

Woodrow homestead a tribute

In the early 1800's, Andrew Woodrow packed his family and headed for Canada, leaving behind forever his Scottish Highlands Home. He, his wife and daughter settled in what is now known as Coldwater, and in 1930 Woodrow built himself a one room log cabin.

By the mid 1850s his family had grown, the single room home was insufficient and so Woodrow went to work

adding two larger front rooms and an upstairs. The materials came from the land surrounding the homestead and the style was "classis" log-cabin.

The Woodrow Homestead has weathered the last 130 years well, and thanks to the Coldwater Canadiana, has been preserved for future generations to learn from and appreciate. The home is an excellent example of the

workmanship of our pioneer forefathers, made more unusual than many other log cabins because it is still in its original location.

Thus far, only the original single room and one of the front rooms has been restored; the others still carry traces of the modern age — plaster on the walls and ceilings. The fireplace mantle in the original single room home is unique in style

and construction, the only other one like it being in Fort York. The skillet hanging by the fire was originally used here, though other furnishings are not originals. Most furniture is for sale — antiques carried on a commission basis by Coldwater Canadiana in order to raise funds for the home's upkeep and for future projects.

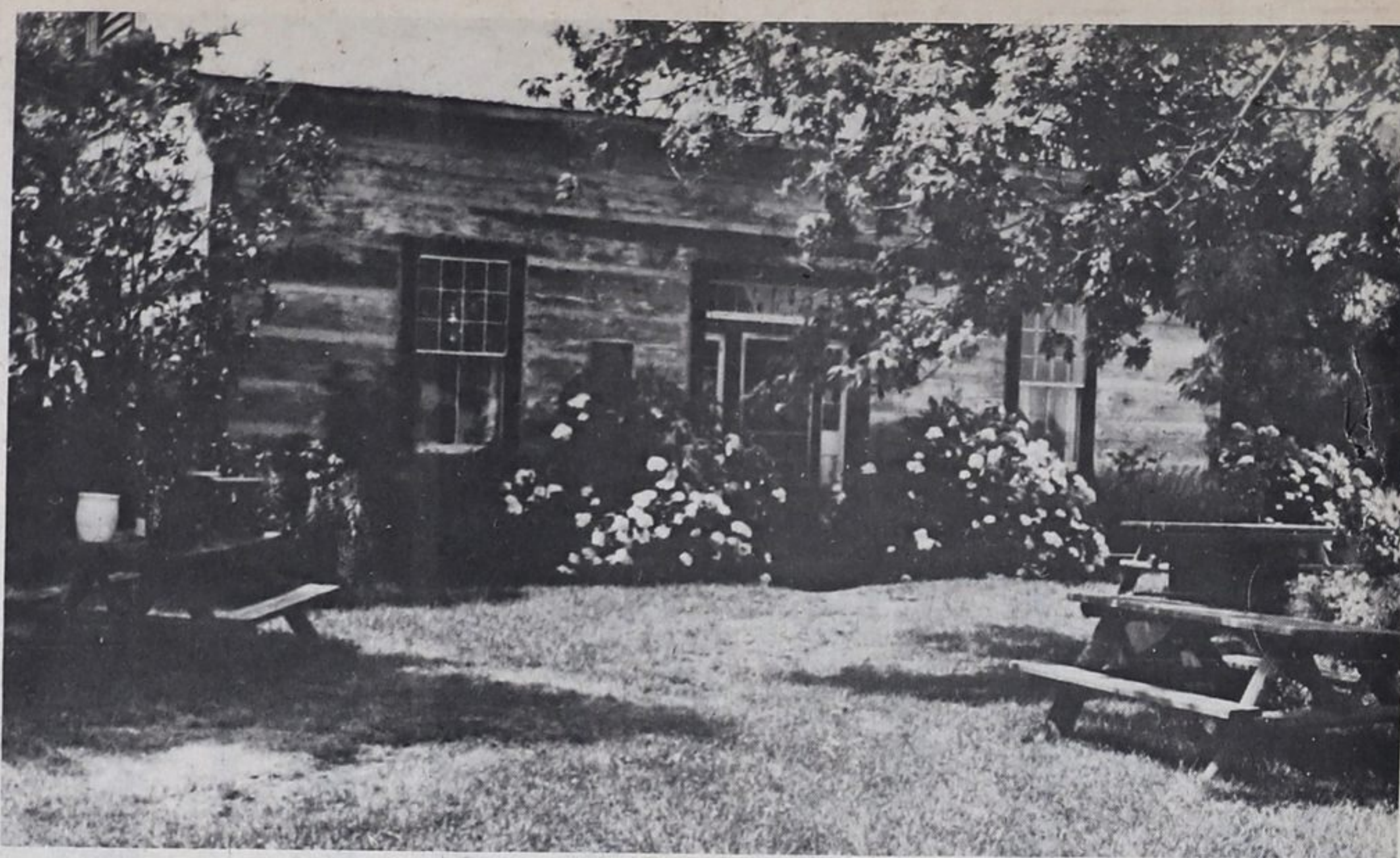
Gift items and interesting knick-knacks

make up a large portion of the goods carried in the gift shop, housed in the one front restored room. There are however a few handicraft items, afghans, quilts, and antiques for sale. Interesting too are the apple dolls, made from dried out apples.

The real attraction though has to be the beautiful log cabin itself, tucked in among the trees on the river's edge.

The Woodrow Homestead is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except Mondays. It is located on the south side of Highway 12 in Coldwater.

The next of Coldwater Canadiana's Historical tours is scheduled for today (August 18) and will leave the Woodrow Homestead at 1 p.m. The last successful tour included stops at Ossossane (Bear Clan Village), Port Tonanche where Champlain landed in 1615.



Built in the mid 1800's the Woodrow Homestead has weathered the years well

Coldwater Canadiana the driving force

