



FAIRY LAKE'S waterfowl population now have houses to keep them warm during the winter. The new houses arrived at the lake yesterday. Acton Cubs helped construct one of the dwellings. The others came from Acton Woodcrafts.—(Staff Photo)

**Ben Case Book**

**Small villages had charm**

Ben Case's history of Halton county continues, with another instalment in today's Free Press.

**HORNBY**  
Hornby in 1876 is described in the Atlas as follows: "Hornby is situated on the base line between Trafalgar and Esquesing, five miles from Milton and six from Georgetown, and contains about 150 inhabitants. The village is divided into two parts, called respectively east and West Hornby, the Post Office being located in the Eastern part. The commercial business is done by Mr. John McMillan and Mr. Charles McClelland, who have very creditable establishments and do a large trade. The former also is Postmaster. Mr. David Lindsay keeps a good hotel, and there are two temperance houses, kept by Samuel Armstrong, and F. Smith. The schoolhouse is a very handsome one, built of brick and is one of the finest in the county. There are four churches, namely: Church of England, Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist. The village also possesses an Orange Hall, Drill Shed and brass band. Among the earliest settlers in this place were James and David Lindsay. There are no manufacturing in the village, but several very close to it. At Farlow, about half a mile from Hornby, Mr. Irwin has a steam saw and shingle mill which is capable of turning out about 18,000 feet of lumber per day, and which generally is run to its full capacity. Mr. George Brain also has a lumber and shingle mill near the village. Messrs. Brain Brothers have the only brewery in the county, on the 8th line, about one mile east of Hornby. This business was established in 1845 by Mr. John Brain, the father of the present proprietors, John and Edwin Brain. The first building was built of logs, but the present is brick and frame. The first year the quantity of barley consumed was 300 bushels, which has now increased to 10,000 bushels, besides about 8,000 lbs. of hops, 40 tons of coal and 300 cords of wood. They employ about 10 men and 40 horses, and the machinery is run by steam. They produce from four to five thousand barrels of beer annually."

Base Line. It owes its prosperity to the nearby brick works and contains a store, and Area school, an Anglican and a Roman Catholic Church, the latter a comparatively new building built after a number of Italian immigrants settled in the village.

The well known brick plants situated at the extreme south west corner of the township are the Milton Brick company and the International Brick company and their products are shipped throughout the province. At one time there was another plant known as the Toronto Pressed Brick Company, partly owned by the Lewis Brothers but after a fire in 1906 it ceased operations.

**STEWARTTOWN**

Stewarttown is one more community that owes its start to the presence of a stream to provide water power, the only available means in those days of running a mill. In 1820 we find two Scots, John and Duncan Stewart procuring the Crown Deed for the East half of Lot 16 Conc. 7 of Esquesing. It was from them that Stewarttown took its name. This property takes in the land on the west side of the 7th line from the Anglican church to half way up the north hill and it extends back to beyond the mill pond. On the east side of the road the 100 acres was owned by William Applebe.

The Stewart property was divided more or less in two by the Acton tributary of the West Branch of the Credit and here the brothers built a dam and erected a saw mill and grist mill, the products of both mills being much in demand by early settlers for building purposes and making flour. About 1847 the mill property, bounded by the road on the north side of the mill pond, was bought by James Young, a Georgetown merchant. In 1872 Joseph Tweddle bought the property from an Alfred Hood and on Nov. 30, 1876 it was sold to Henry P. and David Lawson who had the saw mill in the Scotch block. The property remained in the Lawson family till 1962 when it was sold to the Toronto Elevators. Henry P. Lawson remained a lumberman but David who ran the flour mill died a comparatively young man and his son Walter Sr. took over, succeeded by Walter and his sons Robert and Donald.

By 1850 Stewarttown was a busy thriving village. It contained three hotels, Cross's Tannery (later the Lawson barn north side of the pond), Edward Nixon's harness shop, J. Pitt, saddler, Jones and Nevine, cabinet makers, two good stores besides the lumber and flour mill and a blacksmith shop. Tremaine's map shows the red brick hall of two and a half at the ground floor occupied by the stores of William Applebe and James Young with a ball room on the second floor and a banquet hall on the 3rd. In 1948 this hall was renovated, being cut down to a floor occupied by the Council

chambers and a spacious meeting and dance hall.) With the coming of the railway to Georgetown in 1856, the village began to remain more or less at a standstill, but business kept fairly constant until the early part of the century when, like other villages, a decline set in for various reasons until today only the feed mill remains of its one time prosperity.

