

Everton mill to be preserved

This is another in a series of essays written by students of the Rockwood school and picked for publication from 150 entries. Brenda Ingle picked Everton and its quaint grist mill as her subject.

by Brenda Ingle

Everton is a charming little village situated on either side of a swiftly flowing branch of the Speed River on the Seventh Concession of the Township of Eramosa.

This area is one of Ontario's finest sites of natural beauty, with its winding river, swift rapids, pot holes and interesting rock formation, crowned with evergreen, cedar, pine and spruce and surrounded by rich agricultural country.

The section where Everton is situated was originally in possession of the Mississauga Indians. On October 18, 1818, an agreement was made and the Crown lands were given free to settlers who agreed to perform

certain settlement duties.

The settlers of Everton hoped that it would become a manufacturing centre, but the railway passed by on one side and the gravelled highway passed on the other. This poem describes Everton's fight for a commercial importance.

"One of those little places that have run
Half up the hill beneath a blazing sun
And then sat down to rest, as if to say
I climb no further upward,
come what may."

THE GRIST MILL

In the early days one of the most important industries to the settlers was the milling of flour.

Rufus Everts, eldest son of the first settlers in Everton put up the framework of the present grist and flour mill, but was unable to finish it. It stood incomplete until William and Simon Flowers, expert millers, agreed to complete the structure and install the necessary machinery in return for the use of the mill

for a number of years. At the end of the agreement the property was returned to Rufus Everts, who in 1874 sold it to Mr. Henry Hortop, one of Eramosa's prominent citizens.

In the year 1900, William, eldest son of Henry Hortop acquired the mills. He married Emma Benham. They had two sons, Clarence and Harry, and a daughter, Muriel.

In 1926, William Hortop purchased the Harris Mill at Rockwood and it was run by his son Clarence. Then in 1952, after his father's death Harry Hortop acquired the mill property. Harry Hortop was the third generation of the Hortop's to operate the mill.

The Hortop Mill at Everton is the only flour mill in Wellington County now in operation and one of the few, if not the only, water-powered flour mills in Ontario.

The flour and grist mill, a three-storey wooden structure is solidly constructed of frame and few changes have been made since it was built over a century ago, the hewn beams being of

particular interest. This same waterpower was harnessed and used by the Hortop family to produce light and power for their home before rural hydro power was available.

In the early days the wheat was drawn from the port of Oakville and the flour was packed in barrels for sale. The farmers in the area brought their wheat to be ground and the flour along with the bran and by-products would be returned to them. This is known as a grist.

As the area developed the grain came by freight to Rockwood Station and was unloaded there and transported first by team and wagon and later by truck. Still later the grain was brought by truck in bulk from lake ports, also thousands of bushels of wheat are purchased annually from the farmers in the area to be ground into pastry flour.

Over the years, much of the flour has been shipped to the Weston and Christie Bakeries in Toronto, by truck directly from the mill. The flour is packed now in seven pound, twenty-four pound and one hundred pound bags and is known as Lily White Pastry Flour.

The flour is also supplied to Guthrie's Bakery in Hespeler and Guelph, Saunders Bakery in Rockwood and Ontario Reformatory as well as stores in Erin, Hillsburgh, Rockwood, Guelph and Bruceville.

Chopping was a specialty in the early days, with as many as five hundred bags being processed in a day. However, with the advent of the machine age, the farmers began installing their own chopping mills and little of this is done at the mill now.

Now, science has provided us with balanced formulae for the farmer's livestock and in 1954, Harry Hortop installed feed-mixing machinery in the flour and grist mill, and since then has processed hundreds of tons of well-balanced feed.

Mr. Hortop did not install any more machinery to ship the flour in bulk as big business demands because he hoped to see the area developed for park lands and fishing in the stream of clear, sparkling water.

Since the history of Everton's Grist Mill was written in the book, "Federation of Agriculture" the mill has been sold to the Grand River Conservation Authority and is to be preserved as a historic site.



HORTOP'S HISTORIC flour mill at Everton is the subject of the essay, picked from 120 written by students at Rockwood public school. The old mill is driven by water power, one of few left in the province. (Staff Photo)

History of Grist Mill in Everton Bibliography - Day Frank, Here and There in Eramosa, Leaman Printing Co., Guelph, 1953; Federation of Agriculture Yearbook 1966.

