

THE TOWNSHIP OF GREENOCK (continued)

Durham Road and the Teeswater River.

Chartrand and Caskanette obtained their supplies from Goderich or the Indians. While the lots on the Durham Road had been made narrower for mutual protection against the Indians that protection was never needed. The survival of the settlers often depended on purchase of venison from the Indians still resident in the area. Herds of deer numbering more than 20, could be found in the swamp. This wilderness, however, also contained packs of wolves and the isolation of the bush.

During the late 1840's persons moved in and began clearing land in the Queen's Bush, but, as late as 1850, it was announced concerning Greenock that, "as the survey is not completed as there is no intention of opening the road through the Township at present it is desirable that no locations should be made this season"..

When the settlement was approved in Greenock, those who obtained title under the 1848 colonization road declaration, were able to obtain fifty free acres if they were over eighteen and met the following conditions. They must have references as to their sobriety and probity. They must be able to maintain themselves until the land would provide. Within four years they had to clear twelve acres and build a house. Above all, they had to reside on the land or lose it.

What perhaps is most amazing, in the whole of the Queen's Bush, is the rapid transformation from a pioneer area to an organized Township and County. In 1850, under the United Counties of Huron, Bruce and Perth, the whole of Bruce County was administered by Ashfield and Wawanosh Townships. This was due to the small population of Bruce County. As the Township Council, that had jurisdiction for Bruce County, did not contain any residents of Bruce County, the residents of Bruce County refused to pay taxes.

By 1852 the townships had enough population to attach the other southerly townships in Bruce County to Kincardine Township. John Guest acted as assessor and tax collector that year in Greenock.

On May 16, 1856, less than ten years from the first surveying, the separate County of Bruce and the separate Township of Greenock came into existence.

According to the census of 1852, there were 244 persons in Greenock Township. Already the Greenock townsite on the southern border of Brant and Greenock Townships had been disbanded, as settlement had followed other patterns. On the northeast side of the Township