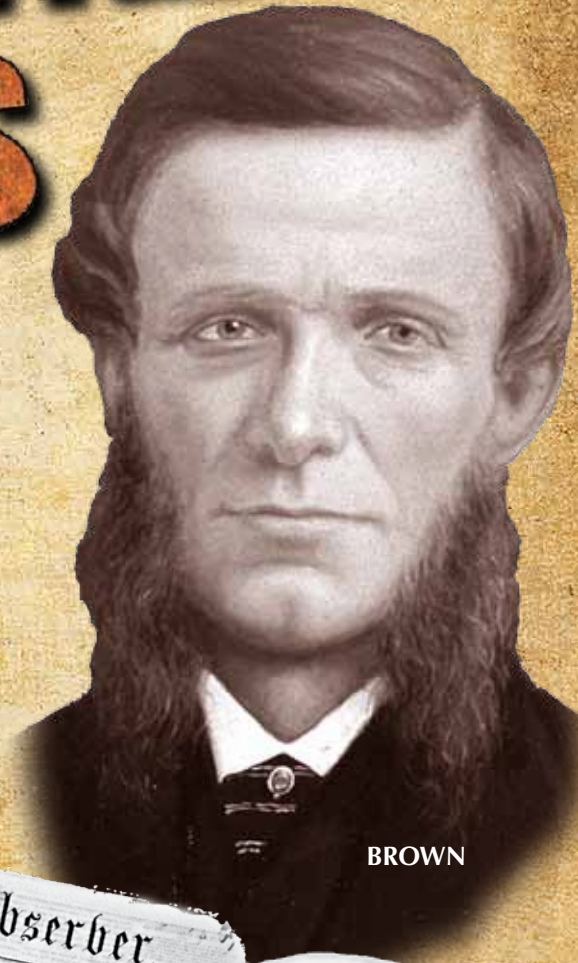


HOT OFF THE PRESS

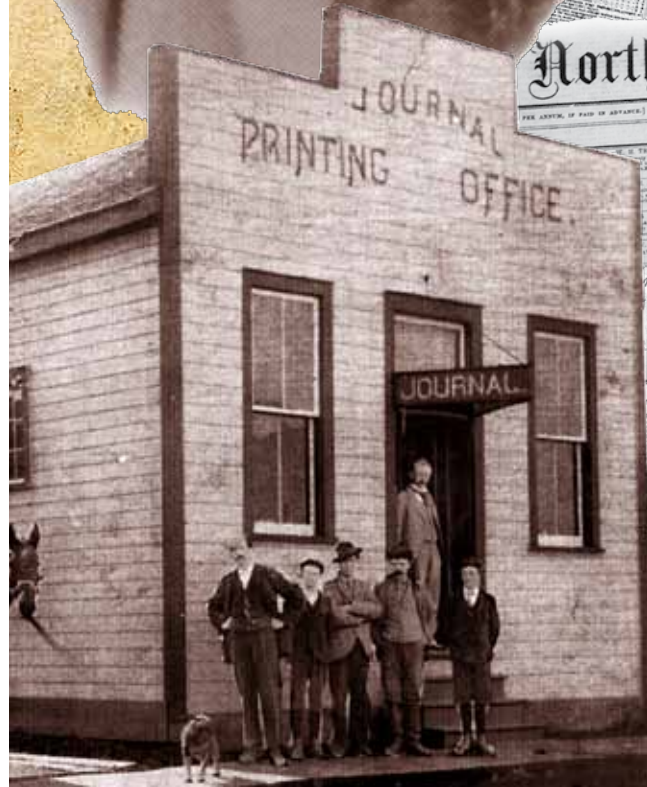
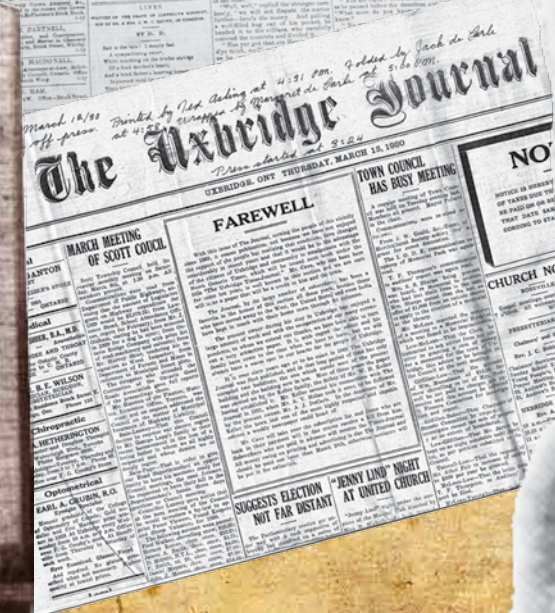
HISTORY OF NEWSPAPERS Port Perry / Uxbridge



HOLDEN



BROWN



MUNDY



Johannes Gutenberg's first printing press.

