

# A quiet town with a colorful history

## What's in a name?

**UXBRIDGE** — What's in a name? Plenty—if that name happens to be "Uxbridge". It all started about 1850 when a new arrival to the village was taking his family and household effects in his covered wagon down what is now Brock Street.

His oxen has been over and around many obstacles in their long trip but still another was to be encountered. When the driver got to the creek he found that he couldn't get through. His resourcefulness came through in a very unique way.

He put his yoke of oxen side by side in the water before placing timbers across their broad backs. Next, he got another yoke of oxen to pull the load over the backs of those in the stream.

The improvised bridge served his purpose and became such a conversational tidbit that the village was soon referred to as "Oxbridge". This name caught the public fancy and through poor pronunciation became "Uxbridge". The name that was applied to the town when it became incorporated on September 19, 1885.

By Bob Hastings  
**UXBRIDGE** - Uxbridge is a comfortable, quiet town of 2,872 people nestled between the townships of Reach, Scott, Uxbridge and Brock. However, things were not always so peaceful.

"Deerfoot", a young Indian of the Mississauga tribe was not content with the results of his hunting and trapping around Lake Scugog. His wandering for new hunting grounds took him to the 'hollow surrounding the hills' - the Uxbridge area. Bears, wildcats, deer, and wolves were abundant.

Soon, the tribe arrived and later they were confronted by both the Cayuga and Chippewa tribes in search of more productive grounds. A fierce battle was fought at Jackson's Hill before the Mississaugas emerged the victors. Artifacts, such as flint arrow heads, spear points and parts of tomahawks may still be found at this old battle site. The Cayugas escaped with quality furs back to Lake Cayuga, now known as Lake Ontario.

Tales of the fine country accompanied the furs and reached the ears of some Pennsylvania Quakers in New York State. The emigration began. Ten hardy and

pious Quaker families soon arrived in covered wagons pulled by oxen to form the nucleus of Uxbridge.

Mr. John Plank, a Dutchman from New York came and built a tavern and a sawmill in 1826. This was the first house of public entertainment to be constructed north of Kingston Road (Highway 2). Six years later, Mr. Joseph Gould bought the mill and because life centered around the mill, the community became known as Gouldville.

Mr. Gould is reported to have been the second white male child born in the Uxbridge region. He was a member of parliament for many years prior to Confederation and fought alongside William Lyon Mackenzie in the Rebellion of 1837. Joseph Gould was captured and sentenced to hang but was pardoned before the date of execution.

Uxbridge really arrived in the nineteenth century on September 14, 1871, when the Toronto-Nipissing Railway engine chugged its way along the first narrow gauge track in North America to the formal opening. It was a gala event with signs boasting of the town's progress. One sign read 'Space Conquered'.

**STOUFFVILLE** — Dr Elmer Uzans, of the Stouffville Medical Centre, who suffered a broken hip last month while water-skiing at his cottage near Bala, was able to return to work for a few hours this week.

He had been confined to Toronto East General Hospital for two weeks.

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## Uxbridge boasts unique business

**UXBRIDGE** — With youthful fashion trends to deerskin and other leather costumes, the Industrial Tannery in Uxbridge is really in high gear.

Although sheepskins are still the bread and butter product of the business, everything from polar bear to goat hides are piled high in the huge warehouse.

These goods are sold in great numbers at the plant and in the store at Niagara Falls. Mr Gyivicsan, who has been in the tannery

business for the past 13 years explained that sheepskins are put through 34 different processes over a 30 day duration before they are ready to be tailored into vests or simply left as rugs.

