



THRIVING GENERAL STORE in Rockwood for 30 years was operated by Art Laing. Since then it has been Plank's general store, Lawrence's general store and now Root's hardware. It is believed the stone for the building was drawn on stone boats from the valley road area before the valley road was built. Masonry work was done under the guidance of Erasmus's present reeve, Joe Oakes.

Focus on Re-Opening

Rejected Church to Modern Store Cinderella Story from Rockwood

An old, unwanted church that became a smart and modern store is the Cinderella story from Rockwood.

The re-opening of Root's hardware and Art's groceries there recall the tale.

Back in the days when men cut their crops with a cradle and the oxen were more common than the horse, a group of Christians banded together to build in Rockwood a modest frame building to be known as St. John's Anglican church. The land was deeded to the church group by Mr. Strang and the first church was built on the southeast corner in 1859.

The first clergyman in the new church was Rev. Drinkwater, who lived on the land later occupied by Frank Day.

Considered Unsuitable

After 21 years of service, this old building was deemed unsuitable and preparations were made to build a new church on a new site. This church was occupied in 1881 and the old building was abandoned.

This abandoned building stood idle for only a short time. A foundation was built across the street on the property then owned by Mr. Taylor and the old building placed on it. Some renovation was done and a glove factory was operated by Jague Bros. for a number of years.

Prompt Closing

At the end of the glove company's sojourn, this 1850 model building first took on its existence as a retail store. A gentleman by the name of Shaw operated a drug store. (Rumor had it that this store was very prompt to close at 6 p.m.) It seems the gentleman was chivalrous and the lady of the post office must be escorted to her place of abode.

The odd person in Rockwood can still remember when the first hardware store came to Rockwood. After a short stay in the present Saunders' Bakery, the business moved down the street to the old church. It changed hands several times in the next few years—Murd Munro to Barry Munn, then to Russell Peart, who took possession in 1906.

Additions Made

About four years later, Mr. Peart added living quarters at the back. Two additional buildings were added for storage and the site was more or less established as a hardware store.

In 1923, Peter Sim came to serve the customers at the renovated church. They say it was through his influence that the original pine flooring was covered with hardwood—it took too long to sweep around the knots!

The business was sold to Joe Follick in 1928, but he returned the business to Mr. Peart, who again sold, this time to Alvin Root in 1930.

Picture Changes

Mr. Root came to Rockwood from Windsor. In 1938, the building was given a face lifting that practically hid all traces of its former form. The high framed windows were removed and false ceilings put in. Modern display windows and redecoration gave

life and attractive beauty to a building that had been deemed not worthy of repair.

After a 28 year stay in the old church, Root's purchased the building next door, and again left the old church for further renovations.

Would Please Bishop

These renovations are now complete and a modern self-serve grocery is operating from the old stand. Al. Nichol, a veteran of 15 years of grocery and meat sales experience, has given a new look that would please even the bishop in the days of Rev. Drinkwater.

Vegetables frozen foods, meats and a full line of groceries are all displayed in modern self-serve method. So the old building starts its second century of service with a "snow" white coat and the smell of good things to eat.

The new location of Root's does not boost the age of the old church but there are few who can remember when it wasn't there.

The building was erected for John Innes, who for years had a tailor shop in Rockwood. The masonry work was done under the guidance of the father of Erasmus's present reeve, Joe Oakes. The proof of Harry Oakes' ability as a mason is to be found when you try to cut a hole in the 20' stone walls. Every stone is firmly held in place by the original lime mortar. The stone for this building, we are told, was drawn on stone boats from the valley road area before the valley road was built.

Laings for 30 Years

This fine stone building served as a general store for many years under the management of Simon Grievs. From there it passed to Art Laing, who operated a thriving general store from 1906 until 1936, and served as a wholesaler for smaller merchants in the area.

After Mr. Laing's death, the store was taken over by his daughter and her husband and operated as Plank's general store.

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OBITUARY

David R. Hutcheon Dies in 89th Year

Funeral services were held Thursday afternoon, April 30 from Ruaney-Shoemaker funeral home, Acton, for David R. Hutcheon, of 129 Main St., who died at his home here Monday night, April 27 after a brief illness.

Rev. Andrew McKenzie of Knox Presbyterian Church and Rev. Gordon Holmes of Acton Baptist Church conducted the service. Interment was in Nasaagaweya Cemetery.

In his 89th year, Mr. Hutcheon was the last senior citizen representing former Gurleigh Road residents. The son of Lucy Brodie and John Hutcheon, he was born on the family farm in Nasaagaweya Township, and attended school at S.S. 3, of that rural district.

In 1901, he was married to Mary Irving at Nasaagaweya Presbyterian Church. She predeceased him 20 years ago.

For close to 30 years, the late Mr. Hutcheon operated the farm in Nasaagaweya, purchased from his father. After moving to Galt he was appointed appraiser on the Farm Loan Board, under the Conservative government of Ontario. During his 10-year residence in Galt, he became proprietor of Galt Monument Works.

Earlier while living in Milton, he operated a feed and coal business.

Church Worker

After his retirement, Mr. Hutcheon came to Acton almost five years ago, with his wife, the former Mable Snyers Armstrong, of Vancouver, whom he married in 1945 at Hamilton.

