



# Historic Homes & Estates

**PORT PERRY**

Prince Albert - Scugog Island



# Historic Homes & Estates

*Researched and written by*

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J. Peter Hvidsten

**Historic Homes & Estates**  
of Port Perry & Scugog Township

By Paul Arculus & J. Peter Hvidsten

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# Introduction

Napier Simpson, one of Canada's foremost heritage architects, visited Prince Albert and Port Perry in 1972 and conducted a tour for the York Pioneer and Historical Society. While here, he commented that the connoisseurs of Victoriana could probably find more to the square mile here than in any other part of Canada.

That is a weighty statement, but a stroll along the streets of these communities will reveal the truth in it. The amount of Victoriana here is almost immeasurable and is certainly beyond the scope of a single volume.

In this volume we have given focus to the homes of Port Perry and Prince Albert along with others in old Reach Township and the former Scugog Township - Scugog Island. The next volume in this series will give emphasis to the many Victorian homes in old Cartwright Township and the more rural communities of Old Reach Township.

Peter Hvidsten and I have been studying and writing about our community's past for almost fifteen years now. Although we have worked together on a number of projects of historical interest, the finished works have been of an individual nature. This is the first undertaking in which the goal was to combine our efforts in a single finished product. Peter's training and experiences in journalism have led him to develop an uncanny ability to dig to the bottom of an assignment and persist in visiting people in the hopes of finding more information or a forgotten photograph. These experiences have provided us both with immense pleasure in meeting some fascinating people and finding some intriguing information about our community's past.

We hope in this work, the reader will sense some of that pleasure, and at the same time, gain a greater appreciation of the heritage of this part of our great nation.

Paul Arculus  
Seagrave, Ontario.

# Acknowledgements

As with any publication requiring extensive research into early pioneers and settlers of the area, writers and researchers must rely heavily on the records and memories of family descendants to fill in blanks and provide information not found in public documents.

We have been most fortunate in writing about the Historic Homes and Estates of Scugog Township to have had the co-operation of many area residents who graciously invited us into their homes and provided valuable information and pictures for this book.

We would like to express our sincere "Thanks" to everyone, who contributed in any way, to the material you will find in this book. Without the willing help of many people it would not have been possible.

There are a number of individuals we would like to point out for their exceptional cooperation, even at the risk of missing someone. Our sincere thanks to the following people for their help and encouragement....

- Scugog Shores Museum - access to its exceptional archive of photographs
- Scugog Township staff - assistance in acquiring registry information
- Registry Office, Whitby - for open access to land registry documents
- Jill & Paul Bradley - allowing access to photograph their home
- Richard & Mary Henry - for providing access to their attractive home
- Steve & Alice Carnegie - for information and pictures of their historic home
- Jeff Percy & David Ross - tour and photograph the unique Adams residence

Others who contributed important information and pictures include:

Bob Archer, Joel Aldred, Brian & Joanne Callery, Norman Watson, Pam Fis, Marlyn Rennie, Tony and Susan Cesaroni, Dr. Ralph & Pat Price, Dawn Ireland, Marie Geer, Elaine Hammett, Richard Kent, David Brunton, Roy Gerrow, Eve Hampson, Freda (Ely) Fogler, Peter Overgoor and Ann Julia Bajema, Bonnie Steed, Michael L. Fowler and Bill Brock.

We thank you one and all...

Paul Arculus  
J. Peter Hvidsten

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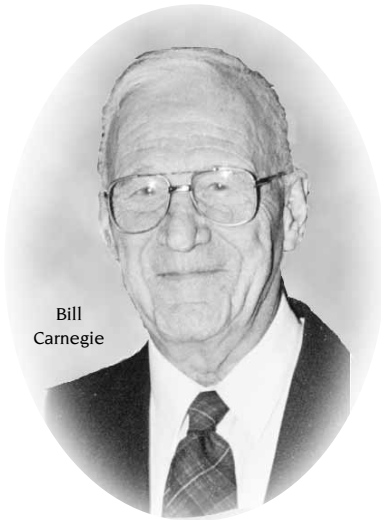
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# Dedication

This book is dedicated  
to the memory of two  
great friends and  
history enthusiasts

William (Bill) Carnegie

Phil Orde





# *Chapter One*

## The Towns & Townships

Little thought is given to the origins of the names of the townships, towns and villages which make up this community, but these names are part of our fascinating history. Before the days of the present Scugog Township, there were four distinct municipalities, Port Perry, Reach Township, Scugog Township (Scugog Island) and Cartwright Township each with its own municipal government, elected by the residents who lived there.

In 1974 this all changed. On January 1st of that year, the Region of Durham was formed and the four townships were amalgamated into one municipality. Because Lake Scugog was the central point of the entire land mass being amalgamated, Scugog Township was selected as the name for the new municipality. This despite the fact that Scugog Island had been known by this name since it was incorporated more than a century earlier.

A mixture of speculation and documentation plays a role in determining the origins of the names of the townships and the communities within them. What follows should help the reader to weave a path through the fact and the folklore.



## Reach Township

Reach Township was surveyed by Major Samuel Wilmot over the winter of 1809-1810 and it was probably designated with that name in honour of a Colonel Reach. To date this has not been substantiated, although former Port Perry Star publisher Samuel Farmer who wrote *On the Shores of Scugog* in 1913, and Reverend F. G. Weir who wrote *Scugog And Its Environs* in 1927, both refer to Colonel Reach as the namesake for Reach Township. There is little reason to doubt their findings, although no other link to Colonel Reach has yet been discovered.

Another alternative was found in an article published in a copy of the *Uxbridge Journal* from September 21, 1893. In this issue, a story outlined how a number of the municipalities within Ontario County received their names, with the following explanation given for Reach Township-

“The Conants, Annis’ and Trulls were the first settlers who came in 1786 from Massachusetts. About 1787 the Conants and Annis’ became Indian traders, carrying their goods to barter for pelts upon their backs or drawing them on hand sleighs in the winter.

Gradually they went back northward from Lake Ontario to meet the Indians, as far as Columbus as first. At night, weary after a days travel with their goods, they fired off their guns in quick succession as a signal for the Indians to assemble next morning to trade. The Indians were mainly found about the waters, especially where Port Perry now is.

Pushing on again northward from Lake Scugog, not many Indians were found until they came to Lake Simcoe, about where Beaverton is, making a long carry or a long "Reach" over the tract of country from Lake Scugog to Lake Simcoe.

Mr. Conant distinctly recalls hearing his great uncle, David Annis, when a small boy, give this account of Indian trading, and the origins of the name Reach.”

While this account may also explain the naming of Reach, the fact that it came from the memory of a young lad who overheard his great uncle relate the tale many years later, could raise questions about its credibility.

Perhaps the most logical explanation of the naming of the township is far less complicated and easier to grasp. It’s highly possible Reach was named after an English namesake, just as so many other towns and villages throughout Ontario were at this time.

About 10 miles north east of the city of Cambridge, England lies the ancient Township of Reach which has been inhabited for 2,000 years. The town is situated at the termination of the great earthwork known as the Devil's Dyke\* with the Reach Lode (waterway) giving direct access to the sea. It was the centre of considerable trade in mediaeval times, being granted a charter to hold an annual fair by King John in 1201.

Whatever the origin of the name Reach Township, the name existed in Ontario County for a relatively short period, compared to its counterpart in England. Reach Township in Ontario ceased to exist January 1974 when it was amalgamated with its sister townships, Scugog, Cartwright and the town of Port Perry. The name ‘Reach’ existed for less than 200 years in the new world.

\* Devil's Dyke is a defensive wall running 6.5 miles from the end of Reach Lode (waterway) on which it is aligned, to the dense and impenetrable forest at Wood Ditton.



## Scugog Township

The word 'Scugog' has evolved from the Mississauga word which means 'submerged' or 'flooded land.' In the 1880's, Alexander Francis Chamberlain, a cultural anthropologist, submitted a number of articles to various publications including the Journal of American Folklore. His articles dealt with the history, language and traditions of the Algonkian Indians of Canada, focusing on the Mississaugas of Scugog. In 1891 he submitted his doctoral thesis to Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts, entitled The Language of the Mississauga Indians of Skugog, and subtitled A Contribution to the Linguistics of the Algonkian Tribes of Canada. The thesis was approved and later published. In this work, Chamberlain produced an extensive English/Mississauga dictionary with a grammar analysis. Within the dictionary he gave the origins and meanings of various place names in the region including Lake Scugog. He traced its origins to the words "pedjogenskiuegog" meaning "shallow, muddy lake."

Nonquon was derived from a word meaning "woods all in one spot." John Stegman, who drew a map of this region in 1804, named it Peobbeseugog.

There were many variations on the spelling of the word before it was finally accepted as we know it today. Some of these, found in early documents and on maps include - Eschiugog; Schoogug; Schoogog; Schugog; Scu-a-gog, Skugog, and finally Scugog.

The land mass, which was to become known as Scugog Island was first surveyed by Major Wilmot during 1816-17 when it was still part of the Townships of Reach and Cartwright. The island mass is about ten miles long, and two and a half miles wide.

The building of a dam by William Purdy at Lindsay in 1828 caused the raising of the level of the waters in 'muddy lake,' separating the rising land to the east from the mainland to form what we now know as Scugog Island. It wasn't until June 1855 that a bylaw was passed at the County of Ontario allowing the separation of the 'Junior Township of Scugog' from the 'Senior Township of Reach.' The first independent governing body of the newly formed Scugog Township was elected at the Head Schoolhouse on the first Monday of January, 1856.



## Cartwright Township

George Hall came from Ireland in 1831, settling in Cobourg. He purchased the eastern half of lot 23, concession 5 of Cartwright in 1833. He and his wife Jane (Hamel) became the first settlers in Cartwright. The first council in this region was organized in 1837 in Cartwright with James Caesar as chairman and treasurer. Cartwright was named after Richard Cartwright, a judge and member of the Legislative Council in the 1790's.

The present village of Blackstock was originally called Tooley's Corners. Tooley operated a hotel on the south-west corner of Blackstock where the cenotaph is now located. The community changed its name to Williamsburg and then, in 1887, renamed it Blackstock in honour of George Tait Blackstock, a lawyer who twice ran as M.P. for Durham West.

Caesarea was referred to as Lasherville, after an inn keeper, John Lasher. Beginning in 1845, he ran a ferry from Purdy's Mill at what is now Lindsay to his settlement on the eastern side of Lake Scugog. The name of the settlement was later changed to Caesarea after James Caesar.



## Port Perry

It was not until 1843 that a home was built on the present Port Perry waterfront area. In that year Elias Williams purchased lot 19 on the 6th concession, a two hundred acre property which included the present Port Perry waterfront and extended inland to include the whole of the downtown area.

In Upper Canada, Peter Perry and William Lyon Mackenzie were in the forefront of political reform. Both were defeated in the infamous 1836 election. Mackenzie led the rebellion of 1837 while Perry began to immerse himself in the development of his business ventures. In 1844 Peter Perry purchased the Lake Scugog waterfront property from Williams and began to promote it as a centre for the timber trade. He built a trading post on the site of the present Remax Real Estate office. He opened this store in 1846 and placed Chester Draper in charge. He lured mill owners, and other businessmen including shipbuilders to set up business in the prospering new community which he named Scugog Village. When Peter Perry died in 1851, the name was changed to Port Perry in his honour.



## Origins of Port Perry Streets

Elias Williams was the first white person to settle in what is now Port Perry but he did not attempt to establish a community. Reuben Crandell bought lots 17 and 18 in concession 6 in 1832. This is the land west of Simcoe Street between the 7th concession and Scugog Street. Initially he did not submit any plan of development but built a number of homes along what later became the western section of Queen Street from Old Simcoe to the edge of his property. His settlement became known as Crandell's Corners and later, Borelia, now the western part of Port Perry.

Reuben Crandell drew up his first street plan in 1845. This plan showed Elgin, Bruce, Albert, and Prince Streets perpendicular to Queen Streets. The only evidence remaining from this early plan can be seen in Silver Street (originally Elgin) and a small portion of Ottawa Street (originally Bruce) still perpendicular to Queen. The rest of his plan has been obliterated.

Crandell's sons eliminated Albert and Prince Streets and replaced them with (1) Ella, a southern continuation of, and following the same angle as, Rosa Street, (2) Caleb following the pattern of the new Cochrane Street and (3) Crandell as a southern extension of Bigelow Street. Lilla, Ella and Rosa were daughters of W.E. Yarnold, the Ontario County surveyor. Crandell's sons Caleb and Clark were also recognized at this time in street names.

Williams sold the lake front portions of his property to Peter Perry in 1844. Peter Perry then drew up the first street plan for Scugog Village in 1845. This plan was not registered until after his death in 1851. The planned settlement was bounded on the east by Water Street at the edge of Lake Scugog, and on the north by North Street. The boundaries on the west and south were vaguely defined by the backs of the lots on John and Cinderella Streets. He named Mary Street after his wife, John Street after his first son and Cinderella Street after his first daughter. Cinderella was later renamed Casimir Street after Sir Casimir Gsowski, the noted railroad engineer. Shanley was also later named after another railroad engineer. Perry's plan can be easily identified as his streets are parallel or perpendicular to each other, but not to streets in later developments.

In the December 1866 Joseph Bigelow, Charles Paxton and William M. Cochrane joined forces to purchase a 50 acre eastern portion of Crandell's property, the parcel bounded by Lilla, Rosa, Queen and Paxton Streets. Paxton was Bigelow's father-in-law and Cochrane was a lawyer. The original plan had only one street between Lilla and Rosa. This street was named Maria. Lawyer William M. Cochrane, persuaded the group to create more lots by replacing Maria with two streets. They were appropriately named Bigelow and Cochrane. Paxton Street was also named at that time along with MacDonald Street, in honour of the prime minister.



## Building Details

Many of the buildings in Port Perry were built with a distinctive yellow brick. The Town Hall 1873, the Anglican Church and many of the homes used this brick. Some of it came from the Fox Brickyard in Lindsay and some from the James Goode brickyard in Port Perry. This brick began to be used in the late 1860's, but supplies of the clay were depleted by 1890.

All the wood used in the construction in the Port Perry houses came from the local lumber mills. The timber supplied to these mills was originally found in the Lake Scugog Basin, but this supply was exhausted well before the 1900's. The timber after that time was brought to the mills through Lindsay from Sturgeon Lake and beyond.

With a few notable exceptions the houses in this study were built in the period from 1860 to 1880. This era saw the introduction of Italianate architecture to this part of Ontario. Italianate architecture was based on an impression of villas in Italy and was popular in what is now Ontario from 1835 until the late 1870's. By the time the Italianate style came to be used in Scugog it had been refined and somewhat standardized.

All the examples of Italianate in Reach township follow a particular pattern. They all have a tower over the front entrance. Some towers are two storeys some three or more. All the houses in this study have round headed windows, some separate, some grouped together. The roofs are not high pitched and they all have generous eaves supported by elaborate ornamental brackets. Originally they all had wrought iron railings above the bay windows, towers and flat roofs. These features add to the ornate and distinctive appearance of the Italianate homes in Scugog.

## *Chapter Two*

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# Picturesque Cochrane Street

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The large, majestic maple trees located along both sides of Cochrane St. make it one of the most attractive settings for the beautiful homes of this street. These were the homes of the area's business elite – lawyers, bankers, doctors, and prominent business owners.

Some of Port Perry's most distinctive Victorian homes were built here during the 1870s and 1880s, providing a panoramic view overlooking Lake Scugog from high on Borelia hill. Over time, the view has been obscured by the large trees, but it remains today as one of the most desirable streets on which to live in Port Perry. Cochrane Street was created by the Bigelow, Paxton and Cochrane business alliance and lots were established all along the street.

# The Homes Of Cochrane Street



James Dryden  
Lots 113, 114  
280 Cochrane St.



Hubert L. Ebbels  
Lots 112  
268 Cochrane St.



David Carnegie  
Lots 101, 102  
196 Cochrane St.



Joseph Bigelow  
Lots 98,99,100,  
& Lots 128, 129, 130  
178 Cochrane St.



David Adams  
Lots 95,96,97  
156 Cochrane St.



Edward Worthington  
Lots 86, 87  
281 Cochrane St.



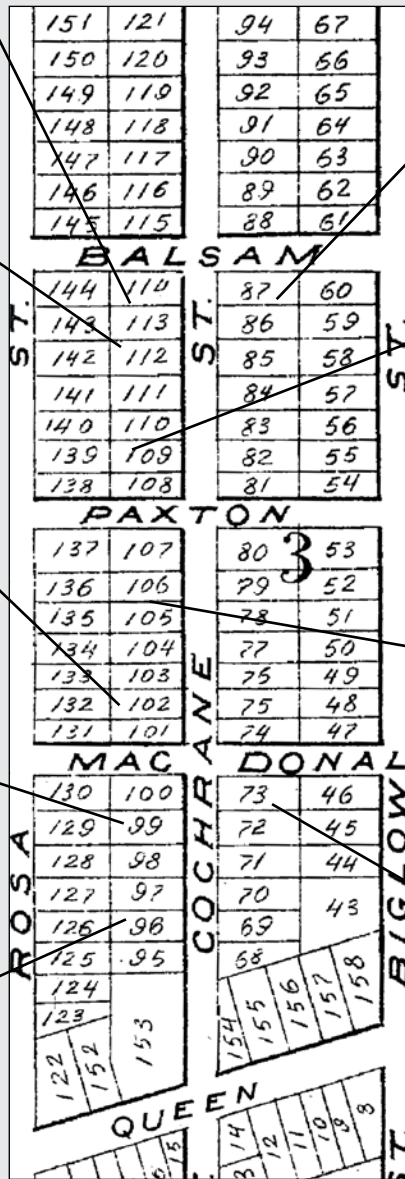
William Tate  
Lots 108, 109, 110, 111  
& Lots 139, 140, 141  
258 Cochrane St.



Sam Jeffrey  
Lots 105, 106  
220 Cochrane St.

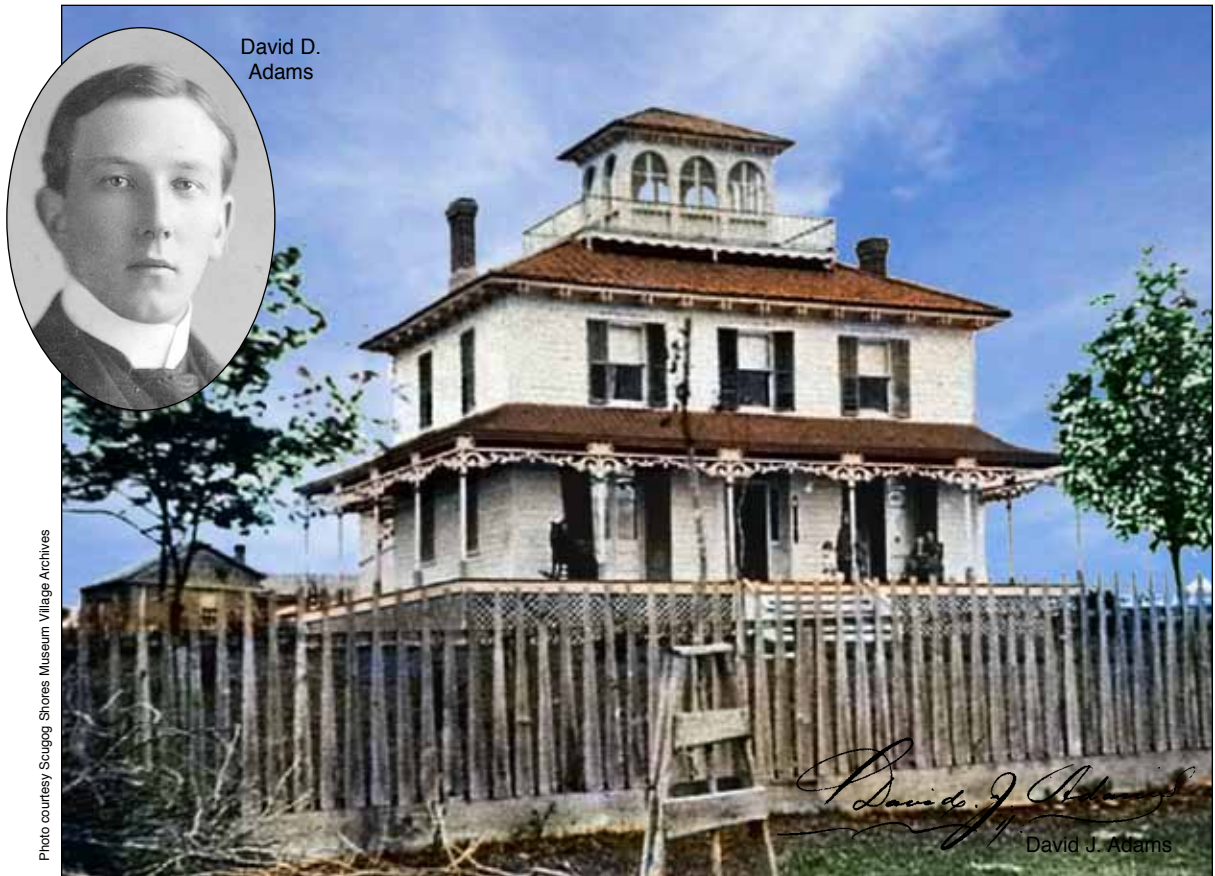


William Wilcox  
Lots 72,73  
177 Cochrane St.



Map of Cochrane St. and surrounding area  
taken from the Historical Atlas of Ontario  
County dated 1877.





The home of David Jewel Adams as it looked during the winter in the early 1880s.

## David Adams Residence

*156 Cochrane Street, Port Perry  
Plan 2, Lot 95, 96 and 97, Part of Lots 125, 126, and 127*

The property on which this house stands was originally part of a six lot parcel which extended from Cochrane to Rosa St. and had several owners but sat unoccupied until 1872. Brothers John and David Jewel Adams, had been extremely successful as bankers and insurance and investment brokers in Toronto. They both decide to move to Prince Albert in the 1860's and then to Port Perry in the early 1870's where they continued their business interests and purchased several properties in and around Port Perry.

John built an impressive home, Ambleside (see page 114), on a 300 acre property on Scugog Island. He also bought



The Adams house as it looks in 2001.

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES



The Adams livingroom on Cochrane St. with David J Adams, his wife and two sons.

this Cochrane Street lot in 1871 and gave it to his brother David the following year.

David immediately set about building this home in the summer of 1872. The original building had a smaller verandah with a curved sloping roof and elaborate gingerbread decorations. The roof was adorned with two chimneys and an ornate belvedere, or "widow's walk" on the roof. The belvedere was full height and had three windows at the front and rear and two at each side with a small fenced deck around it. The belvedere and chimneys were later removed. The house still

maintains the original frame structure with its unusual double brackets at the eaves and the full-length provincial doors either side of the front door.

On the death of David J. in 1910, the property was deeded to his son David Douglas. Unfortunately David Douglas died at the age of 34 in 1918. The property was then passed on to Hibbert and Blanche Hutcheson. Blanche was the daughter of David J. and the sister of David Douglas Adams. Her husband Hibbert Hutcheson was the manager of the Standard Bank in Port Perry. This was located in what is now Brock's department store. The Adams had their offices upstairs while the Standard Bank was on the main floor of the eastern half of the same building.

The house remained in the Hutcheson family until it was sold to John and Paula Jemmett in 1960. They sold the property to the Donald McLean family five years later. In February 1970 it was purchased by Inge Merk, and in 1972 it was bought by George and Ruth Stone. George Stone was a prominent real estate broker in Port Perry. The Stones sold the house to Marie and Stewart Moreland in 1976, the present owners.

The present day verandah with its second level walk-out is wider and is extended to the south. This, combined with the attractive landscaping, gives the house an even larger and more elegant appearance.



A view of the Adams home as it looked about 1875.

Photo courtesy Scougog Shores Museum Village Archives



Photo courtesy Dawn Ireland

The former Wm. Wilcox home was tastefully renovated by its new owners in 2016.

## William Wilcox Residence

*177 Cochrane Street  
Plan 2, Lot 72, 73*

The first person to buy this property from the Bigelow, Paxton, Cochrane alliance was James Smith who purchased it in January 1872 and then sold it three months later to William M. Wilcox. Mr. Wilcox was one of the area's early shop owners, operating a store called "The Union" as early as 1869, selling drugs, groceries and liquors. He closed his store in 1873 during the exodus of businesses from Prince Albert and moved to Port Perry where he became an auctioneer. While a resident of the village, Mr. Wilcox served a number of years as a town councillor and in 1888, as Deputy Reeve.

The yellow brick home has a mansard roof, a design developed in France in the 1600's and later copied in North America. The design was developed in order to provide more living space on the upper level than the conventional gable roof. A few homes were built in Port Perry using this design but this is the only remaining Victorian example. Ownership of the attractive home was transferred to Hazzard Wilcox in February 1879. Almost 33 years later, ownership changed once again but remained within the family, this time to Manuel W. Wilcox. In all, the Wilcox family owned and lived in the home for 40 years.

Cyril C. Jeffrey purchased the property in February 1924 and it remained in in his family for more than 50 years. Following the death of Mr. Jeffrey in 1953, various members of the family, including their daughter Hazel Slemmon, lived here. In January 1970, Mrs. Slemmon took over ownership of



Cyril Jeffrey

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES



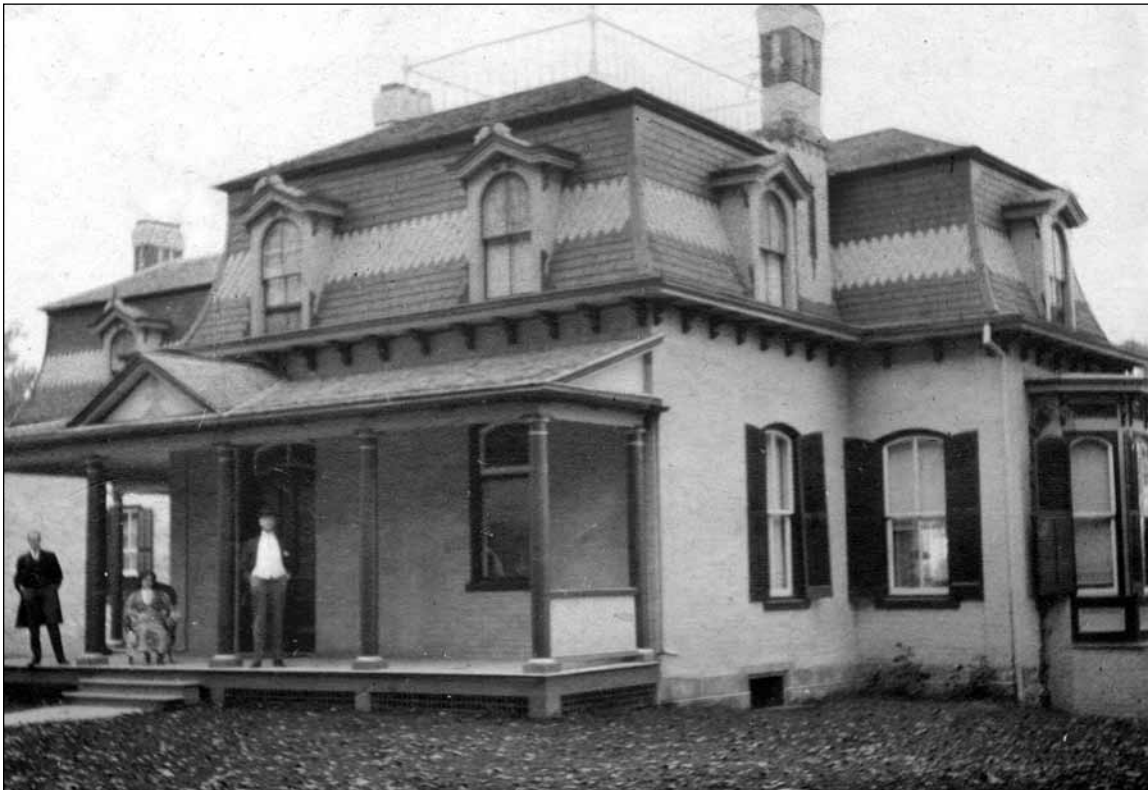
Photo courtesy Dawn Ireland

Cyril Jeffrey in his car outside his Cochrane St. home in the early 1900s.

the estate home and she lived there until October 1980 when it was sold to Robert and Patricia Smith.

The Smiths owned the home until about 2000, when it was sold to the present owners, Kirk Lapointe and Denise Rudnicki.

Over the years a number of changes have been made to the home. On the north-west wall, changes in the brickwork surrounding the kitchen window can be clearly seen and the wall markings of the original wrap-around verandah on the west wing of the house can still be seen. That original verandah has been replaced at the front door by a semi circular verandah with a conical roof. The details of the intricate decorative woodwork over the upper windows have been tastefully restored.



The Wilcox home was better known as the home of Cyril Jeffrey for much of the 1900s.



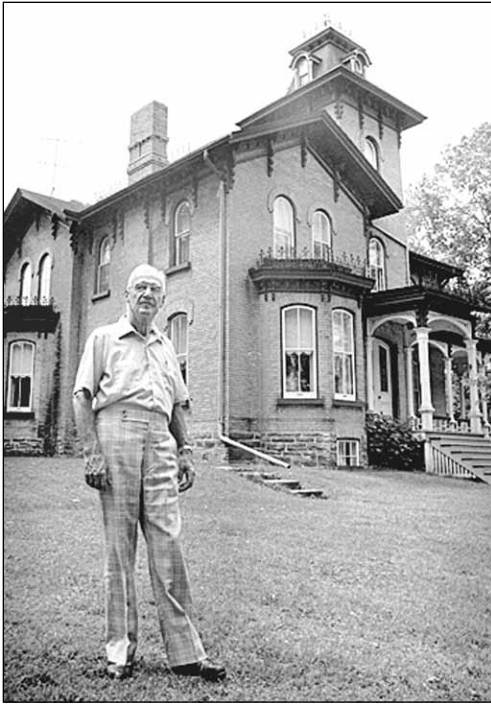
Sketch  
from  
the  
Toronto  
Globe  
1866

## Joseph Bigelow Home

*178 Cochrane Street  
Plan 2, Lots 98, 99, 100, and Lots 128, 129, 130*

The Bigelow house remains as one of the finest and best preserved examples of domestic Italianate architecture in Ontario. Its grandeur and elegance reflect the pride and achievements of its first owners, Joseph and Elizabeth (Paxton) Bigelow. Joseph Bigelow arrived in this settlement on the south-west corner of Lake Scugog in 1851. The community was in the process of changing its name from Scugog Village to Port Perry in honour of the death, the same year, of its developer and promoter, Peter Perry. Hiram Bigelow was the owner of the dam and feed mill at Lindsay. He bought lot 6 on Queen Street in Scugog Village as an investment for his twin sons Joseph and Joel. The young men took possession of the property and built a general store and opened the community's first post office while living at the back of the store. They bought the adjoining lot 5 and began to build a more substantial home. This home was later moved to Perry Street and exists today as number 100 Perry Street (see page 80). In 1854, Joel decided to venture on his own and moved to Whitby where he built a store at 106 Dundas Street. He moved to Milwaukee in 1864 and later to Chicago where he established the successful Bigelow Tea Company.

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES



The three photographs shown on this page were taken prior to the house contents being sold by auction in July 1980. Above is William Carnegie standing in front of the the house his grandfather, Joseph Bigelow built, where he lived with his wife Laura for more than 50 years.



At right are pictures of the parlour and living room of this magnificent house with the original furniture, purchased by Joseph Bigelow when the house was built in 1876. (photos have been colorized)

Joseph Bigelow was involved in a number of enterprises. Thomas Paxton had built a lumber mill on the waterfront where the new library is located. Bigelow joined him in this enterprise and married William Paxton's only daughter Elizabeth in 1854. William was a brother of Thomas. Joseph opened the community's first bank in 1867 and became its manager and, at the same time became involved in the building of the Port Whitby and Port Perry Railway and became its director.

To replace his original simple wooden store, he had a huge three-storey brick emporium built in 1868. This became know as the Bigelow Arcade. He later went on to buy saw mills and a flour mill and became a significant land owner in the booming town. He was elected as Port Perry's first Reeve in 1872 and was re-elected in 1873, 1874 and 1879. Unfortunately a depression began in 1875 forcing Bigelow to change some of his career plans. In 1878 Bigelow sold his Queen Street business to Jonathan Blong of Toronto but continued to own his mill. When Joseph Bigelow decided to retire in 1887, he sold his interest in his waterfront flour and planing mill to his partner, W. J. Trounce.

The next year, 1888, Trounce sold the entire business and property to James Carnegie. James Carnegie came to Canada from Scotland in 1865 at the age of 22. His business ventures in Reach Township started east of Utica where he operated a flour mill. He sold this business and expanded to flour and saw mills on a 50 acre property at Raglan in 1877. He sold this when he acquired the Port Perry mill.

During the early 1870's the Bigelows had their Queen Street home moved to Perry Street. They also bought an extensive section of property in Port Perry from Reuben Crandell, the township's first white



Joseph Bigelow as a young man.

settler. The property which Bigelow bought is bounded by Queen Street, Lilla (now Simcoe) Street and Reach Road. Joseph and Elizabeth began their plans to build the biggest and most elegant home in this part of the province. They retained the prominent Oshawa architect H.R. Barber to help them design their dream home. Barber also acted as the contractor. Work began in the fall of 1876.

The specifications for the Bigelows' dream home, 'Fairview Villa', called for a furnace in the basement and hot air piped to many of the rooms, a rare luxury at the time. The septic tank was built of stones to a size of ten feet deep and eight feet in diameter. The bay windows were specified as having frames built out of 10" by 12" dressed timber. All the sills were to be made from 10"x10" lumber. The studding inside the 9" brickwork was carried out in 2"x4". The main floor joists were 2"x12" at 16" centres while the joists on the upper floors were 2"x10" with 16" centers. Even the details of the nails on the 1"x10" roofing boards were clearly specified. All the windows were originally fitted with green venetian blinds. The plaster for the walls in all the rooms was made from "best quality pure unslacked lime, clean sharp bank sand, free from loam and salt, and best fresh long cattle hair."

All the floors were covered with 3"x1 1/2" dressed white pine. The exterior doors were to be 2 1/2" thick while the interior doors were 2" thick. All the external wood and iron work was primed with "one good coat of red and white lead and linseed oil properly proportioned." The work was then to be covered with "three good coats of suitable tints." The verandas, porch and windows and door frames were painted in a light grey tint, while the floors were painted in buff tint. The doors and window sashes were given a light wine tint and then coated with varnish. The iron railings on the roof and above the bays were painted in ultramarine blue and the tips gilded with gold leaf. Elizabeth had many

of the fireplaces bricked in because she thought that they created too much dust and soot. Many of these fireplaces were not rediscovered until the Solars occupied the house in the 1980's. The original property extended from Cochrane to Rosa Streets. Three lots were sold off the Rosa Street side in the late 1970's.

The Bigelows moved into their elegant new home and raised their family while entertaining in a comfortable style. They had one daughter Emma, and four sons, William, who died in 1855 in infancy, George, Charles and Thomas. A significant and newsworthy event which took place early in their occupancy was their daughter's wedding. W. H. McCaw was a jeweller who had his store in the Bigelow



The historic Bigelow home as it looked about 1975

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES

property on Queen Street where the Settlement House is now located. In what was Port Perry's biggest wedding of 1878, Emma Bigelow married W.H. McCaw. The house was large enough to accommodate the hundred or so guests.

Joseph and Elizabeth Bigelow were finding that the house was too big for them alone so they invited their daughter and her husband to live with them and to share in the time and effort needed to keep the immense house in order. At some time in the 1880's the McCaws moved into the Bigelow house on Cochrane Street and raised their eight beautiful daughters there.

Eligible bachelors from miles around came to Port Perry to try to gain an opportunity to meet with a McCaw girl. They were the most sought-after young ladies in town, grand-daughters of the wealthy Joseph Bigelow and daughters of the highly successful jeweller, W.H. McCaw. These factors evoked the prospects of a comfortable dowry. Although the Bigelows and McCaws would provide for the girls, it had to be realized that there were eight girls among whom that dowry was to be divided. For the more realistic among the suitors, beauty alone would be the lure.

On Sundays, eligible young men would be seen strutting in their Sunday best, peacock-like along Cochrane Street in the hopes of attracting the attention of a McCaw girl. But the most acceptable way of meeting a McCaw girl was to attend the Baptist Church at the north-east corner of Queen and Rosa Streets. Attendance there rose astronomically while the McCaw girls were single.

Many a young man having passed the hurdles of meeting and courting would then have the daunting challenge of sitting in the Cochrane Street front parlour with W.H. McCaw, asking for the hand of one of his daughters in marriage. He would then have to review his future prospects with the conscientious father, not a task for the faint hearted or untalented. Two sons of James Carnegie, Arthur and David, each courted and eventually married a McCaw girl.



\* The children of Emma & Hugh McCaw.

Elizabeth was the first born of the McCaw girls. She never married and lived to be 99 years old. Mabel was the second oldest.

She married Arthur Carnegie. The third daughter, Cora, was an extremely talented artist and married Frank Coone. Emma was next in line and married John MacDonald. Florence, who married Henry (Harry) Nasmith, lived to be 102 years old. Dave Carnegie married Marion McCaw, the sixth daughter. Aileen and Kathleen were twins and were the last of the McCaw girls. Aileen married Harold Emmerson, father of George Emmerson, and Kathleen married Morley Honey.

Elizabeth Bigelow died on July 12, 1914 at 86 years of age. Joseph lived as a widower for another three years. He died on January 28, 1917. He was 89 years old.

Their sons Charles and Thomas married late in life and had no children. George never married. Art and Mabel (McCaw) Carnegie had four children; Jack, Louise, William (Bill) and Arthur. Bill Carnegie, born in 1911, was the last Bigelow descendant to own the house. Bill moved into the Bigelow house with his family in 1925.

He later married and, with his wife Laura, found that, in their retirement years, the immense six bedroom home was taking too much time and energy to maintain, so they sold it in 1980 and moved to a comfortable apartment in Oshawa.

\*The McCaw girls, were the grandchildren of Joseph Bigelow, and were raised in the Bigelow home on Cochrane St. The eight sisters are, in no particular order, Elizabeth, Mabel, Cora, Emma, Florence, Marion, and twins Aileen and Kathleen.





