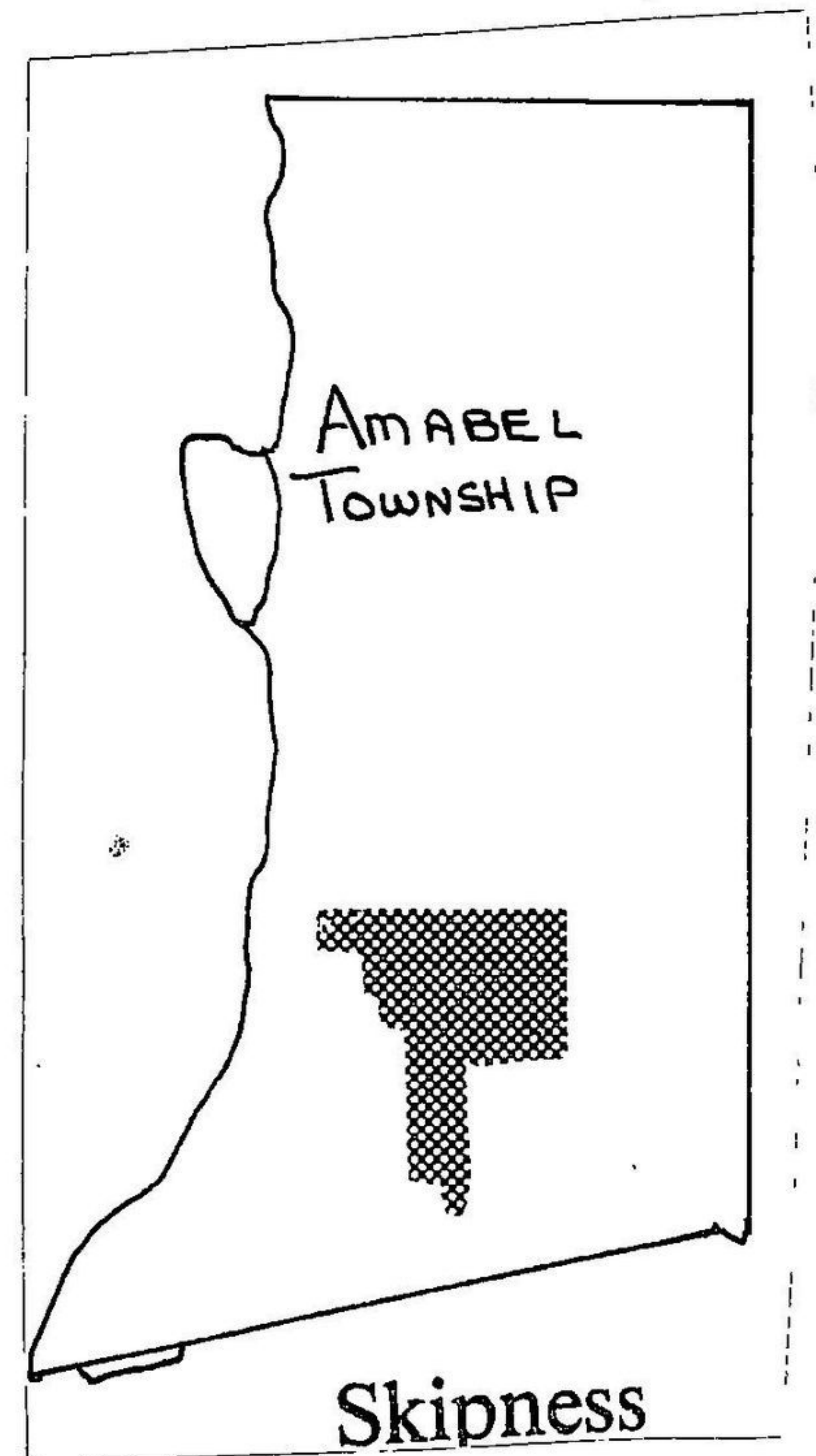


## Skipness

This little community did not grow from its early beginnings. In 1915, the school was burned and replaced; it remained as a school section area until the Township Board built the Central School at Hepworth.

In early years, the Methodists and Presbyterians used the same church building. Shortly after Church Union in 1925, the church was closed but it was reopened by the Presbyterians who used it until it was closed in 1934.

About 1914, rural mail from Allenford came through the area. The telephone came in about 1910 and hydro about 1949. For many years a sawmill operated in the area, and it was particularly busy after the Good Friday storm of 1913. Gradually its usefulness decreased and disappeared, and the whole area became a farming community with some interest being shown in summer resorts on Gould and Mary Lakes in recent years.



### Skipness Post Office

Donald Reid, who settled on Lot 16, Concession 3, named Skipness and was its first postmaster in 1868. The post office was in his home. Later postmasters for Skipness were Thomas Blenkin, 1870-1872; William Hall, 1872-1876; David Morton, 1876-1893; James Davidson, 1893-1902; Richard Webster, 1903-1906; David Morton, 1906-1911; and James Davidson Jr., 1912-1914.

In 1914 the post office was closed, and rural mail delivery began.

### Telephone

The first telephone line came in from Allenford--the Allenford Telephone Company--to the community as far as the Davidson farm in 1909. In 1910 it went up the blind between Concessions 2 and 3. In 1911 it went into the Davidson McDonald farm on Concession 5. In 1939 it came to the 15th of Amabel as far as Alvin Blue's farm and on to the Skipness Corner, then to the Chambers farm on Concession 5 and on up to the Harvey Beirnes farm on Concession 6.

### A Few Stories From The Past

by Archie Blue

When the telephone line was first built on the blind line north of Chesley Lake, Mr. James Davidson called neighbour Mr. Saul Hunt, who lived about a mile up road, and asked, "Have you got your shoes off, Saul?" "Yes" answer Saul. "I thought so," said Mr. Davidson, "Can smell your feet".

One time, after the depression years of the 1930s, Mr. Wesley Hammond was talking to a friend and was telling him that his son, Louis, had gotten a job at four dollars a day, and quite proudly added, "That's eight dollars in just two days." Some difference from today's wages, wouldn't you say?

### Mrs. Mary Blue remembers working at Reid's Mill

when news of the end of the Boer War was announced. The mill couldn't start up that day because some of the mill gang were celebrating. They were walking tightropes from one lumber pile to another.

### Hydro

The first hydro line was built in 1949 in the Skipness area and the farmers rejoiced that they finally had electric power.

### Red Cross

The Skipness ladies organized a group during War II known as the Skipness Red Cross Society. They met in the homes of the community. They did and raised money to pack boxes to send overseas soldiers as well as assisting the Red Cross outreach.