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## Door closes on Scott Twp. past in 1988

By BRUCE STAPLEY

Off the 6th Concession of Scott, in Durham Region, along a twisting treed laneway past the trees and the flowing stream, and you

are suddenly taken back to the days of blacksmiths, horse-drawn vehicles, and early Canadian architecture.

The four-building restoration of

19th century Scott Township is the dream come true of Dorothy and Ed Brown, who came to farm in 1952. Together, they amassed a personal collection of antiques,

horse-drawn vehicles, and historic buildings which were carefully moved to their property.

Since 1969, this assortment of artifacts depicting the development and growth of Scott from pre-Confederation days, has been made available for public viewing and for demonstrations.

Nineteen years later, Mrs. Brown, now a widow, has decided to close down Country Heritage, the name given to the privately owned and operated museum.

Mrs. Brown, who will celebrate her 80th birthday this May, will continue to live in the beautifully restored main residence that houses the Browns' own collection of Canadiana. She will close the doors to the public at the end of the upcoming season.

### Much-awaited trip

She will then take a much-awaited trip to colonial Williamsburg, to get a first hand view of how they have recreated the past down there.

"It's always been just a hobby for us," says Mrs. Brown of the museum. "We certainly weren't in it for the money."

There's no admission charge at Country Heritage. There is a donation box where people can make a contribution to help defray expenses.

"We never had government grants or anything like that," says Mrs. Brown. "And we really wouldn't have wanted them, because then we wouldn't have been able to run it the way we liked."

"The way we liked" was a modus operandi that saw the Browns put on demonstrations in candle dipping, butter churning, and rope making. "It was something like the way they do it at Black Creek Pioneer Village," Mrs. Brown explains.

People come individually on weekends, or in specially arranged groups of students or other organizations during the week. "We've had people from all of the states, and from every continent come to see the museum," she says proudly.

### 2,000 visitors a year

While the Browns used to usher approximately 2,000 people a year through their collection, the past few years have seen that total cut back to 300 to 400. The demonstrations have been dropped, but the place is still a delightful throw-back to an earlier place and time.

Apart from the main residence and all its treasures, there are the three other buildings, each offer-

ing its own individual appeal.

There's the drive shed that houses such historic vehicles as the Conboy Cutter of early 1900s vintage, the McLaughlin "Lady Phaeton" of the same era, and the surrey with the fringe on the top which Ed Brown personally restored.

The log cabin was built and owned by Samuel McDowell on a nearby lot. It was dismantled and moved to the Brown property where it was authentically reconstructed. It houses a blacksmith and wheelwright's shop.

The former Scott Township Hall is the cornerstone building. Built in 1860, it housed the local town council until 1967. The Browns moved it, intact, from its original location about a half-mile down the road from their property.

"Ed had always been interested in the architecture of the old town hall," Mrs. Brown recalls. "When the opportunity came to buy it, we did."

A walk through the main residence is an endless adventure into the past: The living room with its pressed pattern glass collection; the cedar ceiling beams and the beautifully restored walls that are finished off with pine boards as wide as 18 inches; the magnificently hewn front door built in the 1880s; and the walnut pegged pine floors.

### 1815 tea set

Mrs. Brown points with pride to the late 1800s signed dining room chair she has just finished rearing. Then she opens the built-in corner cupboard, revealing a Pink Willow tea set dating back to 1815.

The bedrooms epitomize the old time coziness, with their canopy or rolling pin beds, chests in butternut and burl walnut, and commodes in pine and tiger maple.

And she'll tell you the story behind each and every piece — where it is from, how it was acquired, and how she and her husband lovingly restored it.

You can sense the enjoyment these treasures have given the still nimble and spry museum curator. "It's been a marvelous experience" she says of the years spent amassing and showing these pieces and collectables.

What will she do once the doors are closed for the last time come fall?

"I'll keep busy," she insists. "There's three acres of grass for me to cut. And there's always something that needs tending to. I haven't got time to slow down."



### Country Heritage curator

Dorothy Brown stands at her 19th century style hearth in her home on 6th Conc. Scott Township. She has opened her 'museum' to thousands of sightseers over the years. She and her husband began collect-

ing Canadiana in 1952 and opened as a museum in 1969. She's closing the museum at the end of this season.

—Bruce Stapley

Betty's  
new-found  
confidence

.../C-3

Contest for  
Haywire fans

.../C-4

Bruce  
Stapley  
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Tricia's  
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Haiti

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