Install officers

Top students presented books at Rockwood Home and School

by Mrs. F. Taylor

Rockwood -- Mrs. Lois Tosh the president of Rockwood Home and School opened a recent meeting with a reading of the history of Canada written as a Biblical review.

Presentation of books to the two top grade eight students of last term was made to Jerry De Groot and Marjan Drijber. Principal Grant McRae congratulated the winners and made the presentation. The Home and School received a sincere thank you note from the Eramosa

School Board for their help at the official opening of the Rockwood Centennial School.

Mrs. O. Drijber presided for the coming year. They are President, Lois Tosh; vice-president, Sandy Hudson; secretary, Catherine Meredith; treasurer, Marg Cox; program, Joy Law; membership, Alice Nichol; social, Grace Knegt and Mary Kelly; banquet, Hazel Hamilton; staff representative, Grant McRae; U.N.L.C.E.F., Sysko Drijber and March of Dimes, Betty Death.

Four more houses in township permits

Total value of building permits issued in Nassagaweya for the past month were \$81,500.

This includes four new houses at a total value of \$63,000, one addition to a house estimated at \$5,500 and a garage at \$500. There was one commercial addition valued at \$10,000,000. This brings the total for the year up to \$1,993,200.

Even ladies can bag fox

Six people (including two women) applied in October for bounty fees for killing fox. Leona Wilson of Milton and Reita Ouellet of Weston applied for the \$7 bounty fee from the Township of Nassagaweya.

Bounties are awarded for the animals because they have been known to spread rabies through an entire herd of cattle.

Speedside United scene November centennial service

by Mrs. F. Taylor

Rockwood -- The members of Speedside United Church will play host to the November Centennial service for the Township of Eramosa on Sunday evening, November 12 at 8 p.m.

The guest speaker will be Prof. Theakston who will give an illustrated lecture on Nova Scotia. The professor is widely known as a most interesting speaker while showing his pictures of our beautiful country.

Dinner, dance for ball teams

Mothers of the two senior Rockwood softball teams are staging a banquet and dance for the teams this Friday night at the town hall. The banquet starts at 7:30 p.m. and the dance afterwards will be thrown open to the public.

It is hoped fans who have followed the teams through the season will patronize the dance. Admission price is a nominal one dollar.

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Doctor opens Rockwood office

Dr. E.T. Maharaj of Guelph announced this week he is opening a Rockwood office on a part time basis three days a week.

This office is located in the Holman Construction building on Main St.

Office hours will be on Monday and Thursday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. and Saturday morning from 10 to noon.

ANNOUNCEMENT!

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Mrs. P. McGilvray speaks on Canada for U.C.W.

by Mrs. F. Taylor

Rockwood. -- "Canada" and "This Land of Ours" was the topic stressed by Mrs. P. McGilvray the program convenor of the October meeting unit two Rockwood United Church Women.

The speaker mentioned that many wonderful opportunities are available to us here and the things that could be accomplished in Canada.

A poem on Canada opened the program with Scripture reading by Mrs. G. Day and Meditation and prayer by Mrs. Ross Gordon. Miss G. Hanna presented the poem "Ontario Countryside."

Mrs. Freeman Wilson was hostess for the meeting with the unit leader Miss Gladys Hanna leading the group in the opening devotions and conducting the business on hand. In the Hymnary No. 726 was read responsively, followed by a poem on "Courage" by Miss Hanna. All joined in a hymn and the Lords Prayer.

Tea ladies answered the roll call with a current event. The minutes of the last meeting and

the treasurer's report were read and approved. There was a discussion on the annual bazaar and tea to be held on December 2nd in the Sunday School room.

A motion was passed that the November roll call be answered by an article for the touch and take table at the bazaar. The November meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Ross Gordon.

A hymn and the Benediction closed the meeting. A numbers contest was enjoyed during the social time which followed.

A lovely lunch was served by the hostess assisted by Mrs. O. Drijber.

Firefighters' ball in Legion Friday

The 67th annual Firefighters' dance brought a good crowd to the Legion hall Friday evening. The Olymics played for dancing which included some square dances.

The door prize of groceries was won by Gerry Forestall of Guelph.

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