The first Post Office in the township was called Esquesing and was situated on the 7th line on lot 9 Conc. 7 (just below Ashgrove) and Henry Fyfe was Postmaster. It was moved about 1840 to Stewarttown but was still known as Esquesing. The Atlas (1876) continues, the village contains a large two-storey brick schoolhouse; has two churches - Church of England and Wesleyan Methodist; a Drill Shed the headquarters of No. 2 Company, 20th Battalion under command of Captain Applebe. Here also is situated a Grangers Lodge and Orange Lodge (still standing 1969); also a Lodge of Good Templars."

**PERU**

Peru was a once thriving village situated on the First Line on lots 2 and 3, where the Sixteen mile Creek crosses the road. It once had a saw mill, a tannery and a large ashery and soap factory owned by the Center Brothers. The soap was made in huge iron cauldrons, one or two of which still exist in the neighborhood.

Perhaps Peru's chief claim to fame now is being the birth place of the noted surgeon Dr. Edwin Robertson who was chief pediatrician at the Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto. He became better known as one of the three men trapped in the Moose River Mine in Nova Scotia, in 1936. The rescue operations were followed breathlessly throughout the continent by newspaper and that comparatively new invention, the radio. There are a few other small communities on the 7th

Line, each one containing a store, blacksmith shop, perhaps a mill and a hotel, the latter partly for the accommodation of farmers on the long trek to Oakville with wheat and other produce.

**BALJINAFAD**

This village at the junction of the 7th Line and the town line between Erin and Esquesing once had two stores, a grist mill, a blacksmith shop (operated until fairly recently by the Ferguson Brothers), a wagon shop, a pump factory and a hotel. Of these businesses only a store and the mill, run now as a feed mill, remain. There is a very excellent community hall, erected recently through the efforts of a number of public spirited citizens.

**SILVER CREEK**

At one time this village on the 7th Line at the foot of the "mountain" had a saw mill and a grist mill, a store, hotel and Methodist Church. Also there was considerable quarrying and lime-burning done here but now nothing remains of all these activities

**ASHGROVE**

This village according to the Atlas did only a small business. In addition to store, hotel and blacksmith shop there was a large saw mill operated by a George Cooke which flourished until the supply of timber was exhausted.

**RENT A CASCADE 40 HOT WATER HEATER**  
Just \$1.75 Per Month  
AT ACTON HYDRO  
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**OUR READERS WRITE: Board worries**

**Please plant a tree**

188 Churchill Road South, Acton, Ont.

Dear Sirs, and Fellow Readers:

It is with a great deal of sadness I have watched the cutting down of the large trees on the east side of Churchill Road South; first of all the poplars, which I have watched form their catkins in the spring of the last five years, then the opening of the leaves. Now the evergreens are going too, two of them have already been removed, and I think of the hundreds of birds who will now be homeless through the winter.

There has been a great deal said lately about the ecology, and I cannot help wondering how much the removal of these lovely old trees will upset our local ecology. I know there are still lots of trees in this area, opposite my own home for instance, but none of these are evergreens, and so there is very little shelter for the birds during the winter.

The local authorities would tell me this is "Progress", but "Progress" towards what? A larger town, in which nature has less chance to play its part, or what?

I know how long trees take to grow to a good size, since coming to live in Acton just over five years ago, we have planted six trees of different varieties and they are now well established, but of course still quite small. It will take years for them to grow to any size, and it still puzzles me how people can cut large trees down without a qualm, and never intend to plant others to replace them. My only hope is that people buying the new houses which are being built on the property from which these trees have been removed, will plant new ones to replace them.

My advice to everyone is, plant a tree, watch it grow, and you will know just what I am trying to say.

Margaret E. Wright.

**Seek others' views**

Nov. 15th, 1971

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,  
After we received word that the Hydro planned to use a corridor in the Township of Erin, we were prompted to place an ad in another section of your paper.

There appears to be a "push" to have this matter settled by the Spring of 1972, although we were only officially advised this past week. It would appear that there are alternate routes which would not destroy the

present ecology. Why are these not being considered? If the Hydro has, why have we not been advised publicly or individually? Why not underground cables along the already existing utility corridor? Other countries have this, why not us?

We would like to hear the views of other public-spirited citizens on this matter.

Yours Truly,

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Tizzard.

Members of Halton County Board of Education expressed dismay at the lack of public participation in the work of program councils

Trustee Dick Goodin noted the public participation at councils was just about nil. Vice-chairman John Ronson said the public participation was difficult to get

**Small crowd**  
At two recent public meetings only teachers and one newspaperman attended. Director Jim Singleton acknowledged that more, and earlier advertising of the meetings would make it more fair but he didn't feel it would solve the problem.

Trustee Hugh Clohecy suggested too many of the meetings were held at 4.30 in the afternoon rather than in the evening when people could attend.

**MILTON HEIGHTS**

Milton Heights is a flourishing hamlet which straddles the town line between Esquesing and Nassagaweya and extending almost to No. 5 sideroad from the

**From the editor's desk**

(Continued from Page 4)  
there. The expressways would have alleviated the crowding.

A note from Bruce Lobay 410 Washington Ave., Winnipeg 15, Manitoba, informs that he and about 50 other Canadians are interested in forming a non-profit Licence Plate Collectors Club of Canada.

They'd like to hear from people interested in old auto licence plates as collectors' items. It is a nation-wide appeal. Objective is to collect a licence plate from each province for each year plates were made.

Contact the above name and address for more information.

As careful as we try to be, each week there are errors in this newspaper but we've yet to reach the level (touch wood) of a small town in Ontario where the mayor's wife died and the old icehouse landmark burned down on the same day.

The local newspaper printed a two-column picture of the deceased lady on the front page with the misplaced heading: "Old Eyesore Gone at Last."

**CHRISTMAS OUTDOOR Residential Lighting**

This year the Acton Hydro Electric is sponsoring an "Outdoor Residential Christmas Lighting" Contest.

— FOR THE BEST DECORATED HOME —

① \$75.00 ② \$50.00 ③ \$25.00

All users of the Acton Hydro system are eligible. Hydro employees and Commissioners not eligible. Judges will be Officials of Ontario Hydro with judging to take place on or after Dec. 15th, 1971. No Entry Required.

**GOODWILL MAKE IT HAPPEN**

Test Drive a Goodwill Used Car and make it happen—trouble free miles ahead this winter.

**1970 CHRYSLER NEWPORT**  
2 door hardtop. Gold with dark brown top and matching trim, featuring only 28,000 miles. LOADED WITH EXTRAS. Licence No. 151594. Wholesale Price: **\$2750.**

**1969 NOVA**  
Gold with black vinyl top and matching interior. 307 V8, automatic transmission, power steering, power brakes, radio. Licence No. 642164 **\$1875.**

**1968 BEAUMONT STATION WAGON CUSTOM**  
Dark brown, matching vinyl interior. New exterior finish and tires, V8, automatic transmission, radio. Licence No. X78451 **\$1850.**

**1965 RAMBLER**  
2 door sedan. Yellow with black trim. Economy 6, automatic transmission, radio, new tires. Licence No. N4167 **\$725.**

**1965 VOLKSWAGEN STATION WAGON**  
Green with black trim. Excellent dual purpose car. Completely reconditioned. Licence No. X29950 **\$875.**

**1965 CHEVROLET 4 DOOR SEDAN**  
White with red interior. 6 cylinder, automatic transmission. Selling as is. Licence No. N2807 **\$375.**

**1964 PONTIAC PARISIENNE**  
2 DOOR HARDTOP, V8, automatic transmission, power steering, power brakes, radio. As is. Licence No. 471012 **\$275.**

**1964 FORD ECONOLINE VAN**  
Selling as is. Licence No. B90771 **\$375.**

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