H. L. Ebbels built this home near the corner of Cochrane and MacDonald Street.



David Carnegie

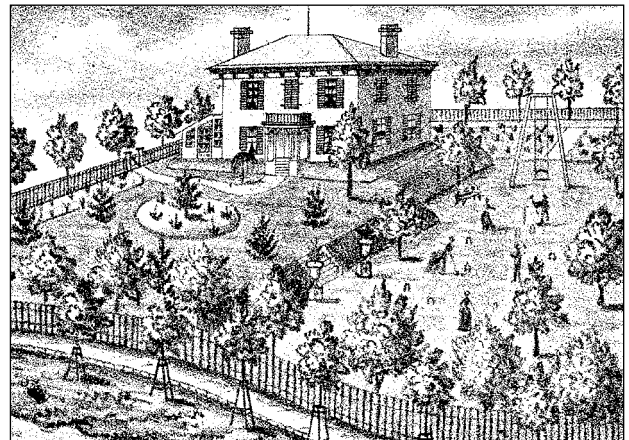
## The Carnegie Residence

*196 Cochrane Street, Port Perry  
Plan 2, Lot 101, 102 and RP 40R7214 Part 2*

This property is another of the attractive areas along Cochrane St. owned by Joseph Bigelow during the 1860s and 1870s. Bigelow had purchased a large parcel of land on the hillside overlooking Lake Scugog and the village of Port Perry from Caleb Crandell in the late 1860s and gradually sold off lots to many of the towns successful and affluent business people. Records show that lots 101, and 102 were sold to a new young lawyer, Hubert L. Ebbels, in October 1869 and shortly after, Mr. Ebbels took out a mortgage, presumably to build his home.

Mr. Ebbels began practice in Port Perry in September 1868 under the name Spence and Ebbels Barristers and plied his practice of law in the community for more than 50 years. After retiring from active practice in 1919, Mr. Ebbels and his wife sold their home and moved to Toronto.

The home Mr. Ebbels built in 1869 was not large or overly elaborate, compared to many of the homes that followed along



Sketch of residence of Hubert L. Ebbels in 1877.

Sketch from 1877 Historical Atlas of Ontario County

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES



Tag found in winter of 2001 by Steve and Alice Carnegie while renovating the pantry on the main floor. The tag was in the wall still attached to an original 2x4 used in the construction of the home.

Cochrane St., but the white frame home was quaint and functional for the young lawyer.

The original house was constructed with two storeys, both floors about 26'x34' in size. It was built on a stone foundation which had a walkout from the basement to the adjoining lot. It featured a small porch facing onto Cochrane St., which was enlarged to the entire width of the house at some later date.

Also added on after the original house was built was a 15'x10' sunroom facing south, with a trap door leading to a cold storage area; and a two storey summer kitchen 22'x18', with a woodshed to the west of the kitchen. The two lots were developed into an attractive property lined by a picket fence and many trees.

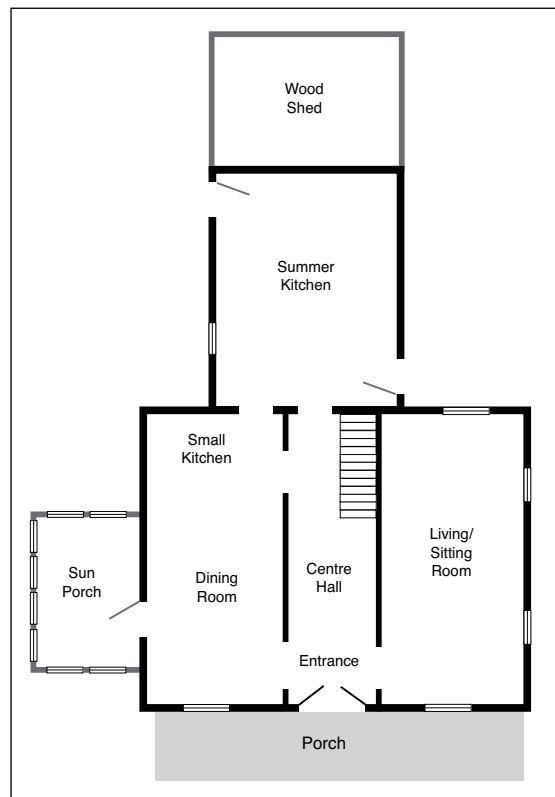
Another addition to the original house was a set of French doors leading to a small balcony off one of the bedrooms on the second floor.

The original house featured a centre hall plan with four rooms downstairs; a formal living room, sitting room, dining room and small kitchen. A staircase with an ornate spindle handrail led to the second floor where four good sized bedrooms were located. When the addition was added, another bedroom, closet space and a washroom without plumbing, was added. The toilet facilities were located in a small barn at the rear of the property. There was also a second staircase in the addition which descended to the new summer kitchen.

In June 1920, the Ebbels sold their home to David Carnegie, son of one of Port Perry's leading citizens, James Carnegie. David and his brother Arthur operated the family business which included a flour and grist mill, planing mill, saw mill and lumber yard for many years. David married Marion McCaw, one of the eight McCaw girls who lived across the street in Joseph Bigelow's residence, and the couple lived together in the family home until his death in 1950. Mrs. Carnegie stayed on in the house until May 1955 when ownership was turned over to her son Gordon and his wife Margaret.

Gordon and Margaret Carnegie continued the family ownership of the house for another 39 years, raising their family. Gordon was a partner in the Carnegie Hardware business on Queen St. with his brothers Robert, Harry and Don. In July 1994, the Carnegies passed the house along again, this time to their son Stephen and his wife Alice, who live in the home today. Members of the Carnegie family have now lived in this attractive Cochrane St. home for more than 80 years.

\* Note - During the period H.L. Ebbels owned his 196 Cochrane St. home, he was also the registered owner of another at 268 Cochrane St. It is not clear the exact dates he lived in each of these homes.



Floor plan of the Ebbels/Carnegie residence.



Photo courtesy Dawn Ireland



Sam  
Jeffrey

This magnificent home was not built by Samuel Jeffrey, but he and his descendents made it their family home for more than 30 years.

## Sam Jeffrey Residence

*220 Cochrane Street  
Plan 2, Lot 105, 106*

This property was described in the Ontario Observer, as being beautifully situated and providing an excellent view of the Port, Lake Scugog and Island. The first owner to purchase this property, which at that time extended from Cochrane St. west to Rosa St. and included six building lots, was John Pomeroy. Mr. Pomeroy owned it for about five years before selling it in June, 1875 to a Mr. Robbins. Little is known about Mr. Robbins, other than he must have been a successful industrialist. The only mention of him is found in a February 1894 newspaper article with reported he had invented a lawn mower, "so greatly advanced, it will make the machine a universal favorite."

Mr. Robbins sold the property in December 1883 to Thomas Courtice, a well known and respected Port Perry manufacturer of harnesses and saddles. Courtice had this home built. In business he entered into a partnership with Samuel Jeffrey in 1887. The two men operated Courtice and Jeffrey Harness Shop until Courtice died at the age of 71. In public life he served on the town council for a number of terms.

Samuel Jeffrey began his trade in harness-making with Mr. Courtice and started a wholesale business for the company. His son Cyril joined him in 1912 and the company was renamed S. Jeffrey and Son. In addition to his business life, Mr. Jeffrey served six years on town council, two of

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES



The Jeffrey house on Cochrane St. as it looks in 2001.

them as Reeve, and was also chairman of the school board for some time.

Prior to his death, Mr. Courtice transferred ownership of this property to his family and in 1926 the homestead was sold to his former partner, Samuel Jeffrey.

The house remained in the Jeffrey family for almost 30 years. Mr. Jeffrey passed way at 93 years of age in 1952. His wife Isabella remained in the family home for about two more years before selling the property in April 1954 to James Raymond Wilkin.

It's believed Mr. Wilkin passed away about two years after purchasing the elegant Cochrane St. home as his estate sold it to Stan and Mary Mumford in December 1956. The Mumford's made this their home for about 15 years before selling to Ken and Audrey Middleton in December 1971.

Mr. Middleton, a local real estate agent, kept the home for only a few months before selling to Siebe and Mary Rekker, who are the present owners of this attractive property. The Rekkers have extensively restored this home maintaining many of the original features and the attractive leaded glass transoms. They also had the yellow brick treated in order to restore it to its original appearance. One of the many notable features of this home is the upper floor verandah extending over the driveway. This was not an original feature of the house but was added when the house was about twenty years old. The front door was also remodelled at this time, eliminating the small, enclosed entrance porch.



Ornate front porch was removed.



This house was built by foundry operator William Tate in 1874.

## The Tate Residence

*258 Cochrane Street  
Plan 2, Part Lot 109 to 111, Part lot 108, 139 to 141 irregular*

This large, yellow brick home, located at 258 Cochrane Street, was built about 1874 by William Tate, a successful Port Perry businessman. Mr. Tate was honoured in 1872 by being elected to the first council of the new municipality of the village of Port Perry. Ironically, the man who sold him the property, Joseph Bigelow, became the first reeve of Port Perry.

William Tate was an astute businessman who operated the Paxton & Tate Foundry on Perry St. for more than 20 years. The company, whose partners included Thomas Paxton and Joseph Bigelow, manufactured turbine and water wheels and was one of the largest and most successful turbine manufacturers in Canada during the 1880s. Paxton & Tate also built three different styles of shingle machines, bark mills, lathe machines, water wheel governors and lumber trimmers.

William and Hannah Tate resided in their beautiful home for about 15 years before he died at the age of 65 in August 1889. Hannah continued to live in the home for another 10 years before selling it to Charles W. Jones.

Mr. Jones was a Port Perry businessman who worked in partnership with his brother William operating a general store on the north side of Queen St. known as Jones Brothers.. It was regarded as one of the best general stores in the County of Ontario, with departments including dry goods, gent's furnishings, house furnishings, groceries, millinery and dressmaking. They were brothers of two doctors, Richard Jones and George W. Jones (see page 51), who had medical practices in Port Perry.

Charles Jones moved into the sprawling residence in 1899 but only remained for about three years before offering the house for sale.



*C. W. Jones*  
Charles W. Jones

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES

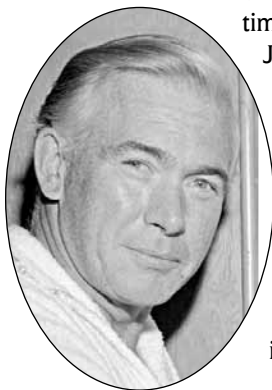
Albert Orchard was next to purchase the home. Mr. Orchard operated lumber and coal business in the village, and was a member of the local board of education. Mr. Orchard lived in the beautiful Cochrane St. home for about 10 years, before selling it to Robert Murray in 1912.

Robert Murray was an automotive dealer, taking on the Gray Dort line of cars in 1918. Robert and his wife Hattie lived comfortably in the home until Mr. Murray died in 1928. Mrs. Murray stayed on for a few months after the death of her husband before selling it.

In 1938, Norman P. Aldred purchased the house and with his wife Lucille raised their family. Mr. Aldred sold the home to his son Joel in 1973 at which time he built a large addition on the west side. Joel Aldred was a successful farmer, but also went on to become a nationally recognized star of radio and television during the 1950s and 1960s. Wanting to spend more time on his Scugog Island farm, Mr. Aldred sold the homestead to Dr. John and Elaine Hammett.



Norman  
Aldred



Joel  
Aldred

The Hammetts were neighbours of Mr. Aldred for ten years, living next door at 268 Cochrane St. After learning Mr. Aldred intended to sell his home, they purchased it in 1981. While owners of the home they restored the entire house and added a solarium to the south side. The young architect who drew the plans for the restoration was a home town boy, David Litt.

Dr. Hammett was a local physician and partner in Medical Associates of Port Perry for about 15 years, before becoming a Medical Officer of Health. He accepted a position in Kenora on Lake of the Woods, Ontario, and in 1989 they sold their home.

Ken and Maureen Shore purchased the home and are the current owners.

This impressive home is another example of the many built of yellow brick during the 1870's and 1880's. Originally a belvedere or "widow's watch" adorned the roof but this was removed early in the twentieth century and replaced by a flat roof.

The roof is supported by very large brackets. These brackets are doubled at each angle in the walls. The windows throughout are sashed and single paned with semicircular tops. The ornately decorated verandah originally protruded further to permit its extension to the edge of the east-facing bay.



Lawyer Hubert L. Ebbels built this home in 1877.



J.L.  
Crane

## H.L. Ebbels Residence

*268 Cochrane Street  
Plan 2, Lot 112*

This attractive Cochrane St. property was owned by John Dryden in 1872, but over the next few years it changed hands a number of times. The owners included Thomas Paxton and Joseph Bigelow. In 1877, the property was purchased by Hubert L. Ebbels who built a large brick home on the property located at 268 Cochrane St. Mr. Ebbels had previously lived in a comfortable frame home south of his new property at 196 Cochrane St. (see Carnegie page 23)

An unusual aspect of Mr. Ebbels' new Cochrane Street home was that he had it built with the front of the house facing south rather than the street itself. A generous verandah with columns and rail spindles of a much more modern design than the original house, surrounds the front entrance. The roof brackets are barely noticeable thus giving emphasis to the decorative brickwork around the windows

Mr. Ebbels was a well respected lawyer, who started in business in Port Perry in 1868. By the time he built his new home his legal business was one of the largest and oldest practices in town. He retired in 1919 after 40 years in business.

Mr. Ebbels lived with his wife Effie in the their beautiful home until 1911, when his health began to turn. The couple sold their home of 34 years to John Stovin.

John Stovin, a local contractor, stayed in the home for only four years before moving on. He sold the property to Wm. U. Carnegie for \$2,725. Wm. Carnegie was a co-owner of the local Ford Dealership and also operated the hardware store in town. Once again, the new owner of this house didn't stay long, selling it in 1922 to Wm. Albert Christie.

The Christies made the Cochrane St. home for about 20 years, before selling it in 1942 to Charles Lindsay. Mr. Lindsay owned the home until 1972 before disposing of it once again, this time to J. L. and Carolyn Crane. Mr. Crane was the principal of Port Perry High School from 1945 to 1956.

In 1972 the Cranes left town and sold the house to Dr. John and Elaine Hammett. Dr. Hammett arrived in town to start up his medical practice with a group of local physicians. The Hammetts held onto the home for over 10 years purchasing a neighbouring house and then selling their first home. This time it was sold to Arthur and Shirley Philp, who still live in the home today.



James Dryden built this home but died before he was able to move into it.



James Dryden

## The Dryden Residence

*280 Cochrane Street  
Plan 2 Lot 113, 114 irregular*

It was James Dryden who first purchased this large piece of land towards the north end of Cochrane St., in 1869, from his friend and neighbour Joseph Bigelow. Mr. Dryden, was a resident of Brooklin, and it wasn't until the spring of 1881 that he began work on constructing a magnificent home. The design of his house was similar to Mr. Bigelow's elaborate Italianate residence, although not quite as large. Like the Bigelow house, Mr. Dryden's new yellow brick home featured a three-storey tower in front, a porch trimmed with elaborate gingerbread and dozens of large arched windows.

The original verandah was much smaller and far more decorative. The absence of railings on the original verandah gave emphasis to the attractive gingerbread trim at the top of the pillars. The substantial new verandah now extends around the corner of the south wall and beyond it.



Photo courtesy Brian & Joanne Gallery

Dryden residence as it looked about 1915.





*John Dryden*  
John Dryden

But Mr. Dryden never did get to enjoy the fruits of his labour. Before the home was completed, James Dryden passed away at the residence of his son John, at Maple Shade Farm, Whitby, on July 31, 1881.

Following his death, his estate completed the construction and in 1884 it was purchased from the family by his brother George for \$3,500. But he didn't stay long, selling to his brother's son John three years later.

When John Dryden took over ownership of the house in 1887, he was serving as the M.P.P. for North Ontario County, a position he held until 1909, when he died at 69 years of age. John Dryden stayed in his father's home for almost 15 years before disposing of it in 1902.

The next owners of the house were William L. and Nell Parrish. The Parrish family lived in the beautiful residence for 53 years, and to this day it is still often referred to as the "Parrish House."

Mr. Parrish operated one of the largest and best equipped hardware stores in Ontario County. This was in the Parrish Block on Queen Street, built by his father William T. Parrish following the fire of 1884. The building consisted of two store fronts, currently occupied by Lukes Country Store.

In addition to his business interests, Mr. Parrish was a member of the School Board, the Public Library Board, served on town council for a number of years, occupied the chair of Reeve for three years, and was honoured by being elected Warden of Ontario County in 1908.

Following his death, the house was sold in 1955 to Mildred L. Smith, who only lived in the house for four years before selling. The next owner would make the stately home his residence for a much



William L. Parrish

longer time.

When Matthew B. Dymond and his wife Jeanne arrived in Port Perry, the enthusiastic young doctor from Scotland fell in love with the house and purchased it from Mrs. Smith in 1959. They spent the next 32 years of their life in the home, before selling it and moving into a smaller home on Ella Street.

Dr. Dymond was a family practitioner and served the community for his entire life in Port Perry. The popular doctor also became very interested in public life and was elected an M.P.P. a number of times, and served as Minister of Health during the 1960s. He was as popular in his political life as his medical life and earned the respect and admiration of both his colleagues and his patients. While Dr. Dymond owned the home, he added a study and solarium on the north side.

The present owners of the "Dryden" house are Brian and Joanne Callery, who purchased it from the Dymond family in 1991. The Callerys have completely remodelled the north side addition in keeping with the original architectural form of the house. The Callerys continue to nurture the 122 year old structure and it remains one of the most impressive homes on Cochrane Street.



Dr. M.B. Dymond



The home is impressive from all angles.



John Watkis built this large brick home on the hilltop overlooking Port Perry in 1873 for Edward Worthington.

## Worthington Residence

*281 Cochrane Street  
Plan 2, Lot 87, Part Lot 86*

This attractive yellow brick Cochrane St. home may not stand out as one of the larger or more elegant homes along this tree lined street, but it has a charming quality none-the-less. Complete with arched bay window and a porch trimmed with decorative gingerbread, the house is located on the south-east corner of Cochrane and Balsam St. and provided a panoramic view of Lake Scugog from windows facing the east. Like most other homes of this era, there were heavy baseboards and trim around doorways and windows.

The lots on which this house sits were originally owned by Joseph Bigelow. Mr. Bigelow sold the property to George W. Dryden in January 1869 and after holding onto it for six years, in June 1875, Mr. Dryden sold it to John L. Watkis. Less than two years later, in October 1877, Mr. Watkis sold the property to Edward Worthington.

Mr. Worthington was a local businessman who built a two-storey flat roofed building on Queen St. in 1866 to house his Flour & Feed Emporium. From here he purchased and sold farm produce for many

years before selling the entire business in August 1878 to John Watkis, the man from whom he had purchased the Cochrane St. property less than a year earlier.

Whether it was Watkis or Worthington who built the attractive home on Cochrane St., is not entirely clear, but it is believed John Watkis built the home for Worthington shortly after purchasing the land in 1875.

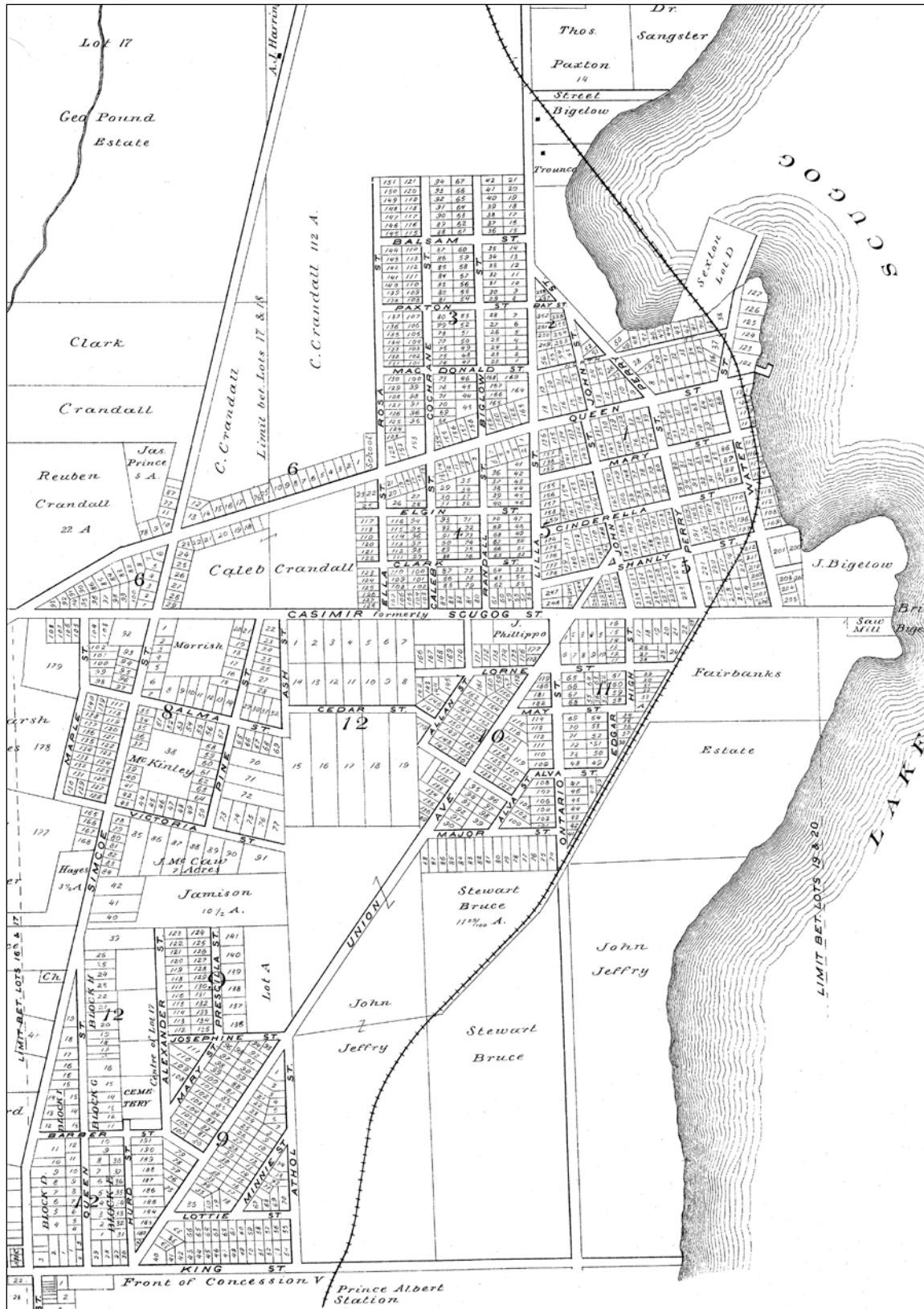
Then, only sixteen months after moving into his new home, in March 1879, Edward Worthington advertised his commodious two-storey brick residence and all its furnishings for sale. In addition to his home, he also offered his commercial property and building on Queen St. This property was purchased by William T. Parrish. The next registered owner of the house was George Currie, one of the community's most industrious and well respected residents. It was Mr. Currie who built the large grain elevator near the lakefront. Members of the Currie family owned the house until February 1906 when the estate sold the home to Niles Searles. Mr. Searles, a prominent and respected resident of Prince Edward County, arrived in Port Perry in March 1905 to take over ownership of the St. Charles Hotel at the south-east corner of Queen and Water Streets, and one year later purchased this Cochrane St. home. The Searles lived in the home for only one year selling in February 1907, to David J. Adams, one of the town's resident money lenders.

David J. Adams probably purchased the house as an investment, as he lived less than two blocks south of the house on the same street. Mr. Adams passed away in June 1910 and his estate sold the house in November 1912 to Edward Walker, who made this his home for more than 30 years.

Following his death in 1943 the estate sold the home and since then it has been owned by the following people: Wm. Alex Nelson (November 1943-October 1944), May E. Walker (October 1944-October 1946); John Spence Parker (October 1946-December 1948); John and Margaret Merrick (December 1948-June 1950); John and Reta Jefford (December 1948-July 1966).

In July 1966 the house was purchased by Douglas and Marilyn Wallace. Mr. Wallace arrived that year to assume the position of head of Science at Port Perry High School. He held that position until his retirement in 1979, but the house remained in the family until July 1987 when his widowed wife sold the property to Arnold and Carolyn Peek. They in turn sold the home to John and Brenda Bailey.

HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES



Reproduction of a map of Port Perry & Prince Albert published in the Historic Atlas of Ontario County, 1877.

# *Chapter Three*

## The Homes of Queen Street

Queen Street, another of Port Perry's beautiful tree-lined streets, stretches from the commercial district near the shore of Lake Scugog to the western edge of the town. Entering the town from the west, a canopy of century old Maple trees flank both sides of the street as it descends towards the the lake and the business section.

This picturesque street, from top of the hill at old 'Borelia', to the intersection of Queen and Simcoe St., is lined with attractive and unique Victorian-style homes built during the late 1800s. This chapter highlights some of the best of these.

# The Homes Of Queen Street



Dr. Richard Jones  
Lot 159, 160  
327 Queen St.



John H. Brown  
Lot 21, 19  
404 Queen St.



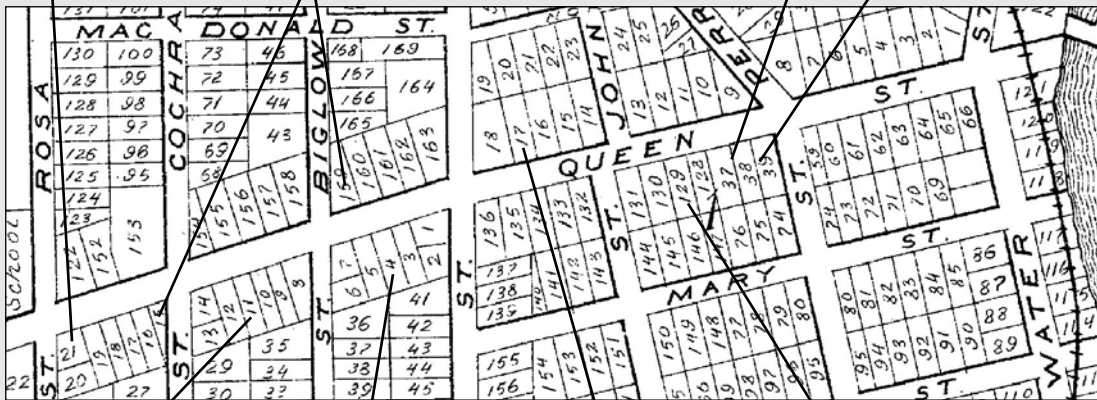
Thomas Forman  
Lot 15, 16  
386 Queen St.



Dr. David Archer  
Lot 37  
230 Queen St.



A.J. Davis  
Lot 58  
226 Queen St.



David Urquhart  
Lot 11, 12  
360 Queen St.



Wm. T. Parrish  
Lot 4,5  
324 Queen St.



James Carnegie  
Lot 17  
279 Queen St.



Dr. Orr Graham  
Lot 129  
250 Queen St.

Map of Queen St. and surrounding area taken from the Historical Atlas of Ontario County dated 1877.



The A.J. Davis residence near the corner of Queen and Perry St., Port Perry

## A.J. Davis Residence

*226 Queen Street, Port Perry  
Plan H-50020, Lot 58*

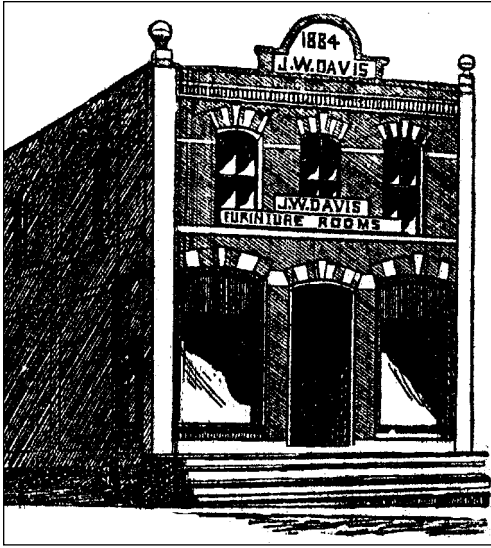
As early as 1847, John W. Davis was engaged in the manufacture of furniture, under the name of J.W. Davis Cabinet Factory, on this choice double lot in the business centre of downtown Port Perry. He built a large two-storey frame factory on his property, located at the corner of Queen and Perry Streets, which burned to the ground in 1867. Following the fire, he rebuilt and continued business at the same site until July 1884 when the store was again destroyed by fire. This time, the entire downtown commercial core was ravaged by the fire, destroying almost every place of business. Mr. Davis sustained more than \$25,000 in losses from the fire, a huge amount of money in those days, but he persevered and by the end of November the same year, he had rebuilt a two-storey brick building (see page 38), and returned to business once again. This is the building used today by Wagg's Funeral home.

In May 1888, the elder Davis sold the western piece of his property to his son, Albert J. Davis. Albert was 30 years old when he took out a \$1000 mortgage a few months later to build a substantial yellow brick home. The attractive house still stands near the corner of Queen and Perry Streets today.



Albert J.  
Davis

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES



J. W. Davis Furniture and Cabinet Factory 1884 was built on the lot adjacent to the house.

Albert J. Davis was born in Port Perry in 1858, and was educated at both public and high school in the village. As a young man he gained experience working for local drug stores and in 1890 he graduated from the Ontario College of Pharmacy. Upon graduation he immediately returned to Port Perry and purchased the drug store business of Mr. C. C. McGlashan.

His store was located in the Blong Block until 1901 when Mr. Davis moved to new premises on the north-east corner of Queen and Perry Streets. This large store enabled Davis to make room for the telegraph instruments and equipment for the Great Western Telegraph Co., for which he was agent for 28 years. He also served as ticket agent for the C.P.R. In April 1930, Mr. Davis retired after almost 50 years of serving the community, including two years on the town council. He sold his business to Andy M. Lawrence of Oshawa.



George L. Smith

Mr. Davis and his wife Annie lived in their familiar Queen St. home until he passed away in 1932, but the home remained in the family until December 1973 when executors of Grace Lillian Davis sold the property to George Edwards. Less than a year later, Mr. Edwards re-sold the property, this time to David R. Roughley, who owned it until January 1977 when the house was sold to Shirley L. Smith under power of sale.

Mrs. Smith sold the property ten years later to George Leslie Smith, who converted the home into a law office. Mr. Smith continues to operate his business Geo. L. Smith, lawyer, from the former Davis home.

This house and Dr. David Archer's house directly to the west were built at the same period and are constructed with floor plans in almost mirrored images. They are both built of the same yellow brick. They are typical of many homes built in the late 1800's with solid front verandahs. But they differ from the norm in that the yellow brick above the upper main bedroom window is intricately detailed. The Davis house has the more elaborate arch topped windows whereas the Archer house windows are flat topped.





Dr. David Archer's home at 230 Queen Street as it looks today.

## Dr. David Archer Home

*230 Queen Street, Port Perry  
Plan H-50020, Lot 57*



Dr. David Archer

This piece of property was part of a large block of land fronting on Queen St. sold by John Cameron to John W. Davis in October 1878. In May 1888, Louisa Davis took out an \$800 mortgage on the property, quite likely for the construction of the house. In January 1895 Louisa Davis sold her home to Dr. David Archer who had set up his practice of medicine in Port Perry a few years earlier. He moved into the centrally located yellow brick house on Queen St. with his wife and family, and also operated his medical practice from the home. In 1897 Dr. Robert Archer joined his brother in the practice of medicine and a few years later they built the Archer Bros. Medical Clinic on the lot west of the Dr. Archer's home.

David Archer was born in Cartwright Township on August 4, 1857 and attended Bowmanville High School, Hamilton Model School and then started his career as a teacher of mathematics at Smith's Falls High School. He later entered the study of medicine at Victoria College and after graduation went to England, Scotland and Ireland where he took post graduate work.

He returned to Canada and set up a practice in Port Perry in 1891 where he continued for 37 years before moving to Oshawa. He was a member of the medical staff of the Oshawa General Hospital and was held in high regard by the medical fraternity there. At a banquet of the Ontario County Medical Association in February 1938, Dr. Archer was presented with a life membership and was cited for his self

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES

sacrifice and devotion to the relief of suffering.

In 1928, about one year after the death of his brother Robert, Dr. David Archer and his wife moved to Oshawa. Two years later the Archers sold their home of 35 years to surgeons, Doctors George M. Rennie and George S. Jeffrey for \$10,000. In May 1933 Dr. Jeffrey left Port Perry and sold his half of the practice and properties to Dr. Clinton Peterson.

Drs. Rennie and Peterson operated their practices together for almost 10 years from this location. In 1942 Dr. Peterson volunteered his services for World War II and sold his share of the house at 230 Queen St. to Dr. Rennie, and his half of the medical practice to Dr. Matthew B. Dymond.

Dr. Rennie and his family lived in the home until his death, and his estate sold the property to a numbered company in October 1978. Carolyn and Ron Bridgewater purchased the property in November 1983 and Mr. Bridgewater operated his law office from the building until they sold it five years later.

Dr. Eva Mueller, a chiropractor, purchased the property in April 1988 for \$185,000, operating her practice from the building for a few years before moving. Dr. Mueller is still owner of this fine downtown Port Perry home.



Dr. George  
Rennie



Photo courtesy Marilyn Rennie

This picture taken of the Dr. Geo. Rennie house about 1970 shows the large wrap around porch originally at the front of the home.



Photo courtesy Scugog Shores Museum Village Archives

Dr. Orr Graham built this beautiful downtown Port Perry home about 1885.



Dr. Orr Graham

## Dr. Orr Graham Residence

*250 Queen Street  
Plan H-50020, Lot 129*

Before the present brick home was erected on this site by Dr. Orr Graham, this convenient mid-town property experienced a number of ownership changes. As early as 1866 it was owned by Joseph Bigelow, who had purchased it by "Sheriff's Deed" from Ontario County Sheriff Nelson G. Reynolds. Sheriff Reynolds had purchased it from Robert Perry. Mr. Bigelow held onto the lot for almost 14 years, before selling it in January 1880 to Samuel Graham.

Mr. Graham was a well-respected and enterprising blacksmith who operated his business on Queen St. and later became owner of the Ontario Carriage Works. Mr. Graham owned the lot for about four years before selling it to Robert Henry in May 1884, only two months before the devastating fire which destroyed the entire business section of the town including the buildings on this property. This delineated the western extremity of the fire. Three months after the fire, in October 1884, he sold the property to a young veterinarian, Doctor Orr Graham.

Dr. Graham is given the credit with developing one of the largest veterinary practices in this part of the province. His father was an extensive breeder of stock, and it was here while a boy he developed a love for domestic animals and a practical knowledge of them. Upon graduating, he returned to his home town and began his practice in veterinary medicine. Between 1885-1886 the doctor built this handsome residence on Queen St., with stables in the rear for his veterinary practice. The house is

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES



The Orr Graham as it looks in 2002. The large wrap around porch and the barn are gone, but the building looks much like it did when built in 1885.

among the more unique homes in the community because of its brickwork; layers of yellow brick following the upper and lower lines of the windows, and the detailed brickwork above the double front and side windows at the upper level

After serving the residents and farmers of the community for close to a quarter of a century, the Grahams decided to sell their home. In October 1910 George Arthur Coates purchased the property and moved in, and then in 1918, ownership was transferred to Harriet M. Coates, who retained it for another two years.

The next owners of the attractive brick house were Cornelius and Laura Sweetman, who purchased it in May 1920.

The Sweetmans made this their home for the next 25 years, but in 1945 after the death of her husband, Laura Sweetman sold the property to Harold and Annetta Camplin. The Camplins lived in the house until September 1952, when it changed hands again, this time being purchased by Thomas W. Oliver, who purchased it from the Camplins for \$10,000.

Then in April 1954 Mr. Oliver sold the property to Stephen Kandel, a young physician who had just moved to Port Perry to begin his practice in medicine. Dr. Kandel purchased the house for just \$100 more than Mr. Oliver had paid for it two years earlier. It's not known who had the exterior of this house painted white, hiding the beautiful decorative brickwork, but it was Dr. Kandel who hired contractors to remove the paint and return the building to its natural beauty.

Dr. Kandel served the community for 17 years before moving to Toronto, but he sold his Queen St. residence in November 1967 to William Cornish and his wife Norma, and moved into a new home on Scugog Street. Dr. Kandel sold the house for \$22,000, almost double what he had paid for it 23 years earlier.

The Cornish family resided in the home for about six years before selling it in September 1973 to Ruth Shepherd. Then in January 1977, Ruth Shepherd sold it to Alex Shepherd, who opened Cressbrook Investments, a financial investment business, in the building.

Mr. Shepherd went on into public life and in 1993 was elected as the federal Liberal Member of Parliament for this riding.



Dr. Stephen Kandel



This home was built by James Carnegie about 1914 and today is operated as a restaurant under the name Jester's Court.



James Carnegie

## James Carnegie Residence

*279 Queen St., Port Perry  
Plan H-50020 Lot 17*

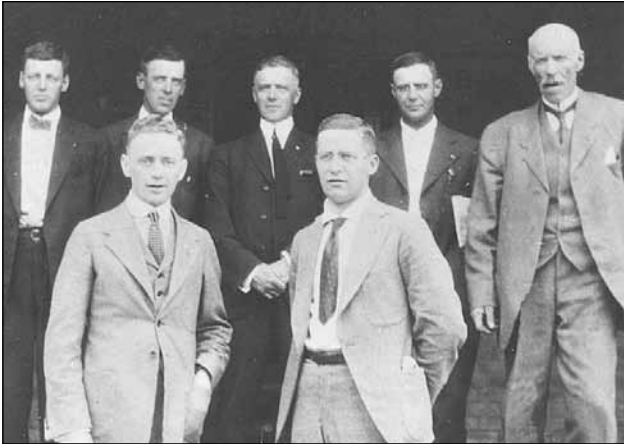
Although the Carnegie residence is less than a century old, it was built by one of Port Perry's most respected and industrious businessmen and is worthy of mention. The house is situated on a prominent lot on the north side Queen St., beside the former lawn bowling green, and for the past quarter of a century has been used to accommodate an eating establishment under a number of names including the Murray House and most recently Jester's Court.

This property was on the western edge of Peter Perry's purchase from Elias Williams in 1844. On his death in 1851, it became the property of his son Robert. In May, 1857, Perry sold the property to James McConnell, who in turn sold it just a few months later to James Goode. It was James Goode, a mason who built the first buildings, a workshop and residence here in 1859. He sold his property to Dan Ireland in 1871 who turned the residence into a hotel. In this hotel the newly incorporated village of Port Perry held its first nomination meeting in December 1871.

By 1880 the hotel had changed hands and over the next few years there were a number of owners, including John Adams, John Smith, E.A. Prince and Andrew Campbell.

During the 1890's the Ireland Hotel burned down when a fire started in the adjoining confectionary store. While the building was burning, some embers fell on members of the Port Perry Fire brigade and Joseph Deshane was seriously injured. He suffered severe burns to his face and lost an eye. The hotel was totally destroyed.

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES



James Carnegie (right back) and his sons at their home on Queen St., in 1921. From left, back row are, David, Charles, Abram and Arthur. Standing in front, left, Harry and William.

In 1913, James Carnegie purchased this property from Campbell, tore down the workshop and built a new two-storey red brick house in 1914, the house which still occupies the attractive central property today.

James Carnegie came to Port Perry about 1888 and purchased the flour mills from the Ontario Bank. He carried on this business for almost 20 years. His flouring mills and planing mills were totally destroyed by a fire in June 1902, but undeterred, he rebuilt and was in operation in less than a year and successfully ran it until 1907, when he sold it to his sons.