Hot Off The Press

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First Canadian Newspapers

The history of printing began in Canada on March 23, 1752. On that Monday, from a small print shop on Grafton Street in Halifax, Nova Scotia, John Bushell sold copies of the *Halifax Gazette* – Canada’s first newspaper.

Printed on just half of a single foolscap sheet, the two-page tabloid featured news from Britain, Europe, New England and the other British colonies to the south – items that would be of interest to local government officials, military personnel and business leaders.

It would not be until 1769 that the paper began to regularly report local news, marriages, deaths and the occasional birth.

John Bushell’s status as Canada’s first printer was accidental. His former partner, Bartholomew Green, appears to have been in Halifax as early as July 1751, intending to publish a newspaper.

Green’s press, however, was delayed until 14 October, when the sloop St. John arrived from Boston, bringing the press, 45 barrels of rum and a box of chocolates. Green had just enough time to publish a prospectus for the proposed newspaper before his untimely death on 29 October, aged 52.

Set in Caslon* type and embellished on the ears of its masthead with woodcuts of a ship under full sail, and a ‘fowler’ pursuing game, the *Gazette* survives today through the weekly appearance of the *Royal Gazette*.

Although the first titled newspaper, the *Corante*, was published in London, England almost 400 years ago, it wasn’t until 1690 that the printed word was established in the North American city of Boston.

In Canada the history of print began in a small print shop in Halifax, Nova Scotia on March 23, 1752. John Bushell sold copies of the *Halifax Gazette* - Canada’s first newspaper.

Hot Off The Press provides an overview of the newspaper industry in two small Ontario towns... Uxbridge and Port Perry. Both towns, located only 10 miles apart, began publishing local newspapers during the 1850s, more than 100 years after the *Halifax Gazette*.

In Uxbridge Caldwell Brown established the first newspaper, *The Packet*, in 1857.

Coincidentally, James Holden began publishing the *Ontario Observer* the same year from Prince Albert, a small community bordering Port Perry.

The two towns had another common denominator in the field of newspapers. Edward J. Mundy was responsible for starting the *North Ontario Advocate* in Uxbridge in 1861, and less than five years later moved to Port Perry and began the *Port Perry Standard*.

This book chronicles the history of newspapers in these two towns from the 1850s to the present day.

Dedication



This book is dedicated
to the memory of all those publishers and editors
past and present, who have used their craft to
record the important history of these
two communities.

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Introduction

Having spent most of my life around newspapers, as a young lad growing up around the back shop at the *Times-Journal* in Uxbridge, and in later years as owner and publisher of *The Port Perry Star*, researching the birth and growth of the two communities newspapers seemed like a natural undertaking.

One could say my love for newspapers began when my parents, Leila and Per (Pete) Hvidsten purchased the *Times-Journal* in 1953, and even now, almost 70 years after my introduction to a press room, the smell of newsprint and ink still makes my senses spring to life.

At the impressionable age of eight years, the old Glockner press which printed the T-J looked like a huge monster, as it towered over my head and stretched out 30 feet across the ink soaked oak plank floor.

The printing press, as I recall it, had two steps to get to a small platform where a pressman (usually my father) would stand and feed fresh sheets of newsprint, about 36"x48" in size, into the press. Small pinchers grabbed the paper, wrapped it around the large steel cylinder and then gently rolled it over the ink coated metal type on the underside of the press, where two large pages were locked into a frame called a chase .

Before being placed on the press, the pages made up of thousands of metal slugs forming the text and headings, had been carefully assembled by the young printers on a table called the stone. On the stone, the pages were locked into place with wooden blocks before being moved to the press. These forms were so heavy and large it took two men to carry them to the steel flatbed of the big press.