There was talk in the early 1960's of demolishing the unusually well preserved and unique log cabin that graced the water's edge on the south side of Hwy. 12. No doubt, demolition would be for the sake of "progress" — perhaps residential buildings, perhaps commercial ventures, perhaps an access road. In any event, the land and building were for sale and no government body, museum or historical society ventured an offer, largely because of limited funds at that time.

Thus is set the stage for the creation of Coldwater Canadiana, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving history and specifically, to restoring the old log cabin. The Woodrow Homestead had stood on its original foundations for 150 years and more and the Coldwater group was intent on preserving it for at least that long. In 1966, under the driving force of Ruth Woodworth, a retired

Coldwater school teacher, a band of residents borrowed the funds to purchase the homestead and approximately one acre of the land surrounding the old home and fronting on the river.

Its charter declared that Coldwater Canadiana is dedicated to the preservation of pioneer history; its objective is to fully restore the Woodrow Homestead and preserve this house as a museum honouring the pioneer families of the district, and as a cultural center for arts and crafts.

The purchase of the home though, was only the first step on a long arduous road that has seen volunteers contribute hundreds of hours to tearing down the plaster that hid the beautifully preserved logs, to restoring worn sections, laying new floors, the fieldstone in the original single room of the homestead was laid with "the blood, sweat and tears" of volunteers mixing with

the sand and water — it is a dedication that can never be measured or fully appreciated.

Needless to say, there are sizeable recurring expenses that must be met by Coldwater Canadiana group. Coldwater memberships help defray some of the costs, as does the sale of gifts and handicraft items from the gift shop in the Woodrow Homestead. In order to assure the continuation of the group's projects.

Coldwater Canadiana also runs historical tours throughout the summer, holds a summer festival, sponsors a September supper (home-made food only), and sells home-baking and other goodies on a regular basis — "and we pray a lot for new members."

In the planning stages now, is a small museum of pioneer furniture, utensils and clothing; donations are welcome and can be made by contacting Coldwater Canadiana at 835-5505.

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