He was well known throughout the County, having taken an active part in public affairs. He served for a number of years on Port Perry council, and was Reeve for three terms. In 1899 he served as Warden of the County of

Ontario. He was elected unanimously to the House of Assembly for the Liberals of South Ontario in 1907.

James Carnegie, was a resident of Port Perry for over 30 years and died in this house in October 1921. Members of the Carnegie family continued to live in the home until 1934 when it was sold to John Murray and his wife Lorena.

From that point in time the house became known as the "Murray House." The Murrays were the caretakers of the Osler Estate which comprised a large lodge and marshland south of the Port Perry causeway (see page 109). When they decided to retire from their jobs at the Osler estate, they moved into the house of the late James Carnegie on Queen Street.

The Murray House was purchased in August 1978 by Carol Morrow and was converted into a restaurant operated by Carol and Peter Kirk. In April 1986 the property changed hands again, with a former employee, Nikki Bainbridge purchasing it.

The Murray House is one of the area buildings which is said to be haunted. Many people claim to have seen the ghosts in the building. Stories of the supernatural have existed since the Murrays lived in the home but the alleged ghosts appear to date from the time that the hotel existed during the nineteenth century.

Ms. Bainbridge sold the Murray House to Wayne and Margaret McGibney in 1997 who opened a the Jester's Court restaurant. The restaurant is now owned and operated by Deena Vallieres and Jeff Jarvis. The McGibneys have retained ownership of the former Carnegie residence.



John and Lorena Murray purchased the house in 1934 and from that time on it became known as the "Murray House."



This attractive frame house was built on Queen St. about 1974 by William T. Parrish.

## The Parrish Residence

*324 Queen Street  
Plan 22, Part Lot 4, 5*



*W. L. Parrish*

William L. Parrish

Caleb Crandell was first owner of this registered lot and sold it to Wm. T. Parrish and his wife Caroline in December 1872. Mr. Parrish arrived in Port Perry in 1868 and opened an extensive hardware business. He quickly became a respected businessman and citizen of the community. It is believed it was he who had the house built on this attractive lot, steps away from the new Town Hall during the mid-1870s. W.T. Parrish was only 43 years of age when he passed away in 1887, and his wife Caroline died less than a year later, at 40 years of age.

Following the death of his parents, William L. Parrish took over ownership of the family home. The junior Parrish had assumed ownership of the hardware business when he was 20 years old, in 1884, and for the next 60 years operated one of the most extensive and successful hardware businesses in the town. While a young man he also became interested in public life and was elected Reeve of Port Perry from 1906-1908. He also served as Warden of Ontario County in 1908.

The next owner of this attractive Queen St. house were George and Emma Rose. Mr. Rose retired from his Brock Twp. farm in 1902 and purchased the house from Mr. Parrish for \$1,500. After settling in to their new home, Mr. Rose became an agent for a general insurance company for the next 10 years. He died in 1937, and Mrs. Rose continued to live in the house until she passed away six years later.

Sadie and Howard Durkin were the next family to own the house, purchasing it from the Rose estate

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES

in December 1943. Howard and Sadie operated the Port Perry 5c to \$1.00 store on Queen St., where Lukes Card Shop is today. The Durkins lived in the house until August 1956.

Next to own the attractive home were Raymond and Jane Litt. Mr. Litt was a high school science teacher who later became vice principal of Port Perry High School. After raising their family in Port Perry, the Litts sold the house in April 1989 and moved from town.

Nora McGriskin purchased the house from the Litts, and while living there did extensive renovations to the aging structure.

After a relatively short time in town she offered her house for sale, and in November 1992 it was purchased by Judge Donald S.

Ferguson. The Ferguson's stayed on for about three years, before pulling up roots and selling the house to Darla & Paul Romanchuk in July 1995. It has since been sold twice, first to Douglas and Karen Cade who sold it in early 2002 to Frederick W. Yeo and Sheri Lynn Rudolph-Yeo.

Today there is a new attractive and appropriate white board picket fence surrounding the front yard.



George  
Rose

This house has a unique and attractive front entrance. The double doors with arched windows provide a very pleasing and inviting look to the old home.



The house as it looked about 1950, with owners Raymond and Jane Litt on the front porch.





A view of Dr. E.L. Proctor's house and office as it looked in 1906. The picture was taken looking north from the front of Town Hall 1873.

## Dr. E.L. Proctor Residence

*305 Queen Street  
Plan 2, Part Lot 162, 163*



Dr. E.L.  
Proctor

The current building on this central piece of property was built in 1897 by Dr. Edgar L. Proctor, a young Port Perry physician who had joined the practice of Dr. George Clemens a year earlier after the popular doctor's health began to fail, probably brought on by the loss of his home and office to fire in August 1895.

Dr. Clemens awoke about 4 a.m. one morning to find his stately residence being consumed by fire and was fortunate to escape the flames as they spread rapidly through the elegant brick home. Within minutes the entire structure and its valuable contents, were destroyed. (see page 158)

It was speculated that the doctor would rebuild at once, but due to failing health Dr. Clemens never did and the last we hear of him was in December 1896 when his good friend John W. Meharry hosted a gathering of 75 guests at a party given as a farewell to the popular doctor and his wife.

Before leaving Port Perry, Dr. Clemens sold the vacant property to Dr. E.L. Proctor who took over

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES

ownership in January 1897, and built the impressive frame two-storey home at the corner of Queen and Lilla (Simcoe) Street. Dr. Proctor practiced medicine there until 1908 when he sold the property to Dr. John D. Berry and moved to Whitby to continue his medical practice. He passed away in 1945. Dr. Berry was the last physician to operate his medical office from this location.

Wm. M. Real and his wife Mina purchased the house in 1918 from Dr. Berry and lived in it until 1942. Mr. Real served on Reach Twp. council for a number of years during the 1890s, before retiring to Port Perry, where he again held office on a number of occasions. The Reals lived in the large white house until Mr. Real's death, when his wife sold the home.

Over the next forty years the attractive home was owned by a variety of people including the following family names... Spooner, Drake, Bryden, McDermott, Burnett, McPhaden, Taylor, Glidden and Decan.

In 1987, local musician Irwin Smith purchased the home and converted part of it into a retail store for the selling of musical instruments and teaching lessons. Mr. Smith lived in the upper part of the building until 1991 when he moved to the family farm south-west of Port Perry, and rented his former apartment. About 1995 he and his wife Alissa established Ocala Orchards Farm Winery.

Mr. Smith kept ownership of the property, leasing it to a flower and bridal shop operated under the name Everlasting Memories. When Everlasting Memories closed their doors in 2015, Mr. Smith sold the building to Brock and Wendy Revielle. The new owners renovated the historic old building and moved their business, Port Perry Optical, into the building in late 2015.



Dr. E.L. Proctor's home, built in 1897 is now owned by Irwin Smith and occupied by Everlasting Memories.



Photo courtesy Scugog Shores Museum Village Archives

Lockerby House was the name given to Major Thomas C. Forman's home at the corner of Queen and Caleb St. in 1885.



## Thomas C. Forman Residence

*386 Queen Street  
Plan 22 North Part Lot 15, 16*

Thomas Chalmers Forman was one of this region's legendary business pioneers. He was born in Scotland and immigrated to Canada as a teenager. Forman found a job in Oshawa working for one of that community's pioneers, James Laing. Impressed by the young Scotsman's work ethic, Laing sent Forman to open and operate the first grain merchant's store in Prince Albert in 1845. Later that year Forman married his employer's daughter, Margaret.

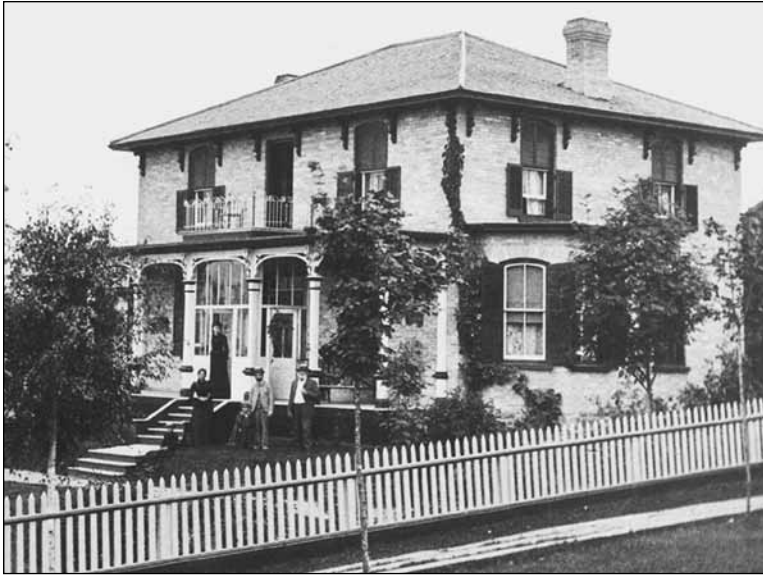
Thomas Chalmers Forman

Within five years of the opening of Forman's business, Prince Albert had become the second busiest grain centre in Canada West, with Forman's operation as the most successful. Forman inherited the Prince Albert operation of the business when his father-in-law died.

Not only was Forman a successful businessman but he also took a leading role in the community. He organized the Reach Volunteers as part of the 34th Battalion, a militia group. When the Fenian raids took place in 1866, Captain Forman led his Battalion to Toronto to take part in the defences of the country. As a result of his leadership he was promoted to Major and returned to Prince Albert as a hero and continued his business career, and also built an elaborate home in the village.

With the arrival of the railway, businesses began to move from Prince Albert to be re-established in the booming railway terminus in Port Perry. Forman joined in the exodus and re-established himself in

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES



These two pictures, taken from similar angles show the changes made to the house since it was built in 1885 (top) and as it looks today (below).



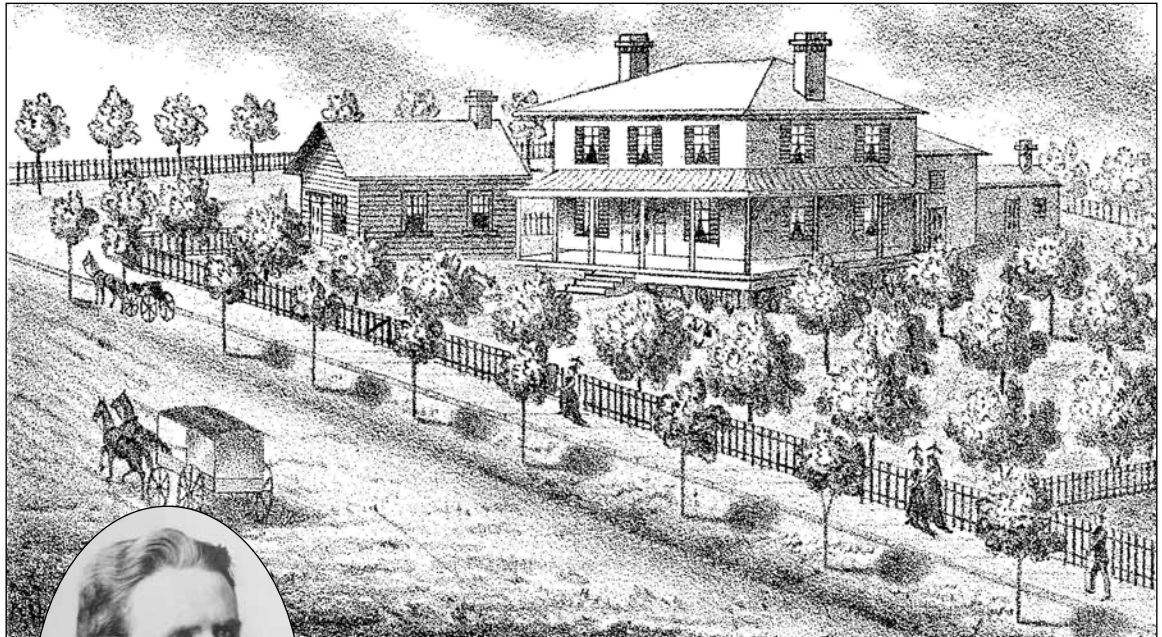
and side lights. The full front verandah is covered by a flat roof which acted as a floor for the balcony above. At the center of the verandah, a glassed-in porch protected the front entrance. The entire verandah was later enclosed. The upper center door opened onto a railed balcony. The entire area above the verandah was also later enclosed. The decorative roof brackets can still be seen on the north side.

The home remained in the Forman family until it was sold to Louellen Sonley for \$1200 in 1941. She sold it to Ralph and Donna Fairman in 1966 for \$23,000. The Fairmans converted the century old home into apartments and it is now owned solely by Donna Fairman.

Port Perry in 1875. Forman's was among the last businesses to leave but he continued to live in Prince Albert. In Port Perry he opened a general merchandise store, eliminating the grain business from his ventures

In 1885, he decided to move his family to live in Port Perry. He chose to build his home on this property. The land had been owned by Elias Williams, Peter Perry and then Rueben Crandell. Crandell passed the ownership of the property to his son Caleb. Within a twelve month period, beginning in December 1872, the property passed through three successive owners; Thomas Paxton, William McCaw and Matthew Robson. Robson kept the lot for five years before selling it to Charles Woods in 1878. Forman bought the lot in March 1885, and built an impressive home with a similar design to his Prince Albert residence, the major differences being that his newer home was built with yellow brick instead of wood, and included a bay window on the north side.

The two-storey, hipped roof home, with end chimneys, has the traditional three bays. In the center bay, the front door at the ground level has a transom



Sketch from 1877 Historical Atlas of Ontario County



The picture above is of Dr. Richard Jones house and extensive property as it looked when it was sketched for the 1877 Historical Atlas of Ontario County.

## Dr. Richard Jones Residence

Dr. Richard Jones

*327 Queen St., Port Perry  
Plan 2, Part Lot 159, 160*

This prime piece of Queen Street property was part of a larger parcel purchased by Joseph Bigelow. Mr. Bigelow began selling off lots and this one was purchased by George Robinson, a local builder, in November 1869. Mr. Robinson sold the property about one year later to William M. Wilcox, who operated the Union Drug, Grocer and Liquor Store in Prince Albert.

After deciding to move his business to Port Perry in October 1873, Mr. Wilcox began construction of his residence on this lot located at the corner of Queen and Bigelow Streets. The property originally extended to the Presbyterian church to the east. He took an interest public life and served as a deputy reeve and councillor on a number of occasions.

Not long after completing his new home, in July 1874, he sold his home to Dr. Richard Jones and his wife Lucinda. Dr. Jones held his medical practice in the house as well as living here for over 20 years. He was pre-eminently a doctor of the old school and gave to the poor freely and cheerfully not only professional services but food and medicine and was often called "the poor man's doctor."

He served as Reeve of Port Perry in 1882 and was a member of council, a trustee of the High School Board from the time of its organization, and a member of the Port Perry Library Board.

After selling their home to John W. Meharry in May 1887, Dr. Jones



Lucinda Jones  
wife of Dr. Richard Jones

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES



Above: The home of Dr. Richard Jones as it looked circa 1880.

and family moved to Toronto. Mr Meharry was an enterprising hardware merchant in Port Perry in partnership with John B. Laing in a huge store on the south side of Queen Street. For many years they carried on an extensive and successful hardware business.

J.W. Meharry accumulated considerable wealth, and invested largely in real estate. In later years he owned a real estate brokerage business. He negotiated an immense number of sales and was acknowledged to be the best salesman in the district. Mr. Meharry was public spirited and always took a leading part in

supporting improvements to the town. He was a member of the Board of Education for many years and was identified with agricultural interests, being a member of the Board of Directors.

After living in the attractive frame residence for more than 25 years, the Meharrys sold the property to Louis and Mabel Bandel of Whitby in July 1914. Mr. Bandel had purchased the Sebert House hotel in 1900. The Sebert House Hotel was originally known as the Port Perry House, then the Oriental Hotel and was located at the north-west corner of Queen and Water Streets. In June 1909 Bandel sold the hotel to a former owner, J.V. Thompson. The Bandels continued to live in this house for a number of years before moving.

Louise M. McMullen was the next to purchase the house in July 1917 and following her came Emma E. Pollock in 1919. The next long time owners of the house were the Bentleys, I.R. and Hazel Dhel. They purchased the house in May 1922 for \$2,250 from the Pollocks. I.R. Bentley had taken over the jewellery store of W. H. McCaw in the downtown Blong Block in July 1925. He had operated a jewellery business since 1916 and continued to do so until his death in 1965.

During his life in Port Perry, I.R. was involved in the community and served as chairman of the local Board of Education for a number of terms. In 1953 Mrs. Bentley was one of the first women jurors in Ontario County and served as a juror on the Supreme Court.

Donald Milne purchased the house in 1972 from Mrs. Bentley and after owning it for only four



The former Dr. Jones house as it looks today.

months sold it to Harry and Myra Powell. The Powells lived in the house for just over one year before reselling it in January 1974 to Irvin and Dorothy Gibson.

The Gibsons lived in the century old home until July 1988 when they sold it to local contractor Karl Herder and his wife Fran.

During the time the Herders owned the house they completely renovated it, building a verandah similar to the original. After completing the project, the Herders sold the property to Henry and Jodie Keast, the current owners of the Jones house.



This substantial brick home, located on the south side of Queen St. was built about 1878.

## The Urquhart Residence

*360 Queen Street  
Plan 22 Lot 11, Part Lot 12*

David Urquhart was one of the premier Agricultural Implement dealers in the area during the 1860s and 1870s, operating the Agricultural Implement Emporium in Prince Albert before moving to Port Perry in 1873. He opened his new shop in Port Perry just west of Geo. Currie's store at the corner of Queen and Perry Streets in 1874.

In March the same year, Mr. Urquhart purchased a piece of land on the south side of Queen St., near the corner of Caleb St. from Edward Mundy and a few years later began to build a large brick house. He had just completed building his new home when he fell into financial problems and was forced to sell. The following is a description of the home and the reasons for Urquhart's sale. This appeared in an advertisement placed in the North Ontario Observer in September 1878.

### *Magnificent Residence for Sale - Port Perry*

*That beautiful new brick residence on Queen St., just completed in the most tasty and satisfactory manner, the property of Mr. D. Urquhart. For a more tasty residence no one could well desire; there are two lots connected with it, the size of the main building is 21x32 feet. The attached building contains dining room, bedroom, pantry and kitchen. The rooms are most complete and all of nice size; the ceiling in both stories are high which is very desirable.*

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES

*There are ten rooms besides the pantry and a most complete washroom above the woodshed; a sink carries off water to a most complete drain. The woodshed is 14x17; there is a cistern of the very best kind with good pump. A no. 1 well stoned most complete with a good pump in it.*

*The cellar is large and divided by a solid brick partition, two-thirds of which is one room; there are two windows in the cellar hung on hinges and screened in the most complete manner.*

*Access to the cellar from the kitchen or woodshed. No pains or expense has been spared but all has been done that reasonably could be done to make it warm in winter and cool in summer.*

*All the labor was done, by the day, by the best workmen except such as is usually done at a factory. The other buildings are good - the stable is about 25x30.*

*The fruit trees are crab, greening, russet, talman, astrican, snow and early harvest apples trees, common red and English cherry trees, egg palm trees, about 120 currant bushes. The trees are as good as the nurseries can furnish, some of the apple trees are bearing, and no better fruit could be desired.*

*Queen St. is so situated as to make it one of the healthiest and most pleasant streets in town. There are erected on this street three churches, town hall, public and high school buildings, also as complete and handsome dwelling houses as one could wish, and make it all that could be desired for comfort and pleasure.*

*The east end of the streets runs to the water's edge of Lake Scugog and the WPP&L Railway station is only eight rods of this street. The bank, post office, etc. are also on Queen St.*

*The cause of Mr. Urquhart selling, is to build, buy or rent a shop for implements in the business centre of the town so arranged as to live in connection therewith. He will sell his valuable property for hundreds of dollars less than it cost him, as it is built too good to sell for the money it cost, for a few years until times change. There will be good interest on the money and gain in the value hundred of dollars in the course of three or four years.*

*Apply personally on the premises, on Saturday, or any other day by dropping a few lines to D. Urquhart, Port Perry, P.O., Ont., a few days before calling.*

*The first payment is not required till November 1, 1878. \$400 would do then, the balance first payment 10th, February, 1879, and each payment thereafter on the 1st November in each and every year until paid - should the purchaser require time.*

Mr. Urquhart was unsuccessful in his attempts to sell the home and managed to maintain ownership for another five years, renting it to a number of tenants. Finally in March 1884 it was purchased by Alexander Fleury, who kept it for only five years before reselling.

Mr. Fleury sold the house to Mungo Weir, a Reach Township farmer who retired to Port Perry in 1889. Mr. Weir was also an accomplished builder, having constructed the first hip-roofed barn in the township, and spent many years on Reach council. He lived with his family in the home until his death in 1907 and the property was sold by his estate to Wm. W. Crosier in 1921.

While living in Port Perry, Mr. Crosier ran for office and was elected as a councillor on a number of occasions.

James Gibson was next to own the property, purchasing it from Wm. Crosier in June 1945. Since that time there have been a number of owners, and it is currently owned by Gary and Nancy Edgar.





The former John H. Brown house is one of most imposing and beautiful homes along Queen Street.

## J.H. Brown Residence

*404 Queen Street*

*Plan 22, Lot 21, Part Lot 19*

This home, built during the 1870's, on the south-east corner Ella and Queen Streets is another outstanding example of the community's many Victorian Italianate homes. It has been carefully restored, and maintains almost all of its original architectural features; the front door tower, the elaborate wrought iron work, the yellow brick, and the window, roof and eave details. The original verandah was enclosed to a distance of eight feet beyond the entrance. Today the verandah is completely open and has been extended to include a circular east section.

The property was sold from the Crandell estate in 1873 to John Adams, a well respected money lender and financial expert in Port Perry. Adams kept it for less than a year before disposing of it in September 1874 to Manchester businessman J.H. Brown. Mr. Adams accumulated considerable wealth as a speculator and went on to purchase the 300 acre farm Ambleside on Scugog Island (see Ambleside page 114), where for more than two decades he was regarded as one of the leading stock breeders in the country.

The new owner of the property, John H. Brown, had been a co-owner of the Brown and Christian general merchandising store in Manchester. Late in 1873, the partnership was dissolved and Mr. Brown took over the position of treasurer of Reach Twp. He tendered his resignation about eight months later and moved to Port Perry where he became a partner in the firm of Brown & Ross. About one year later, this partnership was also dissolved. The following year, Mr. Brown entered into another partnership, this time with his brother-in-law, William M. Currie, once again as a retailer of general merchandise products. William was the son of his neighbour Mark Currie. Mr. Brown continued in business until the early 1900s, and held the position of treasurer of the Village of Port Perry for 30 years.

Mark Currie had completed building his own beautiful brick home on the west side of Ella St. about 1874, and it is believed that Mr. Brown contracted him to build his new home on this property. For

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES



The former John H. Brown house as it looked about 1890. The house originally had a small front porch, unlike the large wrap around porch of today.

some unknown reason John Brown sold his property to Mr. Currie in the spring of 1878, and Currie began construction of this elegant residence for Mr. Brown that year for a cost of \$1400.

A few years after the house was completed, in 1882, Mark Currie sold the property back to John and Isabel Brown. The Brown family lived there for almost 20 years.

The next person to own this stately home was Stewart Bruce, who purchased it from the Browns in 1910. The Bruce family had emigrated from Ireland and settled in Cartwright where they raised their five sons. One son was Stewart who married Isabella Morrow of Peterborough. Stewart and Isabella also farmed in

Carwright while raising their own five children, Albert, Robert, Herbert, Minnie and Rupert. At that time there was no secondary school in Cartwright. In order to present better educational opportunities for their children, the Bruce family moved to Prince Albert. From here the children eventually walked daily to Port Perry in order to attend the High School. Of the sons, Robert J. Bruce became a prominent hardware merchant in Port Perry. Herbert went on to prominence as a doctor and founded Toronto's Wellesley Hospital. He was appointed as Lieutenant Governor of Ontario in 1932 and later became a federal M.P.



Stewart  
Bruce

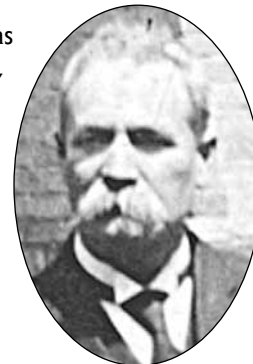
Stewart Bruce was 73 when the family purchased the former Brown home, but unfortunately only lived here for two years before passing away. His funeral service was conducted from this family residence.

Following the death of Stewart Bruce in 1912, the family sold the house to George Stone, a Port Perry High School teacher. Mr. Stone began his career as a teacher in 1884, teaching mathematics and science at the Port Perry High School. The school was located conveniently across the road from his home. He taught at the school for 40 years and also served as vice-principal of the school for a short time before retiring.

Mr. Stone lived in the home for 38 years, until his death in 1950. The home was next sold to Helen J. Brigham who made it her residence until her death in 1967, and once again it changed hands, this time going to Elizabeth F. Davis.

Mrs. Davis had a relatively short stay in the old 'Brown' residence, selling to Donald and Marianne Stronach in June 1971.


The current owners of the century old home are Eric and Susan Farncombe, who purchased it in 1977 having done extensive renovations and remodeling of the home. Today it stands prominently near the top of the hill on Queen St., overlooking the town as it has for the past 125 years.




George  
Stone



# *Chapter Four*



Port Perry &  
Miscellaneous  
Streets



# Port Perry Historic Homes



Cecil Beare  
Lot 8,9  
126 Crandell



Joseph Bigelow  
Part Lot 95  
100 Perry St.



Mark Currie  
Lot 22,23, 25  
94 Ella St.



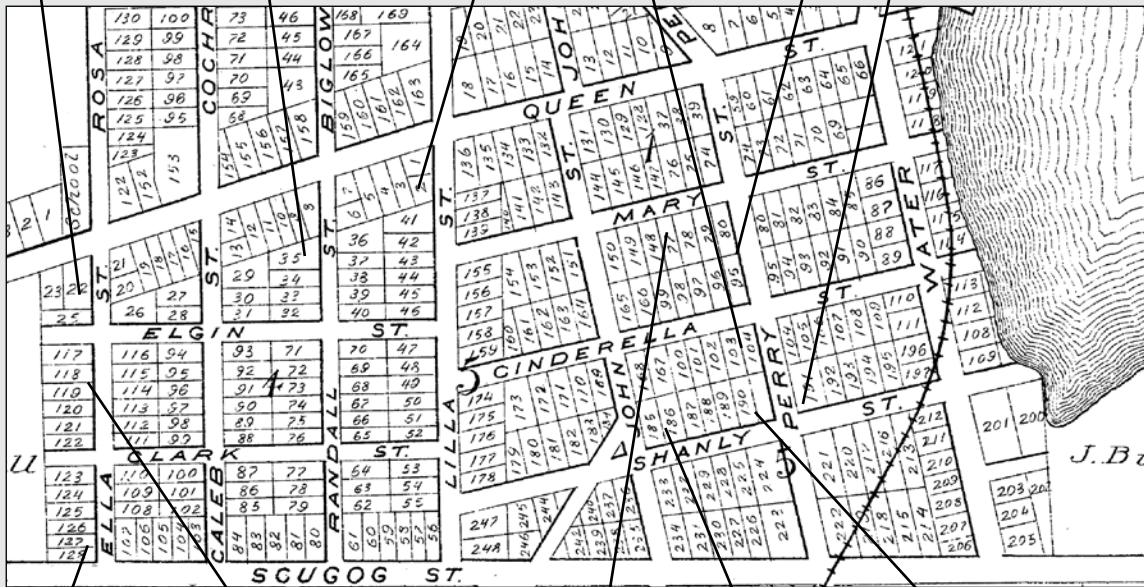
Edward H. Purdy  
Lot 41, Pt. Lot 2,3,4  
15272 Simcoe St.



Aaron Ross  
Lot 103, 104  
204 Casimir St.



John A. Burnham  
Lot 191, 192, 193  
53 Perry St.



Rev. George Jones  
Lot 127, 128  
4 Ella St.



Adam Gordon  
Lot 118, 119  
62 Ella St.



Charles Sexton  
Lot 77, 78  
234 Mary St.



Campbell  
Residence  
Lot 190  
56 Perry St.



Wm. H.  
McCaw  
Lot 190  
41 John St.

Map of central Port Perry reproduced from the Historical Atlas of Ontario County dated 1877.



## The Campbell Home

*56 Perry Street, Port Perry  
Plan H-50020 Lot 190*

When this comfortable yellow brick home was built it would have had a panoramic view across Lake Scugog to Scugog Island. It has a high-pitched gabled roof allowing a gothic framed window on the east side overlooking the lake. Originally the wood enclosed bay structure surrounding the entrance had a further doorway on the north. Both doors opened onto small verandahs along the east side. Elizabeth Holmes sold this empty lot to Mary and H.S. Campbell in 1876. The Campbells built this home but only lived here a short time before selling it to Charles Marsh in January 1879 for \$2,200.

Mr. Marsh was a Deputy Reeve and in 1865 became the Reeve of Reach Township. He had started a boot and shoe maker's shop in Port Perry in 1858 and then ventured into general merchandising in 1860. He had his store on the north side of Queen Street in Port Perry. He later went into a partnership with W. J. Trounce.

About six months after purchasing the home, in June 1880, Mr. Marsh sold the property to Elizabeth and T.S. Corrigan. Mr. Corrigan and his partner Campbell operated a general store on Queen Street. Corrigan and Campbell became the first store to be lit by gas. They had purchased the Canadian Air Gas Machine. Using this machine they were able to light their entire premises as well as supplying gas for Allison's Drug store to the east of their establishment. They were also the first to convert from coal to gas for heating their building.

The Corrigans moved to Toronto and sold their property to Albert and Annie Allin in February 1905. The Allins occupied the residence until September 1924 when they sold it to Frank Franklin. George McMillan purchased it from Mr. Franklin in 1936. Eleven years later it was bought from the McMillan estate by Gerald and Dorothy Nelson.

The Nelsons owned the home for more than 20 years, eventually selling the home and retiring in B.C. The new owner in 1989 was author William H. Graham. Graham moved here from his "Bellevue Farm" estate in Greenbank. Mr. Graham had a military career before becoming an advertising executive and then, in his retirement years turned to writing historical works, his most notable being his award winning books - *The Tiger of Canada West: The Biography of William Dunlop, and Greenbank*. In 1996 Mr. Graham sold the home to Christina Harvey, the present owner. The house is currently listed for sale.



Photo courtesy Saugog Shores Museum Village Archives

One of Port Perry's leading businessmen and public officials, Edward H. Purdy lived in this Simcoe St. home for more than 45 years.



Edward H. Purdy

## Edward H. Purdy Residence

*15272 Simcoe St., Port Perry  
Plan 22, Lot 41, Part Lot 2 to 4*

This attractive, centrally located property, was home to one of Port Perry's leading businessmen throughout much of the late 1800s and early 1900s. The lot on which the house sits was originally part of a large parcel of land consisting of two lots on Simcoe St. and two lots on Queen St. (see map page 58). The large property, which flanked the newly constructed Town Hall on two sides, was purchased by local businessman and contractor Mark Currie in December 1874.

He built his house facing east, fronting on today's Simcoe Street. The yellow brick house had many distinctive architectural features. Originally it had a railed verandah stretching around the east and north sides. The verandah had a flat roof with a railing providing an outdoor area for the bedroom level. Access to this upper floor verandah was gained through a door in the upper north wall. This verandah eventually became unsafe and was removed in the mid-twentieth century. An unusual cross shaped roof bracket accents the upper gable.

Shortly after completing the building, Currie sold it to Henry and Mary McKenzie. Mr. McKenzie was noted photographer in the village from 1869 to 1886. Although not as well known as his main rival James Leonard, he managed to live comfortably from his trade.

The McKenzies lived in the home until the fall of 1889 when they started construction of a new home south of the Central Fair Grounds. They sold the Simcoe Street house in October of that year to Edward and Mary Ann Purdy.

Edward Purdy was born near Kingston and moved to Port Perry, beginning his first business venture here in 1887 in the flour, feed and seed business which he purchased from Henderson and Curts of Port Perry. In 1897 he purchased the Laing and Meharry Block on the south side of Queen Street and moved his business to this location. Here he added groceries to the business. He rented out a section of the building to A. J. Sproule who opened a bakery. In September 1901 a fire broke out in the bakery destroying the entire block, including the Ross store to the east and the Allison block to the west. Immediately after the fire, Purdy erected a new 66'x110' foot building which became the home of not only his store, but also of S.T. Cawker Butcher and banker D.J. Adams. Purdy also ran a highly successful hardware business here.

Edward H. Purdy was held in high esteem in the community and at one time or another filled almost every official position in the community. He served as a councillor for eight years, Reeve for five years, Clerk-Treasurer for seven years and was elected as a Board of Education trustee for four years. He also served as a Justice of the Peace and a magistrate. As a result of his experience in the courts he was referred to locally as "Judge Purdy."

In the social life of the community he was also a leader, being a Master of the Masonic Lodge, President of the Lawn Bowling Club, Chairman of the Committee of Stewards of the United Church, and a Nobel Grand of Warriner Lodge, I.O.O.F. He also served as a member of the Board of Education, Director for the Agricultural Society and a police magistrate.

The Purdy family lived in the home for 56 years. Mr. Purdy died in 1935 but his wife stayed here with her family until October 1946.

Since the house was sold by the Purdy estate in 1946, it has changed hands many times. Those who have owned the home over the last half century include: Werford St. John (1946-1956); Cephas Sleep (1956-1963); John and Lillian Raines (1963-1966); Walter Welts (1966-1973); Eleanor Shortreed (1973-1974); Frederick H. Walker (1974-1979); Helen Ingram (1979-1982); Phylis Parent & Jamie Kelly (1982-1987); David & Jamie Steward (1987-1994), and Gordon and Sharon Davies.



The former Purdy house as it looks in 2002. Although it no longer has the large porch and balcony, the house still retains much of its original elegance, including the unique cross in its peak.



Aaron Ross built this expansive red brick home about 1880 on Casimir St.

## The Ross Residence

*204 Casimir Street  
Plan H-50020, Lot 103, Part Lot 104*

The first registered owner of this lot after Peter Perry, was Alonzo Sexton. Alonzo was the brother of Wm. S. Sexton, a prominent mill owner and land speculator. Alonzo, the lesser known of the two brothers, worked as manager of his brother's saw mill at the lakefront. Alonzo sold this property for \$300 to William Addison in 1860.

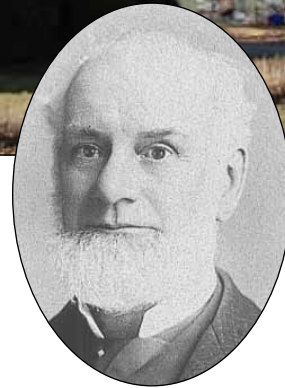
Later the property passed into the hands of Aaron Ross, a Prince Albert businessman who, in 1870, became a part of the migration to Port Perry. He built the Ross block on the south side of Queen Street, a fine three story building which was destroyed in the great fire of 1884, and then rebuilt later that year.

Mr. Ross was identified for more than 30 years with the purchase of grain and seeds from farmers of Reach and Scugog Townships. About 1876, he bought George Currie's grain elevator in Port Perry, and operated it as the Ross Elevator for a number of years, before his son William joined him. The large structure still stands at the east end of Queen St., near the lakefront.

Aaron and his wife Lucinda purchased this land in 1877 and four years later moved into a new red brick home on the property. The local newspaper reported on the move saying the house was a "handsome residence and the surroundings are in fine taste."

The Ross' home was a large two-storey red brick house, nestled on the south-west corner of Perry and Casimir Street in Port Perry. The name of the street had just been changed from its original designation as Cinderella Street to Casimir Street.

The house features a wrap-around porch on the north and east sides and the formal entrance was on the Casimir Street side. The front door opened into a spacious central hall with 12 foot ceilings. Upon entering the hall, directly in front was a heavy oak staircase leading to the upper storey and a hallway,



Aaron Ross



to the left of the stairway, leading to the huge kitchen. The kitchen could also be entered through a separate exterior door located off Perry Street.

To the right of the main hallway was the spacious living room featuring a beautiful marble fireplace, and on the left the dining room. The upper floor of the home featured three very large bedrooms, each with four windows overlooking the street. At the rear, above the kitchen was a large study.

Aaron Ross and his wife lived in the house until 1886 when they sold it to their son William Ross for the sum of \$3,200.

William Ross was born in Prince Albert in 1856 and joined his father in the business migration to Port Perry at the arrival of the railway. He became a partner in his father's general store business, under the name of A. Ross & Son, located in the Ross Block. After the death of his father in 1896, William purchased the grain elevator from the estate.



*William Ross*

William Ross

In 1898 he sold the Ross Block to the Western Bank of Canada, who had an office in the building but retained possession of the store as a tenant.

Wm. Ross served on the town council and was Reeve for several terms in the 1890s, and introduced Port Perry to the amortization system of retiring debenture debt by equalized annual payments. He was the Liberal member of the House of Commons from 1900 to 1904, during the Laurier regime; and was president of the South Ontario Liberal Assoc., and president of the Ontario Ladies' College at Whitby. He was a staunch member of the Methodist Church, and was superintendent of the Port Perry Methodist Church.

In 1911, William Ross and his wife Clarissa (Bingham) decided to retire and move to Toronto. He sold his grain, seed and real estate business to James Lucas in August 1911 and then the Ross family sold their Casimir Street home and moved to Toronto where William and Clarissa became prominent workers in Eaton Memorial Church.

Charles R. Stewart, a retired CPR mail clerk, was the next person to purchase the Ross home. After seeing an advertisement listing the home for sale in 1912, he journeyed to Port Perry to investigate the house and made a deal to purchase it on the spot. His sister joined him, and they settled into the community. Following the death of his sister, Mr. Stewart continued living in the home with the aid of a competent housekeeper, until his death on August 15, 1949 at 98 years of age.

As a final gesture to the community in which he had lived for 38 years, Mr. Stewart donated six red leather chairs to the Port Perry Memorial Library in appreciation of the wonderful time he had spent at the local library and in the community.

When Dr. Ernest Atkinson Hodgson, a seismologist and Assistant Director of the Dominion Observatory, Ottawa, retired in 1950, he bought the house for \$4,500 and moved to Port Perry. Not long after moving in, Dr. Hodgson and his wife Eva completely renovated the home. After living for 20 years in the house, it became too much for them to maintain, so it was listed for sale.

Norman and Katharine Watson purchased the house from the Hodgsons in 1971, and entered into an agreement which allowed the the elderly couple to live in an apartment at the rear of the house until the death of Dr. Hodgson.

Norm Watson remembers Dr. Hodgson's funeral service was performed from the living room, in front of the marble fireplace, in compliance with the contract signed with the Watsons. Eva Hodgson stayed on a couple more years in the apartment following the death of her husband. Norman and Katherine Watson lived in the house for 18 years, and raised their family there before selling it to Brian Callery, Bill and Paul VanCamp in 1989.