During the press run the entire building shuddered as the large steel flatbed, carrying the metal type which held the pages, rolled back and forth delivering fresh copies of the paper to the far end of the press with each passing. I clearly remember both my father and my uncle taking turns standing on the small platform for hours feeding the large sheets of newsprint into the rumbling press.

It's strange, how rather insignificant events like this can make an impression on a kid, but even today I have a vivid memory of this mechanical monster churning out page after page and can still feel the sway of the creaking floor as it swayed to the rhythm of the flatbed press.

But the backshop had much more than the big press. It was filled with a variety of machinery, sounds and smells intent on capturing the curiosity of a young boy. Small presses, stone tables and banks of drawers filled with wooden type always caught my attention, but it was the mixture of smells produced by paper, ink and hot lead bubbling in the linotype pots that made it special.

It was in this backshop, after school and on weekends, my career in the newspaper business began, although at the time I gave it little thought. It was here I developed a relationship with my dad's employees, who began to steer me in a direction I would not be able to escape.

As the years rolled by, I became more aware of the importance of the history of my two hometown communities, and decided it should be documented. In 1988, I began to research of

the history of *The Port Perry Star* for a special section being published to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of that paper. My efforts were met with great success and I was able to compile an accurate accounting of the newspaper business in Port Perry, accompanied by pictures of most of the publishers.

Starting to research any subject from scratch is always a difficult chore, so when I decided to begin work on researching the Uxbridge newspapers, I was pleased to learn that William H. Cooper, had already written a condensed history. His work was published as an introduction to reels of microfilm dating from 1862 forward, and provided basic information which helped enormously when I began to elaborate on the growth of the press in Uxbridge.

During the summer of 2000, I began the pain-staking job of looking through every microfilmed copy of Uxbridge newspapers in an attempt to fill in the blanks and questions. It's a slow process, but after almost two years of documenting details about the newspapers and publishers, a more accurate picture has been painted about this important industry.

But equally important as the history, is who the men who brought the written word to the backwoods of Ontario in those early years. Who are they? What did they look like?

Finding images of these men and documenting their lives became as important to me as documenting the history of the newspapers and a large amount of time was spent finding relatives and friends who might provide information about where I could obtain photographs.

Research revealed there were upwards of 16 people who owned, or had an interest in the Uxbridge newspapers over the past 147 years. The numbers are similar for Port Perry where about 14 people had direct ownership in the papers over 145 year period. There were a few others who held partial ownership in the paper as investors, but they had nothing to do with the day-to-day operations.

Aside from a few photographs held at the local museum, many of these pioneer publishers of the two communities were faceless, and the painstaking job of finding these ghost-like characters was monumental. Tracing down families who had moved away from the community was difficult, but like images emerging from a fog, pictures of the pioneer publishers like Brown, Graham and Pemberton from Uxbridge, and Mundy, Newton and Cline from Port Perry began to appear.

There are many to thank for the success of my search for the missing information and pictures you will find in this document. My thanks to all those, who in some way, contributed to the content and accuracy of the information within.

Chapter One



PORT PERRY

This chapter introduces the pioneer printers, their successes and failures, as they started newspapers to bring the printed word to Port Perry. The determination and efforts of these early publishers provided the residents of the town a window on the world, and their local community.

The Ontario Observer.

PRINCE ALBERT, C. W., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1857.

VOL. 1.]

1857.

ONTARIO OBSERVER

Every Thursday Evening,
BY JAMES HENDERSON,
PRINCE ALBERT, C. W.

Published for the Proprietor by JAMES HENDERSON, at the Office of the Ontario Observer, No. 10, Prince Albert, C. W.

Advertisements for sale by the Proprietor, at the Office of the Ontario Observer, No. 10, Prince Albert, C. W.

POETRY.

THE SEASONS

Spring is the season of hope and joy,
When the flowers bloom and the birds sing;
Summer is the season of love and mirth,
When the sun shines and the days are long;
Autumn is the season of harvest and cheer,
When the leaves fall and the grapes are ripe;
Winter is the season of rest and peace,
When the snow falls and the days are cold.

THE WINTER LAND

The winter land is a land of snow,
Where the winds blow and the days are long;
The winter land is a land of ice,
Where the rivers flow and the days are cold.

Miscellaneous

THE STORY IN THE OLD BOOK

The story in the old book is a story of love,
Of a man and a woman who were true;
Of a man who loved a woman,
And a woman who loved a man.

