Landing be named Sydenham to honour Lord Sydenham, the British Governor of Canada, who had recently died in Kingston. Squire Holditch lived on Portland Avenue, where Mr. and Mrs. Eric Forde now reside. The local story about Squire Holditch was that " he was an Englishman of means and importance " -- and he certainly lived in a very nice house for the times.

The Point

In closing I wish to talk about the Loughborough Memorial Recreation Centre, more often called " The Point ". In the late 1940's all the Sydenham lakeshore property was privately owned, so a group of far-seeing people began negotiating to acquire the Point property as a permanent site for public recreation. It was the Sydenham Board Of Trade and the Womens' Institute who took the option on the property and began the campaign for the money to buy The Point. It was paid for in nine years, - - and as a Womens' Institute member I can report that \$550.00 was raised each year by the Sydenham Branch. That represents a lot of pies and catered meals !! The Point was operated by a Board of Management for nearly 25 years, when it was formally turned over to Loughborough Township. There is an historical plaque in the Township Hall recording these facts.

Today I have covered only a few points of Loughborough Township's history, - - and now I invite you upstairs to the Township Hall to browse through the historical displays there.

Tomorrow afternoon at 1.30 p.m. you may join me for a walking tour of the village to see some of the historical buildings of Sydenham. We will be leaving from the front of the Township Hall. Thank you.