

Gallery of Canadian History

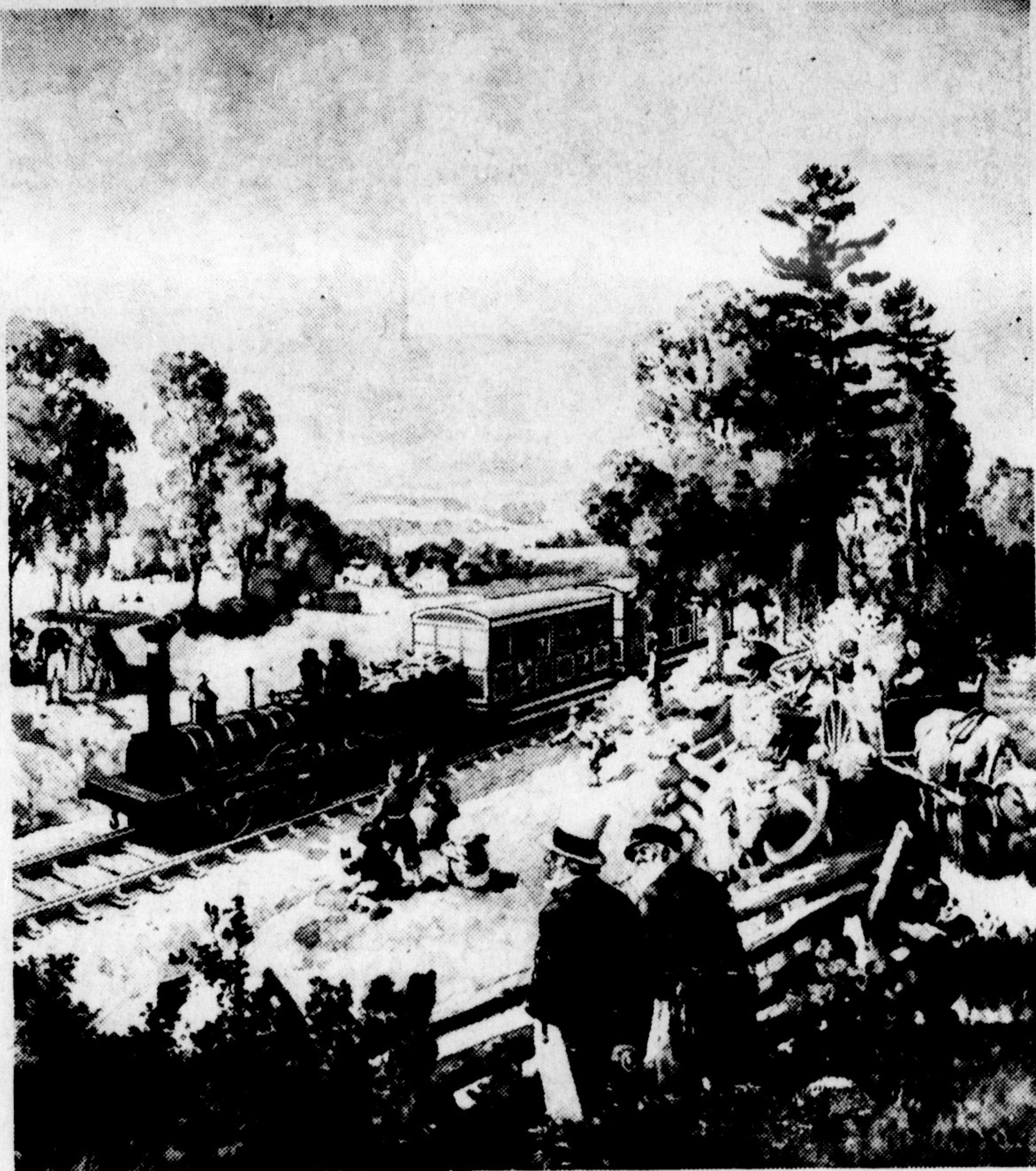
This little railway, only 16 miles long, extending from La-prairie on the St. Lawrence to St. Johns on the Richelieu River, was the first railway in British North America and the forerunner of the great system of transportation that today reaches from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Its construction was most primitive. The rails were of wood with flat bars of iron spiked to them. At first, horses were the motive power, but later a locomotive, called the "Dorchester" built by Robert Stevenson & Co., was imported from England and the official opening of the line was made with a distinguished company of passengers aboard including Lord Gosford, the Governor-General, the Hon. Peter McGill, President of the Railway Company, and other notables. The short journey of 16 miles was made most successfully — the train attaining a speed of 20 miles an hour.

For over 10 years it was the only railway in British North America. Even in 1850 there were only 66 miles of railway in the country, but shortly after 1850 the "railway boom" began and by 1860 Canada had over 2,000 miles of railway in actual operation. Today it has a mileage of 42,000 — the most extensive mileage per capita of any country in the world.

Before the coming of the railways Canada was little better than a string of scattered provinces and communities isolated and separated from each other by long distances. Between Upper and Lower Canada and the provinces by the Atlantic a wilderness intervened. Settlements clung closely to river, lake or sea. No communication or intercourse was possible except by road or water. There was little spirit of unity or national consciousness. At best the only link was that of common loyalty to the British Crown.