The Watsons were the last family to call the beautiful old house "home." After it was purchased by VanCamp and Callery, it was converted into offices for Mr. VanCamp's accounting business and Mr. Callery's investment business. The owners have also rented out space to other professionals, including financial managers and lawyers.



This home built for Rev. George Jones about 1873 still looks much the same today as it did more than a century ago.

## Rev. George Jones Residence

*4 Ella Street, Port Perry  
Plan 22, Lot 127, 128 and Part Lot 126*

This beautifully restored gothic home is typical of many middle class residences built in the 1860's and 1870's. Its ornate gingerbread on the verandah pillars and upper gable, exemplifies the pride of ownership from its earliest days. The property was part of Reuben Crandell's 1832 land acquisition. He sold the lot to Dugald McBride in 1873. McBride arrived in Port Perry at the end of 1871 in order to take over as principal of the Port Perry Grammar School, in January 1872. The school was renamed Port Perry High School in 1873.

After owning this property for only a year, McBride decided not to build and sold the land to William and Charles Jones. McBride instead bought the property at what is now 14844 Old Simcoe Road (see McBride page 101) and built a comfortable home there.

The Jones brothers built this home for their father Rev. George Jones in 1873 when he retired from the ministry. Rev Jones was born on the Island of Guernsey in 1808 and shortly after moved to Quebec. After the war of 1812, the family moved close to Perth, Ontario. At the age of 21 years, Rev Jones



Rev. Geo.  
Jones



Photo courtesy Anne Watt, U.S.A.

An undated photo of "Bedford House" on Ella Street.

began his preaching career and travelled extensively throughout the province and he was one of the earliest Methodist ministers to preach in Reach Township.

George Jones junior had become a doctor and set up his practice in Prince Albert in 1860. His younger brother Richard also became a doctor and made his way here. The two opened a joint practice in Port Perry in 1868. Their other two brothers William and Charles had operated a mill in Madoc. They sold their interests in the mill and followed their brothers to Port Perry in 1869 and opened a highly successful and

fashionable store on Queen Street. The brothers decided to bring their father to Port Perry to enjoy his retirement. They purchased this property from McBride in 1873 and built the house for him. Unfortunately Rev. George Jones lived here for only two short years before his death in 1876.



William Jones

In 1879 the home was sold to Thomas and Sarah Bedford. The Bedfords lived here until they sold the property to Abner Kneeland in 1901. During this time the home became known locally as "Bedford House." Walter Weir purchased the home in 1910 and stayed here for only two year before selling to William A. Brown. He in turn sold it to his son, William P. Brown, a minister. The Rev. Brown sold it to Jessie Hoppet in 1935.

Keith and Ruth Mark bought from Mrs. Hoppet in 1966 and it was sold to Harry Morris in 1970 and then to Wayne and Carolyn Luke in 1974. The Luke family, who own Lukes store on Queen Street, extensively restored the property and added the north porch and garage before selling the home. The present owners are the Jorgensens.

When Port Perry is approached from the east along Scugog Street (Highway 7A) the Jones' house, perched on the south-eastern slope of Borelia Hill, provides an imposing and graceful invitation to the elegant homes in this Victorian community. The home today completely maintains the integrity of the original design.



Charles W. Jones



## The Gordon Residence

*62 Ella St., Port Perry  
Plan 22, Lot 119, Part Lot 118*



Adam  
Gordon

The parcel on which this large two-story brick home sits was part of Caleb Crandell's extensive inventory. In July 1873, Crandell sold six large lots which faced Ella Street, to Adam Gordon a Manchester businessman who was engaged in the grain trade. Mr. Gordon constructed his attractive home in the centre of the six parcel block. He built the home so that it would look east and command a view of the village of Port Perry and Lake Scugog.

Mr. Gordon was owner of the Manchester Grain Warehouse throughout the 1860s, and in 1870 he built a large two-storey building in the centre of the village with everything necessary for a first class general store. He operated this successfully until selling it in 1874 shortly after moving into his new home in Port Perry.

During his life, Mr. Gordon filled many municipal offices, first being elected as Reach Twp. councillor in 1866, later he served as deputy reeve, and then as Reeve of Reach Township in 1871 and 1872. The house is a substantial two-storey red brick building with a three bay design, and large but simple rectangular four-paned windows. The windows lintels are of contrasting yellow brick. The generous eaves are supported by eleven large decorative brackets at the front of the house. This odd number permits the middle bracket to be located over the middle of the center window. The verandah covers the full width of the house but does not extend beyond. It has a flat roof so that it can be used in order to take advantage of the view across the lake. The front door has sidelights and a transom window.

Mr. Gordon was only 45 years of age when passed away at his Port Perry residence on May 27, 1876 after a brief illness of four days, leaving his wife Christina, three sons and five daughters, between the ages of 3 and 18 years to mourn him.



Norman F.  
Paterson

Christina and the children continued to live in the home until her children were raised, selling the family home to Norman and Sarah Paterson. The Paterson's purchased the Gordon home in December 1890, less than a month after their house on North Street had been destroyed by fire (see page 162). Mr. Paterson was a well respected lawyer, who served as solicitor for the village of Port Perry for many years. He also held the position of Clerk for the town for about 12 years. Mr. Paterson's wife Sarah, was the daughter of another well know businessman, George Currie, the man who built the large grain elevator at the lakefront in 1873.

The Paterson's sold the home in April 1901 to lawyer William H. Harris and his wife Elizabeth A. Harris. Like his predecessor, Mr. Harris served as clerk for the village for a period of 19 years. He was also active in the community, serving on the Board of Education. In 1919 he enlarged his practice of law, purchasing the business of Hubert L. Ebbels, a Port Perry lawyer for more than 40 years.

The next change of ownership in the property came in December 1924, but it continued in the Harris family. Eunice and Lilly Morwenna Harris purchased the property from their mother's estate for \$2,000 and lived in the old homestead for more than half a century. The Harris sisters were both teachers. Eunice taught at the Elementary school. Morwenna taught at Port Perry High School from 1912 to 1949.

In April 1981 the sisters sold the property to Donald and Diane Phillips. One year later, the property changed hands again, this time being sold to Dr. Allan and Peggy Eix. The Eix lived in the century old home until June 1988 and while living there severed and sold two lots, one on either side of the Gordon house.

The next owner was Jane Castel, but less than one year later, in January 1989 the property was bought by Bonnie Steed, the present owner.



Wm. H.  
Harris



This 1989 picture shows the house with its upper and lower balconies.



Photo courtesy Scugog Shores Museum Village Archives

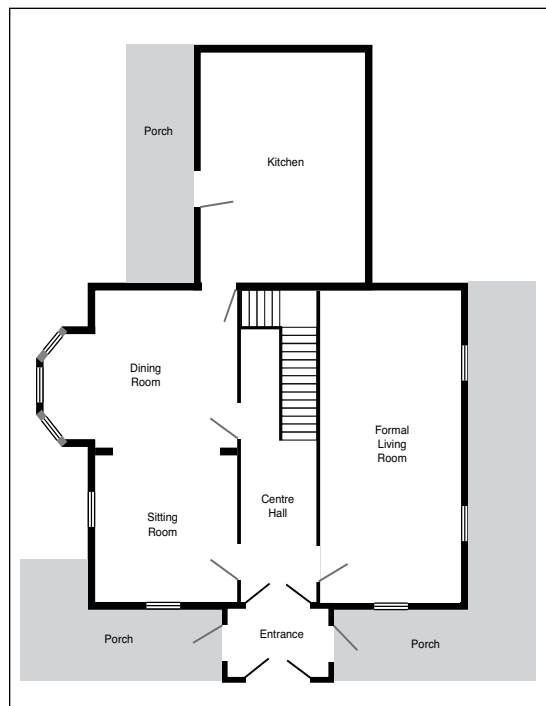
Mark Currie built this large brick home on the hilltop overlooking Port Perry in 1873. The new Port Perry Public and High School was built the same year and can be seen in the background.

## Mark Currie Residence

*94 Ella Street  
Plan 22, Lot 22, Part Lot 23, 25*

One of Port Perry's earliest large brick homes was built by Mark Currie a year after moving to town from Prince Albert. Caleb Crandell sold this parcel of land to him in November 1872. The following summer Mr. Currie began to build his residence here on Borelia hill overlooking lower Port Perry and Lake Scugog. Mr. Currie was a partner with his brother George in a general merchandise business, which they moved from Prince Albert to Port Perry about 1872.

The large two-storey home was constructed of yellow brick and featured a decorative wrap-around verandah with the main entrance facing east. The original house had approximately 1,100 sq. ft. on each floor with the popular centre hall plan. Double doors with arched windows opened into a long, six foot wide hallway, featuring a curved staircase



Floor plan of Currie house with the tower and bay window which were added later.

leading to the upper floor. On the right side of the hall on the lower level was a large 12'x25' formal living room. Today it has been divided into two rooms.

Left of the hallway was another room similar in size, but partially divided by wide archway, giving the appearance of one room. The archway divided the room into a less formal sitting room and a dining room with a deep bay window. All of these rooms featured 16" baseboards and ten-foot high ceilings with decorative wood mouldings. A large 21'x14' kitchen was accessible at the rear of the home from the dining room or the hallway.

At the top the staircase with its spindles and railings of cherry wood, were four bedrooms, approximately 12'x13' in size, and a washroom. As in all older homes, closet space was at a premium, but all rooms were well lit by large windows.

Apparently influenced by the growing popularity of towers on many new brick homes during this period, Mr. Currie later added a tower to the front of his residence. The 9'x 8' tower provided a main entrance at the east side of his home, and also two doors on the lower level leading to the covered porch on either side of the structure. On the upper floor, the room provided by the tower had windows on all sides, making it an excellent sitting room. At the same time Mr. Currie also added a large bay window on the south side of the house.

Mark Currie entered into business with his brother George in Prince Albert in the mid-1850s as general merchants selling clothing, liquors and wines. In 1961 the two brothers dissolved their partnership, and George Currie continued the business.

After moving to Port Perry, Mark Currie became interested in public life and in 1875 was elected to his first term on the new village of Port Perry council. Mr. Currie had a keen interest in the advancement of the community and put forth the motion that the village should provide a generous grant towards the construction of the railway extension to Lindsay. This motion passed unanimously.

In 1878, after leaving council, Mark



The formal dining room with large bay window.



The front hallway, with staircase at left and double arched doors and transom at east end of the hallway.

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES



Sam and Grace Farmer on the lawn in front of their gardens in the old Currie home about 1930.

Currie showed his public spirit, being elected Chief of the local fire company, a position which he held until his untimely death in February 1882 at 53 years of age. His family continued to live in the home until his wife, Agnes, died in 1897, at which time the family home changed hands and was taken over by their son William M. Currie.

William Currie was a well respected businessman in his own right. He worked for the Dominion Bank as a young man and later became a partner with his brother-in-law John H. Brown in the drygoods business. He also served on council in 1883.

The next person of prominence to own the home was Samuel Farmer, owner and publisher of *The Port Perry Star*. Mr. Farmer purchased the home in 1925 and lived there for 23 years.

In addition to his business career, Mr. Farmer served on the Board of Education for 31 years. He was honoured by being presented with a life membership in the Ontario Education Association. He served as president of the Public Library Board; Chairman of the Board of Education; Vice President of the Agricultural Society, was the first businessman to install a hydro motor when electricity came to town in 1922. Mr. Farmer also wrote and published *On The Shores of Scugog* in 1913, the first major book on the history of Port Perry and vicinity.

Following his death in 1948, members of the Farmer family, including Irving and Marion (Farmer) Boyd, lived in the home over the next 19 years.

The Boyds sold the family home in 1968 to Bruce Taylor. The home then went through several ownerships. Bruce Taylor and his family, R. Alexander Ingram; Thomas Walsh; Jack Lally; and Mary Kay

Morgan all owned the home for short periods of time until 1982.

The present owners, Paul and Jill Bradley purchased the century old home in 1982 and have made it their residence every since. In 1988 Mrs. Bradley renovated a small area in the rear south section of her home and opened a women's apparel store called "Jillian's," which she continues to operate to this day.



The Currie house as it looks in 2001, more than 100 years after it was built by Mark Currie in 1873.





South side of Caleb Crandell's house near the corner of Old Simcoe St and Hwy. 7A.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caleb Crandell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

## Caleb Crandell Home

*15025 Old Simcoe Road.  
Plan H-50019 Lots 28, 29, Part Lot 27*

This impressive two-story yellow brick home, located at the corner of 7A Highway and Old Simcoe Rd, was built in 1873 by Caleb Crandell. Caleb was the fourth son of Reach Township's first settler Reuben Crandell and it was his father that had purchased about 200 acres of land near the corner of Queen St. and Old Simcoe Road about 1832. For many years the area was known as Crandell's Corners, but after the death of Reuben in 1874, the family had the growing community's name changed to Borelia.

Caleb purchased the property in 1866 when much of the area was still dense bush. About the time the village of Port Perry was incorporated there was a building boom, with industry, business and homes being erected at great speed. An article in an October 1873 issue of the Ontario Observer noted that new homes were under construction for Messrs. Wilcox, Crandell, Currie, Gordon, Brock and Cameron, and Mr. Crandell's house was described as being one of the most commodious homes in town.

When the new municipality of Port Perry was formed in January 1872, Crandell was elected to serve on the first council, a position he held for a number of years. He was said to have been an enterprising and respected citizen of the village and a Charter Member of Warriner Lodge No. 74.

Throughout the late 1870s, Caleb Crandell estate sold off a large number of valuable building lots in Port Perry, all part of the original 200 acres purchased by his father. Prior to his death in 1907, Caleb

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES

Crandell sold the home he had built and lived in for almost 35 years to William and Fornetta Johnston.

The Johnstons didn't live long in the large home, selling it about three years later to Robert and Jane Irwin. The Irwins passed it on in May 1915 to George Alexander and Mary Woods. The Woods' settled into the home for almost a quarter of a century, selling it May 1954 Hugh D. Santer and his wife Hilda for \$3,000. The Santers lived in the house until January 1972, when ownership was transferred to their daughter Dianne and her husband Douglas Hogg. Mr Hogg was a teacher who later became principal of Blackstock Public School.

There are no early pictures of this home available, as all known pictures were lost in a fire at the San Man Motel, near Manchester, when owned by the Santers.

This home has a distinctively high-pitched and gabled roof. The gable over the south facing front entrance permits the use of a gothic framed window and a red cross and red keystone in the brickwork above, contrasting with the yellow brick used for the rest of the house. The south side of the house originally had a verandah stretching from window to window around the elaborate front entrance.

Dianne Hogg remembers a couple of Crandell descendents dropping by, when she lived in the house, and relayed a story about how the red brick cross came about in the south peak. They told her at the time Caleb Crandell was having the house built, he had to go away for a few days, and the brick layers decided to play a trick. They inserted the red brick cross into the yellow bricks near the peak of the house, giving it the look of a church rectory. But the joke was on the brick layers, because when Caleb returned from his trip and saw the design, he liked it so much, he decided to leave it there.

Doug and Dianne Hogg lived in the home and raised their family before selling it in June 1985 to David and Arlene Noonan. The Noonans sold the house in August 1996 to Roland and Coleen Marian. The house is currently owned by Matthew J. and Stephanie Anderson.



The red brick cross.



This view of the west side of Crandell's house shows two unique 'port hole' style windows in the peak.



*Wm. M. Jones*  
Wm. M. Jones

## Jackson Residence

*234 Mary Street, Port Perry  
Plan H-50020 Lot 77, 78*

This property was owned by Elias Williams, Peter Perry, and then registered in the name of Henry B. Taylor during the early 1870s. Taylor sold the land to Charles A. Sexton in 1877. In early 1880, Sexton began construction of this home. The house was constructed primarily of red brick, accented with the popular yellow brick corner quoining and accenting around windows and doors. The dimensions of the house were 37 feet facing onto Mary St. and 27 feet deep.

The ground floor windows on the north side have been relocated but the outline of the original windows can still be seen in the mortar of the bricks. On the second floor there was also a door leading to a small balcony over the front door, and on the lower level, a door opened onto the veranda on the east side. Both of these doors were bricked in during alterations many years ago.

This house has a centre hall plan with a large formal living room 13.5' x 25' to the right side of the hall and combination sitting room/dining room of equal size to the left.

Robert D. Robbins was the next owner, purchasing the property in 1887. Robbins sold it in 1895 to William M. Jones, who owned and operated a grocery and produce store in the town. Mr. Jones operated stores in Port Perry



A view of the north-east corner of the Jackson house.

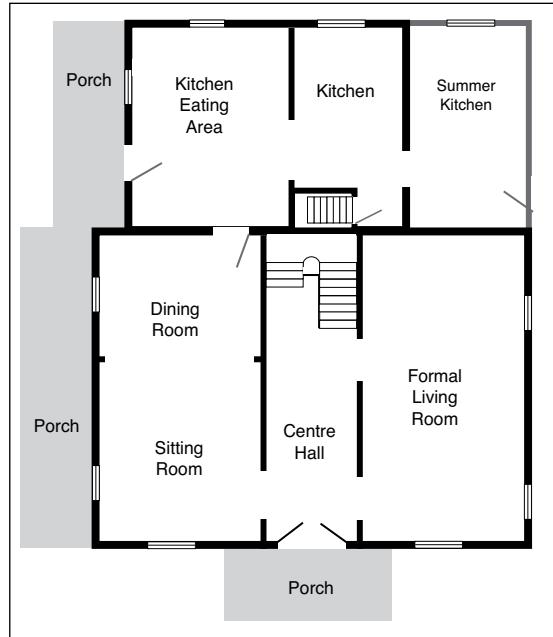
## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES

for 27 years, at first in partnership with his brother Charles, and later by himself. Charles and William were brothers of the doctors, Richard and George who had their practices in Port Perry.

William Jones took out a \$4,600 mortgage shortly after purchasing this house and built a matching 18' x 24' red brick addition to the south of the existing structure and also added a summer kitchen. When completed, Mr. Jones hired Ed Wilson to decorate and paint the interior, as is noted on one of the walls in the upstairs hall, where he scrawled in pencil on the wall "papering done by Ed Wilson, October 22, 1895."

In June 1898 Wm. Jones sold his Mary St. home to his younger brother Charles and moved west to take up farming near Roland, Manitoba. Charles W. Jones held onto the property for less than a year before transferring the ownership to Robert Bruce and his wife Alice.

Robert Bruce operated a general hardware business, first beside the Sebert House hotel, and later erecting a two storey building on the north side of Queen St. just west of the Bank of Commerce building. He operated the store until 1906 when he sold the thriving business to the Carnegie family.



This floor plan shows the approximate layout of rooms after the addition was built in 1895.



Robert  
Bruce

Mr. Bruce served on the town council for two years and was a member of the board when the municipal Water and Light Systems were inaugurated. The Bruce's owned and lived in the attractive home on Mary St. until November 1912, at which time they sold it to James Carnegie.

Mr. Carnegie was involved in the flouring and planing mills in Port Perry for more than twenty years. He also took an active part in public life, serving for many years on the village council, three of which he held the position of Reeve. In 1899, he was elected Warden of Ontario and in 1907 was an M.P.P. for the Liberals of South Ontario.

Mr. Carnegie had bought the home for \$2,250.00 but sold it a few days later to George and Zula Jackson for \$2,750, a quick profit of \$500. The following year Mr. Carnegie purchased the property just west of the lawn bowling green on

Queen Street to build his new brick home, which is today known as Jester's Court. (see page 43)

George Jackson and his wife Zula Mae moved to Port Perry from Scugog Island in 1910, first settling at 349 Queen St., then moving to 355 Queen Street before purchasing this residence at 234 Mary St.

Mr. Jackson had a farm implement business on Water Street and was also a respected auctioneer. He served on the village council for a number of years, was chairman of the building committee for a new Port Perry arena, and was given the honour of officially opening it in January 1922

Following his death in 1931, his wife and family continued to live here until her death in 1964, at which time it was purchased by their son Dr. George (Harold) Jackson and his wife Genevieve. Following the death of Dr. Jackson, Genevieve lived in the home until 1991.



George  
Jackson



Interior views of the house, now owned by Richard and Mary Henry, as it looks in 2002. Above, the combination dining and sitting room which has been beautifully restored, and below, the centre hall with its rich wood floors.

Mrs. Jackson sold the house in October 1991, to Richard and Mary Henry, who live in the home today.

The house today is tastefully decorated with antiques and furnishings of late 1800s and early 1900s. Many of the original old light fixtures have been refurbished and the house has been renovated and restored to its original beauty. The original 10" baseboards are still in place along with the matching casings around the doorway.

The lower floor consists of a large centre hall which is seven feet wide and 25 feet long, with a staircase leading to the upper floor. There is a sitting room and a formal living room, both 13.5' x 15' in size, a dining room 13.5' x 10', a kitchen eating area 13' x 18', a small working kitchen 13' x 8', and an old summer kitchen which has been converted into a family room which is 10.5' x 18'.

On the upper floor a 13.5' x 25' master bedroom stretches along the east side of the house, and two smaller bedrooms and a washroom are on the west side.





Photo courtesy Phil Orde

## John A. Burnham House

*53 Perry Street  
Plan H-50020 Lot 191, 192, 193*



Thomas  
Paxton

From 1861 to 1877 this property was owned by Thomas Paxton. Mr. Paxton moved from Whitby and commenced business here during the mid 1840s. In 1846 he and his brother George built a sawmill near the lake. He later partnered with Joseph Bigelow in a flouring mill and operated the Paxton, Tate Foundry on the north end of Perry Street. During his busy public life, he held every position in the municipal council of Reach Township. He was the second man to serve as Reeve of township after it was formed in 1853, and Mr Paxton was elected with a large majority to the seat for North Ontario in the Ontario Assembly, being re-elected many times. In January 1881 he resigned to accept the position of Sheriff of Ontario County.

But it wasn't Paxton who built the large brick home on this property. Mr. Paxton sold the property in December 1877 to Samuel Parrish, who resold it two months later to Thomas S. Corrigan, the owner of a local general merchandise business in the village. Mr. Corrigan began construction of his home on this Perry St. property during the spring of 1878. Over the next few months Corrigan must have run into financial difficulties as the records indicate that there were at least six mechanic's liens issued against the home in November 1878. In total, liens on the house amounted to more than \$2,450, the largest being from local building contractor William Spence for \$761. In January 1879 Mr. Corrigan sold the house to Charles Marsh. Despite his financial problems with the house, Mr. Corrigan continued in business



Photo courtesy Scugog Shores Museum Village Archives

Interior picture of the Burnham's living room/parlour at the turn of the century. Below, John W. Burnham as a young man.



Photo courtesy Phil Orde

in Port Perry until 1887, before moving to Toronto.

Charles Marsh owned the home for only a short time. H.W. Darling was next to own the house, purchasing it in October 1879, but his ownership was also short lived.

In March 1880 he sold the house to Sarah M. Burnham, first wife of Judge Zaccheus Burnham of Whitby. Following her death, Mrs. Burnham's only son, John W. Burnham assumed ownership of the family residence and he lived there until he passed away in 1928 at 80 years of age.

John Burnham was Clerk of the Division Court when he moved to Port Perry and held the position until his death, a period of 58 years. About ten years after his arrival, in January 1881, he was appointed postmaster for the village of Port Perry and served in this position for 45 years. Reportedly, in all that time he never missed a day from duty through illness. John Burnham and his wife Marion (Hart) raised six children in their palatial John St. home. Mrs Burnham was ninety years old when she died in 1940.

The house is another outstanding example of Victorian Italianate architecture. Although not as large as the Cochrane Street examples, it still has many of the features of that design – the yellow brick, the generous eaves, the round topped windows and the tower over the front door.

In the Burnham house however, the features are somewhat less dramatic. The tower has only two storeys in contrast with the more elaborate three and four storey examples elsewhere in the community and the roof brackets are noticeably absent from the Burnham house.

Nevertheless the main body of the house, and particularly its Perry Street façade has been well preserved and it remains an excellent example of the era. It is interesting to note that the tower faces Perry Street, impressing passersby, rather than taking advantage of the house's commanding view over Lake Scugog.

In February 1967, after almost 77 years in the

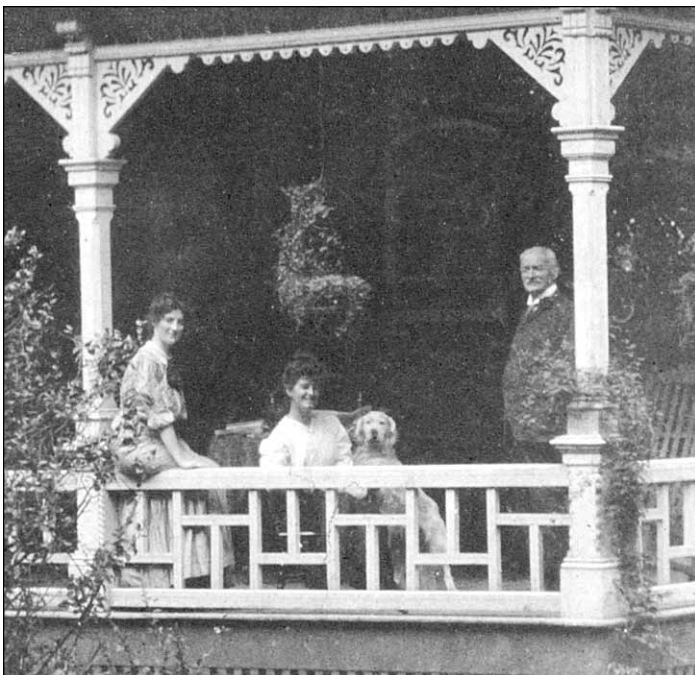


Judge Z. Burnham

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES



The Burnham house was built in 1873 and is still an impressive looking building to this day.



John Burnham, right, on the porch of his home with his daughter Alice Dagmar seated and an unidentified lady at the left.

Burnham family, the house was sold outside the family to William G. Tripp, who converted the house into apartments.

In 2001, the house changed hands once again, this time being purchased by a development consortium with plans to build condominiums on the property overlooking Lake Scugog. It is the intention of the new owners to incorporate the old "Burnham House" into their plans, preserving this historic home for future generations to enjoy.





Cecil  
Beare



The home of auto dealership owner Cecil Beare.

## Cecil Beare Residence

*126 Crandell Street  
Plan 22, Part Lot 8, 9*

This home, while not as architecturally significant as some of the others featured in this book, does have some significant historical value, due to the notable people who have owned it over the past 125 years. The property, which was larger than it is today, was initially Crandell land. Reuben Crandell had passed this section to his son Caleb by the time of the incorporation of the village of Port Perry in 1872. Caleb built a home here sometime before he sold the property to William H. Marsh.

In February 1877 Marsh sold the land to William T. Parrish, a local hardware merchant. Between the time Mr. Parrish purchased it, and 1895, the property changed hands frequently. Christina Campbell was the purchaser in 1895, buying it from John Might. She retained the property for about 12 years before selling it to John McMillan in 1912.

The property then became owned again by Christine Campbell and in 1928, her estate left the house to Donella Wilson in 1928 for "natural love and affection."

Not long after taking ownership of the property, Donella Wilson sold the home to Cecil Beare, who was the local Chrysler car dealer for 30 years, having his garage and showroom just a few blocks away on Queen Street. Mr. Beare and his family lived here until his death in 1950, but it remained in the family until August 1965 when it was sold to Alex and Gail Williamson.

Over the next ten years, the home again changed hands numerous times. The Williamsons only remained in the home for a couple of years before selling it to Dorothy Morrow, and like the Williamsons, Mrs. Morrow sold it two years later in March 1969 to William and Pat Salter. The Salters stayed an even shorter time, selling in April 1970 to William A. Godding. Mr. Godding sold it in September 1972 to Eric and Anne Lane.

The Lanes settled down and made the Crandell St. location their residence for the next 19 years, before selling the property in August 1991 to John and Melody Roncetti. The Roncettis moved to Simcoe Street in 1995 and sold it to current owners Dale Gibbons and Julia Gatto.



Photo courtesy Scugog Stores Museum Village Archives

Joseph Bigelow's first home in Port Perry was located on Queen St. beside his Royal Arcade building, as seen above. The two storey frame home was moved from the street before the fire of 1884 to its present location on Perry Street.



Joseph Bigelow

## Bigelow's First Residence

*100 Perry Street, Port Perry  
Plan H-50020 Part Lots 95, 96*

As with all the land in what is now Port Perry, after it was patented, the first registered owner of this land, was Elias Williams. He sold this section of his property to Peter Perry in 1842. Perry drew up his plan for Scugog Village in 1845.

A strange anomaly exists on Perry Street - the original lot numbers are the same on both sides of Perry Street. This lot number is 95, the same as the lot directly across the road to the east. This irregularity exists all the way along Perry Street. The probable reason for this situation is that Perry wanted all his lots to be roughly one quarter of an acre in size. His positioning of Perry Street produced lots on that street only half the size of his other lots, so he compensated for this by having the "half lots" on either side of Perry Street, being given the same lot number.

The house that exists today, on this western half of lot 95, was not built on this property. It was built on Queen Street. In 1847 Harrison Haight bought lot 6 on the north side of Queen Street from Perry.

On March 8, 1850, Hiram Bigelow, of Lindsay, bought the lot from Haight as an investment for his two oldest children, twin sons Joseph and Joel. Just before Perry's death in August 1851, the 23 year-old



Map shows split lots on Perry St.

twins took possession of the Queen Street property.

The Bigelows immediately erected a simple two-storey structure to house a general store and living accommodations. In 1852, the growing business added another facet; Joseph Bigelow became Port Perry's first post master. In order to expand their facilities, the brothers bought the neighbouring lot 5 to the east. Early in 1854, Joel decided to venture out on his own and build his own store in Whitby. This decision may have been influenced by his brother Joseph's interest in Elizabeth Paxton, the daughter of William Paxton. Joseph and Elizabeth were married in May 1854. Joseph bought out his brother's Port Perry interests.



Elizabeth Bigelow

With the success of the expanding business and a growing family, a need for alternate living quarters arose. Joseph and Elizabeth decided to build a house separate from the store. On the western portion of lot 6, they had a substantial and sturdy frame home built in 1855. All six of the Bigelow children were born in this house on this Queen Street lot. As business continued to grow, the Bigelows saw the need to expand their store even further. They built a huge three-storey emporium on the site of the original store.

Anxious to have more privacy, the Bigelows bought lot 95 on Perry Street in May 1875 from lawyer John Billings. Over the winter of 1875-76, Joseph Bigelow had the Queen Street house moved to this property. In the basement of the house today, evidence of this move can be seen - the huge log joists still bear the marks from rolling the building on logs.

In 1877, the success of the Bigelow enterprises allowed them to build one of the most splendid houses in this part of Ontario (see Bigelow page 19). They moved into their Cochrane Street mansion in the fall of 1877, but continued to own this Perry Street house. They later passed the ownership to their two sons Charles and Thomas.

Their first home survived the fires of 1883 and 1884 making it the only building remaining from the original Queen Street settlement. Charles and Thomas continued to own the property until 1921. At that time they sold it to John Walker for the sum of \$1,150. In March 1932, it became the property of Bertha Rundle. Eight years later it was sold to Herbert and Charlotte Dobbs. Ivy Tuck bought it in 1953 but only kept it for two months and then sold it to Harold and Marie Snooks. The Snooks sold to Stan and Vera Hatchinski in August 1959.

The home is designed and built on simple, sturdy and symmetrical principles, with the return eaves so popular at that time. It remains as one of the oldest buildings in Port Perry. At the time of its construction in 1855 it stood as a proud symbol of the business success of Joseph Bigelow.



Joseph Bigelow's first home now sits at 100 Perry Street.



Photo courtesy Bob and Audrey Archer

Joseph Bigelow built this impressive home about 1878 and gave it to his daughter Emma and husband William H. McCaw as a wedding present.

## Wm. H. McCaw Residence

*41 John Street  
Lots 185, 186*



Emma  
McCaw

The name Bigelow comes up time after time in the early history of Port Perry, and this is another of the homes which bears his name. Joseph Bigelow built this impressive home in 1877, possibly as a wedding present for his only daughter Emma Josephine, who married local jeweller William H. McCaw in what was described as the biggest wedding of the year. The wedding took place in the drawing room of the magnificent Cochrane St. home which the Bigelows had built the previous year (see page 19). The young McCaw's moved in, and over the next decade became parents to six beautiful girls. Not long before Emma gave birth to their last two children, twin girls, the McCaws sold their home and moved into Emma's father's home, which they were finding far too large for them to live alone.



Wm. H.  
McCaw

It was January 1887 when the McCaws sold their first home to James and Elizabeth Bowman. Mr. Bowman was a local manufacturer of water pumps who operated his business at Borelia. James passed away in 1895 but Mrs. Bowman continued to live in the home for another couple of years before selling and moving on.

The next owner was Dr. Robert Archer, an accomplished surgeon who moved to Port Perry to join his brother Dr. David Archer at the Archer Medical Clinic on Queen St. in 1897. Dr. Archer spent the next 30 years caring for the people of Port Perry and neighbouring communities, and became affectionally known as "Dr. Bob" by his friends and patients.



Dr. Robt. Archer

During his years in Port Perry he became the first person in the village to own a motor vehicle, a 1907 Ford, and he was also first to have a telephone installed in his home.

In November 1920, Dr. Archer transferred ownership of his residence to his only son Harold and moved to a new home at the corner of Queen and Lilla (Simcoe) St. It was only seven years after he moved from John St. that the beloved and respected doctor died in his new home.

At the time Harold Archer took over ownership of the family home, he operated a hardware business on Queen St., Port Perry. He sold his hardware business in 1923 to the Carnegie brothers, then opened a garage and took on the Pontiac dealership. In 1928 he moved to the Willard Block (Royal Bank building), remodelled the building into modern business and added gas pumps on Queen St. Operating as Harold R. Archer Motors, in 1931 he added Chevrolet, Oldsmobile & Buick to his Pontiac dealership.



Harold Archer

Mr. Archer and his wife raised two children in their John St. home before selling the property in November 1945 to Blanch Glenn. Less than a year later, ownership was changed once again, this time going to Norman and Elsie Tease, who operated Tease Knitting Mills. Mr. Tease died in 1955 but his wife continued to live in the comfortable home. Mrs. Tease re-married Ralph Wilbur and the couple made this their home for much of the remainder of the century. Mr. Wilbur passed away a number of years ago, and Mrs. Wilbur sold the home recently to Cathy and Robert Mitchell, who are presently renovating and remodelling the century old home.

# Streetscapes




A 1915 post card view of Lilla St.(Simcoe). The picture was taken just north of the Queen St. intersection looking south. Building at left is the Methodist (United) Church, and at right, Town Hall 1873.





# *Chapter Five*



## Reach Township Hamlets & Villages






Photo courtesy Joyce Ashton

Photo of the Harper residence taken about 1920 when owned by Joseph Strong.

## The Harper Residence

*1431 Highway 7A  
Con. 5, Part Lot 15*

Possibly one of the most visually pleasing homes in Scugog Township is located on the north side of 7A Highway between Port Perry and Manchester, sheltered by trees, but it's yellow painted bricks, four-storey tower and decorative Victorian gingerbread trimming give it a distinctive look. This property was originally part of a 200 acre parcel of land owned by the Vansickler family, dating back almost 10 years before Reuben Crandell became the first white settler in Reach Township in 1821. Pieces of the property changed hands among family members a number of times in the early years, but it wasn't until 1860 that Henry Vansickler sold a piece of the farm to someone outside the family.

Stephen Cowle was the purchaser but there is no record of him having erected any building on the property during the 14 years he owned it. In 1874, the property was purchased by Alphonso Hindes. Mr.



Photo courtesy J. Peter Hvidsten

The Harper house about 1985, when owned by the Cottrells.



Hindes only kept it for a few months before disposing of the property later the same year.

Richard Harper was the next owner of the property. Mr. Harper was 41 years old when he arrived in Reach Township in December 1874. Construction of the home began in the spring of the following year.

Harper became a director of the Reach Cheese Manufacturing Company which operated out of the hamlet of Manchester, about a mile to the west of his stately home. About 1881, Mr. Harper built a large barn to the north-east of his home. Later that year while working, stacking hay in the rafters, he fell 20 feet to the floor of the barn. He was killed instantly. His tragic and untimely death drew the following comment in the local newspaper, "the deceased had been in this locality but a few years but he left traces of his activity, enterprises which will keep his memory for years to come. The magnificent buildings which has erected are an ornament to the locality and proof of his intelligence." Mr. Harper was 47 years old when he died and left behind a wife and daughters.

Following the death of her husband, Mrs. Harper sold the property to Daniel Williams. Mr. Williams was a Scugog Island farmer, who had held positions on that local council on a number of occasions, including the first council when Scugog Township was formed in 1855.

Walker Hill purchased the farm from Mr. Williams in November 1897 and retained ownership for about nine years, before selling it in May 1906 to Walter F. Weir. Mr. Weir was a Reach Township farmer, but also had an interest in public life, serving on Reach council a number of years as deputy reeve in the 1890s.

After Mr. Weir passed away about 1920, his wife Adrienne sold the farm to John J. Parr, who resold the property the same month to William Joseph Strong. Mr. Strong farmed the property for the remainder of his life. After his death in 1951, his son Hugh Strong purchased the 119 acre property from the family estate and continued to farm it for another 18 years.

One of Mr. Strong's children, Marie Geer, said she remembered the baseboards, staircase, and in particular the elegant sliding doors between the living and dining rooms. A large part of doors were constructed of burlled maple, but it was all painted after they sold the old farm home.

In 1969, the Strong family was approached by a Toronto based contractor, Tony Cesaroni, owner of Carlan Enterprises, who arrived in the area to purchase farmland to raise cattle and sheep. Mr. Cesaroni and his wife Susan moved into the historic home and immediately began work on restoring it. The interior was refurbished, replacing and repairing the original heavy plaster cornices. He also made the large sliding doors which separated the dining and living room, operational again. The bathrooms



Photo courtesy Marie Geer

Picture of the former Harper residence and property about 1960 when owned by Hugh Strong.

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES

were modernized, and the old summer kitchen was converted into a family room with a large fireplace. A couple of years after moving in, the Cesaronis built a large addition on the north west side which contained a billiards room and swimming pool. In these new rooms he carefully reproduced the large baseboards and trim found in other parts of the house.

The exterior of the building was complete and original except for the front porch, which had been removed a number of years earlier. Using an old photograph found in the house as a guide, the front porch was reconstructed on the original stone foundation. It was at this time, the deteriorating yellow bricks were repaired and the house painted pale yellow.



This painting by Steven Osztertag was commissioned by Susan Cesaroni about 1975, for her husband Tony, following renovations to the home.



View of the historic Harper house taken in 1972 after the addition of an indoor pool and extensive renovations were completed by Tony Cesaroni.

While living in Port Perry, Mr. Cesaroni purchased a number of area farms and built an apartment building at the corner of Simcoe St. and Durham Rd. #8, before selling and moving on.

Everet M. Woud was next to purchase the land and house. He completed his acquisition in February 1978 from Carlan Enterprises Ltd., the company of Anthony Cesaroni.