THE BIRDS AND A FRAGMENT

The birds and a fragment is a story of life,
Of a man and a woman who were true;
Of a man who loved a woman,
And a woman who loved a man.

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AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Agricultural Society of Prince Albert, C. W., has held its annual meeting at the Hotel de Ville, on the 10th inst. The meeting was attended by a large number of gentlemen, and was very successful.

REWARDS TO AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES

The Government has granted a grant of £1000 to the Agricultural Societies of the Province, to be distributed among the Societies in proportion to the number of members and the amount of land cultivated.

THE GREAT EASTERN STEAMSHIP

The Great Eastern Steamship Company has announced that it will commence its regular service between London and New York, on the 15th inst. The service will be conducted by the Great Eastern Steamship, a vessel of 10,000 tons.

ANOTHER MONSTER SHIP

Another monster ship has been ordered by the Government, to be built at the Royal Dockyard, Portsmouth. The ship will be of 10,000 tons, and will be used for the service of the East India Company.

FINDING THE PRUNTER

The printer of the Ontario Observer has been found, after a search of several days. He was found in the city of Prince Albert, C. W., and is now at the office of the paper.

THE HARD TIMES AND ADVISERS

The hard times and advisers is a story of life, of a man and a woman who were true. It is a story of a man who loved a woman, and a woman who loved a man.

NEW FISH FOR BIRDS

Two specimens of the new fish, the Ontario fish, have been sent to the Ontario Observer. The fish is a new species, and is very valuable.

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH

The Atlantic Telegraph Company has announced that it will commence its regular service between London and New York, on the 15th inst. The service will be conducted by the Atlantic Telegraph, a vessel of 10,000 tons.

THE POLICE

The Police of Prince Albert, C. W., have held a meeting on the 10th inst. The meeting was attended by a large number of gentlemen, and was very successful.

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HORTICULTURE

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*M. Little says
Richard Hill*

Front page of the Ontario Observer, first published on December 12, 1857, from Prince Albert, Ontario.



The Ontario Observer

The first newspaper to be published in the area was started on December 12, 1857 by Mr. James Holden. The paper was published every Thursday morning from Prince Albert., C.W.

Mr. Holden explained in the first issue that the rapid progress and development of Prince Albert, Borelia, Port Perry and surrounding country indicated a need for a first-class journal devoted to the interest of this neighbourhood. "To supply this desideratum, the *Ontario Observer* is established", he wrote.

Although the newspaper was to have been published on Thursday, December 10, 1857, the first issue was delayed two days and published on Saturday, December 12, 1857 due to the late arrival of material.

During the next ten years the *Ontario Observer* saw many changes in its' ownership and editors. Although it's impossible to pin-point the date, at some point during the year 1858, the *Ontario Observer* changed hands and began to be published by M.G. Robson. Mr. Robson was the proprietor of Robson & Co. which also operated the Prince Albert House, a hotel located at the corner of Simcoe and King St. in Prince Albert.

In a notice in the December 2, 1858 issue Mr. Robson announced he had secured the services of Mr. Alfred Sylvester, a "literary gentleman," to assume management of the Observer's editorial department.

Just a few months later, on May 24, 1859, Mr. James Holden and Mr. Edward Oliver entered into a co-partnership for the purpose of publishing the "*Ontario Observer*." They began publishing the paper from Prince Albert with the first edition on Thursday, June 23, 1859.

Sometime during the next year and a half (due to missing copies the exact date is unknown), Mr. Oliver left the newspaper and publication of the Observer was continued by James Holden. Edward J. Mundy, who would later start his own newspaper in Port Perry, was editor of the Observer



JAMES HOLDEN

NOTICE OF CO-PARTNERSHIP.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Subscribers have this day (May 24, 1859,) entered into co-partnership, for the purpose of carrying on the general business of Printing and Publishing; and as Publishers of the "*Ontario Observer*."

Signed May 24th, 1859.

James Holden. }
Edward Oliver. } WITNESS, M G Robson

The Ontario Observer.

IS PUBLISHED

Every Thursday Morning,

BY

HOLDEN & OLIVER,

Prince Albert, C.W.

for a time during 1860. The last record available at *The Star* showing Mr. Holden as publisher is May 28, 1863.

A further change in ownership occurred prior to February 2, 1865 when the *Ontario Observer* began to be published by Mr. Henry Parsons and William Robinson from the Victoria Block in Prince Albert. On Monday, June 25, 1866, Mr. William Robinson tragically died in Prince Albert, at the age of 23 years, 11 months and five days of age.

