

A walk in history

Town founded around Main St.

By Jim Dills

A history walk in Milton has to start on the Main St. because it was here the early town was founded and the most significant factor is the Sixteen Mile Creek. Interest in a recent history walk has encouraged putting the detail into written form, and so with this limited series we begin.

Looking from the rear of Grace Anglican Church we get our glimpse of the Sixteen as it meets from two tributaries and then crosses Main St.

Actually the townships bordering the Sixteen were surveyed between 1806 and 1819 "through primeval forest unbroken except for the occasional beaver meadow, a few Indian corn fields in the lower valley flat lands or a patch of windfall."

In the area of the stream there were probably Marten, Fisher, Wolverine, Timber Wolf, Canada Lynx and the Wapiti or American Elk in the woods. The wild turkey and the wild pigeons were among the birds. The last record of the passenger pigeons was at Campbellville in 1886.

Settlers regarded the forest as an obstacle. Some pine and oak was harvested for the British Navy and there were maple and beech stands too.

Through all this wound the Sixteen Mile Creek, which with its tributaries, drains 159

square miles to Lake Ontario at Oakville. The stream was both an obstacle and an opportunity.

It was known to rise in flood time. In 1797 Captain Joseph Brant set out from his home at the Mohawk village on the Grand River near Brantford to travel to York. On Dec. 15 he was stopped at Burlington Beach because of the "rise of the waters".

After William Lyon Mackenzie was defeated at Montgomery's Tavern Dec. 7, 1837 he fled towards present day Halton. There is this early reference from his diary. "Our pursuers, nevertheless, gained on us and when near the Sixteen Mile Creek we ascertained that my countryman Col. Chalmers had a party guarding the bridge. The creek swells up at times into a rapid river; it was now swollen by the November rains." Mackenzie and one companion, in spite of high water and floating ice, succeeded in wading across the creek.

Simcoe's diary of about 1796 tells how the creek was named. The creeks were designated by their distance from Niagara if on the south side of Lake Ontario, and from Burlington, if on the north side. Oakville on the north shore is situated at the mouth of the Sixteen Mile Creek, not at the mouth of the Oakville Creek as current

maps tend to indicate. For some the stream spelled opportunity. A number of mills depended on the flow of the Creek for their life but the most durable was the Martin Mill which is still in operation as Robin Hood Flour Mills, although much changed in operation.

But let us turn next week to the story of water power and the development of the mill with its effect on Milton.



THE SIXTEEN still wends its way through bush crowded banks and ultimately crosses Main St. in Milton. It was significant in the early development of the community and at one time actually crossed the Main St. three times.

Omagh

Community mourns death of two men

By Mrs. Cecil Patterson

Friends in this area were shocked to learn of the sudden passing of Stanley May of Hornby on Friday, Oct. 22 in Brampton Hospital after an illness of only two days.

Mr. May was very active in community activities. He was president of Halton 4-H council, and had been planning for 4-H Awards night on Oct. 29. He was also a leader in several of the 4-H clubs. Mr. May took a keen interest in the plowing matches and was a keen contender and winner in the competitions with his fine team of horses. He also was on many other agricultural associations.

Sincere sympathy is extended to his wife the former Grace Johnson and to his family Stephen, Dwight, Wayne, Peter, Martha, Sonja and Eartha, and grandchildren, also several brothers and sisters. Mr. May was laid to rest in the cemetery of the Church of Christ at Omagh on Monday afternoon. He will be much missed by all who knew him.

Thomas M. Galbraith, one of Halton's oldest citizens, passed away on Sunday, Oct. 23 at Halton Centennial Manor. Mr. Galbraith had been a farmer in Omagh area, and later a drover. He celebrated his 98th birthday on Aug. 15 of this year, and until a few months ago was very active and interested in his church, family and community activities.

Mr. Galbraith was known by most of his friends as "Uncle Tom" and will be greatly missed by all. He was predeceased by his wife Mary Shain and had no family. He is the last of six brothers and is survived by his sisters Mrs. Gertie Clements, Mrs. Minnie Stout, Mrs. Florrie Snow and Mrs. Albert Turner, and many nieces and nephews.

Sincere sympathy is extended to those who mourn, especially his sisters and niece Mrs. Florence Jeffcott, who has resided with him since the death of his wife. Mr. Galbraith was laid to rest in the family plot at his beloved Omagh Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, Oct. 25.

The members of Omagh Presbyterian W.A. held a

most successful bazaar at Boyne Centre on Saturday, Oct. 22. Rev. R. Lewis welcomed the host of visitors and opened the bazaar. Mayor Donald Gordon and Mrs. Gordon of Milton were interested in the various sales booths and stayed for afternoon tea. Guests were from Oakville, Burlington, Boston, Milton and Bethel Churches.