While owners of the property, the Wouds built a new residence just west of the old home, and in 1986, separated four acres and sold the original Harper home to Jack and Patricia Cottrell. A number of years earlier Dr. Cottrell had purchased a similar styled Victorian home from Tony Cesaroni, immediately north of this home on the 6th concession. (see Crozier page 90).

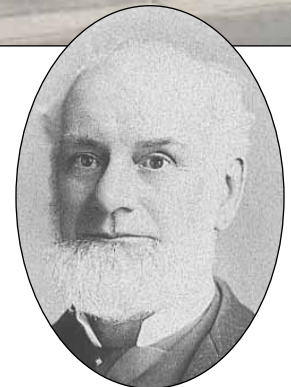
The Cottrells retained ownership of his elegant historic property until the fall of 2001, when it was sold to its latest owner, Ivan Lloyd.



Aaron Ross built this Prince Albert during the 1850s at the corner of King and Jeffrey Street.

## The Aaron Ross Home

*1629 King St., Prince Albert  
Plan H-50025 Block D Lot 2, Part Lot 1*



*A. Ross*  
Aaron Ross

Although extensions have been added to this home, it still retains its original, basic and simple architectural form. The building is a simple rectangular frame structure built from timbers in this region. The original section at the front was built by Aaron Ross shortly after he arrived here in the 1850s, and here he opened a boot and shoe making business.

The building was typical of the many business establishments of the period. The front room of the home was set up as a shop, while Ross and his wife Lucinda (Fitchett) lived in the rear section of the original house, now the middle portion. As his business expanded he built a workshop at the rear of the house. His business was so successful that he was able to purchase lot 44 and build a most impressive home (see McBrien page 96) while turning the whole of this house into a store and workshop. His achievement enabled him to go into partnership with George Currie and establish a flourishing general store and grain business in this store.

In 1870, Ross sold the building to Abraham Bongard a noted cattle merchant. The Bongards returned it to a conventional home and lived here until they sold it to Lucy Alvord in 1881. The home then had numerous owners including John Sollitt and his wife Isabella in 1884; Maria Wicks in 1895 and Harriet Jeffrey who sold the home to Reuben and Rebecca Bond in 1921. It is now owned by Anthony Poole.



## Wm. Crozier Residence

*1461 Scugog Line 6  
Concession 6, Part Lot 15*

Another of the distinctive homes in and around Port Perry, that feature the popular three-storey tower, is located just west of Port Perry on the sixth concession. Originally part of a piece of land 200 acres, the present house sits on about 32 acres. The first registered owner of this property was Alvin T. Corson. Mr. Corson and members of his family owned portions of this parcel for many years, but ownership of this particular piece, appears to have been transferred to his son Robert Corson in 1838. Ten years later, in 1848, Robert either sold or transferred the property back to Alvin Corson.

The next registered owner of the property was Edward Williams, a son of Elias Williams who had settled in what is now Port Perry in 1831. Edward Williams purchased this property from Alvin Corson in 1869. Five years later, in 1874, Mr. Williams separated about 30 acres from the original 200 acre parcel and sold it to back to Alvin S. Corson.

This property was sold by Mr. Corson about five years later, in March 1879 to William Crozier, a successful Cartwright Township resident who had just retired from farming. Mr. Crozier began construction of his attractive new home shortly after purchasing the property and by that fall, reports were published of a number of homes being rushed to completion before winter. Mr. Crozier's home was one of those homes mentioned, and when it was completed he and his family moved in and made it their home for the next 22 years.

In February 1901, the Croziers sold the family home to their son, John W. Crozier who lived there for another 20 years with his wife Annie. Following his death in 1922, the property was transferred to his wife Annie and her children, and over the next decade a number of Crozier descendants occupied the premises.



Photo courtesy David Brunton



Arthur Brunton

In April 1935, the Crozier estate sold the property to Walter and George Fowlie who only owned it for four years before selling it in September 1939 to Thomas R. Bowman for \$3,500. Mr. Bowman owned the property for a good many years, not selling it until 1946 when it was purchased by Arthur and Edith Brunton.

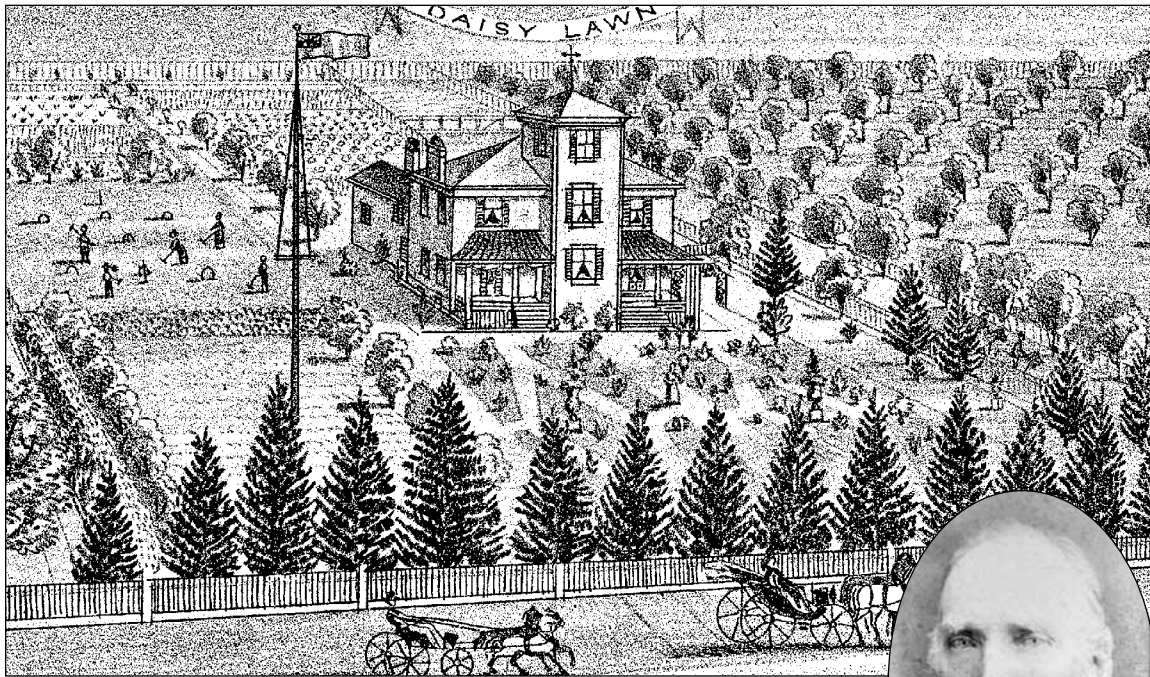
The Bruntons, along with their two children, moved to Port Perry from Toronto in 1946. Brunton had started a chicken hatchery business while in Toronto. His new Reach Township property was an ideal location for the continuance and expansion of his business. Using the barn as a hatchery, the Bruntons set up business on the sixth concession and operated the hatchery from here until 1953, when Art Brunton retired and moved his family into town, a mile east of this property.

The new owner was Annie Parker, a Toronto businesswoman who sold used furniture. Ms. Parker planned to use the barn to store and sell furniture in the area, but for some reason this never materialized. Instead, she turned the attractive rural home into a half-way house, for patients needing accommodation after being released from psychiatric care. Mrs. Parker had owned the house from 1953 to 1970, when developer Tony Cesaroni came knocking on doors around Port Perry.

Mr. Cesaroni had also purchased a farm and similar house immediately south of this property, on highway 7A a year earlier. Mr. Cesaroni lived in his 7A property and rented this sixth concession property out for about five years before splitting off a five acre parcel with the house and barn and selling it to a young dentist who had just started practice in Port Perry.

Dr. Jack Cottrell, arrived in town, fresh out of University and purchased the home almost one century after it had been built. The interior of the house was in poor condition, and he began extensive repairs to the inside, stripping all the beautiful trim and baseboards which had been painted, and putting in a modern kitchen and facilities. The huge project took almost five years, working evenings and weekends, and when completed he listed and sold the newly restored home. Dr. Cottrell moved to Scugog Island for about a year before returning to Port Perry, then a few years later, he and his wife Patsy purchased the former Cesaroni home on 7A highway.

Dr. Cottrell sold it to Walter L. Reesor in 1980, and it was transferred into the name of his son Bryan in 1981. The Reesors constructed a large family room on the north west side of the house shortly after moving in and continue to live in the beautiful old home to this day.



1877 Historical Atlas of Ontario County.

## Joshua Wright Residence

*1555 King St. West, Prince Albert  
Plan H-50025, Block C, Pt. Lot 8*



*Joshua Wright*  
Joshua Wright

This large Reach Township property, located just west of Prince Albert was originally owned by George Currie, an industrious businessman who operated a general store along with his brother Mark in the thriving little community. Mr. Currie sold the property in April 1875 to Joshua and Margaret Wright. The Wrights constructed this sturdily built two-storey frame home with a unique and unadorned tower over the front entrance. The Wright home is the largest surviving wooden home in the community from that period and is the only wooden home with a three-storey front tower. The Wright's extensive property was surrounded by large trees and the whole property was enclosed by a decorative wood fence which protected the expansive lawns, gardens and orchards.

Joshua Wright was one of the area's most active and influential political leaders for more than 30 years, being elected councillor and reeve in both the township of Reach and in Port Perry. He served in the Reach Volunteer Infantry Company as a Captain during the 1860s and was a director of the Prince Albert Public Hall Joint Stock Company.

Mr. Wright started his municipal career as a councillor in 1859 when he was elected as a councillor for Reach Township. In 1866 he was elected Reeve of Reach, a position he filled for three terms, and was honoured in 1869 by



The unique frame home in Prince Albert as it looks in 2002.

Photo courtesy Scugog Shores Museum Village Archives



Joshua Wright's house had a unique spindle fence along King Street in this circa 1890 photograph.

being elected Warden of Ontario County. Between 1877 and 1893 he was elected as Reeve of Port Perry on seven occasions. During his years as Reeve of Port Perry, Mr. Wright served as a commissioner of the Scugog Bridge and through his efforts convinced his colleagues at the County of Ontario to complete the bridge as a permanent roadway. He retired from municipal politics at the end of his term in 1893. In 1871, Mr. Wright tried his hand at provincial politics, running as a candidate for North Ontario Riding, but was defeated by Charles Paxton.

Joshua Wright began his business career in Prince Albert as a successful maker of boots and shoes gradually expanding and establishing his own tannery on property to the west of his home. He expanded his operation to Manchester in the mid 1860s. He was the first in the village to install a steam powered engine into his tannery business.

With the shift in trade, he moved his Boot and Shoe Store to Port Perry in 1873, and in 1877 purchased and outfitted the Sexton Mill property for a large new tannery. In September 1880 he leased the Port Perry Grain Elevator and ventured into grain buying. When his lease on the building ran out, Mr. Wright proceeded to build a new grain elevator on his property near the railway station, finally selling out in 1883 to D.C. Downey. In 1891, Mr. Wright returned to the grain business, taking over his building, which had been closed down and refitted it for an elevator and grain facility. Less than a year the entire building and stock was destroyed by fire.

Mr. Wright passed away in February 1898, and in April the following year the house he had called home for almost a quarter of a century was sold.

The next owner was Willis W. Cook who purchased it in April 1899 and lived there until his death. His estate sold the house in 1913 and over the past century it has seen numerous owners. Some of those who have owned the house included George and Catherine Johnstone (1913-1922); Lillian Sprague from (1922 to 1939) and Joseph A. Mitchell from (1939 to 1941). Others owners include Amalia Lock, Victor Charles, Ernest Gerrow, Joseph and Bertha Smeets, Boluslav and Mary Spacil, Howard and Jean May, Donald and Grace Milne, Charles T. Blackburn and its current owners Richard and Ann Evans.



Photo courtesy Dr. Ralph and Patricia Price



Frederick  
Graham

The exterior of the 'Christie Home' in 2016.

## The Christie Homestead

*1320 King St. East, Manchester  
Con. 4, Part Lot 14*

This substantial storey and a half red brick home is one of the earliest surviving homes in this region of Ontario. When Reuben Crandell came to Reach Township in 1821, he settled on a 200 acre parcel of land just east of the present day hamlet of Manchester. Here he erected a primitive but adequate a log cabin for himself and his young family. In 1832 he moved to Borelia, the eastern section of Port Perry, where where he built a larger and much more extensive home. He did not sell his original 200 acre property until 1842. It was purchased by Alexander and Frederick Graham. They divided the property. Frederick occupied the western section and Alexander took over the eastern 100 acres which contained the original Crandell log cabin. Alexander lived in the primitive cabin while he built the impressive yellow brick home which occupies the eastern property to this day.



Circa 1890 picture of the 'Christie's home.





Photo courtesy Dr. Ralph and Patricia Price

Centre hall plan features a double door with an elegant elliptical fanlight above and sidelights.



Elliptical fanlight window above front doorway as it looks from the exterior of the house.

In 1842, as soon as he had purchased the western 100 acre parcel, Frederick Graham built this red brick house. The bricks used in the construction of Frederick's house were made from clay found in a field immediately south of the house. The three bay front is typical of the Loyalist or Neo-classic vernacular in Ontario, including the return eaves and its doorway with an elliptical fan transom above the door and sidelights.

Frederick never married but left this home to his brother's daughter, Mary Honour Graham. She rented the house while living in her father's house next door, caring for her two uncles. When she married Peter Christie, the young couple moved into Frederick's home, eventually giving the eastern house to their son Grant. Grant's son Fred and his wife Ruby, still occupy

this comfortable yellow brick home.

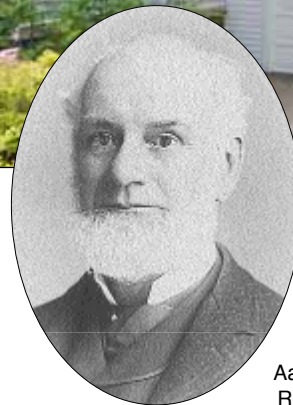
Peter Christie was the son of pioneers John and Jean (McLaren) Christie who settled on the sixth concession of Reach Township, just east of Epsom in 1845. Peter was the youngest of their seven children. He entered local politics and at the age of 33 became the Reeve of Reach. In 1881 he became a Warden of Ontario County. He then entered federal politics serving as the Conservative member for South Ontario in 1904. Peter and Mary's children achieved fame in their own right. Their son Graham became a professor of Mechanical Engineering at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

Upon Mary's death, the western home, the subject of this study, became the property of her son Graham. He in turn passed the house to his daughter Catherine in 1955. Twenty-two years later Catherine sold the house to Dr. Ralph Price and his wife Patricia. The Prices have restored the home and added a new back kitchen and west wing to the home. Both additions have been carefully designed and built to conform to the original architectural themes. The winter kitchen in the main house, with its cooking fireplace with cranes and andirons has been preserved over the years.

The Price's enthusiasm for antiques has enabled them to fill the home with correct and authentic furnishings, allowing visitors to experience the atmosphere enjoyed by its first owners.



Peter Christie



Aaron  
Ross

## The McBrien House

*14310 Old Simcoe Road  
Plan H-50025 Lot 44 Con. 5, Part Lot 16, 17*

One of the most unique houses in this community is the house which came to be known as the McBrien House or "The Orchards." Today it is known as "Heartland." This substantial clapboard covered home was built in the mid 1850s by Aaron Ross and his wife Lucinda (Fitchett). Ross started his local business career as a maker of boots and shoes but later expanded his business interests and became a prominent and wealthy grain merchant. He also gained prominence as an executive in the Dominion Bank, the Midland Railway and the Toronto Board of Trade. When Ross joined the business migration to Port Perry prior to the arrival of the railroad in 1871, he sold this house to James McBrien.

Although the original section of the house was built on a conventional plan in the Georgian style, with a central staircase and hallway, the front exterior has many distinguishing features. On the ground level there are French doors on either side of the main entrance while the remainder of the windows at the ground level are casement windows. The upstairs rooms have conventional double hung windows. The unusual verandah has a roof of curved pine boards, and is embellished with delicate trellis work, also in white pine.





James  
McBrien

James McBrien, although of English and Scottish descent, was born in Ireland and made his way to Raglan, south of Prince Albert in the 1830s and then to Prince Albert thirty years later. James became a teacher and rose through the ranks to become a public school inspector for the province of Ontario in 1871. As an inspector, McBrien was responsible for all the schools in the northern half of Ontario County. James and his wife Julia Frances had nine children, all of whom attended Port Perry High School. James died in 1909. Julia lived in the house until her death in 1938.

Their most distinguished son was James Howden McBrien, later to become Major General Sir James McBrien. He was born in this house in 1878. Upon graduation from Port Perry High School in 1896, he obtained his first job as a bank clerk at the Western Bank in Port Perry. This is now the easternmost section of Brock's store on Queen Street.

He remained at the bank for a year and then, seeking adventure and travel, he signed up to join the North West Mounted Police. When the Boer War broke out in South Africa in October 1899, McBrien returned to Ontario and joined the 34th Ontario Regiment in Oshawa so that he could be assigned to the African conflict. There he became an officer in the Royal Canadian Dragoons.

He returned to Canada in 1906, prior to further officer training in Australia. He took time to return to Port Perry and marry his childhood sweetheart, Nellie Louise Ross, daughter of Aaron Ross, the original owner of this house. He was a grain merchant and owner of the Port Perry waterfront elevator. In addition, Ross owned a store next door to the bank in which McBrien had worked upon graduation from high school. Nellie Ross had worked in her father's store at the same time.

At the outbreak of World War in 1914, McBrien was promoted to the rank of Major and attached to the British War office and went to France with the First Canadian Contingent. During that horrible conflict, his experience, determination and courage earned him numerous awards including the D.S.O. and bar (Distinguished Service Order), C.M.G. (Commander of the Order of St Michael and St. George), C.B. (Commander of the Bath), The Legion of Honour and the D.S.C. (Distinguished Service Cross).

Along with these awards, his rise through the ranks was unprecedented and spectacular. In October 1916 he was promoted to General in charge of the 4th Division of the Canadian Regiment. In January 1918 he became a Brigadier.

McBrien returned to Canada in 1920, and, at the age of 42, became the youngest Chief of General Staff in Canadian history. He was the youngest to hold that office among all the nations who had participated in the 1914 - 1918 conflict. His chief responsibility at this time was to re-organize the reduction of all divisions of the armed forces to a peacetime level. McBrien played a leading role in the creation of the Ministry of National Defence which came into being in January 1923.

An indication of McBrien's energy, dedication and desire to fully understand the changing nature of the military was to be seen in 1926 when at the age of 48 he enrolled in the pilot's course at Camp Borden and became a fully qualified military pilot. Later, his daughter Julia became one of Canada's first women aviators.

After much conflict and bickering between McBrien and the government of Mackenzie King, McBrien resigned in 1927 and returned to Port Perry. In 1930, Arthur Meighen's Conservatives defeated Mackenzie King's Liberals and they approached McBrien to become the head of the R.C.M.P. He immediately accepted and took on the responsibility with enthusiasm.

His major role at that time was to amalgamate the separate divisions



Major  
General  
Sir James  
McBrien

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES

of the police in the five western provinces. Another duty was to expand the R.C.M.P. to include coastal patrol duties in its mandate. This was at a time when rum-runners and others were active during prohibition. This division which McBrien organized later became the Canadian Coast Guard. Another of his accomplishments was to oversee the mechanization of the R.C.M.P. and by 1936 he had introduced 500 motorized vehicles into the force and reduced the saddle horses from over 1,000 to 226.

The Canadian government, recognizing McBrien's accomplishments, put forward his name for a knighthood. In June 1935, he was knighted by King George V on the occasion of the monarch's 70th birthday.

During his notable career, he never forgot his roots and frequently came home to Port Perry, some times privately to visit his relatives and sometimes to attend public gatherings. One such event was the dedication of the new Memorial Library in May 1935. On this occasion he flew in directly from Ottawa by sea plane and landed on Lake Scugog.

Also at that ceremony was an old Port Perry High School friend of his, Dr. H.A. Bruce, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Ontario. Dr. Bruce had served as Inspector-General of the Canadian Medical Corps in 1916 and in that capacity had frequently worked with McBrien. McBrien's brother, Captain William A. H. McBrien, was Bruce's aide de camp.

McBrien's wife Nellie died in 1921. He later married Emily Harbridge of New York. McBrien's death came unexpectedly on March 10, 1938, while he was still in office as Commissioner of the R.C.M.P. His mother also died that year.

To honour him, an immense and majestic funeral took place in Toronto. His flag-draped coffin, mounted on a horse drawn gun carriage made its way to St Paul's Church on Bloor Street and then to Union Station where, in the great hall of the building, a farewell ceremony took place before his remains were transported to Ottawa for a military burial.

At the time of his death, McBrien's son, William, was an officer in the R.C.A.F., and sons James and Michael were cadets at R.M.C. in Kingston. After his release from the R.C.A.F. in 1945, James practiced law briefly in Port Perry.

Many of the McBrien family members are buried in a distinctive family plot in the Prince Albert cemetery. The house remained in the McBrien family until 1961.



Interior pictures of the McBrien home, 2005. Left, a sitting room looking out onto the street, and right, the front entrance and hallway leading into the house.



This beautiful home was built on Old Simcoe Road by William Hayes about 1879

## William Hayes Home

*14576 Old Simcoe Rd.  
Con. 5, Part Lot 17*

Like so many rural properties during this period, prior to the house being erected the property was part of a much larger 200 acre parcel. William Hayes purchased the land in November 1874 from John Jurry, but before him owners of this parcel and other parts of the larger property included the some of the areas early pioneers and leading businessmen. Among these were Thomas Courtice, Thomas C. Forman and Abram Farewell.

Five years after purchasing the property, Mr. Hayes began erecting his new home and by the fall of 1879 an Ontario Observer newspaper article mentioned that he was among a number of area residents rushing to finish the exterior of the their homes prior to the winter.

Mr. Hayes built a home that was in keeping with the homes of the more wealthy and successful. An article appeared in the local newspaper in May 1882 referred to the home as "Mr. Haye's fine mansion to the north of Prince Albert." The two-storey, yellow brick home featured arched windows, a tower with a third-storey room, and large verandah with decorative Victorian gingerbread trim.

Mr. Hayes passed away in December 1898, but his wife stayed for another year before selling the property to John Proutt. Mr. Proutt moved into the home in October 1899 and lived there until his death. The family estate sold the house to Thomas and Mary Smith. The Smith's made the attractive

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES



This photograph, taken in 2002, and the one below, taken about 1900, show the house from the same angle, although it is partially hidden by trees.



Photo courtesy Pam and Jerry Fis

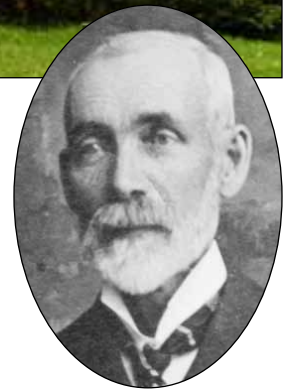
house their residence until Mr. Smith passed away in January 1935. Mrs. Smith stayed on the in home for almost two years before selling the family home to Amos and Mabel Lapp, in November 1936. The Lapps owned the home until April 1944.

Melvin Heayn was the next purchaser of the property, but just a few months later, in September 1944, he sold it to Mabel and Neil Reamsbottom. Mrs. Reamsbottom owned the house until her death when the estate sold it to Norisse H. Howey in 1956. Mr. Howey resided in the elegant home until October 1973 when it was sold to John H. Elton, who immediately sold it to Jerry and Pam Fis for \$60,000.

After about six years in the home, in November 1979, the Fis family sold the house to Robert and Janice Glanville who remain the owners of the home to this day.



Dugald McBride was principal of Port Perry High School for 40 years.



Dugald  
McBride

## Dugald McBride Residence

*14844 Old Simcoe Rd.  
Plan H 50021 Lot 117, 118*

Port Perry High School opened its doors as Port Perry Grammar School in September 1868. Its founding principal was James R. Youmans. In December 1871, he left and was replaced by Dugald McBride. The first home owned by McBride and his wife Nancy (Horton) was at 4 Ella Street. In February 1876, they sold their Ella Street home, bought this vacant lot and had a new home built here.

The home has, throughout its life, maintained its original structure and appearance. At the time of its construction it was an imposing full two-storey house, with a three bay design having a traditional center doorway and transom. The McBrides had two children, both born before they moved into the house but their son Samuel died at age fourteen shortly after they moved into this comfortable home. Their daughter Sarah Mabel went on to become a teacher at Oshawa Collegiate. McBride retired from his role as principal in June 1910, completing a forty-four year teaching career, thirty-seven at Port Perry High School.

The McBrides sold this home in 1892 to John and Amelia McMechan. The McMechans, in turn, sold to Elizabeth Christie in 1907. It remained in the Christie estate until 1944 when it was sold to George M. Heayn. Two years later it was sold to Walter and Elizabeth Stubbing and then to William S. Graham in 1948. It remained in the hands of members of the Graham family until John and Joanne Howsam bought it in 1983. The Howsams sold to Blair and Peggy Sprague in 1988, and the Spragues sold to Peter and Nadine Kirk in 1992.

The Kirks recently extensively renovated and restored the home to its original dignity.



Two ladies on the porch of Rowan Tree Hall circa 1890.

## Rowan Tree Hall

*1618 King Street, Prince Albert  
Plan H 50025 Block A Part of Lots 1 and 2*

James  
Holden

Rowan Tree Hall is one of the oldest buildings remaining in this community. It was built in 1845 by Abner Hurd. Reuben Crandell had hacked his way through the bush, making his way north to where Prince Albert is now located. He then headed west to establish his first homestead in this community in 1821. The next settler did not arrive until three years later. This second settler was Abner Hurd, taking possession of a 200 acre parcel on the east side of Simcoe Street and a hundred acres to the west. Hurd was followed a few months later by Reuben Dayton. The Hurds and the Daytons were followed by several families, including William Boynton who settled immediately to the south of Hurd.

By 1830, the community around the intersection of Simcoe Street and the fifth Concession had become known as Dayton's Corners. The first buildings in the community were simple log cabins, built, in most cases as temporary structures until more adequate homes could be built. As the community grew, Boynton and Hurd recognized the need for hotels. Upon arrival, Hurd had built a log cabin west of the four corners. He later built this handsome building as his home and as a hotel, retaining his eastern acreage, selling his cabin and acreage in the western section of the community to T. C. Forman. Boynton built his hotel and residence on the east side of Simcoe Street, a few hundred yards south of the community.

Hurd's home had two full-height storeys and a curved-roofed verandah across the entire front of the building. The verandah was supported not by pillars but by trellises and had fancy gingerbread style railings on either side of the entrance. The upper windows were rectangular eight-over-eight paned



whereas the ground floor at the front had full length provincial windows which opened as doors on hot summer days. The main door had sidelights. The roof was low pitched and hipped and had chimneys at the east and west ends. At the time, this frame building was the largest and most substantial in the community.

Later in life Abner Hurd signed the property over to his son Prosper.

Prosper Hurd sold the house to James Holden in 1865. James Holden was a man of many talents and ambitions. His

most notable early accomplishment was the founding of the community's first newspaper, The Ontario Observer in Prince Albert in 1857. He had his print shop and newspaper office in his first home a few yards to the north on Prince Albert's Queen Street. He sold his interests in the newspaper in 1863 and ventured into other businesses. He owned this hotel for less than three years, selling it to Hugh and Sarah Carmichael in March 1868. Holden then moved to Whitby where he became involved in local politics and the promotion of the Port Whitby and Port Perry Railway, later becoming its managing director.

The Carmichaels sold the hotel to George Robson in 1873. Robson had considerable previous experience in hotels. He had leased the Scripture Hotel on Dundas Street in Whitby and renamed it the Robson House. From there he ran a daily stage coach to Prince Albert. Attracted by the potential of the expanding community to the north, he sold his interests in the Robson House and moved to Prince Albert. He only stayed in Prince Albert for two years, selling the hotel to Eugene R. Eddy.

It appears that sometime during Eddy's 24-year ownership, the building ceased to be used as a hotel. Eddy sold the building in 1899 to George and Charlotte Patterson. The Pattersons lived here for almost thirty years selling it in December 1928 to Edward and Eva Williams. The property was then sold by the Williams' estate to William Taylor in November 1943 and the estate of William Taylor sold it to its present owner, psychologist, Suzanne Doupe in June 1991. During her ownership of the property, the home has been extensively restored and refurbished, returning the stately building to its dominant appearance in the village.



Rowan Tree Hall, the home of Abner Hurd, in Prince Albert was built about 1845.

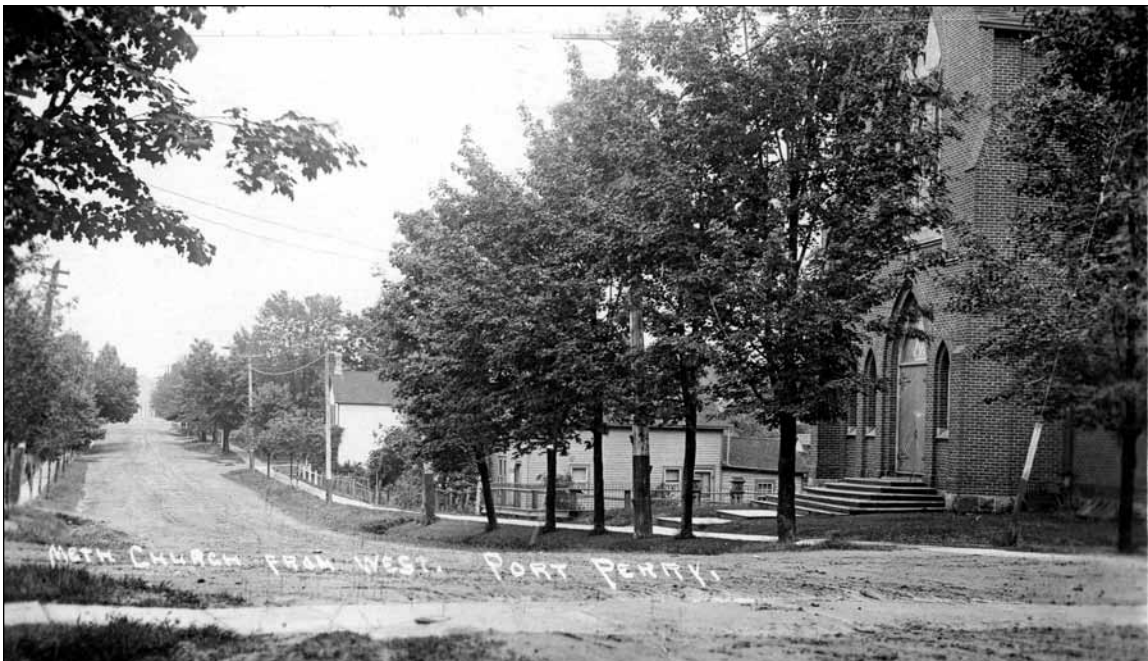


Rowan Tree Hall has changed little over the past 150 years, although the porch has been removed in this 2001 photograph.

## Streetscapes



This circa 1920 post card view of Queen Street was taken from Simcoe Street, looking towards Lake Scugog.  
The corner of the large porch at the left, is the former Murray House, now Jester's Court.



This circa 1920 post card view of Queen Street was taken from Simcoe Street, looking towards Lake Scugog.  
The corner of the large porch at the left, is the former Murray House, now Jester's Court.



# *Chapter Six*



## Homes of Scugog Island



# Historic Homes of Scugog Island



Alex Ross Wilson  
Con. 11, Lot 3,  
Plan 156 Lot 1-19  
2649 Seven Mile Island Rd.



John Adams  
Con.7, Part Lot 22, 23  
65 Gerrow Road



William Bateman  
Con.6, Part Lot 21, 22  
65 Portview Road



Joseph Reader  
Con. 5, Part Lot 22  
2146 Highway 7A



Henry S. Osler  
Con. 5, Part Lot 21-24  
2108 Highway 7A

Map of Scugog Island reproduced from the Historical Atlas of Ontario County dated 1877.

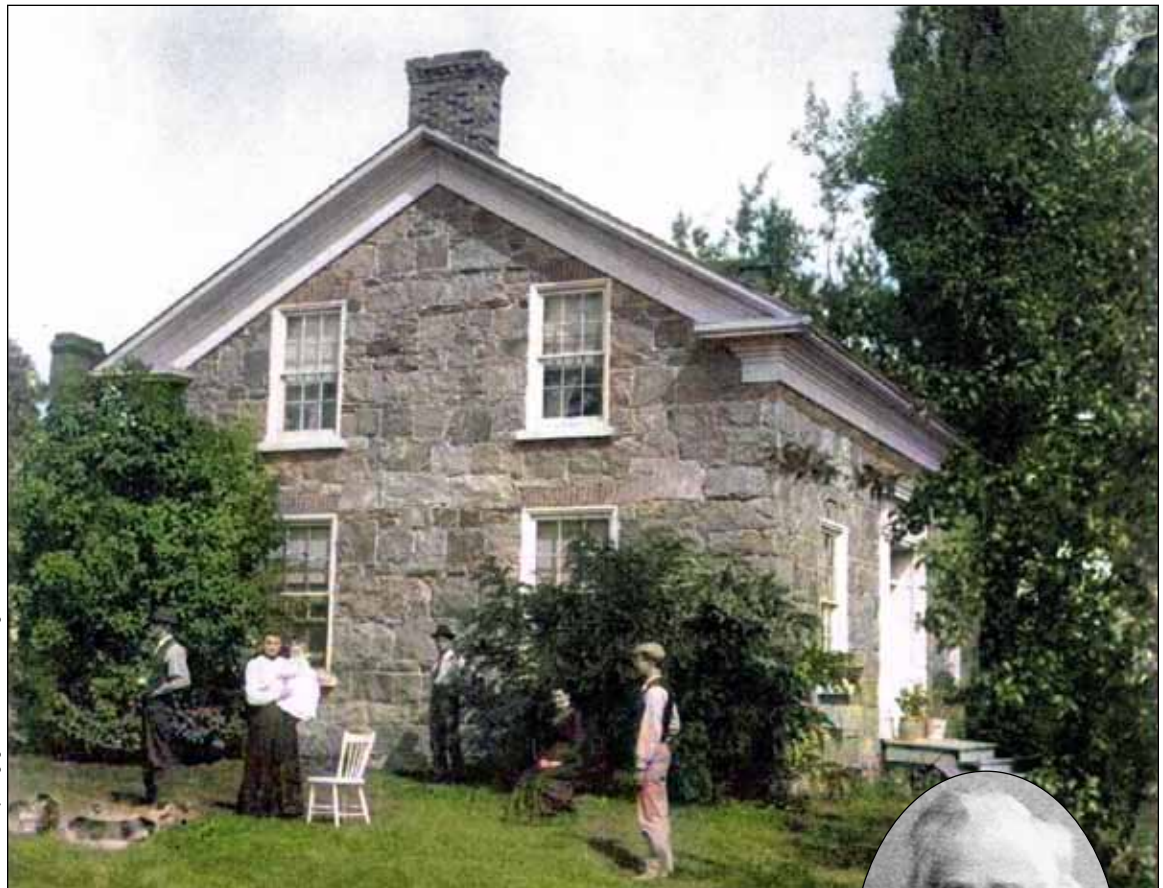


Photo courtesy Scugog Shores Museum Village Archives



Joseph Reader

## Joseph Reader Residence

*2146 Highway 7A, Scugog Island  
Concession 5, North Part Lot 22*

The Reader property is unique among Scugog properties in that it has remained in the family since it was first purchased over 150 years ago by Joseph Reader. The elder Reader was born in Kent County, England in 1805, and moved to Canada with his wife Rebekah (Wells) and 10 children in 1832. The family, among the first settlers on Scugog Island, arrived here in 1843 and became the legal owners of this 200-acre property in 1849. Reader built a large stone house near the top of the 'Island Hill'. An article in the September 25, 1873 Ontario Observer described the house as a "handsome stone residence situated on the rising ground overlooking the lake and in full view of Port Perry and the surrounding country." The home still has the same vista overlooking Lake Scugog as when it was built, but is now occupied by his great, great grandson, James Nelson Reader.

Joseph Reader was an active and energetic pioneer of Scugog Island and was elected twice to serve as Reeve of the young township, in 1865 and 1866. While a member of Ontario County Council he held the post of Commissioner of the Scugog Bridge for a number of years. As Commissioner he was responsible for overseeing maintenance and repair to the floating wood bridge that linked Scugog Island to Port Perry.

Mr. Reader was 91 years of age when he passed away in November 1896. His wife predeceased him

HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES



William Reader

in 1895, so after his death the house and property was transferred into the name of their son William.

William Reader took over ownership of his parents' home in April 1897 where he lived and farmed until he passed away. The estate of William Reader transferred the old homestead to the next generation, John Reader. By this time the parcel of land had been reduced to 126 acres.

In 1939 John Reader transferred 80 acres of his land, much of which ran south into the marsh lands, to Cartwright Land and Investments, a company operated by the Osler family. The Oslers were part of a consortium who purchased more than 2,000 acres of marsh land adjacent to the Reader farm in 1890, and continued to add acreage to their large property by purchasing surrounding farms and land as it became available.

In February 1944, more than 20 years after the property was taken over by John, it changed hands once again. Following his death, the estate



John Reader

transferred ownership of the property to Charles Reader. Charles owned the property until July 1964 when James Nelson Reader, the current owner, took over custody of the old family homestead.



The historic old stone homestead of Joseph Reader as it looks in today, more than 150 years after it was built.



James Nelson Reader, the current owner, was born in this house in 1922.



## The Osler Clubhouse

*2108 Highway 7A, Scugog Island  
Concession 5, Part Lot 21 to 24*

The Osler Clubhouse is located on a remote piece of land south-east of the Port Perry causeway. The property was owned by one of Scugog Island's earliest settlers, Joseph Reader until about 1881 when it was sold to the Lake Scugog Marshlands Drainage Company. After an unsuccessful attempt to drain the marshlands and turn it into farmland the drainage company sold all the property they had accumulated, estimated at about 2,000 acres, to a group of Toronto businessmen headed up by Henry S. Osler, who planned to turn the Scugog marshlands into a private hunting and fishing area for family and friends. The men called their property the Scugog Game Preserve Co.

Early newspaper records suggest that the marshlands, south of the floating bridge, later to become the causeway, was one of the most popular spots for area sportsmen to hunt, fish and trap throughout the 1870s and 1880s. Not long after the new owners took possession they banned local sportsmen from the marsh. This prompted a number of challenges, and a series of legal battles were fought over the rights to the property.

By 1890, the courts had ruled in favour of the new owners, giving them exclusive rights for use of the marshland. With the law now firmly on the side of the marshland syndicate, local hunters resisted any further urge to challenge the owners of the property, realizing trespassers would be dealt with harshly.

Despite the animosity felt toward them by many local residents, Mr. Osler and his partners gradually became accepted in the community, and began improving the property for their private hunting concerns.