The railways changed all this. Those parallel bands of steel stretching from the Atlantic to



Painted by J. D. Kelly for Confederation Life Collection

CANADA'S FIRST RAILWAY

Opening of the Champlain and St. Lawrence Railway — July - 1837

the Pacific changed the whole face of Canada. Rapid and cheap transportation clamped together the settlements spread across the continent, filled the waste spaces, and created a physical basis for unity and strength. To the east and to

the west along these bands of steel pass the wealth of Canada to the cities and seaports of the Atlantic and the Pacific on their way to the marts of the world.

LOWVILLE

Son of Lowville family leaves for U.S. university

Mr. and Mrs. Grant Coulson and son Gary have been visiting at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Coulson. Grant has recently been invited to take his doctoral degree in Psychological Mathematical Learning Theory with Dr. John Theios at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis., U.S.A. Grant is a graduate of McMaster University, Hamilton, and York University, Toronto. We offer sincere congratulations and wish them well during their sojourn in the U.S.A.

Bill Gudgeon has returned to Champlain College at Peterborough, Miss Meg Gudgeon to the Ontario Veterinary College at Guelph and Miss Bonnie Powell to McMaster University, Hamilton.

Mr. and Mrs. James Ayton, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Coverdale, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Hunt and Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Coulter attended the wedding of a cousin, Miss Carol Rawe to Allan Yvax in St. Jude's Episcopal Church, Buffalo, N.Y. on Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Burdge Gunby were guests last week of Mr. and Mrs. Mervyn Coulson at their summer cottage on Loon Bay, near Dorset.

Mrs. Milton Carter, a former resident of Lowville United Church parsonage, Miss Grace Norrish and Miss Edith Norrish of Guelph attended the morning service at Lowville United Church Sunday morning and afterward were luncheon guests with Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Readhead.

Churches of all denominations in the town of Burlington have been invited to par-

ticipate in a Centennial Service of Thanksgiving to be held in Wellington Square United Church on Wednesday, October 4, at 8:15 p.m. The service will be sponsored by the Burlington Ministerial Association in co-operation with the Burlington Centennial Committee. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Mr. and Mrs. George Coulson, Mr. and Mrs. Mervyn Coulson, Mrs. Tom Ramshaw and Mrs. Douglas Swallow were supper guests with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bryant of Mountsberg and attended the evening anniversary services at the Mountsberg Baptist Church where the ladies provided the music. Guest preacher was Rev. Rice of St. Catharines, a former pastor of the church.

Mr. and Mrs. F. O. Colling spent the weekend at Honey Harbour with Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Gunby.

ANTI-POLLUTION

Halton County has been related to the third phase of a third-class anti-pollution program, Robin Skuce, Halton East Liberal candidate in the forthcoming provincial election said Sunday.

Mr. Skuce, speaking at a "Meet the Candidate" gathering at Beth El synagogue in Oakville, said the Conservative government is playing with lives by failing to take effective action on the air and water pollution problems.

Dancers win band records

A crowd of over 600 enjoyed dancing to the music of The Carlton Showband at the 707 Galaxy Club in Oakville Saturday night. The dance was sponsored by the band's fan club in Milton, headed by president Frank Lee.

The band has been appearing in the weekly Tuesday night "Pig and Whistle" program on CFTO-TV, Channel 9. Toronto and their large following of fans is growing. Local fan club members hope to soon organize fan clubs in Toronto and Hamilton regions.

Several couples went home from Saturday's event with door prizes and dance prizes, including several long playing albums the band has recorded.

Concert by band of Salvation Army

Arrangements have been made to bring the famous Hamilton Temple Salvation Army Band to Milton for a concert in St. Paul's United Church, October 26. The choir of St. Paul's is sponsoring the concert.

The band is conducted by Deryk Diffe, formerly principal cornet of the Welsh Guards Band from London, England. The concert begins at 8:30 p.m. and advance tickets are on sale at \$1.50.

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Milton Night School Classes

THE MILTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADULT EDUCATION IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE MILTON HIGH SCHOOL BOARD, ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING NIGHT CLASSES.

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 1 Conversational French | 11 Elementary Sewing |
| 2 General Art — All Media | 12 Advanced Sewing |
| 3 Needlework | 13 Rug Making |
| 4 Welding | 14 Tailoring |
| 5 Furniture Refinishing | 15 Millinery |
| 6 Floriculture | 16 Smocking |
| 7 Typing | 17 Copper Enamelling |
| 8 Beginners Oils | 18 Leather Craft |
| 9 Advanced Oils | 19 Copper Tooling and Aluminum Etching |
| 10 Hostess | |

Courses will consist of 14 two-hour lessons commencing on Tues., Oct. 17 at 8:00 p.m. and each Tues. following until Dec. 5 and recommencing Jan. 9, 1968 and run through until February 20.

The Basic Fee for the 14 week course will be \$7.00, to be paid with the application. All supplies are extra.

A minimum number of 15 applicants must be secured for each Class. The Committee reserves the right to carry or cancel any class it wishes. Applicants must be 16 years of age or over.

APPLICATIONS FOR NIGHT SCHOOL CLASSWORK

Complete and Mail BEFORE OCT. 2, 1967 to "The Secretary of Night Classes"

Mrs. R. G. King, 100 Martin St., Milton, Ontario

(Please Mr. State - Mrs. Which) Miss

Address Phone

Further information pertaining to these courses may be obtained from Mrs. G. Roberts 878-9763; Mrs. D. A. Wendover VA 7-3334; Mrs. R. G. King 878-3551. Be sure to enclose your registration fee of \$7.00 with your application. By mailing your applications early you will increase your chances of obtaining your choice.

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