

Post office site in 1841

Landscaping sets off old stone house

Story and photos
By Joyce Beaton

Driving on the Guelph Line in Nassagaweya, just below Brookville you'll come to a beautiful old stone house on a hill. You have probably stopped to admire it and perhaps to take a picture.

Velma and Clifford Nicholson are used to people admiring their home. It sits well back from the road on seven beautifully landscaped acres. A 12 foot deep pond mirrors the house and trees.

In September 1962 the Nicholsons finally found their retirement home. Velma

wanted property with a stream and Clifford was looking for a stone house to fix to his liking. Clifford got his wish but had to dig the pond to satisfy Velma!

Site of post office
The house is 118 years old, originally built in 1855.

Clifford is a history buff and has read in the Joshua Norrish history of Nassagaweya that on the same property in 1841 stood a log house owned by Dugald McNair. This apparently was the location of the Nassagaweya post office at the time. The remnants of the old stone well can still be seen on

the property. The actual deed to the property was written on a piece of lamb's skin.

For five generations a family named Lamb lived in the stone house. What is now the Nicholson kitchen was then referred to as the "birthin" room as 11 members of the Lamb family were born there.

Today the original stone house is divided into eight rooms with a sun room added. Downstairs are a living room, dining room, kitchen, powder room and sunroom. Upstairs are three bedrooms and a bathroom.

The house originally had

three fireplaces, one in the living room, one in the kitchen (now the dining room), and one in the master bedroom. A fourth was added by the Nicholsons when they deepened the dirt floor and finished the basement as a family room. The walls in the basement are 28 inches thick.

Velma finds the 50 inch wide, 15 inch deep window sills the perfect place to display her collection of paper weights. The original door frames are six inches wide and the baseboards 12 inches high. A 30-inch high chair rail follows the perimeter of the living room.

Enjoys retirement

A plate rail around the top of the dining room walls holds a collection of old plates, some belonging to Velma's grandmother. The walls also hold her collection of butter patties which look right at home in this setting.

As one admires the property it is obvious the landscaping has been done by one who loves his work. Clifford is a retired nurseryman and the grounds abound in every kind of tree and shrub imaginable. He has spent his whole life doing this

kind of thing for other people, and this is his chance to have things the way he wants them.

The house and property reflect the care and attention given by the Nicholsons. They enjoy the comfort of modern living in a setting rich in history.



THE "BIRTHIN" ROOM is now the Nicholsons' modern kitchen. For five generations a family named Lamb lived in the stone house. Eleven members of the Lamb family were born in this room.



REFLECTING THE 118-YEAR-OLD stone house is the pond at the front of the Nicholson home on the Guelph Line. A log house, the Nassagaweya post office in 1841, was originally on the property.



COLLECTIONS OF PLATES are shown in the Nicholson dining room. Mrs. Nicholson has many handsome plates displayed on the plate rail as well as butter patties on the smaller shelves.



THE DIRT FLOOR in the basement was deepened to provide for a finished family room. A fourth fireplace was added to the house. The rocking chair is one Mr. Nicholson bought at an auction and refinished with cane bottom and back.

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