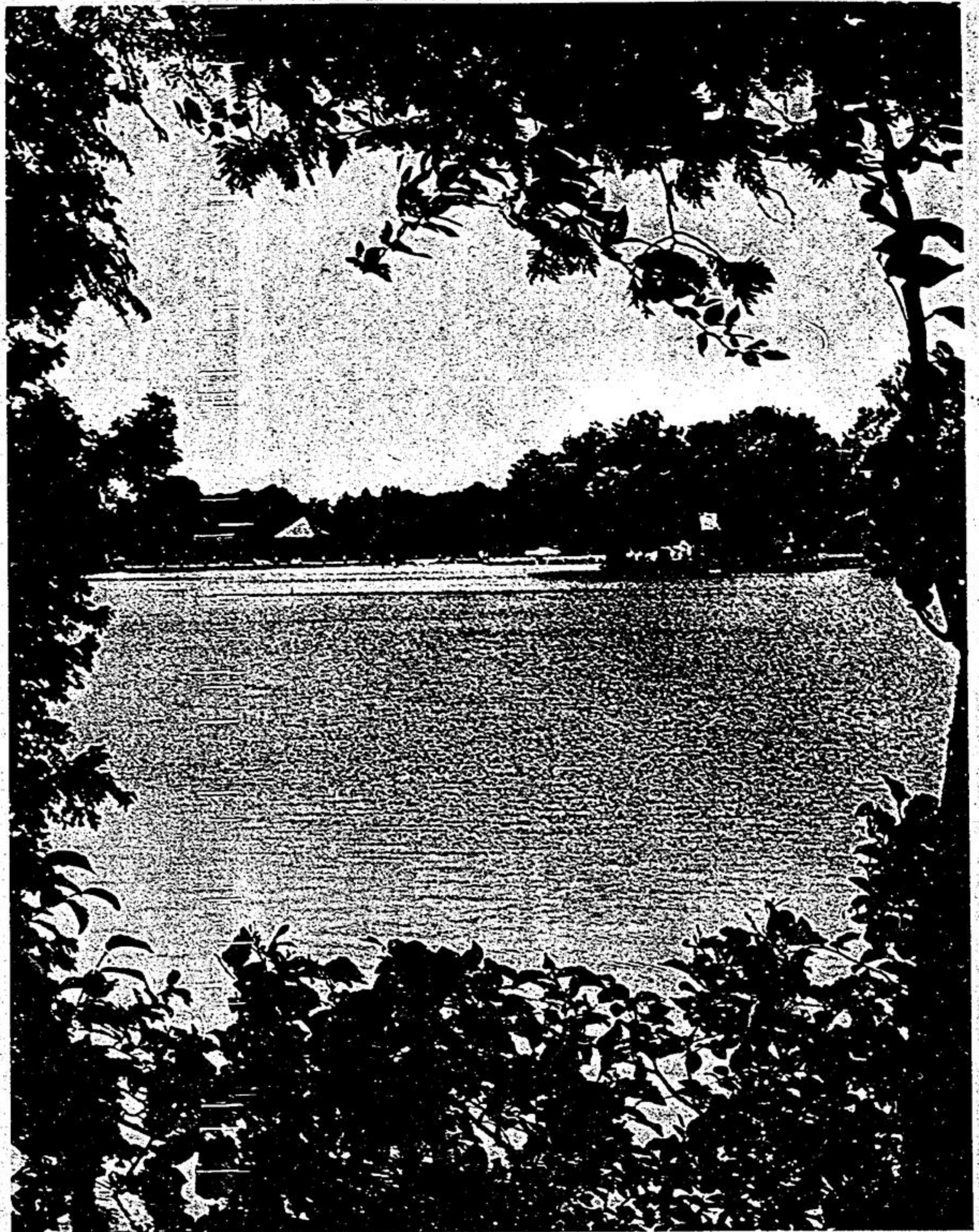
Consumers from Metro, heading for cottage country are the regular customers and pay anywhere from \$7 to \$25 for quality skins to decorate dens and family rooms.

Hanging from the aged beams of the barn-like structure is a giant

tapestry of soft greys, whites and browns of timber wolves, racoons, deer and many other animals.

You can't do better when buying or selling than by using Tribune classified ads.

Mr Isaac Lehman and Mrs Allan Meyer attended the recent wedding of Miss Karen Hillstrom in Florida. The bride is a grand-daughter of Rev. W.M. McGuire who was pastor of the Stouffville Missionary Church 48 years ago.



In the early days of Uxbridge, then Gouldville, all activity centred around the Gould Mill. Of the three mill ponds constructed at the time, two remain. One, the Electric Light Pond, can be seen from the southern approach to the town on Highway 47. The Mill Pond, pictured here, is on Main Street (Concession 7), and is now an all-season recreation area for local residents. Swimming, fishing, boating, and in the winter months, ice skating are popular activities. The mill, itself, located at the base of the pond, was partially demolished, except for a small portion, renovated, which is now the home of Mr A.F. Husband.

—Peter Harris

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