A report following his death says that Mr. Robinson's first connection with the *Ontario Observer* dated back to 1857 when he commenced to learn the art of printing. Except for a few months in the United States, he continued in the office as compositor until the retirement of James Holden. Mr. Robinson then purchased an interest in the *Observer* and assumed the duties of Editor until his untimely death.

On August 30, 1866, Mr. James Baird became the new Editor of the *Ontario Observer* and became partners with Henry Parsons. This partnership continued for the next 18 years.

On August 28, 1873, the *Ontario Observer*, under the ownership of Baird and Parsons made the announcement that the paper would be moving to Port Perry to continue publishing. The announcement stated "Due to shift of the greater part of business, the newspaper must move as near as possible to the business centre of the locality in which it is published." Their new offices were located in the Warriner Block immediately west of the Post Office in Port Perry.

They also announced the enlarged format of the paper due to the demands of the advertisers, and noted that the price for a subscription was \$1.50 per annum or \$1.00 if paid in advance.

One thing that was not mentioned in the paper was the change of name from the *Ontario Observer* to the *North Ontario Observer*.

In the first edition of the *North Ontario Observer*, published on September 11, 1873 from its' new Port Perry location, the owners ran an apology for missing one issue of the paper, stating "the work of moving and printing was more than they could accomplish in one week.

Ten years after moving to Port Perry, in the December 20th issue of 1883, the *North Ontario Observer* announced that a disastrous fire had swept through the town destroying their offices and equipment. *The Observer* was silenced for three weeks while the owners purchased new equipment and moved into a new premises on the south side of Queen Street nearly opposite the Post Office.

The fire began the night of Sunday, November 26, 1883 awakening startled sleepers as the Port Perry House was all ablaze. The fire soon leaped from building to building consuming over \$125,000 in property value.

Then, during the evening of Thursday, July 3, 1884, fire once again struck Port Perry, this time destroying almost every place of business on Queen Street. The fire, which is estimated to have caused some \$300,000 in damage once again destroyed the offices of the *North Ontario Observer*.

Following the 1884 fire, the new *Observer* office was located on the second floor of the Hiscox Block on Queen Street (155 Queen St.), but not before another three issues of the newspaper were missed. *The Observer* began publishing once again on Thursday, July 24, 1884.

Just three months after the fire of 1884, the partnership of James Baird and Henry Parson's was dissolved, with Henry Parsons taking over sole ownership of the business. He operated the paper as sole owner until approximately July 1920, when he ceased publication of the *North Ontario Observer*.



HENRY PARSONS

THE PORT PERRY STANDARD AND NORTH ONTARIO ADVERTISER.

VOL. I., No. 1.]

PORT PERRY, THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 1866.

[WHOLE NO. 1.]

Every THURSDAY Morning at the Press... TERMS—\$1.00 PER ANNUM.

House of All Nations... THE ROBBON HOUSE!... BUSINESS DIRECTORY...

THE ATLANTIC LIBRARY... After passing, accompanied by... THE ATLANTIC LIBRARY...

ROYAL CANADIAN BANK... PORT PERRY AGENCY... MARRIAGE LICENSES... PROPERTY ON SUCCOON... HORSE SALES...

THE ATLANTIC LIBRARY... After passing, accompanied by... THE ATLANTIC LIBRARY...

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The Port Perry Standard.

The Port Perry Standard



EDWARD MUNDY

Port Perry's best known newspaper was originally known as the *Port Perry Standard* and *North Ontario Advertiser*. It began publishing in Port Perry on August 16, 1866 from the second floor of the new Paxton and Bigelow building above the Post Office on Queen Street - (now apartments above 191 Queen St.) by Edward J. Mundy who was publisher and editor. Mr. Mundy had published the *North Ontario Advocate* in Uxbridge for approximately five years before coming to Port Perry.

While little is known about the time Mr. Mundy spent in Port Perry as publisher of *The Standard*, after operating a successful newspaper business in the town for 23 years, he sold the paper in the later part of 1889. Mr. Mundy had purchased the *Oshawa Reformer* a year earlier and was publishing both papers until he sold *The Standard*.

During his ownership *The Standard* continued to publish despite the devastation of two fires. Following the fire of 1883, which leveled the north side of Queen St., *The Standard* relocated across the street on the second floor approximately

where 204 Queen St. is located today.