He is remembered for his activities as a staunch member of Nasaagaweya Presbyterian Church where he served as Sunday school superintendent and secretary-treasurer.

Besides his wife he leaves one nephew, John Moffat, of Campbellton. Mr. Hutcheon was predeceased by two brothers: James a former city engineer in Guelph and also government inspector of surveys, a twin brother, Robert who died in his 23rd year and four sisters: Mary, Margaret, Lizzie and Katherine.

Palbearers were David Henderson, Moffat; George Elliott, Q.C., Milton; Jack Allen, Milton; Earl Van Norman, Phillip LeSueur and Nelson Anderson, all of Acton.

C.G.I.T. NEWS

At the Sunday School room on May 4 the C.G.I.T. girls met at the Presbyterian Church. The group sang their hymn and repeated their purpose.

The business was led by Cheryl Price and Gertrude Kuhn. The girls presented their play "Franquette from France" for the Daughters of Knox.

The meeting closed with Taps.

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23½ Inch Rainbow Trout Caught By Jim Graham in Georgian Bay

While many local fishermen were pitting their skills against the wary brook trout in the Acton area last week-end, others more venturesome journeyed in northern Meaford and landed some good sized rainbow trout in Georgian Bay.

Jim Graham hooked a 44 pound rainbow that measured 23½ inches. Al Kirkness landed five rainbow weighing in at 3½ pounds and John Lovell caught two rainbows weighing about the same.

Charlie Heard netted a one pound brown and a rainbow.

Many other Acton fishermen were in the Meaford area and all returned home with a satisfactory catch according to reports.

Meanwhile, back on the local scene, Mr. Lovell and son Gordon ventured to neighboring streams in the Acton area and caught three brown trout and 10 speckled beauties. Not only did the Lovell family enjoy a feed of fresh fish but through their kindness some of their neighbors shared in their good luck.

In Fairy Lake youngsters were hooking grass pike that have been so popular at the favorite fishing spot, with 18-year-old Bill Stuckey landing a 22 inch pike.

Some boys didn't even bother with a rod. They just reached into the school creek and hauled out big suckers.

A fishing story would not be complete if credit was not given to the ardent angler that always hooks the biggest one but of course "He got away."

4-H Girls Entertain Institute Gifts Presented to Leaders

The 4-H Girls of the Dublin Women's Institute entertained the mothers and members of the Institute at the home of Miss Sharon Blyth, 7th Line, Nasaagaweya, on Tuesday evening. The girls served a delicious luncheon of fancy sandwiches, relishes and cookies to the ladies.

A skill was given, "Tea is served," by Judy Britton, Shirley Langeyn, Shirley Forrest, Katherine Davies, Mary Moffat and Sharon Blyth, which was well received. This skill will be presented on Achievement Day at Milton on May 20.

Mrs. Clark Armstrong, assisted by Miss Jenn Moffat are the leaders of the 4-H Girls, and have done a very creditable work in training the girls.

Miss Jean Britton and Miss Phyllis Forrest presented gifts to Mrs.

Little 'Wan Tad' Says



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The Acton Free Press

W.M.S. Rally In Georgetown

Hilton Presbyterian W.M.S. held a very successful evening rally in St. John's United Church, Georgetown, especially for the Evening Auxiliaries Federations and Affiliated W.A. Auxiliaries.

Mrs. G. W. Cushie, after dessert and coffee, welcomed everyone and called on Port Credit Auxiliary for the worship service.

Mrs. A. B. Harris, president of the Hilton Presbyterian, announced the workshops to be held in May, also the conference for United Church Women to be held at McMaster in June. She urged all groups to deal with the pocket on unification in their own churches.

Mrs. E. C. Toombs conducted a quiz on W.M.S.

Mrs. W. O. Fennell introduced Miss Dorothy Young of Dominion Board, whose subject was "Why Missions?"

Mrs. Cardwell of Burlington introduced Mrs. Russell Graham, who gave a history of missionary work in India since 1918.

Rev. McFarlane pronounced the Benediction.



TAX NOTICE - 1959

MUNICIPALITY OF ACTON

FIRST INSTALMENT NOW DUE

Attention is drawn to the payment of 1959 taxes, which are now payable in four instalments. Taxes are payable to the Municipal Treasurer at the

ACTON PUBLIC UTILITIES OFFICE

INSTALMENTS ARE DUE AS FOLLOWS:

FIRST INSTALMENT - MAY 15
SECOND INSTALMENT - JULY 15
FOURTH INSTALMENT - NOVEMBER 17
THIRD INSTALMENT - SEPTEMBER 15

According to the Tax Collection By-Law a penalty of 4 of 1 per cent. per month will be added on the amount remaining unpaid after the 15th day of May.

This penalty applies to each instalment in a similar manner. The attention of Ratepayers is directed to the Penalties and other clauses as printed on the reverse side of every Tax Notice and explained in detail on every Tax Bill.

MAKE PAYMENT NOW AND TAKE YOUR TAX NOTICE WITH YOU WHEN MAKING PAYMENT

J. McGEACHIE, Collector

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