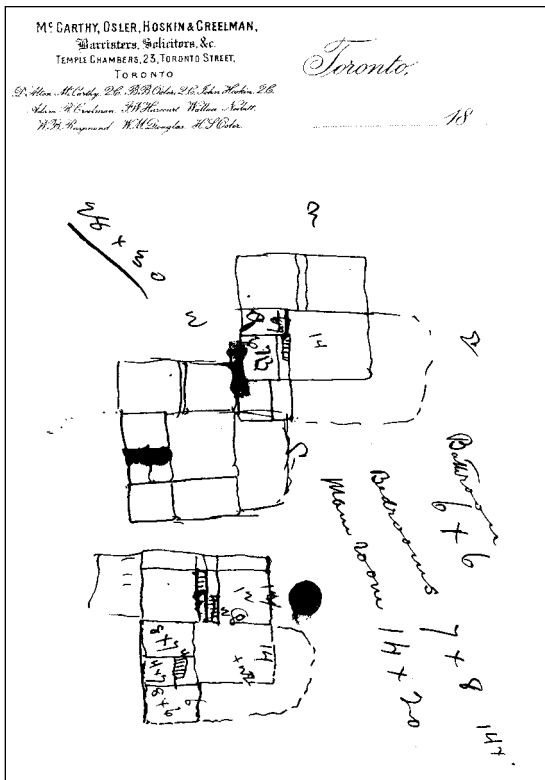
In October 1892, H.S. Osler called for tenders to construct a clubhouse. Port Perry contractor Charles



*H.S. Osler*

Henry Smith Osler

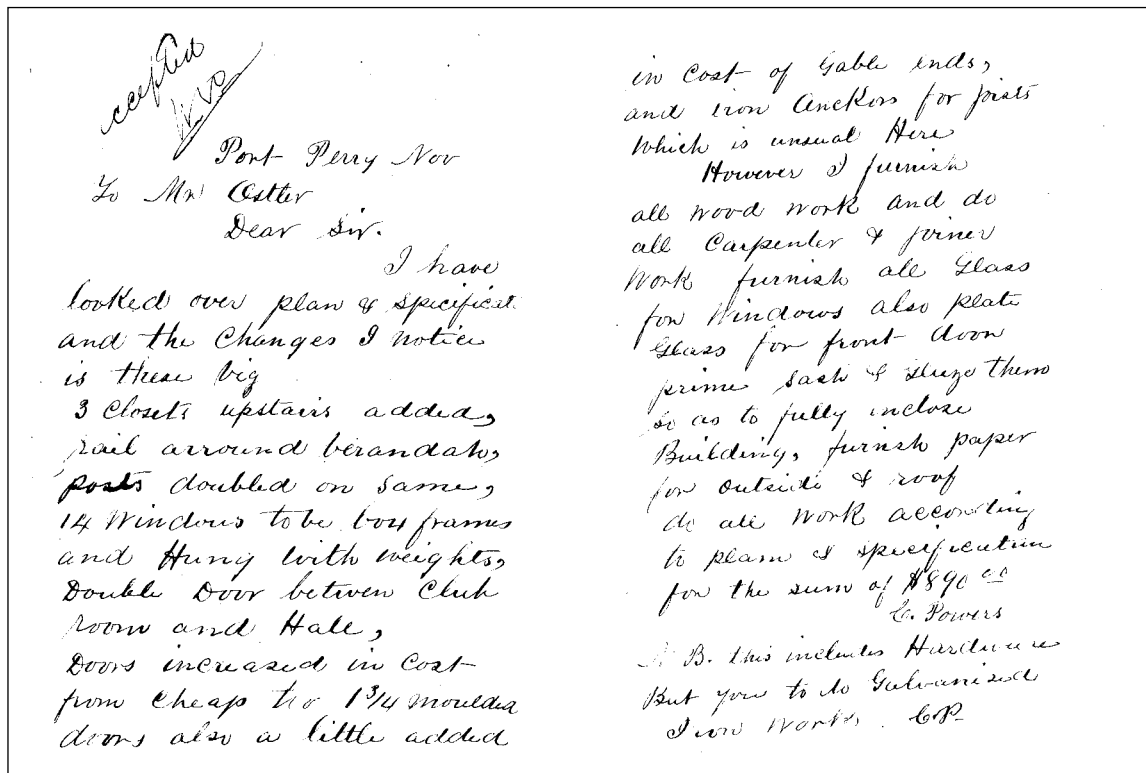
HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES



Powers, tendered to do the work for \$890 and was awarded the contract.

Construction of the 30'x40' two-storey clubhouse began in December 1892. The house was located at the top of a rising piece of land known as Hemlock Island on the east shore of the lake, just south of the causeway. The frame structure featured a third-storey tower, surrounded by windows, which provided a perfect vantage point to keep lookout across the marshlands for intruders or poachers, or to merely enjoy the view to the west.

The main section of the building, dominated by the tower, has a barn like hip roof. Inside there is a clubroom with a large stone fireplace and windows looking out over the marsh, a large dining room on the main floor where the Oslers and their guests would enjoy great feasts at the end of each hunting day, often with duck on the menu. There were also several smaller storage rooms, one to keep their guns and ammunition, and a large kitchen with a wood stove. On the upper storey there were a number of rooms for their guests and



Top left, a copy of the original sketch drawn by Henry Osler in 1892. Bottom, the tender submitted by Port Perry contractor Charles Power, to build the clubhouse on Hemlock Island.

Courtesy Eve Hampson





Photo courtesy Eve Hampson

A rear view of the clubhouse from the north-east side, taken in the early 1900s.

a single shared washroom.

An apartment was later constructed at the north side of the original clubhouse. This was to provide year round living accommodation for the caretakers and to allow the caretakers to prepare meals for the Oslers and their friends when they arrived for hunting weekends.

The original piece of property purchased by the Scugog Game Preserve Co., was about 2,000 acres, but over the years it has grown substantially. It is estimated that between 8,000 and 10,000 acres of land and marsh was amassed by Henry S. Osler before he died. The land stretches from the Port Perry Causeway south to the Shirley Road, and winds its way along the shoreline of Lake Scugog back to the Cartwright Causeway, then north, to just south of Caesarea on the east side, and south of Pine Point on the Scugog Island side of the lake.

The only piece of land sold from the estate was a 50 acre parcel of Henry S. Osler's Pine Point property, which he sold to a syndicate of gentlemen in May 1915. Subsequently it was developed into a series of cabins along Pine Point Rd., most of which still exist today.

In August 1927, O.F. Cummins & Wm. H. Robinson, dredging contractors from Toronto,

began digging the channels through the marsh with a specially constructed steam-dredging machine, mounted on a large wooden barge. The contract specified that all channels were to be dug out to a depth of six feet, with a width of 20' at the water level narrowing to eight feet at the channel bed. It took four years to complete almost 20 miles of channel, at a contracted price of \$2,000 per mile.

The numerous channels throughout the marsh were dredged for the private use of the owner's family and friends, making even the most remote areas of the marshland accessible for hunting ducks. During the 1930s and 1940s many of the Osler's influential business friends from Toronto and Montreal, would travel to the marsh for a weekend of hunting and fishing. Following a hearty breakfast, they were taken out in punts to the duck blinds set up in the marsh for the morning hunt.

Henry Smith Osler was 71 years old when he passed away on December 8, 1933 at his son's residence in Montreal. In June 1939, the name of the Scugog Game Preserve Company was changed to the Cartwright Land & Investment Company. In 1958 it was transferred to Philip F. Osler (son of Henry Osler) and other members of the Osler family.

Philip Osler controlled the company until his death in 1992, at the age of 91 years, at which time the shares in the company were transferred into the names of his children and grandchildren.

Today, the Scugog Marsh, or more accurately, the Cartwright Land and Investment Company lands, are owned by Mrs. Eve Hampson, Ottawa, who is the daughter of the late Philip F. Osler, her son Philip of Toronto, and other members of the Osler family.

The century old clubhouse on Helmlock Island is still used to this day by the descendants of Henry Smith Osler. The property is maintained by a full-time caretaker. Family members and their friends converge upon the century old clubhouse for weekends, particularly in the fall, for a few days of duck hunting and dining, just as their ancestors have for more than a century.



South west side of the Bateman home while under restoration in 2004.



William  
Bateman

## Wm. Bateman Home

*65 Portview Road, Scugog Island  
Con. 6, Part Lot 21, 21*

When William Bateman purchased this property on Scugog Island in 1870, it offered an unobstructed view across Lake Scugog to Port Perry and to the south. The property was made of up two pieces of land totaling about 75 acres. One parcel extended from the Scugog Bridge north to the 6th Concession (Portview Road), and the second ran along the north side of the 6th Conc., east to the 'Island' road. (see map page 113)

Mr. Bateman was one of the early settlers on Scugog Island, building his home not long after purchasing this attractive property. Here he lived for many years with his wife Nancy (Varnum) and their children. Mr. Bateman took part in public activities and was first elected to office in 1868. After serving many years as a councillor, he was elected Reeve of Scugog in 1883 and held the post for four consecutive years.

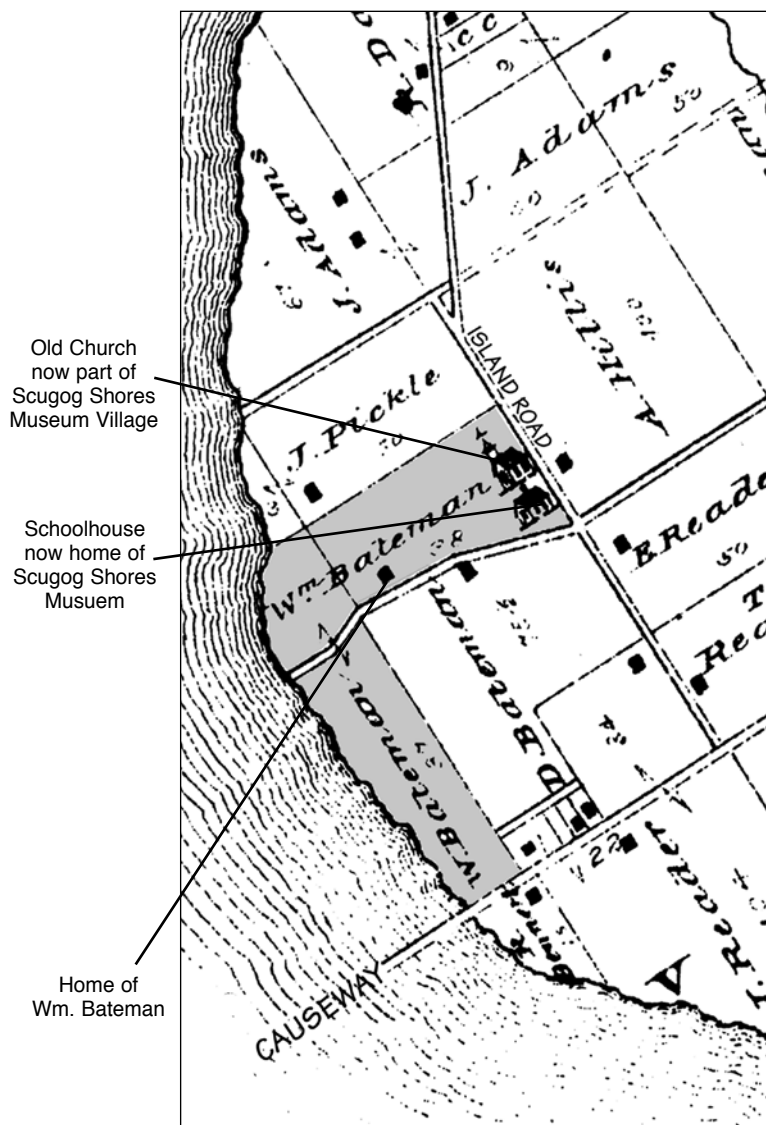
Mr. Bateman sold his home in late 1889 and moved to Port Perry where he continued his public work as a councillor for a number of terms and served as Justice of the Peace. John Collins jr. purchased the old Bateman homestead in 1889 and lived and farmed the property until his death. John Collins was the son of John Collins sr., who was among the first pioneers to arrive and settle on Scugog Island.

In October 1922 the property was willed to his son Thomas Collins and not long after taking ownership, the young Collins registered a plan of subdivision along Portview Beach. It was Thomas Collins who also sold a piece of land near the Scugog Bridge to the County of Ontario in 1925 when work began on widening the bridge to Port Perry.

More recent owners of the property included Leo Blueman and his wife, who purchased the house

and almost 50 acres of land in 1972. The Bluemans lived in the aging home until Mr. Blueman died and his estate sold the property to Port Gem Investments in 1989 for a sum of \$486,500. The company purchased the land with the intention of developing it for homes, but when this failed, it was sold.

The currently owners, George and Cynthia Stalk purchased the house in 2000 and have since done extensive renovations, and enlarged the historic Bateman house. In renovating, they have retained many of the original features of the home, including eave brackets and the beautiful fenced and pillared verandah around three sides of the home.



This enlarged section of map shows the extensive property holdings, and the location of the home of Wm. Bateman, on Scugog Island in 1877.



Two views of the former Wm. Bateman home as it looks in 2004, following extensive restorations by the historic home's current owners.



## John Adams 'Ambleside'

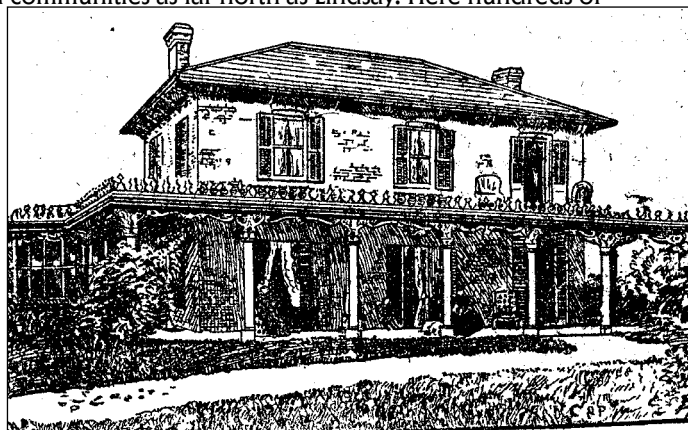
65 Gerrow Road, Scugog Island  
Con. 7, Part Lot 22, 23



John Adams

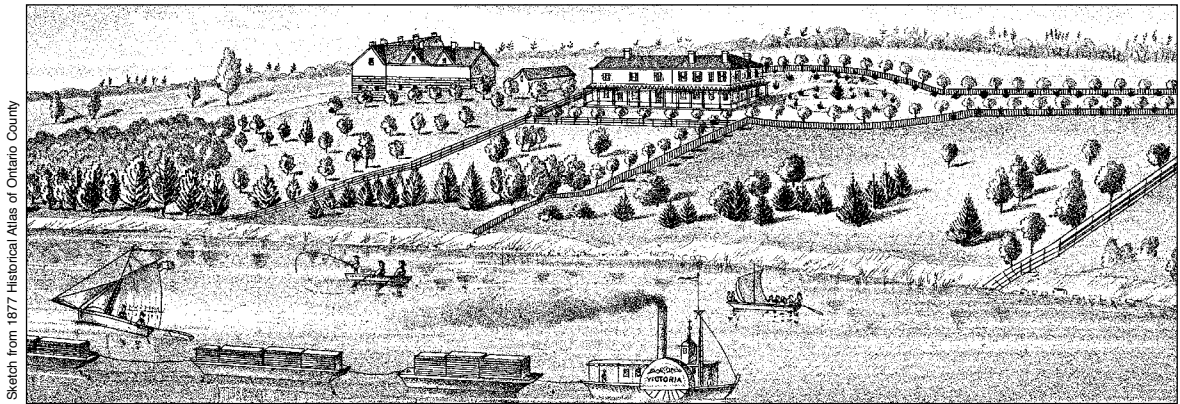
The parcel of land on which this attractive house is located, overlooks Lake Scugog and more than a century ago was home to John Adams, one of the leading stock breeders in the country. His success attracted visiting breeders to his farm from all parts of Canada and the United States during the 1880s. In addition to its prominence in the farming community, 'Ambleside' as it became known, was also a favourite destination for steamboat excursions from Port Perry and communities as far north as Lindsay. Here hundreds of excursionists, usually organized by local churches, would disembark on the rising ground near the lake to enjoy day-long picnics and activities along the lakeshore.

This property dates back to 1843 when 36 acres of Crown Land was purchased by John Thompson for \* £18. Thompson sold it in 1850 to Christopher Hodgson who later lost the property to the Colonial Securities Company due to default of mortgage payments. In October 1869, two local businessmen, Thomas C. Forman and William S. Sexton, purchased



An 1886 sketch of Ambleside shows conservatory on east side of house.

The British pound was the official currency in Canada until 1853. At this time one £ was equivalent to about \$4.



This sketch of Ambleside was published in the 1877 Illustrated Atlas of Ontario County. 'Ambleside' was named after a town in the Lake District of England.

the property from the securities company, and it was during their ownership that the first house was constructed.

Messrs. Forman and Sexton then sold 125 acre estate property to John Adams in September 1871 for \$2,500, and over the next few years he enlarged and improved the farm considerably. In September 1873 the Ontario Observer newspaper noted: "The improvements on the beautiful farm of John Adams, Esq., are being pushed and have begun at the right place, the barns and other outbuildings; he has just completed the erection of one of the most substantial and best arranged barns in the Province, being 200' x 40', standing on a stone wall."

About the same time John Adams started work on the barns, he also began to remodel and enlarge the original house. He added a large conservatory to the west side, featuring three skylights and a wall of windows facing the lake. This structure has since been removed. Unlike many homes which used a centre hall plan, the Adams' home was entered through side doors, which allowed for very spacious rooms inside. The living and dining rooms, both measuring 18'x28' are divided by a wide, arched opening, accented with heavy crown mouldings on either side. Both rooms feature marble fireplaces, beautiful plaster crown mouldings around the nine foot high ceilings, and elaborate decorative plaster mouldings accent the chandelier-styled lights in both rooms.

The 40'x30' red brick, two-storey exterior is accented by a wide verandah which stretches around three sides of the red brick home, giving it a rambling and elegant appearance. The verandah floor is not elevated but is built at the ground level, enhancing the colonial aspect of the home. Originally the verandah had a flat roof and access to the roof was gained through a doorway on the right hand



Members of the Adams family in the conservatory and billiards room. Left front, Margaret, Edith and unknown. Back row, unknown, J. Hamilton Adams, and unknown.

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES



Photos by J. Peter Hvidsten



Upper photo shows the elegant archway between the living and dining rooms as it looks today. The arch is accented with elaborate cornice, and crown moulding with the 'egg and sheaf' design.

Lower photos show some of the ornate plaster mouldings found in the 125 year old John Adams home. These are the original plaster mouldings installed when the house was built in the 1870s.

side, providing a comfortable outdoor lounge area for the bedrooms.

When the house was remodeled about a decade ago, the new verandah was given a sloping roof and the upper door was replaced by a conventional window matching the other openings on that level. Also during the remodeling, the decorative eave brackets, the two end brick chimneys and wrought iron railings on the verandah roof were removed and the arched gingerbread decoration between the verandah pillars was changed. The high-pitched hip roof is original.

At the ground level, the front originally had a central door and two French doors. The center door and the right side French door has been retained but the right hand French door has been replaced with a conventional window.

John Adams was a successful businessman, and a partner in the money lending business with his brother David J. Adams. He later became connected with some of the leading financial companies in Toronto where he accumulated considerable wealth as a successful speculator. It was from this financial gain that he purchased this magnificent property to live with his wife Margaret and two children, Edith M. Flora and John M. Hamilton Adams.

Mr. Adams became one of the most extensive importers and breeders of valuable heavy horses and cattle, and was identified with area agricultural institutions until he sold his farming operation in 1897 to John A. McGillivray. In April 1916, Margaret A.P. Adams purchased about 93 acres of the former Adams homestead, including the family home. Members of the Adams family lived on the farm until May 1951 when Flora Adams entered into an agreement with Anson and Donald Gerrow to purchase the farm. Then in September 1956 Mrs. Adams sold the 93 acre property to the Gerrows for \$20,000 along with an agreement that allowed her to continue living in the house until her death.



Members of the Adams family in the conservatory and billiards room. From right are: John and Margaret Adams, their daughter Edith, and an unidentified woman

Photo courtesy Roy Gerrow



Photo courtesy Roy Gerrow

Flora M. Edith Adams

The Gerrow brothers registered a plan of subdivision on the farm in May 1972, then sold the property in 1979 to Murray Wm. Jackson, a Scugog Island farmer and auctioneer. Mr. Jackson lived in the house for about five years, before selling it to a development group called Ambleside Country Estates Ltd., who separated 17 acres along Gerrow's Road for housing development.

The original Adams home, and the remaining 48 acres was sold to Jeffrey R. Percy in 1986. He and David L. Ross live in the historic old Scugog Island home to this day.

# Streetscapes



A 1915 post card view of Lilla St.(Simcoe). The picture was taken just north of the Queen St. intersection looking south. Building at left is the Methodist (United) Church, and at right, Town Hall 1873.





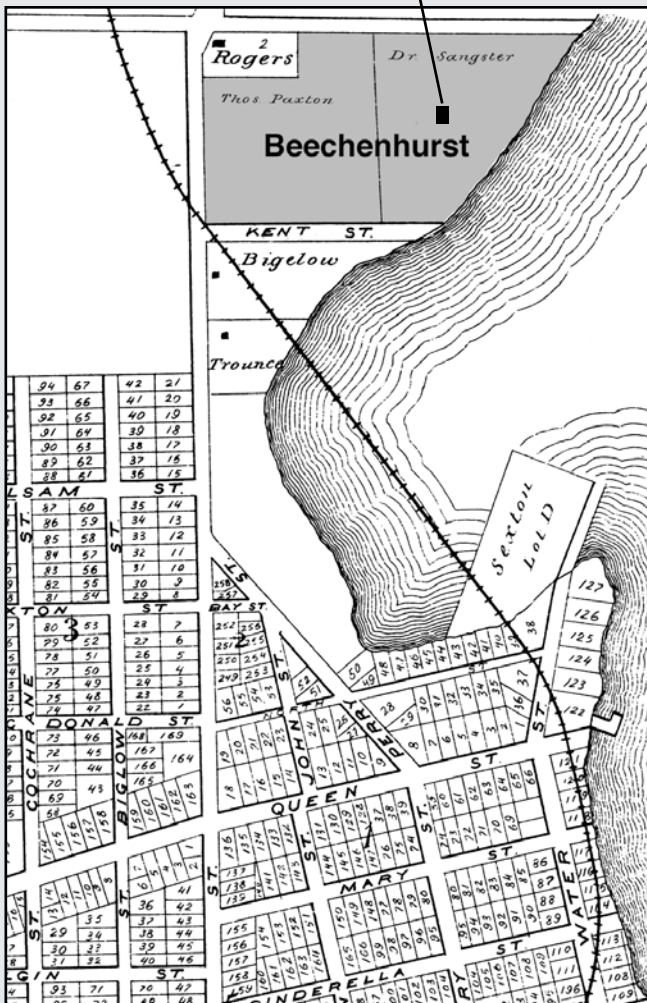
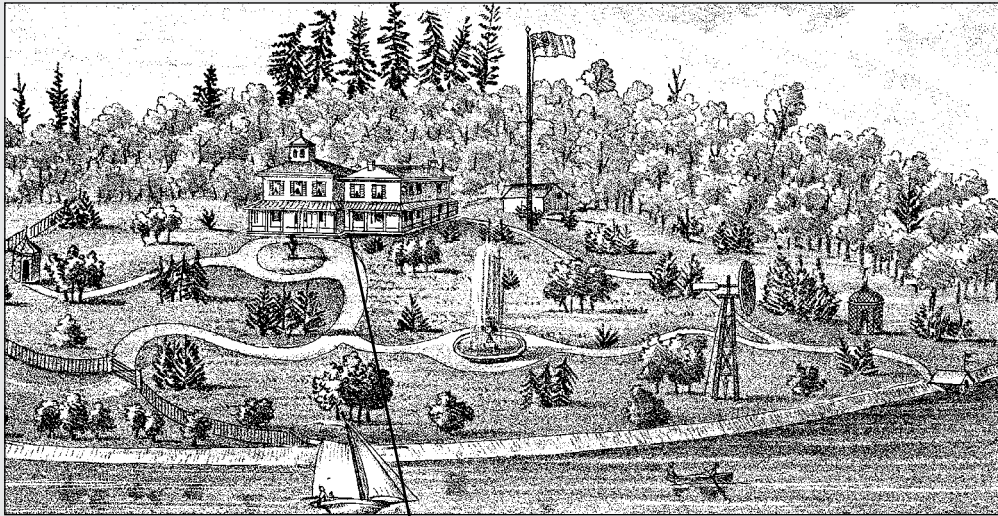
# *Chapter Seven*

## Scugog's Estate Properties

During the early part of the 20th century, two Scugog Township properties bordering on the shores of Lake Scugog were developed into magnificent estates, complete with walkways meandering through colourful floral gardens which were adorned with statues, arbors and reflecting pools.

In the following chapter is the history and pictures of these impressive estates. One of these was known by the name Beechenhurst. During the early 1900s, it became known as Beechcroft, and most recently Kent Estates, when owned by Frederick and Ethel Kent.

The second property, located along the west shore of Scugog Island was originally called Nonquon Island.-It later became known as Seven Mile Island. This was the estate of Alex Ross and Mary Wilson.



**Beechenhurst**  
 was the magnificent estate  
 of Dr. John H. Sangster  
 from 1874 to 1893.

The property was later  
 purchased by  
 Frederick & Ethel Kent.  
 During their ownership the  
 property became  
 known as

**Beechcroft or  
 Kent Estates**

The beautiful home of Dr.  
 Sangster, illustrated above,  
 was destroyed by fire in March 1881. The  
 sketch of Sangster's 'Beechenhurst'  
 estate, and the map, were reproduced  
 from the Historical Atlas of  
 Ontario County, 1877.

Map at left shows location and  
 size of the property when later  
 owned by Frederick Kent.



The mirror or reflecting pool at Beechcroft, the summer home of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick A. Kent, about 1921.

## Beechenhurst, Beechcroft and Kent Estates

Hidden away in the north-east corner of Port Perry, far away from the hustle and bustle of this active and industrious community was one of the town's most magnificent and desirable properties during the early part of the twentieth century. Access to the property, located on the west shore of Lake Scugog, was along a narrow dirt road overgrown with trees which opened up at the top of a hill and sloped to the edge of the lake. From this vantage point, there was a panoramic south-easterly view of the lake and Scugog Island, as well as the docks and mills located along Port Perry's busy lakefront.

Historical documents for the property, which later became known as Beechenhurst, date back to the early 1800s. There have been numerous owners of the land over the past 150 years, including: Thomas Paxton; Joseph Bigelow; Hugh Lucas; James Carnegie; Madison Williams and Dr. John H. Sangster.

While Dr. Sangster owned the property, he built a huge home and began work on the grounds of the property. Unfortunately, a fire which began at 4 a.m. on March 7, 1881, completely destroyed the residence, valued at close to \$18,000. A huge amount at the time. Dr. Sangster then built a huge rambling mansion to replace his



Dr. J. H.  
Sangster

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES



The magnificent gardens of Frederick A. Kent's 'Beechenhurst' or 'Kent Estates' as it looked during the 1920s.  
In the upper photograph, Lake Scugog can be seen in the background, between the trees.

earlier home. This home also became the victim of a fire, on February 28, 1893 (see Beechenhurst page 153).

The next owner of the property was Jonathan Blong, a longtime resident of Port Perry, who is probably best known as the man who built the beautiful "Blong Block" (now Settlement House Shops) on Queen Street. He purchased the "Beechenhurst" property from Dr. J.H. Sangster and built a large new frame house on the property. Although it was reported he was very attached to the estate, being an avid outdoorsman, Mr. Blong sold it a few years later to William E. Gimby and moved to Toronto after his health began to fail.

Mr. Gimby owned the property for only a short time before Frederick Kent arrived by car in Port Perry in May 1911 looking for a suitable location for a summer home. He ended up purchasing the house and eight acres of land from Mr. Gimby for the sum of \$5,500.

On learning of the purchase, Port Perry Star publisher Samuel Farmer wrote the following article in the newspaper:

"We are pleased to be able to announce that the Gimby property has been sold to Mr. Frederick A. Kent, of Toronto, one of the firm of jewellers of that name.

Mr. Kent came to town last week in his auto. He said that he had been looking for a property suitable for a summer residence at a convenient distance from Toronto. By means of his auto the distance by time between Port Perry and Toronto is very short.

We congratulate Mr. Kent on having secured so desirable a property; and the town in securing so excellent a citizen. Port Perry is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful of Ontario towns and would prove a most suitable place for such persons who enjoy the freedom, and quiet of country life."

Frederick Kent became the man most responsible for the development of the property, turning it into a spectacular garden paradise in just a few short years. One year after purchasing the property, Mr. Kent was reported to have started extensive improvements to the land, installing new waterworks, reshaping and levelling the lawns, building a bowling green, a house for the caretaker and his family; and building a new driveway. On seeing the need for more acreage to fulfill his plans, he purchased an additional 17 acres of adjoining land from Silas E. VanCamp for \$6,650.

Work continued for years as Mr. Kent developed the property, putting in terraced gardens and lawns, a reflecting pool, fountains, urns and planting thousands of flowers and installing all the necessary irrigation. It is believed during this period Mr. Kent renamed the property "Beechcroft", the name by which it was referred to most frequently during this period. In June 1921, Mr. Kent graciously announced that he would be opening the gardens of Beechcroft home to the public everyday during the season.



his  
Frederick  
Kent

After touring the estate in August 1924, Port Perry Star editor Samuel Farmer described the property as follows:

"For many years Beechcroft, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick A. Kent, has been a noted place in Port Perry; but never so noted or so beautiful as it is today.

Years ago Dr. J. H. Sangster used to keep the grounds after the English fashion. In those days the natural beauty of the place was fostered by those who loved beauty and loved nature. Beechcroft has been sold a number of times during the past 20 years. Mr. Jonathan Blong was in the possession of the property for a number of years and took a real interest in the place.

About ten years ago Mr. Fred Kent bought the property, and from that time it has been improved year by year until it is one of the most beautiful properties in the Province.

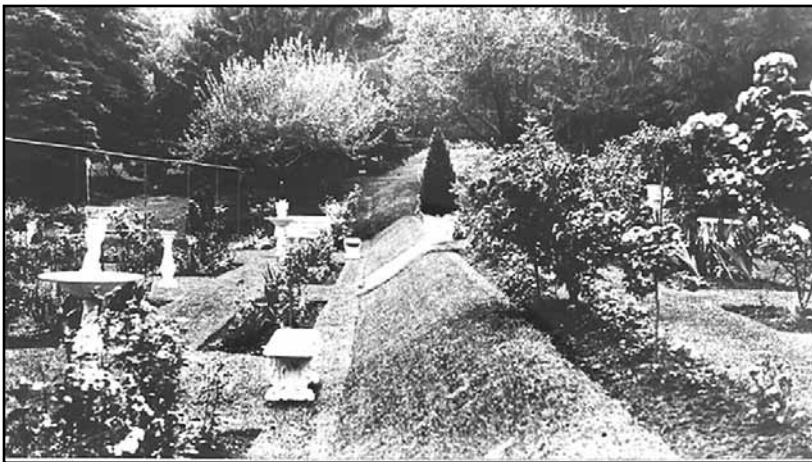
Yet an uninformed stranger can come and go, little suspecting that such a beautiful spot is close at hand. Situated on the northern outskirts of the town, Beechcroft is reached at the end of an unattractive road and as you turn in the gate you will think "what a delightful place in which to rest."

You travel the well graveled drive in the shady coolness of the overhanging trees, through the

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES



Above, the reflecting pool with its water fountains forming an arch over the surface of the pool, which was located in the Rose Garden.



At left are two views of the terraced gardens located on the sloping hill overlooking Lake Scugog. The property was tiered and decorated with dozens of urns, benches, flowers, trees and shrubs.



openings of which gleams of brilliant color can be seen in the sunlight- perhaps a bed of tuberous begonias, some flaming cannas, giant castor beans, asters with great plumed heads in white and the many shades of red, mauve, and purple, or the glorious white blossoms of the hydrangeas.

And all above the trees, clumps of sturdy beeches just now loaded with nuts; evergreens whose branches sweep the ground and shrubbery in pleasing variety mingling with hollyhocks, sweet William, golden glow, delphinium, spirea and flowers that keep a covering of bloom on the well tilled beds.

With all the trees and flowers, there are spacious well-kept lawns, some with a delightful roll to them, and others terraced masses of close clipped green. In the trees and on the lawns, martens and song birds thrive.

Such is the approach to the Rose Gardens. In a place which nature seems to have reserved for just such a purpose as this, stands this crowning evidence of what man and nature can produce when they work in harmony.

Your first impression will be one of wonder that the richness such as lies before you could be hidden away on the lake shore. The trimness and cleanness of it all are emphasized by the mirror pool with its arched sprays playing in the sunlight. White urns containing boxwood trees stand sentry at each of the short flights of white steps that lead from the higher to the lower terraces. A sundial is placed here, and a great mirrored globe there, each in the place where it belongs, while at convenient viewpoints garden seats and tables in white are placed. Best of all in this white ornamentation are the summer houses in which you can sit and, through a visit of trees, look out over Lakes Scugog.

In this setting of green and white, the roses grow; hundreds of them. The collection includes many rare species, and individual flowers and masses of bloom vie with each other in securing the admiration of the visitor. As the season advances the roses come and go, but through all the summer there is a profusion of these glorious flowers.

Viewing with the rose gardens are the immense peony beds - now past bloom - and the dahlia and gladiola plantings.

You are at perfect liberty to visit Beechcroft and Mr. Kent has with unusual courtesy invited the public to visit the grounds. Such kindness is thoroughly appreciated, not only by Port Perry people, many of



Photo courtesy Richard Kent

Members of the Kent family relax around the reflecting pool at Beechenhurst in this 1924 photograph. They are, from left, Helen Wellington, Audrey Kent, Mary-Lou Lungston, Mrs. F.A. Kent, Mrs. Smith (mother of Mrs. F.A. Kent), Howard Wellington, Mrs. and Mr. Lungston, Mrs. Howard Wellington (Mrs. Smith's sister).

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES

whom make frequent trips to the gardens; but by those from a distance. On a recent Sunday, fully fifty auto loads were visitors. Only last Sunday a party drove all the way from Hamilton to see the gardens.

There is one defect to this picture and that is the road that leads to and from the main highway to Beechcroft. It is too narrow and quite unsuited to the growing traffic demands, but it is expected that this defect will soon be remedied."

Over the next decade Mr. Kent welcomed visitors from all over Ontario to his magnificent property. On one occasion in July 1924 it was reported that over 2,000 people visited the grounds to view the Beechcroft Rose Gardens. It was estimated that more than 400 automobiles were lined along both sides of the road from the railway to the property, which had become known locally as Kent Estates.

Many notables came to visit the property including Lucy Maud Montgomery who recorded in her diary; Saturday Sept 5, 1925



Photographs taken of the interior of Mr. and Mrs. Kent's home at Beechcroft. Top view shows the brightly lit parlour, and the bottom photograph shows a portion of the living room, complete with piano and fireplace.





A view of the Kent parlour from the opposite end of the room.

"Today we went down to see "the gardens" at Port Perry. A wealthy Toronto man is making a hobby of his gardens there. It is a wonderful spot, especially the "Italian Garden" and as I roamed about it and drank in my fill of beauty, life seemed a different thing and childhood not so far off. One felt safe from the hungry world in that garden. I came home with a fresh stock of courage and endurance."

L. M. Montgomery visited the gardens several times.

Following the death of his wife, Ethel Henrietta, in January 1930, Mr. Kent announced he would not be opening his gardens at Beechcroft that summer. The entire town mourned the death of Mrs. Kent, who had formed many friends during the years she had lived in Port Perry.

Mr. Kent continued to work improving the property, doing extensive renovations to the rose gardens and grounds, but the death of his wife reduced his enthusiasm for the gardens and he closed them to the public shortly afterwards. He donated a large piece of his property, 300' x 370' fronting on Lilla St. (Simcoe), to the Community Memorial Hospital on December 21, 1951. He lived at Beechcroft until April 1955, when he passed away in the hospital to which he had donated property only a few years earlier. He was buried in the family plot at Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Toronto. Frederick and Ethel Kent had two children, Audrey and Beverly.

On December 22, 1958 a plan of subdivision was registered on part of the Kent property, fronting on Lilla St. (Simcoe), Beech St., Kent St. and forming a new street called Beechenhurst Place.

The remainder of Kent property was purchased in 1973 by a local development group, Vanedward Investments Limited of Port Perry. The company was comprised of local businessmen Ted Griffen, Grant MacDonald, Howard Forder and Dr. Robert McNab, who divided the property and built homes in what is now known as Kent Estates.

The old Kent homestead still remains today, at 434 Lakeshore Drive It was purchased by Hans and Dianne Kraupa in May 1975 and is currently owned by Kenneth and Joanne Dutka.

The once magnificent gardens of Beechenhurst, which attracted thousands of visitors from across the province, are now little more than a memory.

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES



This large frame house was built by Johnathan Blong during the late 1800s, at his Beechcroft property, and later became the Kent family home.

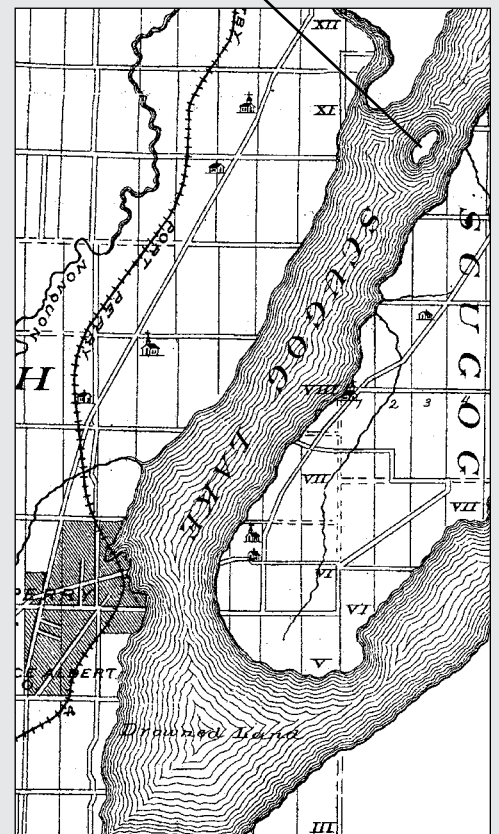


The former Kent house as it looks in 2002, at 434 Lakeshore Drive, Port Perry, Ontario.



An aerial view of Seven Mile Island taken in early 1980 when the property was put up for sale by Mr. Harrison. Right a map which shows the proximity of Seven Mile Island to Port Perry.

