#### From our files

## Sunflower used in fight against the ague fever

A fever known as the ague became a health problem for Oakville council in the late 1870s. A special committee "on the sanitary condition of the marsh" was

After considering the matter, the committee reported that it would be too expensive to fill in the marsh on both sides of the creek. It did not believe that the planting of willow trees would have a direct effect, and pointed out that it would be difficult to protect them from cattle and from ice jams in the spring.

The committee's conclusion was "That the most available plant as a preventive to malaria is the sunflower. It is of thrifty growth and easily cultivated for sanitary purposes, in many places in the United States and invariably with most satisfactory results.

Council accepted the committee's recommendation, and the mayor issued a

proclamation requesting that sunflower seeds be planted in gardens and all places and both sides of The Sixteen unfrequented by cattle. Chief Constable George Sumner placed an announcement in the press of a receipt of a supply of sunflower seeds for gratuitous distribution. The Sanitary Committee urges upon people of this town the importance of at once sowing these seeds extensively, as a remedy for malaria."

Some time later when the problem of fever was being discussed in council someone noted that other places had found that pouring kerosene on marshes was an effective preventive. One councillor killed this suggestion by objecting that the procedure would advertise the fact that the ague existed in Oakville. About the turn of the century the disease diminished and eventually disappeared.



Oakville Harbor pier — a perfect place to relax and soak up the sun. (Courtesy Oakville Historical Society)

### **ING ON YOU!**



#### **DOWNTOWN STORE**

McCutcheons was purchased in 1955 from Kingsway Camera Ltd. and was situated back then where Barbarosa is now. A familiar figure in OLLIE JOHNSON was the original landlord. In 1961 we moved to our present location which occupies 1700 sq. ft. in Downtown Oakville. With the new store came expanded services and an increase in product lines carried. From an original staff of 1 McCutcheons has grown to its present size which employs 10 full time and two part time people.



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