

THE TOWNSHIP OF GREENOCK.

Greenock Township lies in the very heart of Bruce County, completely surrounded by the lands of other townships. The County did not develop from this hub, but built up around it so that it was the last township south of the Peninsula, to be taken up by the pioneers.

The pioneers looked at Greenock and walked away because they saw a great swamp covering much of the southern section. Later on that same swamp, filled with fine white pines and vast quantities of other valuable timber, became the drawing card in the race for land.

"The Swamp" as it was very often referred to, appeared to be a crux which no man would ever conquer. But the settlers who came to Greenock were strong of will and mindful of ways in which to make their new land a great place to live.

As a part of the "Queen's Bush" Greenock Township shares most of the events of its early development with its neighbouring townships. It is not the events that give a special character to Greenock but its geography. In Bruce County, and indeed in all of Southern Ontario, Greenock is, as Norman Robertson described in his "History of the County of Bruce" a "most unique of townships".

Greenock Township is located in the southern part of Bruce County, in south western Ontario. In terms of the globe, Greenock is within 44° N Latitude and 81° W Longitude. It is caught between townships that share the characteristic southern Ontario rectangular north south orientation, and a row of townships aligned to Lake Huron. Greenock's rectangular south changes to a northern point near the village of Paisley.

The township is 16 miles along its eastern border and 9 miles across its southern border. The elevation is generally between 700 and 1025 feet above sea level. The area is given as 65,000 acres.

The township had its beginning in the fertile imagination of Alex. Wilkinson PLS. In 1847 Wilkinson was instructed to make a survey south of what is now Bruce County. In this task he discovered the Queen's Bush to be relatively uncharted. That winter Wilkinson devised a plan that formed the basis for the division of the territory.

On August 26, 1848 by Order-in-Council, the Government announced the surveying of a colonization road, the Durham Road, from the Penetangore River to the County of Simcoe, and in this declaration the Township of Greenock is named.

In 1849 two of the first residents of Greenock Township were Joseph C. Chartrand and John Casquette. Both were French Canadians from Quebec, and were employed in the survey of the Durham Road. The two men chose Riversdale being the junction of the