# Seven Mile Island

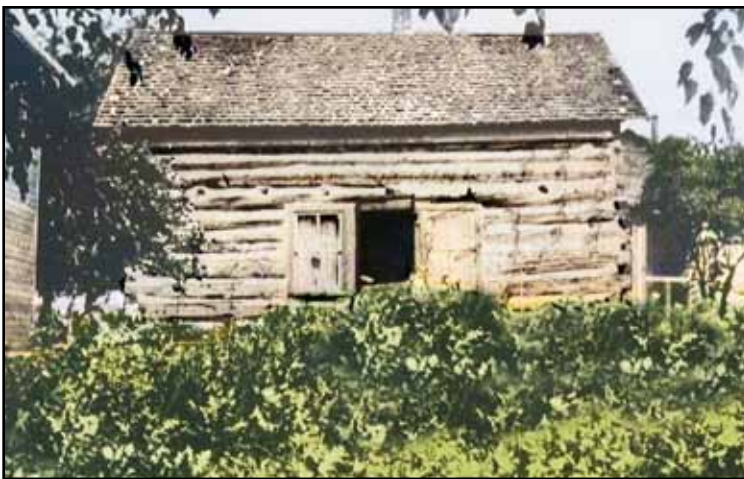


*Researched & written by J. Peter Hvidsten*

## Seven Mile Island

One of the most magnificent properties to have ever been developed in Scugog Township is Seven Mile Island. This relatively isolated piece of land, found attached to Scugog Island by a narrow causeway, has been home to a number of wealthy residents over the past 100 years. Seven Mile Island, as it is known today, was originally several packages of land, which over the years was assembled into a 91 acre parcel.

Records dating back to the early 1880s show Albert C. Stevens as owner of the land, which at that time was referred to as Nonquon Island. Mr. Stevens operated the property as a sportsman's home, providing comfortable accommodation for hunters and fishermen, many whom travelled from parts of



The original log cabin, known as Delmont Cottage, on Seven Mile Island

Canada and the U.S.A., to enjoy the tremendous fishing and shooting available on and around Lake Scugog. While Mr. Stevens and his wife provided adequate facilities for their guests, the property paled in comparison to what it would become through much of the next century.

From the mid 1890s until 1919 the property changed hands a number of times. Some of the owners during this period include: Harry Beasley (1902-09), Silas E. VanCamp (1910), George Cotton (1911) and Thomas Stinzel (1912-19).

Thomas Stinzel lived in the original log cabin on the property before beginning construction of a large new house which he named Delmont Cottage, the same name the old log house had been called.

A news item in an October 1912 issue of the Port Perry Star reported that Seven Mile Island Hotel was a popular spot for hunters, indicating that Mr. Stinzel rented out rooms to duck hunters during the fall. Another report in 1916 suggests that the Island was a popular spot for excursions, where participants could enjoy swimming, boating and picnics in front of the hotel.

While Seven Mile Island was under the ownership of Mr. Stinzel, he also developed



Thomas Stinzel owner of Seven Mile Island in 1912.

a registered plan of subdivision for 19 lots along the north-west shore of Lake Scugog.

On May 2, 1919, Alex Ross Wilson and his wife Mary purchased Seven Mile Island from Thomas Stinzel and began to develop the property into what would become a magnificent estate. Mr. Wilson amassed his wealth as owner of his father's company, Andrew Wilson & Co., which manufactured the very popular "Bachelor" brand cigars. In 1923 the business was taken over by the Imperial Tobacco Co. Ltd., although Mr. Wilson continued as its president until 1929.

After leaving the tobacco company, Mr. Wilson became vice-president of Consolidated Press Limited of Toronto, publishers of Saturday Night, The Canadian Home Journal and the Farmer's Magazine.

Over the next few years they assembled a number of small parcels of land abutting the area, until they had accumulated approximately 91 acres. It was during the Wilson's ownership of the Seven Mile Island that this relatively undeveloped land, was turned into an estate showplace.



The new Delmont Cottage during construction by Albert C. Stinzel about 1914, with an unidentified group of people on the porch.



Children sitting in front of Delmont Cottage at Seven Mile Island.

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES



Alex Ross  
Wilson

The Wilsons immediately started work on enlarging Delmont Cottage, adding a number of buildings to the property, constructing numerous floral gardens, a swimming pool, tea house, reflecting pool and an elaborate boathouse with a dance hall on the upper level. The property boasted beautifully manicured lawns, rose gardens, bridges, ponds and an elaborate pergola leading to the magnificent 26 room mansion.

Mr. Wilson hired talented Scottish stonemasons to erect huge stone pillars, the shape of cigars, at the entrance to the property and also construct stone fences and walkways throughout the property. The craftsmen came to the estate to do this work after completing the construction of Casa Loma in Toronto.

While residents of Seven Mile Island, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson became quite involved within the community. They were known for their generosity, purchasing new uniforms for the Port Perry Band on one occasion, and donating \$1,000 towards cleaning up Lake Scugog on another.

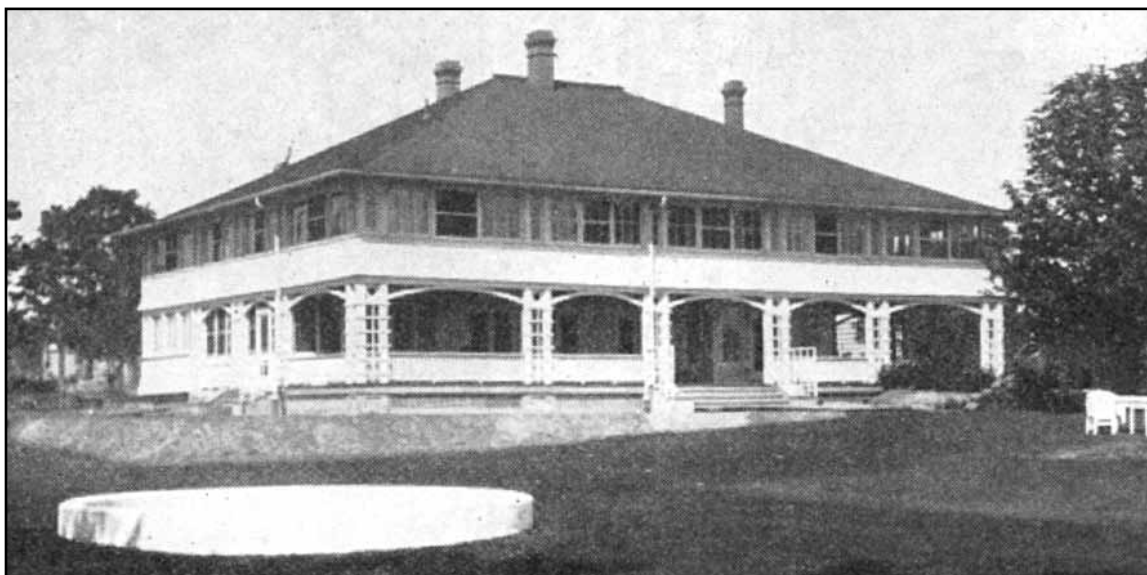
Occasionally, the Wilsons would open their property to the community for garden parties. On one of these occasions in August 1927 Port Perry Star publisher Samuel Farmer described the event as follows:

"A Gala day on Scugog as Mr. and Mrs. A.R. Wilson opened the grounds of Seven Mile Island for a garden party which the whole community attended. "

"We can't think of it, without a feeling of shame, for the way in which the crowd acted was more like hungry refugees than guests."

Mr. Wilson was 71 years old when he died at his home at 5 Beaumont Rd., in the Rosedale district of Toronto, on October 12, 1941, after an illness of about two months. He was survived by his wife Mary, a step-daughter Mrs. Roy McConnell, and a nephew, R.A. Wilson.

Following the death of her husband, Mrs. Wilson lost interest in the estate and about two years later, on September 4, 1943, she sold Seven Mile Island for a mere \$18,000 to Harry S. Ely and his wife Freda. Mr. Ely was one of a group of four men who joined forces to purchase the property but before the deal



The Wilson's main residential building is impressively set on a large manicured lawn. The 5,200 sq. ft. two storey house, enlarged from Delmont Cottage (page 131) had four fireplaces, eight bedrooms, a den, large kitchen and livingroom.



This view of Seven Mile Island looking east from Lake Scugog during the winter of 1929 shows the Wilson residence, and the elaborate fence, left, which enclosed the swimming pool. The water tower can be seen at far left of photo.



The beautiful white lattice arbour, surrounded by hundreds of brilliant flowers and shrubs, led to a large water fountain which was located in front of the 28 room main residence of the Wilsons.

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES



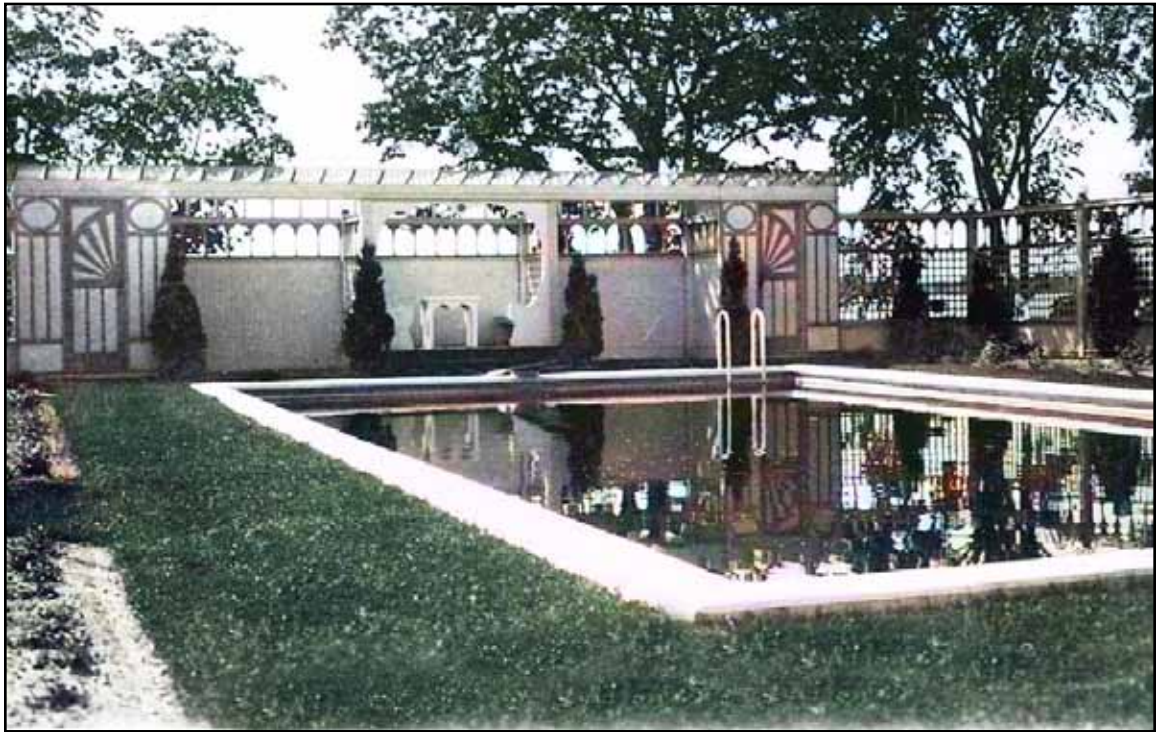
Reflecting Pool at Wilson's Seven Mile Island about 1939. The 62'x14' pool, with a fountain in the middle had an adjoining stone tea-house, walkways, statues and stone benches.



This view of the pool, from the opposite end, of the top photo, shows the stone tea house and some of the stone pillars and fences surrounding the pool.

Photo courtesy Scugeg Stores Museum Village Archives





The beautiful inground swimming pool, surrounded by an ornate fence and two changerooms.

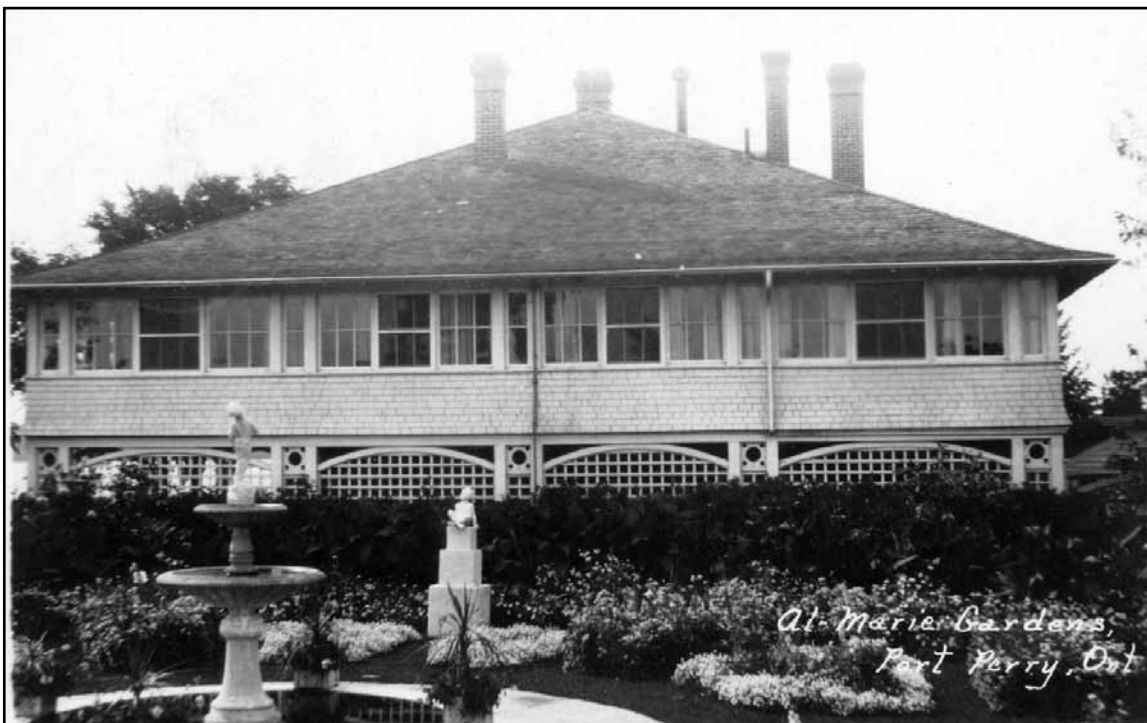


Looking across the swimming pool towards the Wilson's residence.

HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES



This elevated picture, taken about 1930 shows the south end of Seven Mile Island with Lake Scugog and part of Scugog Island in the background.



A view of the main residence taken near the fountain in the floral gardens just east of the house.



*Wilson's Summer Home,  
Scugog, Ont.*

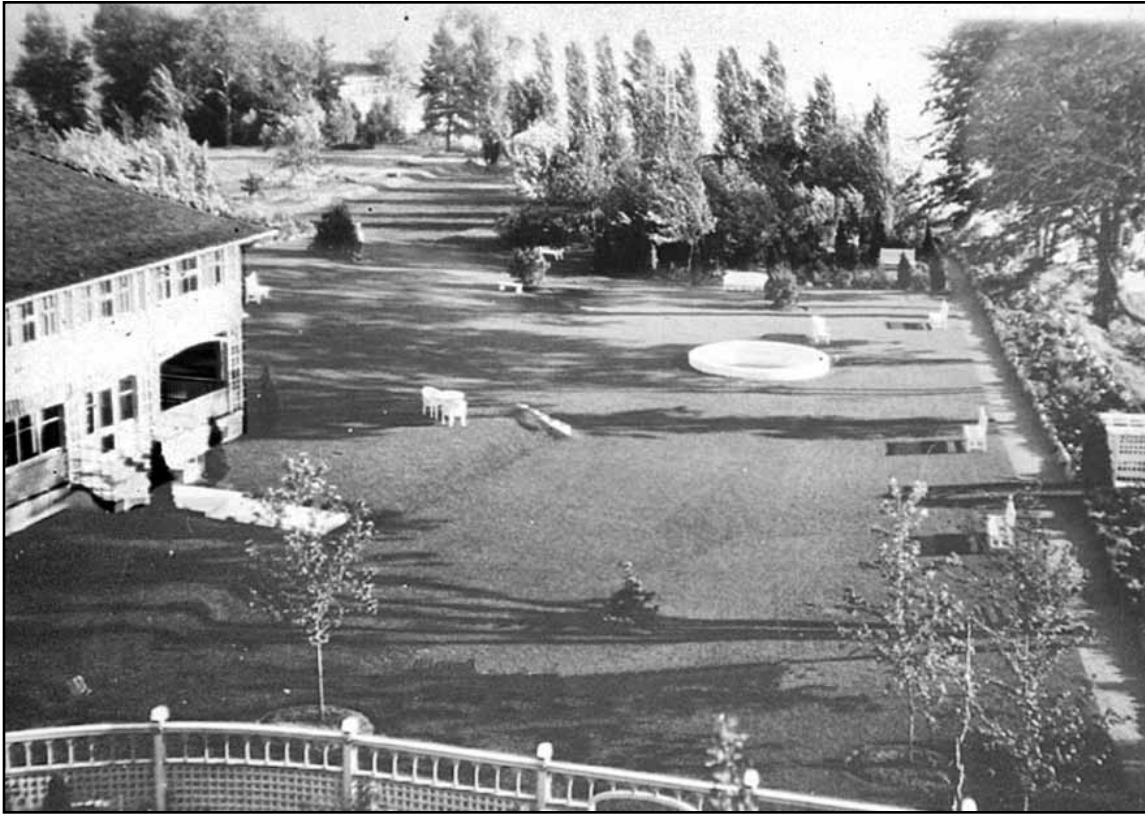
Looking north along the shoreline of Lake Scugog. The pictures shows the expansive manicured lawns, and the ornate fence which surrounds the swimming pool in the background.



*Marie Gardens,  
r. + Mrs. A. R. Wilson's Res.  
Port Perry, Ont.*

A large stone fountain, featuring dozens of small sculptures. The pergola which leads from the main residence and floral gardens to the roadway, can be seen in the background

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES



This elevated photo, taken from on top of the water tower, shows of part of the Seven Mile Island estate and the beautifully manicured lawns of this once magnificent property.

closed, his three partners backed out, leaving Mr. Ely to arrange financing for the purchase on his own.

Harry Ely was the owner of "VanKirk Chocolate Corporation," a chocolate manufacturing company located at 301 King St., Toronto. The company made chocolates and chocolate bars for a variety of stores, including Loblaws, Dominion and Eatons, and also provided chocolate bars under the "VanKirk" name for movie theaters. He was probably most famous for developing a baking product under the brand name "Chipits."

Harry Ely passed away when he was only 41-year-old, but the firm continued under the management of his wife, and later with the help of Freda's second husband, Henry L. (Harry) Fogler.

The VanKirk company was sold to an American firm, and was later purchased by the Hershey Co. "Chipits" are still produced by Hershey today, using the same logo designed by Harry Ely more than 60 years ago.

Mrs. Freda (Ely) Fogler, now more than 93 years of age, remembers when they purchased Seven Mile Island from Mary Wilson, it was in a state of disrepair and neglect. "The lawns looked like hay fields," she said, and remembered working "like fiends" to cut down the waist high grass and clean up the property.

While owner of Seven Mile Island, Harry Ely also



Photo courtesy Mrs. Freda Fogler

Harry and Freda Ely with their daughter Elizabeth at Seven Mile Island about 1948.



Photo courtesy Mrs. Fredda Fogler

When the Elys purchased the Wilson Estate in 1943, the property was overgrown and in a state of disrepair. The main residence was converted into apartments for friends and family to stay during the summer.



The pictures on this page were all taken in 1943 before the Elys purchased the property. The large water fountain found in front of the main residence was often used as a wading pool by the children. The beautiful arbor, as it looked about 1948. At the far end is the water fountain in front of the house.

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES



Photo courtesy Mrs. Freda Fogler

These stone pillars, built in the shape of cigars, guard the entrance to Seven Mile Island. The pillars were built by Scottish stonemasons hired by Alex Wilson after they had completed building Casa Loma in Toronto.



View of the south entrance to the main building, about 1948.



Harry and Fred Ely used this cottage as their main residence at Seven Mile Island when they lived there during the summer and on weekends.

purchased two farms adjacent to the island estate, but outside the main gates on the mainland of Scugog Island.

Mrs. Fogler recalled that the family was not initially received with open arms in the community, speculating it may have had something to do with them being Jewish. Gradually the family did become accepted, and they did much of their shopping in town for groceries and summer clothing. She particularly remembered shopping at Bentley's Jewellers, Brock's Department Store and the two local grocery stores, Dowson's Red & White and McKee's Superior store.

Freda Ely spent most summers at Seven Mile Island with her two young children, and her parents, who lived in a small cottage on the property overlooking the lake. Mr. Ely lived at their Old Forest Hill Rd. home during the week, while he was tending to business, but arrived at Seven Mile Island almost every weekend to relax and to enjoy his leisure time raising and breeding Palomino ponies.

They converted the large residence into apartments in

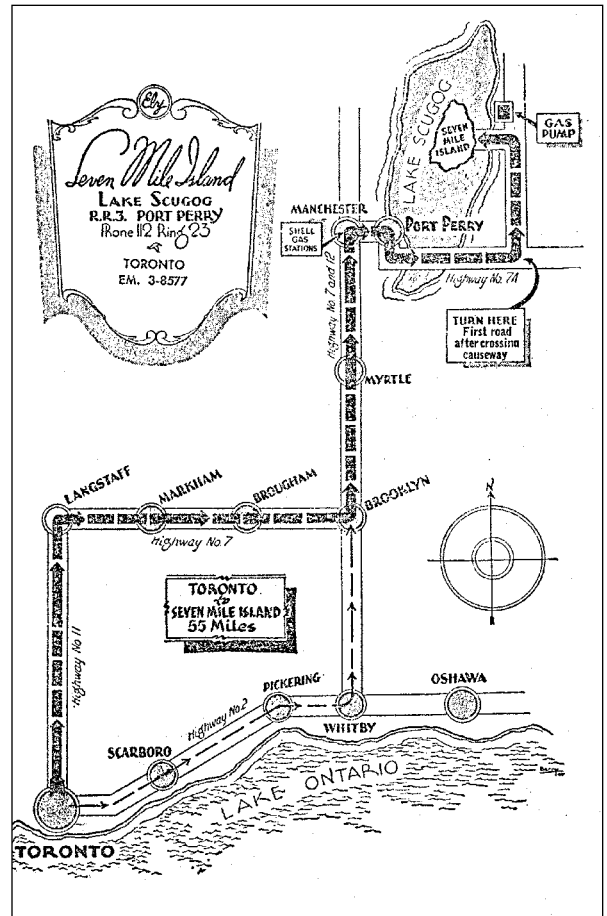
which family and friends could stay for the summer months and enjoy horseback riding, swimming, sailing, pool-side parties and leisurely strolls around the beautiful grounds.

There were about 16 children of various family members living at Seven Mile Island throughout the summer, so a day camp was started, with a camp director and counsellors hired to run the children's programs. "Camp Ely" was operated near the reflecting pool and also in the upper storey of the boat house. The Elys provided playground equipment, swings and a sandbox, and the councillors taught the children crafts, played water games in shallow water of the reflecting pool, learned how to ride ponies and enjoyed hayrides. The children also had a roped-off area in the lake, near the boathouse, where they swam and played in the shallow water along the shoreline.

Among the noted families who brought their children to the island camp was comedian Frank Shuster.

Rumors that the property was being used as a refugee camp, for children rescued from Europe during the war, are unfounded, but the fact there was a summer camp for children on the estate, may have led to this rumour.

Although Harry Ely died in 1950, it wasn't



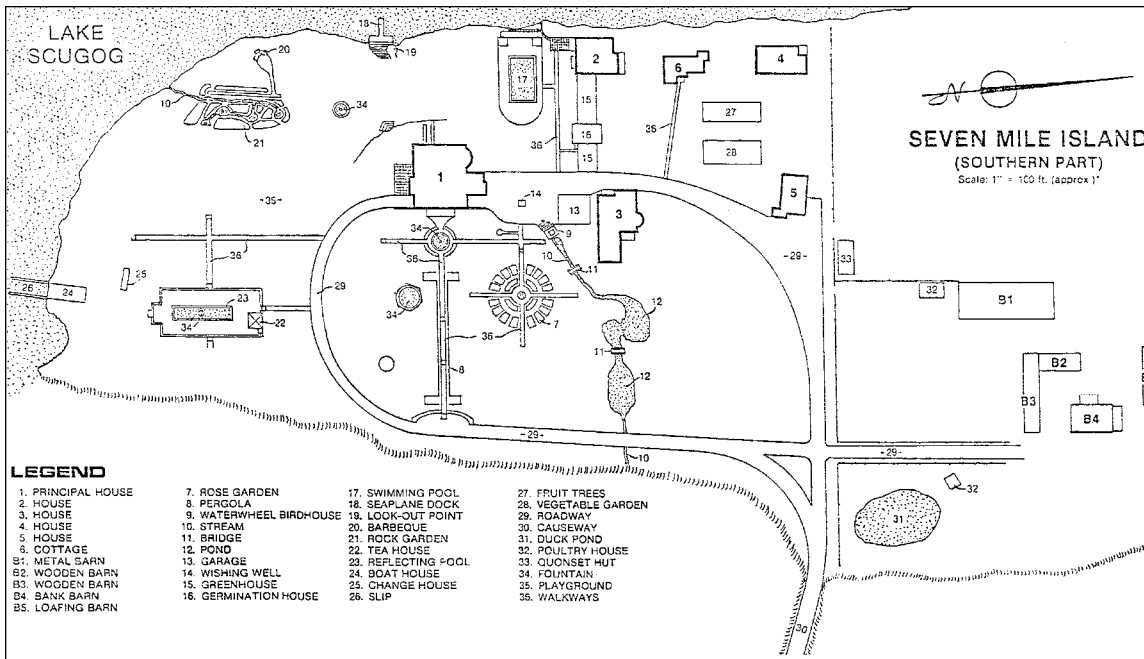
Map on the back of Mrs. Ely's writing paper, shows how to get to Seven Mile Island from Toronto.



Photo courtesy Mrs. Freda Fogler

The kids of "Camp Ely" posed for this photograph in front of the big house during the summer of 1950.

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES



This sketch shows the south end of Seven Mile Island and identifies most of the buildings and features on the estate.

until June 1958, that Mrs. Ely disposed of their summer home. She said the Island was truly a wonderful place filled with many unforgettable memories, and regretted having to give it up.

Mrs. Fogler sold Seven Mile Island for about \$50,000 to a company called Harrison Holdings, which was owned by Patrick Harrison and his wife Lucette.

Mr. Harrison was a mining engineer at the time, and initially he and his wife used the property as a summer retreat. Eventually, the Harrisons moved in and took up permanent residence at Seven Mile Island, spending an estimated \$1 million on improvements to the property, including construction of two guest houses for his daughters.

Mr. Harrison continued to live on the property for a number of years following the death his first wife, but in 1981 at the age of 80 years, he decided to sell the estate. It took almost two years to sell the property, but ownership changed in July 1983, with a registered Ontario corporation purchasing the property for a Toronto group known as the Ching Chung Taoist Society of Canada.



Patrick 'Paddy' Harrison was 81 years old when he sold property in 1983.

The new owners began work converting the main house into a hotel, a second residence into a restaurant and divided the remaining houses into rental units. In 1984 Seven Mile Island was opened to the public and many people from the Scugog area enjoyed lunches and dinners in the restaurant as well as leisurely strolls throughout this unique property.

In 1987, the property was leased by local real estate agent Mark Smith and his partner Greg Fish. They formed a syndicate of 12 investors who intended to develop the property. This idea never came to fruition.

Next it was leased to a group who opened "Harmony Island Estate" a school for troubled boys. The school opened in October 1992 but this venture also failed. After this, the property sat virtually empty and began to deteriorate rapidly over the next few years. Unfortunately during this time, vandals struck at the estate, destroying many of the ornate statues and intricate fencework.

In June 1995 the property was transferred into the name of the International



Taoist Church of Canada, and during the summer of 1998, Seven Mile Island once again was listed for sale. Unfortunately, over the past decade, the property has become run-down, fencing and buildings have started to deteriorate, or have been vandalized and this once magnificent estate is now in a sad state of disrepair.

In June 2002, a group of enthusiastic investors, many from the artistic community, purchased the property with the idea of establishing a school for the study of art. The group, Artis Orbus Inc. is headed by Charlotte Hale, owner of Veni Vidi Gallery in Port Perry. Work began immediately on stabilizing the buildings and damaged structures, as well as cleaning and clearing the property of overgrowth created by decades of neglect.

This enthusiastic group of people have an enormous job ahead of them, but in time they hope to return Seven Mile Island to its original splendor and establish a new home for the arts.

A Walking Tour of Seven Mile Island Estate  
Pictures for this walking tour taken in July 1982

“Cool breezes billow across Lake Scugog, rustle through tall pine trees, and move past the sanctuary,



Charlotte Hale with Freda (Ely) Fogler during a visit to Seven Mile Island in Sept. 2002.



Photo courtesy the Toronto Star

Patrick and Carmelle Harrison in 1983 just before their “Paradise Island” was sold.

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES

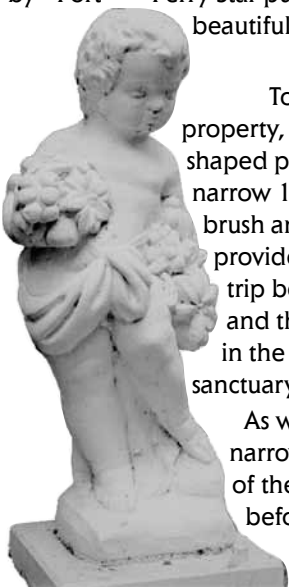


Entrance of the magnificent white lattice covered pergola which leads to a large fountain near the main residence.

European-style gardens and the cool white house on the southern top of the property. Only the sound of the waves lapping against the shores of the island estate and the call of the wildlife breaks the silence.”

This is how Seven Mile Island was described by a real estate company hired to sell the property for Patrick Harrison in 1982. Mr. Harrison invited a number of Port Perry business people and residents to his island retreat that summer for a barbeque, and to view the property.

The following story and photographs were recorded by Port Perry Star publisher, J. Peter Hvidsten that beautiful summer afternoon.



To reach the 26 acre estate property, we pass through two tall, cigar-shaped pillars and proceed along a narrow 1,650 foot causeway. Over-grown brush and trees crowd the roadway and provide a beautiful canopy for the brief trip between mainland Scugog Island and this private hideaway situated in the middle of 65 acres of wildlife sanctuary.

As we reach the other side, the narrow roadway winds past two of the five houses on the property before reaching the main residence.

The two-storey house consists



Above, a large dove aviary with an old mill-wheel which turns, moving water through a series of small canals in the flower gardens.

Left, one of the many dozens of ornate statues found throughout the estate property.

of 28-rooms and covers about 2,600 sq. ft. per floor. On the main floor is a 24'x17' kitchen which leads to a large dining area.

Beyond another set of doors is a large living room, which incorporates beamed ceilings and a fireplace. In all there are four fireplaces in the main residence. The upper floor is taken up by eight bedrooms, a large sitting room and a den.

Leaving the house, moving west along the shoreline of Lake Scugog is an enormous rock garden with a small stream running throughout and a massive stone barbecue.

Not far away is a lookout point, seaplane dock and



The two-storey boathouse, with room for entertaining on the top floor, is surrounded by windows overlooking Lake Scugog.



At left, one of the stone-lined, cement walkways found throughout the property that lead to the boathouse (top), located at the south end of the island at the lakeshore. On top of the two storey boathouse there was a large room with a dance floor.



a beautiful 50'x24' in-ground pool, surrounded by an ornate lattice fence and globe lighting. And next to the pool is a four-bedroom house with greenhouses and a germination building.

Proceeding south, past the main residence again, we come upon one of the numerous stone-lined walkways. One of these leads to the lake and a large two-storey boathouse. The upper section of this building was used for elaborate parties and dancing during the 1920s and 1930s.

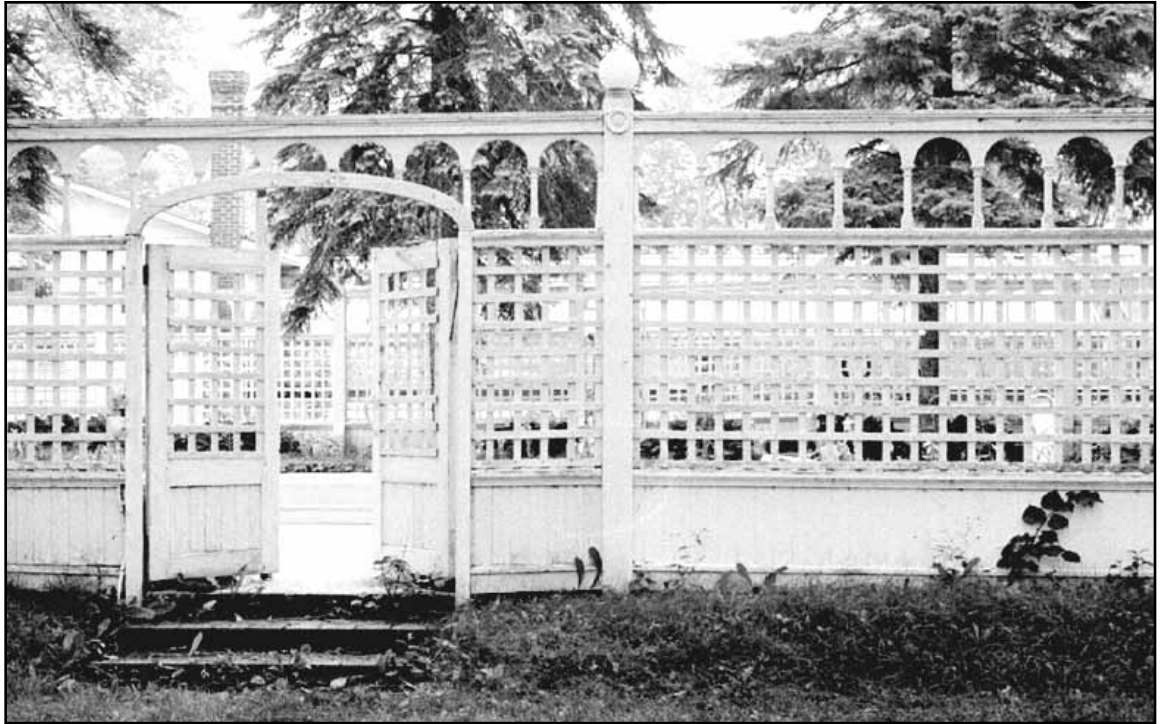
Strolling from the boathouse, along another of the stone walkways, we come upon a stone teahouse nestled at the end of a 62'x14' reflecting pool. In the middle of the pool is a bronze statue of the Greek God "Mercury."



Top photo shows the once picturesque 62' x 14' reflecting pool as it looked in the summer of 1982.

Upper left, the large bronze fountain statue which still stands in the centre of the reflecting pool.

At left is the stone Tea House which is located at the north end of the reflecting pool.



Top photo shows the magnificent white lattice fence which surrounded the inground swimming pool, overlooking Lake Scugog. The pool was located near the main residence and had two cabanas at the west end used for change rooms. At night, the pool area was illuminated by large globe lights on top of the fence which circled the pool.

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES



Moving along from this tranquil setting we arrive at the roadway once again, and as we travel along the circular drive we arrive at an ornate pergola flanked at the entrance by two of the dozens of statues found throughout the property.

The pergola, an ornate lattice covered walkway, leads us back towards the main residence and to a large fountain, birdhouse and beautiful gardens on the east side of the house. We also find here a large rose garden with more walkways, a stream and ponds.

This describes Seven Mile Island as it looked, some 60 years after the Wilson's created their island retreat.

The following description of the property was taken from a real estate sales pamphlet in 1988, when the property was for sale:

Seven Mile Island consists of approximately 95 acres of land which includes a 27 acre Island, 28 acres on the mainland and 40 acres of submerged land.

Twelve acres of the property is being used as a resort which consists of the Scugog House (restaurant), the Wilson House (bar, video room, office and 10 rooms), Durham House (four cabins), Lindsay House (four cabins), storage house, caretakers house, greenhouse, tea house, boat house, garage, three barns, tennis courts, inground pool, two sets of docks, six fountains and five ponds or pools.



Upper left, is the walkway under the pergola leading to the main residence and the gardens.

Left, the massive stone outdoor barbecue found near the shoreline, overlooking Lake Scugog.

# *Chapter Eight*

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## Scugog's Lost Treasures

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In addition to the many beautiful century homes surviving around Scugog Township, there are a few notable homes which although no longer with us, are worthy of mention.

These homes, either destroyed by fire or neglect, were some of the finest of the period and the pictures and stories are the only record of homes that no longer exist.

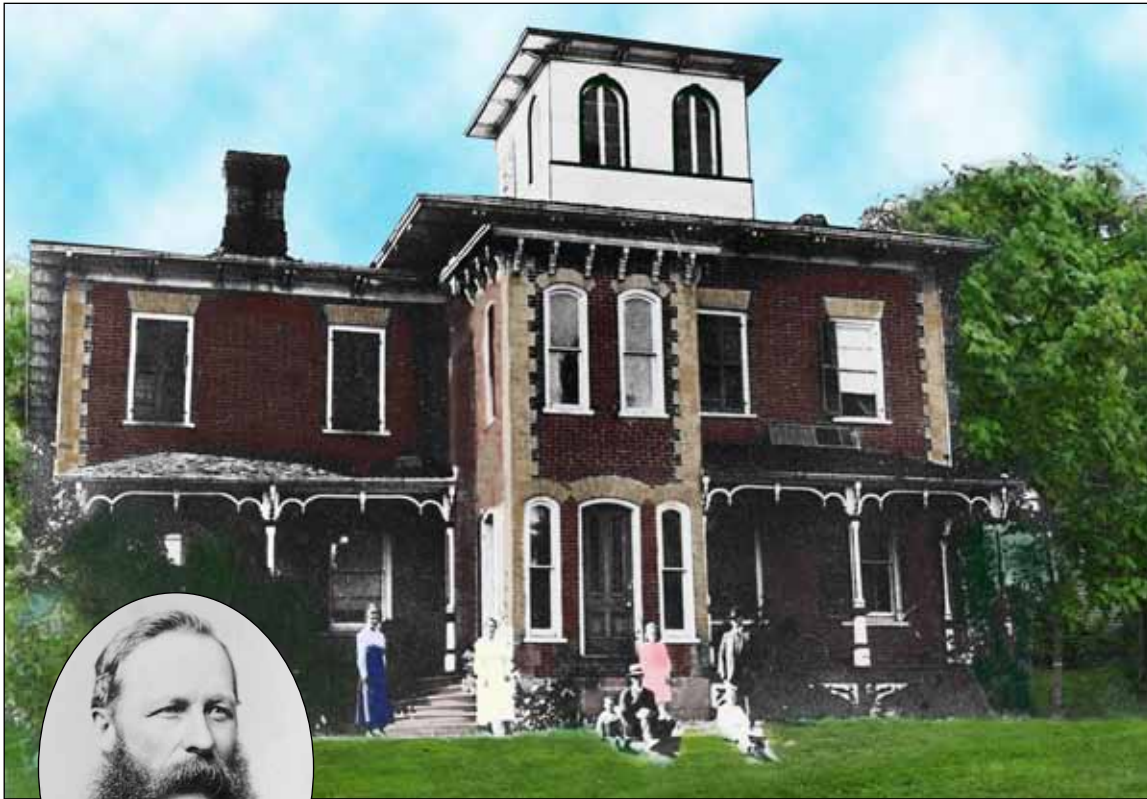


Photo courtesy Saugog Shores Museum Village Archives

This view of Buena Vista is believed to have been taken about 1915 and shows a family posing on the front lawn for the picture. This would have been taken when the property was owned by Fred and Ethel Kent. (colorized photo)



Thomas C. Paxton

*Thomas Paxton*

## Paxton's 'Beuna Vista'

*Beech Street - Port Perry*

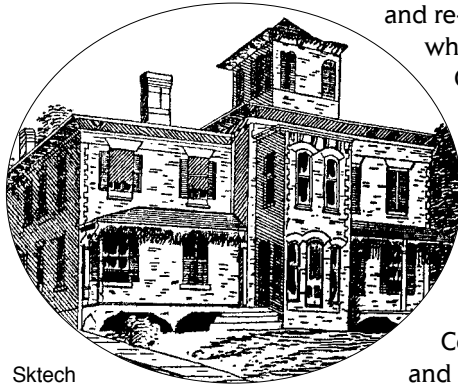
This majestic home was one of the largest and most elegant in town when it was built at the north end of Port Perry in the mid-1870s. The full two-storey home, including a tower and covered entry, was constructed of red brick with yellow quoining. It had a large front porch with ornate trim and was located on a scenic 14 acre lot. The property fronted on both Lilla Street (now Simcoe St.) and Beech Street, with the entrance to the property, which became known as Beuna Vista, from Beech Street.