A few months later, publication of *The Standard* was interrupted again, due to a second fire in July 1884. Once again Mundy was faced with finding a new premises and moved *The Standard* office to the Laing and Meharry building in the vicinity of 174 Queen St.)

THE NEWTON BROTHERS

Brothers Seville Martineau (Sam) Newton, and George Henry Newton were the next owners of the paper. Sam became publisher and George the editor of *The Standard* in 1889.

Although records indicate the Newton Bros. purchased *The Standard* about 1889, a reference is made to the fact George H. Newton was working for the paper as early as 1883.

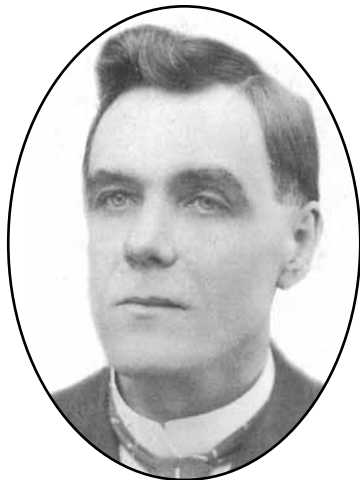
It's not known exactly when the Newtons sold *The Standard*, although S.M. Newton was still listed as editor and publisher in the October 1901 issue of the paper.

On September 18, 1901, the town of Port Perry experienced yet another tragic fire on the south side of Queen St., once again interrupting publication of the paper. *The Standard's* offices were located at this time on the second floor at approximately 180 Queen St. were destroyed

Following this fire, *The Standard* moved to new offices on the



Port Perry Standard published its first issue from second floor of this building, the Bigelow Arcade in 1866.



SAMUEL NEWTON

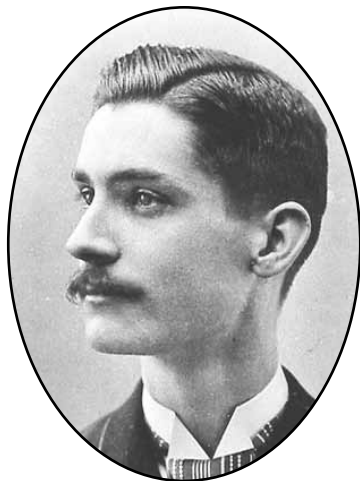
north side of the street, this time into office in the Blong Block above 191 Queen Street completing a cycle which began 35 years earlier.

George Newton took an early interest in the newspapers, publishing the *Ailsa Craig Banner* and the *Port Perry Standard* before the turn of the century.

In 1901, George Newton left *The Standard* and moved to North Bay to take over *The Despatch* from his brother E.A. Newton who had started the publication five years earlier. He continued to publish *The Despatch* for 26 years, until he retired in 1927. George Newton died in May 1949 at 79 years of age.

When Samuel M. Newton sold his interest in *The Standard* (date unknown), he moved to Kingston, Ont., to manage the *Kingston News* which he later purchased. On April 10, 1908, he sold the newspaper and moved to B.C. where he purchased the Prince Rupert newspaper called "*The Empire*", which he published until his death in 1933 at 70 years of age.

Although the actual date Samuel Newton sold *The Port Perry Standard* is unknown, he was still listed as editor and publisher of the paper until early 1906.



GEORGE NEWTON

CHARLES H. GORDON

Charles H. Gordon was the next owner of *The Standard*, purchasing it in April 1906. He was the son of Henry Gordon, a prominent Port Perry resident who had served in the community as the postmaster, magistrate, councillor, reeve and Warden of Ontario County.

Charles left the family home when he was a young man, and in 1891 had become a journalist in Toronto. He later became editor of the *Ridgetown Standard* newspaper.

While under his ownership, Charles Gordon changed the name of the newspaper to *The Port Perry Star*, and only eight months later he sold the newly named *Port Perry Star* to Rev. William H. Cline and a Mr. Burness.

REV. WILLIAM H. CLINE

Rev. Wm. H. Cline was the most unlikely publishers in the history of *The Port Perry Star/Standard*. He apparently had no experience in the field of publishing before purchasing the newspaper.

It was during his ownership of *The Port Perry Star*, that he added under the masthead "which also incorporates the *Port Perry Standard*."

It is unknown when Mr. