

LOCAL BUILDINGS PORTRAY



IT WAS THE WISH of the late J. A. Murray that make use of this building. So said his cousin, Mr. G. W. Murray, in laying the corner stone of the Y.M.C.A. building in October, 1934. Masonic Lodge, all first homes in this building at every section of Acton and district should

Pioneer Cemetery Becomes Crowded Beautiful Fairview Established in Acton

Fairview Cemetery, the beautiful city of the dead, was opened over forty years ago and many members of the old families secured plots and the remains of numbers of dear ones which had been in Acton's first graveyard were removed and re-interred in the new plots in Fairview.

The survey of the cemetery was made with a view to landscape beauty and effect. It is well kept and the soil is clean and dry. It is a beautiful spot. Nature has done much for its general contour with its rolling terraces and vast expanses of green.

In 1934 the Women's Institute culminated a dream in erecting the fine entrance to the cemetery. The stone pillars support an iron arch with the words "Fairview Cemetery" on it. The cut stone wall covers the frontage on Main Street and the large amount of land in front of the burial ground insures the use of the ground property for many years to come.

Among the first interments in the Pioneer cemetery was that of Rev. Zevas Adams, one of the founders of the settlement. That was after it was realized that the settlement should have a cemetery rather than interring loved ones on land cleared on the homestead.

In time, however, the original plot became filled and additions became necessary. When these were satisfied an agitation for a new cemetery was begun which resulted in the name of Fairview Cemetery.

For years the old cemetery was forgotten by most people and weeds and briars flourished. The late Nelson Moore headed a Board of Trustees that undertook to put it into presentable condition. Headstones were assembled and built into a permanent cairn in the centre of the cemetery.

The early life of the community is truly told in the headstones of these early settlers and their work is preserved and their deeds remembered by those thoughtful men that planned the erection of the Cairn.

James Matthews Operates Post Office Town Centre Over 75 Years Ago

Acton, as all the public building that a progressive town may boast, has evolved from settlement village to town has been one that has demanded constant improvements in buildings and conditions of the town's property.

It is noted that post offices were the first buildings to be established in the community and Acton had their own what was known as the Post Office Store, operated by James Matthews, for over fifty years. It was located on the present

site of the Bank of Nova Scotia and was last occupied by W. Evans as a butcher shop.

The present post office building and customs house was erected in 1913 and the fine brick structure is a very imposing addition to the Mill Street.

Hutchens Bakery, the building at the rear of the lot, formerly occupied the site until it was bought by the government for the post office. The town revolved around this site since almost twenty-five

years ago when it was the Post Office store.

The late Postmaster James Matthews had a fine post office and telegraph quarters in the rear and a commodious grocery and crockery store in front. Many other thriving stores occupied these quarters and the Oddfellows Hall was among these. There, indeed, on Dominion Day, 1875, on the second floor the Free Press first saw the light of day as the first editions rolled from the presses of Joseph Hacking.



THIS WAS the old school before the brick additions were made and many people will recall happy school days in this building.



ERECTED IN 1913 the present government building occupies the former site of the building that is now Hutchens Bakery. It was moved to make way for the new and modern post office. The clock was not in place when this picture was taken but it now plays an integral part in community life.

Many New Improvements Necessary Acton Schools Keep Pace With Times

Acton's first school was erected on the corner of River Street and Main Street and the building still stands although it has been used as a residence since 1870. For many years Acton's second school stood on the lawn on the north-east corner in front of the old Knox Church.



AS ACTON'S FIRST Post Office this building served a number of years. On completion of the new government buildings it housed other stores, finally being removed to make way for the present Bank of Nova Scotia.

About 1860 the stone school building was erected on the site it now occupies and around which the present school buildings have been erected.

William McIntosh was the first contractor for the stone work and Eli Snyder for the carpentry. Wm. was a Scotchman and came to Canada in the early days of this settlement. He lived in the house opposite the entrance to Fairview Cemetery.

Dr. Nelson McGarvin was the treasurer of the School Board at this time and the site for the school was purchased from Sidney Smith in 1859. The purchase price of the area for the original site was evidently \$325.87.

The school was reached in the early days by a lane which ran past the house where "Sandy" McIsaac now resides, over a plank bridge crossing the little creek, past the shingle mill and yard, up through the new section acquired about 45 years ago to enlarge the school grounds, and then with a turn at right angles entrance was made past the school pump into the grounds.

After Mr. Sidney Smith built his fine new home which is now the Acton High School, he desired a driveway to Main St. The newly opened 50 foot street was named Education Lane and was planted on both sides with sugar maples and was one of the prettiest avenues in the village. Mr. Smith erected stately entrance gates and turn-

stiles on Main Street. Through constant use, however, these gates became worn and were removed by the School Board.

When the school was built, about 1859 or 60 the Board was progressive and decided to heat it from a brick furnace in an excavation underneath. It would not, however, accomplish its intended purpose. But the excavated section underneath the registers made a fine resort for mischievous boys. They would get down there by the outside entrance at recess and stay there. When lessons were resumed there would come from the lower regions ghostly groans. By the time the master got down after the pranksters they had made themselves scarce through the outside doorway or by quietly hiding in the darkness back of the furnace. There were no flashlights, nor even matches in those days.

The first brick addition was made to the old stone school in 1892 and then in 1914 another addition became imperative as Acton's population grew and the second brick addition gave us the present school.

Again officials have discovered that the present school is not large enough to accommodate the population of this growing town and plans have been prepared for a new school. And so Acton goes on contributing well educated youth to meet the unlimited opportunities of democratic Canada.