Congratulations and good wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Donald Leslie, who were married in Omagh Presbyterian Church on Saturday, Oct. 22. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Lawrence.

Get well wishes to Susan Marshall who is nursing a broken arm following a fall from a bicycle.

Birthdays greetings and good wishes to Mrs. George Peacock, Mrs. Rudy Jarvis, Mrs. Fred Lister, Mrs. Cliff James, Geoffrey Northcote, Mrs. Vera Ball and Ross Fuller.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Len Lister, 28 years married on Oct. 29.

Congratulations to Miss Nancy McKinnon on being chosen Queen of the Furrow for Halton for 1977-78. Judges made their decision at the plowmen's banquet in Hillcrest Church on Saturday evening, Oct. 22, and Nancy was crowned by last year's queen Miss Lynne Stewart. Nancy received a cheque, an arm bouquet of flowers and a charm.

Congratulations and good wishes to Miss Lynne Stewart on being chosen Queen of the Furrows at the International Plowing Match at Kingston recently. Miss Stewart will represent Ontario at many agricultural activities for the next year, and was chosen from 30 entries in the contest. She was a head table guest at the banquet at Hillcrest and gave her prize winning address. Mrs. Spencer Wilson, convener of the competition, announced there would be a Lynne Stewart night in Hillcrest Church to honor Lynne on her success.

Local ladies who participated in the Horse Shoe Pitching contest at the plowing match on Saturday received cheques for their

efforts. These were Mrs. Florence McCann, Mrs. Grace McKinnon, Mrs. Betty Wilkinson and Mrs. John Middlebrook. Congratulations, ladies.

The Halton Farm Safety Council held their fall meeting in the board room of the agricultural office on Tuesday evening, Oct. 18. President Mrs. C. Patterson welcomed the members and presided for the evening.

Norman Biggar, secretary-treasurer, read correspondence and minutes. Business arising from these were issuing cheques for the Tractor Safety Competition at the plowing match, a trophy and \$25 cheque for first prize and \$15 and \$10 cheques for second and third prizes. Contestants were to write a safety test and compete with a tractor and wagon on a charted course in a given time limit. Fourteen members entered the contest. The competition was to emphasize safe driving habits with farm machinery. The members were scored on ability to manoeuvre machinery, disconnecting power takeoffs, no loose clothing, and all precautions to prevent accidents.

The council was advised that 26 first year members of the Agricultural 4-H clubs were eligible to receive hard hats at achievement night. They are supplied and paid for by the Safety Council.

Ted Whetworth of Orangeville commented on the competition at the plowing match and said 13 others had been held in Ontario. Halton was the last one and all had been most successful.

Guest speaker was Walter Scott, a local farmer who is also engineer with a noted implement company. Mr. Scott was chairman of the committee which augmented the slow moving vehicle emblem. This triangle shaped sign must, by law, be attached to the rear of every vehicle or machine moving on highways under 25 miles an hour. He showed pictures of thousands of emblems which have been made and these show in brief form if there is danger involved. A cup and

(Continued on Page B17)

Carey House to open Sat

The Halton Region's first Cheshire Home for physically handicapped adults will be open in Burlington on Saturday, Oct. 29, with about 250 invited guests present at the ceremonies.

The home, one of 10 in Canada established by a worldwide Cheshire Foundation, will be officially named "Carey House", in commemoration of Burlington's 1976 posthumous "Citizen of the Year", the late Robert C. Carey. Some applications from North Halton are being considered.

His widow, Mrs. Shirley Carey, will declare the house, a 100-year-old structure on Ontario Street, in downtown Burlington, open. A reception will follow at St. Luke's Anglican Church, across the street.

The house, which will provide accommodation for about eight adults, is being specially adapted to the needs of the physically handicapped. Adaptions and renovations are under the direction of Mrs. Pamela Cluff, a Toronto architect who is a leading authority on designing facilities for handicapped and elderly residents. Mrs. Cluff is currently President of the Ontario Welfare Council.

Carey House was bought by Halton Cheshire Homes, Inc., a charitable foundation, with funds originally provided by the May Court Club of Oakville. Additional funds have come from many regional service groups. A \$200,000 campaign is being launched

immediately to raise money to complete the project. Carey House is presently the only non-governmental housing project available to handicapped adults in the region. It will be administered by Halton Cheshire Homes in accordance with the Cheshire philosophy of providing as much personal independence as possible for residents, who will take an active role in making the group into a "family", and the house into their "home". They will contribute financially. The first three residents have been selected, and will move

into the house shortly after the opening ceremony.

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