The impressive home was built by Thomas C. Paxton, an important Port Perry industrialist and businessman who had moved to the area from Whitby in 1821 as a young man. In 1846 Thomas and his brother George built a sawmill near Lake Scugog, and later partnered with Joseph Bigelow in a flouring mill. He was also a partner in the Paxton, Tate Foundry located on Perry Street.

Mr. Paxton led an extremely busy business career and paralleled it with an equally extensive and devoted time to public life. He held every position on the municipal council of Reach Township in it's early days and was the second man to serve as Reeve of Reach Township following its formation in 1853.

Mr Paxton was elected with a large majority to the seat for North Ontario in the Ontario Assembly,





Sketch of Beuna Vista published in the 1886 Toronto Globe.

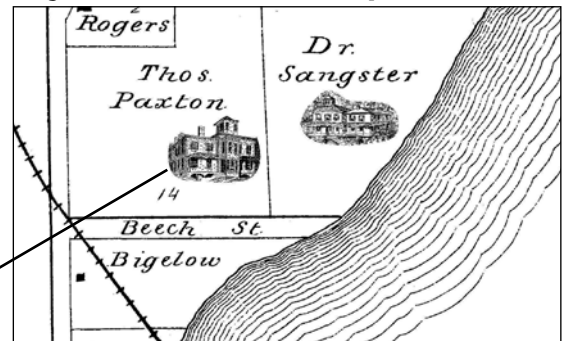
and re-elected many times. His political career ended in January 1881 when he resigned to accept the position of Sheriff of Ontario County. A few years after becoming Sheriff, Mr. Paxton and his family left their beautiful home in Port Perry to take up residence in Whitby.

The next notable person to own the large estate home was William McGill.

Mr. McGill was a prosperous Ontario County farmer who had devoted his entire life to agricultural pursuits. He was also involved in the community, serving on the Pine Grove Cemetery Bd., the Board of Education and the Reach, Port Perry and Scugog Ploughing Association.

He purchased the house from Sheriff Thos. Paxton about 1885 with the intention of making it his permanent family residence. He had plans to build extensive gardens, no doubt encouraged by Beuna Vista's proximity to the magnificent Beechenhurst property of Dr. John H. Sangster, which abutted the property east to the shoreline of Lake Scugog. The exact date Mr. McGill and his family moved into Buena Vista is not known but due to financial problems he never did develop the attractive gardens he had planned.

Shortly after moving onto his suburban property he began to encounter investment problems. Mr. McGill became a shareholder in the Central Bank of Port Perry, losing about \$1,000 when the bank closed in 1887. When the bank re-opened as the Western Bank in January 1888, Mr. McGill became the branch manager, a position he held until June 1896 when he ran into more financial problems with the announced bankruptcy of the Paxton, Tate & Co. Foundry. At the time of its fall, Mr. McGill was the largest investor in the company, losing \$17,500. It wasn't long after this bad turn of events that he announced his intention to move to California. Whether or not he ever did move is unclear.



This map from the 1877 Ontario County Atlas shows the location of the Thomas Paxton property, which became known as 'Beuna Vista', when owned by Wm. McGill.



This elevated view, looking north-east over Lake Scugog, shows the location of Thomas Paxton's residence.

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES



Photo courtesy Richard Kent

Mr. McGill was sued by the Western Bank for \$30,000 of debt incurred when the Paxton, Tate Foundry ceased business, and following a long trial at the Court House in Whitby, the jury returned an unanimous verdict for Mr. McGill over the bank. This was June 1898. One year later, on July 31, 1899, at the age of 55 years, Wm. McGill died. There is some speculation that he may have taken his own life due to his financial woes.



William McGill

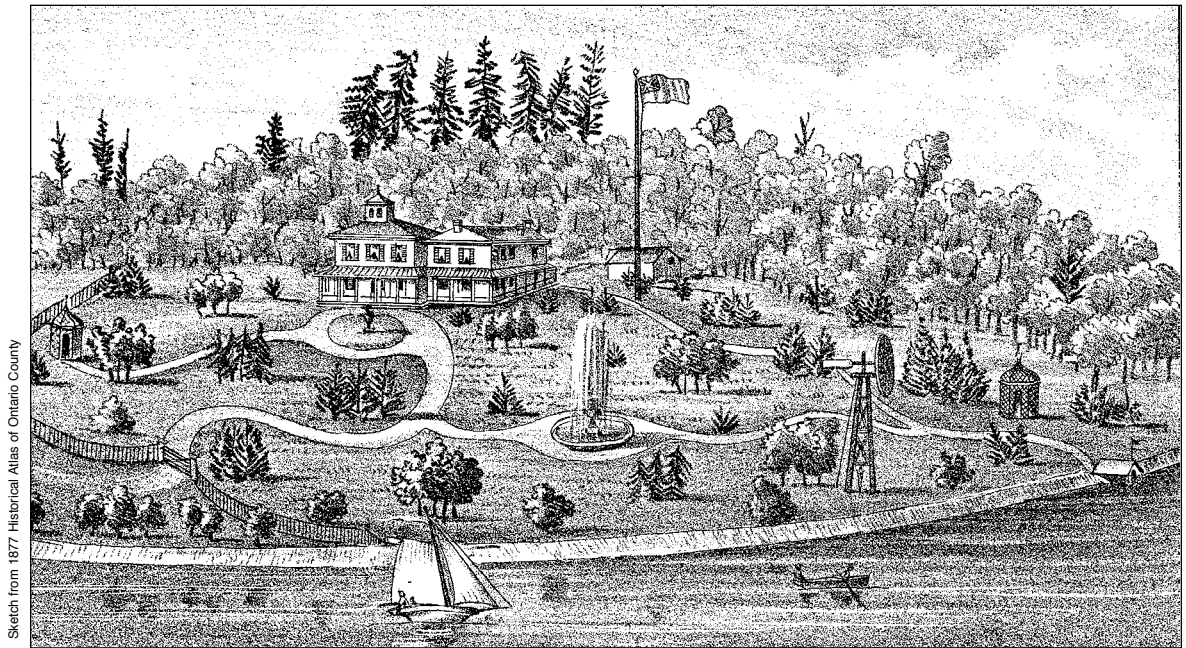
Silas E. VanCamp was the next owner of this property and it is believed he rented it out to a number of tenants while in his ownership.

Mr. VanCamp sold the 14 acre property in June 1915 to his neighbour Frederick Kent, who had recently purchased the Sangster property. It is reported Mr. Kent purchased the 14 acre property and house for \$6,650.

Mr. Kent went on to build beautiful flowered gardens on the Sangster property, (see Beechenhurst page 153) but the Beuna Vista property was never developed to its potential and the once stately estate home began to deteriorate. Some reports suggest the Kent family began using what was left of it for keeping chickens and other small livestock. Over the years the house continued to deteriorate until it became unsafe and was finally torn down about 1960.

Long time Port Perry residents Bob Archer and Ted Griffen, remember playing in the ruins of the old building when they were young boys. Ironically Ted Griffen later became one of the owners of the property and helped developed it into the residential subdivision now known as Kent Estates. Mr. Griffen remembered the old foundation was still in the ground when they began building homes on the property in the early 1970s, and had to be removed.

A unfortunate ending for this once magnificent property, which was the home of one of Port Perry's most industrious and well respected men, Thomas C. Paxton.



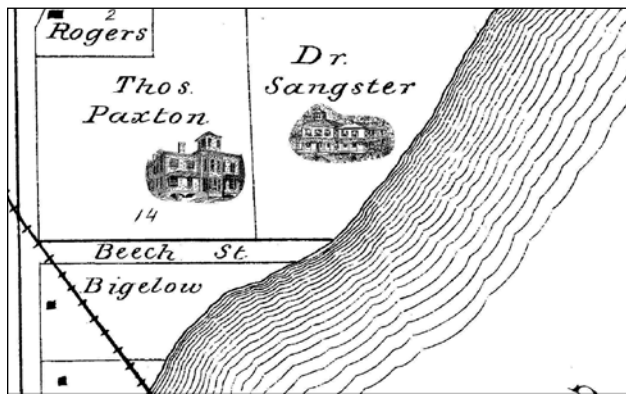
Dr. John Herbert Sangster's first home 'Beechenhurst' at Port Perry as it looked with its gardens in 1877.

## Beechenhurst

*East end of Beech Street on Lake Scugog*

Beechenhurst, later to become known as Kent Estates, was the most magnificent property in and around Port Perry for more than sixty years. A full story about this estate property is featured on page 121 of this book, but its early history includes two large, expensive homes which were both destroyed by fire during the late 1800s. Both these homes, were owned by respected physician, Dr. J.H. Sangster who had moved to Port Perry towards the end of his illustrious career.

Dr. J. H. Sangster arrived in Port Perry in November 1874, opening up an office for the practice of medicine at the corner of Queen and Perry St.

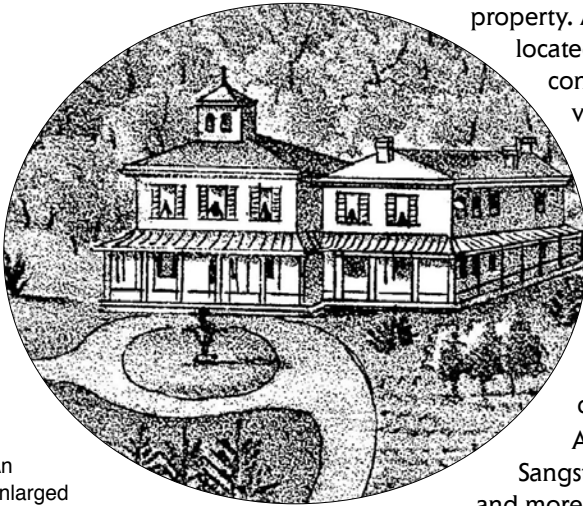


Beechenhurst was the property of Dr. Sangster, and as seen in the above map, it ran right down to Lake Scugog.

Not long after arriving in the village, Dr. Sangster purchased an attractive piece of property on the west side of Lake Scugog north of Port Perry. It was here, nestled among the trees on the slope of a hill, he built a large beautiful home overlooking the lake and the village of Port Perry to the south. He also commenced work on creating beautiful floral gardens, installing fountains and building walkways throughout the property stretching from his home all the way to the shoreline of the lake.

He named his new residence "Beechenhurst," due to the large concentration of Beech trees on the

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES



An enlarged sketch of Dr. John H. Sangster's first home, which was destroyed by fire in March 1881.

property. Access to his home was inconvenient, being located north of the property along the seventh concession of Reach, so Dr. Sangster petitioned the village council to build a new street. To his delight, in May 1877 Beech Street was opened. (see map page 153)

Dr. Sangster continued to manicure and improve his property until disaster struck. About 4 a.m. on March 7, 1881 his house was found to be on fire and all efforts to extinguish the roaring blaze failed. Within four hours the house and its contents were completely destroyed.

After his home was burned to the ground, Dr. Sangster began plans to build a new house, larger and more elegant than his previous residence. The result was a magnificent home. A picture of the house, (see page 155) accompanied by a detailed description was published in the 1886 Toronto Globe newspaper. The description follows....

"The residence of Dr. J.H. Sangster is beautifully located on the west bank of Lake Scugog, within the corporation of Port Perry. The house, built by the present owner, is of white brick and is surrounded by very extensive environmental grounds which besides the groves of beeches on the western shore, include several acres of primitive forest, fully improved and detailed.

The residence with its ample and well-stocked conservatory is said to be one of the finest in the province - its grape and hot houses and grounds form a lovely picture from the lake, and constitute one of the stateliest and choicest houses in the land.

Dr. Sangster is at present engaged in a very large and lucrative medical practice. He was formerly principal of the Toronto Normal School, and is well known as an author of the school books in exclusive use from 1860 to 1870.

He was for twelve years professor of chemistry and botany in the Medical Department of the University of Victoria College, and for the seven years immediately prior to his removal to Port Perry in 1874 he was a member of the Board of Examiners of the Medical Council. He has thus been most intimately connected with both the general and medical education of the province."

Dr. Sangster was twice married, in 1851 to Miss Mary Price, and in 1871 to Miss Caroline Elizabeth McCausland, both of Toronto.

The respected physician and educator passed away at the King Edward Hotel, Toronto on January 27, 1904, after suffering from a serious heart attack. At the time of his death he left his widow, Caroline, three sons Dr. W.A., Selwyn and Beverly, and one daughter Mrs. S.C. Corbett. He was a member of the Church of England, and was buried at Pine Grove Cemetery, Prince Albert.

His wife, Caroline Sangster passed away on April 1, 1916, at 86 years.



Dr. J.H. Sangster



Photo courtesy Scugog Shores Museum Village Archives

Dr. J. H. Sangster's second home at 'Beechenhurst' at Port Perry as it looked before being destroyed by fire in 1893.

This huge yellow brick house took on the form of a rambling gothic baronial mansion. But the dominating elaborate four-storey tower with its crowning ironwork, the verandahs, the glass conservatory and the tall sturdy ornamentally capped chimneys, the decorated brackets to the roof with its low pitched gables, the relief like caps to the curved topped windows with their shutters, these were all features of an Italianate villa belonging to an extremely wealthy family. If this house had survived, it would have been one of the most elaborate in the province. Unfortunately in the early morning hours of February 28, 1893, a fire broke out and the home was totally destroyed. A report in the North Ontario Observer described the loss:

"The whole structure was enveloped in flames so that the building and contents were in a short time destroyed by the devouring element. Only a few articles were saved. This was one of the most magnificent and best appointed residences in the province and was furnished in a manner rarely excelled anywhere. The loss is a heavy one, there being only an insurance of \$3,500 on the building and \$3,000 on the contents."

Not long after losing his second home to fire, Dr. Sangster sold what remained of his Beechenhurst property to Johnathan Blong, a local businessman. Mr. Blong purchased the property in January 1895, erected a stately new residence that summer and moved in the following January. The home erected by Mr. Blong still stands today at 434 Lakeshore Drive.



The home of Joshua W. Curts and his family was located on the north-east corner of Water St. and 7A Highway.

## Curts Lakeview Lodge

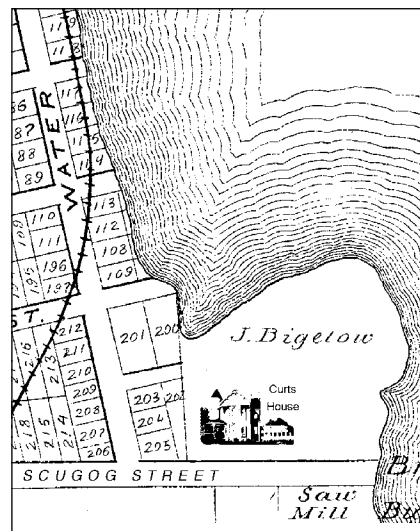
*North-east corner of Water & Scugog St.*

The residence of Joshua W. Curts was not as large or impressive as Dr. J.H. Sangster’s home, but it boasted many of the same features, including an atrium. The impressive three storey red brick home was located along the shoreline of Lake Scugog, just three blocks south of Queen St. It had a turret, wrap around verandah and a green house. The home was a prominent feature on the north-east corner of Water and Scugog Streets (7A Highway).

The property, originally owned by Joseph Bigelow, was purchased by Mr. Curts about 1890 at which time he constructed “Lakeview Lodge.” The chosen name was fitting as the home looked east over the water of Lake Scugog towards Scugog Island.

The home was conveniently located at the west end of the Scugog Bridge and only two blocks from the railway station. The Curts family lived in the home for more than 30 years, until it was destroyed by fire on the afternoon of November 4, 1930.

Due to it’s location at the far end of Water St. there was



Map shows the location of J.W. Curts home, on property formerly owned by J. Bigelow.

no supply of water to fight the fire, although the local fire brigade did all that was possible to save the property. An alarm was sent to the Brooklin Fire Department and firefighters came with a chemical fire engine, but the fire had gained too great a headway. The cause of the fire was never determined, and although Mr. Curts had some insurance, it was not enough to cover the loss.

Joshua W. Curts came to Port Perry in 1875 as an employee of the Port Perry & Port Whitby Railway, first as baggage handler and freight checker, and later he became the railway's agent. He was a veteran of the Fenian Raids and while living in Toronto, before moving to Port Perry was a member of the Queen's Own Rifles.

A congenial man, Mr. Curts character and business habits won him many friends. He was actively interested in public affairs, holding positions on the Board of Education, and Port Perry Council. His popularity as public spirited citizen resulted in his being elected Reeve three consecutive years from 1886 to 1888, and once again by a large majority in both 1894 and 1895.



a  
Joshua  
Curts

On the business front, Mr. Curts entered into the produce business with C.R. Henderson, forming the company Curts & Henderson. They erected two refrigerated warehouses capable of holding up to 25,000 dozen eggs. The largest warehouse burned with its contents in November 1892. The business prospered for a number of years, as Mr. Curts sent two teams out on the road gathering eggs and butter. In later years he busied himself with his farm located at the west end of the Scugog Bridge.

Mr. Curts died at 74 years of age, on February 17, 1921. His wife, Melinda May Abbot, two sisters and a half brother survived him. Melinda Curts passed away in Port Perry on March 31, 1933, at 67 years of age.



Photo courtesy Scugog Shores Museum Village Archives

The Curts family also built this home on Water St., on the south-west corner of Mary St. in the early 1900s. The house was torn down during the 1970s and the property became a used car lot for Archer's Pontiac Buick dealership, which was located on the north side of Mary St.



This colorized sketch is the only known illustration of the stately home and office of Dr. George W. Clemens. The beautiful brick house was on the north-west corner of Lilla (Simcoe) and Queen Street.

## Dr. Geo. Clemens Residence

*305 Queen St.  
Plan 2, Part Lot 162, 163*

The roots of this pretty downtown Port Perry property go back to 1875 when Joseph Bigelow purchased it from John Dryden. Located on the north west corner of Queen St., the property was conveniently situated just west of the commercial district. Joseph Bigelow kept the property for two years before selling it to Addison Richardson, owner of Richardson's Planing Mill, in 1877. In August of 1881, the newspaper reported that Mr. Richardson's handsome new residence opposite the town hall was nearing completion and it would prove very much of an ornament to that portion of the town.

Mr. Richardson owned the property for seven years before selling it to Dr. George H. Clemens in March 1885. When Dr. Clemens purchased the residence, there were only a few acres of cleared land around his property.

Dr. Clemens was born in Waterloo County in 1857. After earning his degree in medicine he began the practice of his profession in Berlin, Ont. (Kitchener) in 1880.

In January 1883 Dr. G.H. Clemens moved to Port Perry where he became successor to Dr. J.D. Anderson purchasing his home which was located on the north side of Queen St., three doors east of Port Perry's Union School.

Later that year Dr. Clemens moved to a brick building on the south side of Queen St., east of the



Methodist Episcopal Church, near the corner of Queen and Caleb St. In an effort to combine his residence and office in one location, the doctor moved a third time, in April 1885 to the fine brick house owned by Mr. Richardson opposite the Town Hall. In October of 1890 he began advertising that he had a telephone in his office and a few years later in partnership with Dr. E.L. Proctor, they extended the telephone lines from Manchester to Utica.

The stately residence which Dr. Clemens called both home and office was sadly the victim of fire just 10 years after he had purchased it. At 4 a.m. on Saturday, August 24, 1895 the doctor was awakened by smoke, only to discover that his house was engulfed in flames. Fortunately Mrs. Clemens and his son, Louie, were away at Niagara at the time of the fire

The flames spread so rapidly that Dr. Clemens had barely enough time to escape, and within minutes the entire structure and its valuable contents were nothing but a heap of debris.

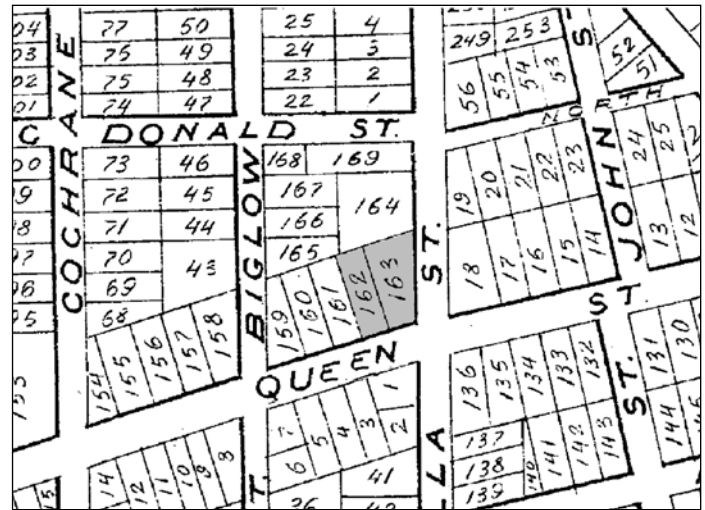
The origin of the fire was never determined, although it was speculated to have started in the cellar. Loss from the fire was \$11,000, an extremely large sum at this time. Dr. Clemens is reported to have been insured for \$6,000 on the house, and \$3,000 on the contents.

It was speculated the doctor would rebuild at once, although an article in the newspaper later that year said he would not start until the following spring. Dr. Clemens never did rebuild the house and the last we hear of him was in December 1896 when his good friend Mr. J.W. Meharry hosted a gathering of 75 guests at a party given as a farewell to the popular doctor and his wife.

Before leaving Port Perry, Dr. Clemens sold the vacant property to Dr. E.L. Proctor, his partner of many years. Dr. Proctor took over ownership in January 1897, rebuilt on the site and practiced medicine there until 1908, when he sold the property to Dr. John D. Berry and moved to Whitby to continue his practice for many years.



This home was built by Dr. E.L. Proctor in 1897 on the former Dr. Clemens property. See Proctor on page 47.



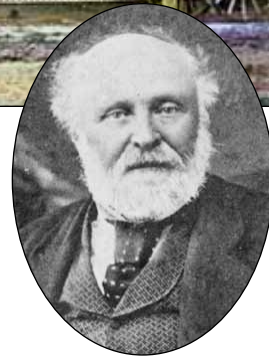
Dr. Clemens house was located on lots 162, 163, village of Port Perry

Dr. Berry sold the property in October 1918 to Wm. M. Real and his wife Mina who made the attractive property their home until 1942. Mr. Real served on Reach Twp. council for a number of years during the 1890s, before retiring to Port Perry, where he again held office on a number of occasions. The Reals lived in the large white house until Mr. Real's death.

The property is owned today by local businessman, Irwin Smith (see Proctor residence page 47) owner of Ocala Orchards Winery, although he does not occupy in the building.



The attractive frame home of William S. Sexton was located on Water Street, Port Perry.



## Wm. S. Sexton Residence

*Water Street  
Plan H-50020 Lot 35, 36, 37*

*Wm S Sexton*

William Sidney Sexton

This attractive two storey frame house, conveniently located near the south-west corner of Water St. and North St., overlooking Lake Scugog, was the home of William S. Sexton and his wife Amanda. The house was located on one of three lots owned by the Sextons behind the Port Perry House hotel, also known as the Sebert House, which is today the location of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. Mr. Sexton purchased the property in 1855 and about ten years later, in November 1866, he took out a \$6,000 mortgage, presumably to build this house, and another one on property he owned on North St. for his brother Allan.

William S. Sexton purchased the saw mill of Thomas and George Paxton in the early 1850s, located just south of the village dock on the waterfront. This dock became known as Sexton's Wharf. He carried on the lumbering business until the pine forests around Scugog Lake became exhausted.

Mr. Sexton served as a member of Scugog Township council for many years before being elected as Reeve for seven consecutive years, from 1867 to 1873. The highlight of his political career was his election as Warden of Ontario County. He also served as a school trustee for the Port Perry Grammar and Common School during 1860s and 1870s, and was one of the moving forces behind the building of the Port Whitby & Port Perry Railway.

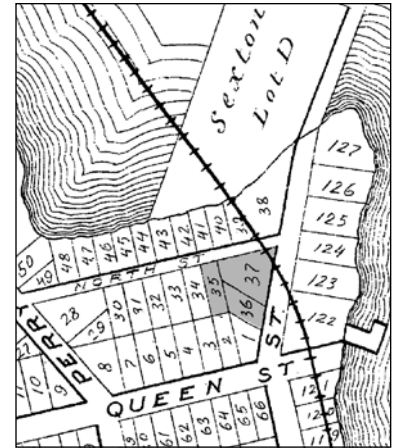
It was Reeve Sexton who introduced the by-law to incorporate the Village of Port Perry at a session of Ontario County Council in June 1871. While a member of the County Council, he worked diligently to ensure improvements to the old wooden floating Scugog Bridge and successfully lobbied for it to be reconstructed as a solid roadway.

In December 1873, Mr. Sexton announced that having been requested by a large number of

ratepayers, he would run for the the office of Reeve of Port Perry, but lost in his bid to Joseph Bigelow. In November 1874 he sold 800 acres of his Springwater Farm on Scugog Island, to Reach Twp. Reeve James Graham, and moved to Port Perry. Just a few years later, in 1877, he sold his lakefront saw mill property to Joshua Wright.

Mr. Sexton lived in his commodious house on Water St., behind the Sebert Hotel until 1877, when due to financial problems it was take over by the Ontario Bank. He continued to live in Port Perry for a number of years, but in 1883 he and his wife moved to Brooklyn, New York. Before leaving he was honored at banquet, and was presented a fine gold headed cane and an expensive pipe by his many friends.

The town was saddened to learn that W.S. Sexton, passed away in Brooklyn, N. Y., on September 3, 1893. His body was returned by train to Port Perry, and was laid to rest in Pine Grove Cemetery.



Map of where the home of Wm. and Amanda Sexton was located on Lot 36.

About 1879 the Ontario Bank sold Mr. Sexton’s former properties and homes to Louis A. McLean. It appears Mr. McLean also ran into financial problems, as he offered the properties for sale on the market by auction in February 1882 and described them as being a “valuable property for sale with three houses and lots on Water St., within a few rods of the Port Perry Station and the railway. The property consists of three fine lots with the late Sexton family residence and two smaller dwellings. The location is healthful convenient and pleasant.”

Mr. McLean was unsuccessful in selling the properties and in July 1883 his buildings were destroyed by a devastating fire which swept along the north side of Queen St. In July 1884, as the town was rebuilding, he sold the property to Mary A. Thompson, whose husband James V. Thompson operated the Port Perry House hotel just to the south of the Sexton properties. The hotel was also destroyed by the fire of 1883. Over the next few years there were many changes in ownership of the properties. Some of these owners included Jacob Brooks, James Carnegie and Louis Sebert.

Mr. Sebert sold the Sebert House Hotel, along with the adjoining former Sexton properties to Robt. John Weir in July 1923 and the next change didn’t take place until August 1949, when the Sexton property was sold to the Village of Port Perry.

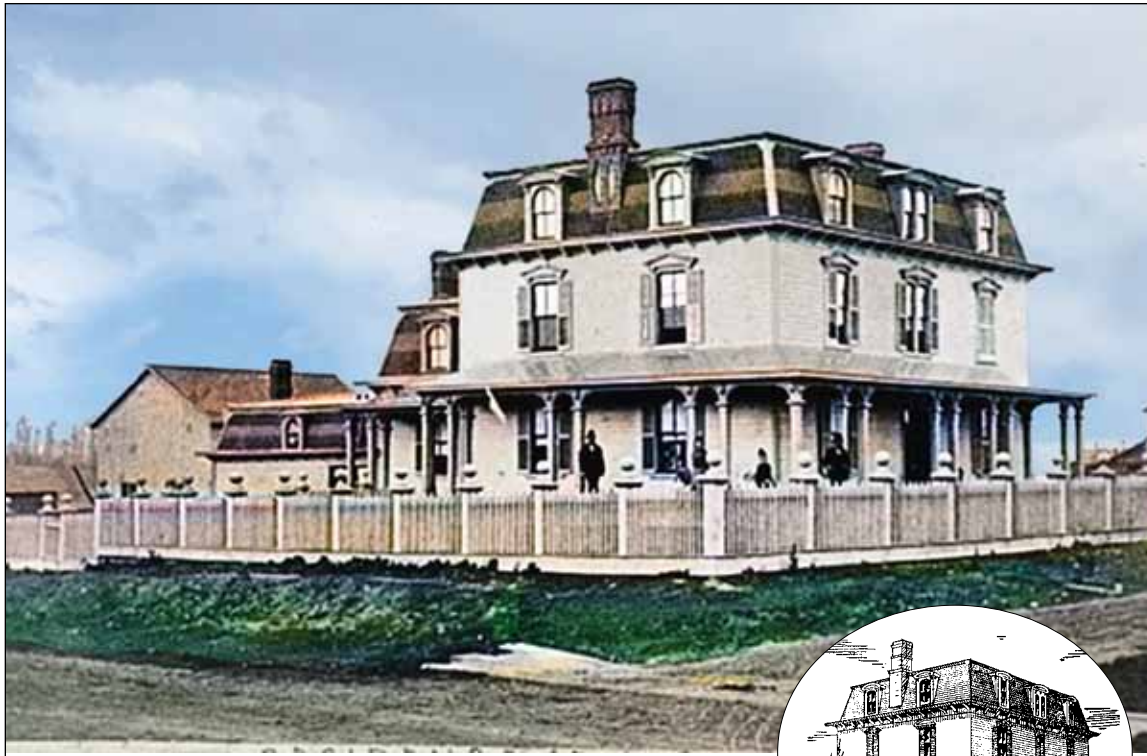
In 1950 plans got underway for building a new arena and recreation centre on the property and on January 12, 1951 Premier Leslie Frost cut a ribbon to officially open the Port Perry Memorial Gardens Arena. Other dignitaries on hand for the gala celebration were Maple Leafs Captain Tedder Kennedy

and teammate Sid Smith. The arena operated on the site until 1980, when it was torn down and the former Sexton property has since that time been used as a municipal parking lot.

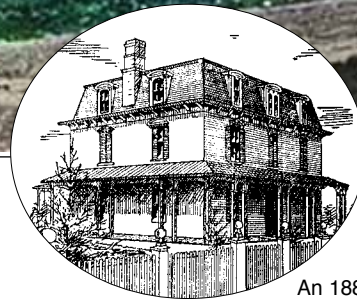


Photo courtesy Port Perry Star

The Port Perry arena just before it was torn down in 1980.



The unique frame home Allan N. Sexton featured a mansard roof. It was located on the north-east corner of Lilla (Simcoe) and North Street, Port Perry.



An 1886 sketch of the Sexton house

Photo courtesy Scugog Shores Museum Village Archives

## Allan Sexton Residence

*289 North St.  
Plan H-50020 Lot 56  
Part One, Corner Lot 97.50 frontage*

This attractive home was located at the corner of North and Simcoe St., Port Perry and featured a unique mansard style roofline, which gave the large house a full third floor. It was one of only two houses built with this style of roof in the village during the 1870s. The convenient corner property was purchased in 1854 by W.S. Sexton who took out a large mortgage in 1869 to build this large, attractive home. The house was described as being “well and substantially built and consisting of eight rooms and a kitchen.” The largest section, facing onto North St., was about 25’x30’ in size, with an addition on the north which was the kitchen and pantry area. Compared with some of the larger homes along Cochrane St., the house was not as elaborate, but the wrap around porch, decorative posts and trim, arched windows, and the special attention to the window trim along the mansard roof, made the home look very striking and large.



This map shows lot No. 56 on Lilla St. where A.N. Sexton’s house was located.

William Sexton built this home for his brother Allan, who assumed ownership in November 1871. Very little is known about Alan Sexton, although when the new municipality of Port Perry was formed in January 1872, he served with Reeve Joseph Bigelow as one of the village's first councillors.

Allan's brother William ran into financial troubles in the mid 1870s and since he was holding a \$6,000 mortgage on his two properties, the house was taken over by the Ontario Bank in 1877, and Allan had to leave. The house was rented out for about five years and then in December 1881, the Ontario Bank of Port Perry ran a large advertisement in the Ontario Observer offering the former Sexton home for sale.

In October 1882, the Ontario Bank transferred ownership of the home to Louisa McMurtry whose husband W.J. McMurtry was appointed manager of the Ontario Bank about eight months later. Mr. McMurtry had the reputation of being a shrewd man of business and was a most unassuming gentleman. In January 1888 he resigned as manager of the Ontario Bank and moved to Clinton, Iowa, where he entered into the produce business.

The next owner of the house was Sara Paterson, wife of well known lawyer Norman F. Paterson, who also held the position of clerk of the Village of Port Perry.

The Patersons purchased the house from the McMurtry family in October 1888 for \$1,500 and lived there until it burned to the ground in November 1890. Following is an account of the fire from the Ontario Observer:

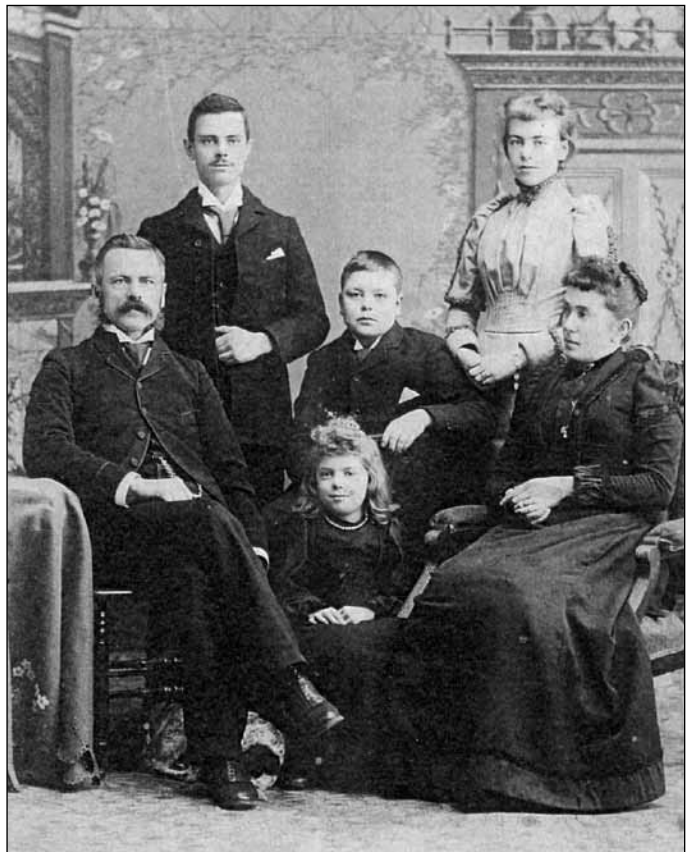
"On the morning of Tuesday, November 4, 1890, Port Perry was again visited by the unwelcome intruder, fire, by which the palatial residence of Mr. N.F. Paterson, Q.C., on North St. was burned to the ground.

The fire originated outside the northern addition, It was discovered about 3:30 a.m. by a party coming to town for medical aid. He drove directly to the burning building and gave the alarm.

The fire brigade was soon at the scene and on short notice a stream of water directed where it would effect the most good and very soon had the flames under control, when it was ascertained that the water tanks within reach were exhausted so that the services of the engine could not be made further available. and the fire soon advanced so far that nothing could be done but save the contents.

Willing hands soon removed a large quantity of furniture."

N.F. Paterson practiced law in Beaverton for almost 12 years, before moving to Port Perry in 1878, setting up his practice as a barrister and attorney at law in offices over the store of Brown and Currie. He acquired a high reputation and became well respected for his work throughout Ontario County. While living in Port Perry he also served in the County Council, was Clerk for the Village of Port Perry for 12 years, was an energetic and longtime member of the School



Norman F. Paterson and family. Standing left, Harry Paterson (nephew), Fred P. (son) and Eva Paterson. Front, Col. N.F. Paterson, Helen Paterson and Sarah (Currie) Paterson.

*Photo taken by W.H. Leonard, Port Perry.*

## HISTORIC HOMES & ESTATES

Board, serving as Chairman a number of times. He tendered his resignation as solicitor and clerk for the village in November 1892.

Following the fire, the Patersons took out a mortgage and built a new brick home on the property. They lived there for only a few years before selling it to James and Hannah Swan (Sr.) in April 1893. The Patersons move to a home at 62 Ella St which they had purchased a few years earlier (see Gordon page 66).

Mr Swan was a blacksmith who had arrived in Port Perry about 1850 and opened a blacksmithing shop at the corner of Queen and Silver Streets. He later expanded the business on John St. and brought his sons, John and James Jr. in as partners. By the late 1800s Swan's Carriage Shop was one of the best equipped and respected carriage manufacturers in the entire county.

When he was 84 years old, James Swan and his wife Hannah sold the house. They had lived there for about nine years before transferring ownership to their son James Swan Jr. in March 1902.



After the old Sexton home burned to the ground in 1890, this brick home was built by Norman F. Paterson.

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## Update

Historic Homes & Estates was first published almost 20 years ago, with a 500 copies being sold within the first year. Since then there have been many request for the publishers to reprint the book, but there was never an economical way to produce a second printing. That is until now.

Today, writers and publishers have the ability to provide their books by way of "print of demand", reducing the heavy up front costs of printing large quantities of books. This is the only economical way of making "out-of-print" books available once again to the public.

This edition of Historic Homes & Estates has been updated from the original, as more information became available. And, to enhance and its pages, many photograph originally printed in black and white, have been reproduced in colour, and other older pictures have been co-lourized.

Historic Homes & Estates features historic homes of some of the early settlers from Port Perry, Prince Albert and Scugog Island. We hope you enjoy this updated and enhanced version.

## About The Authors



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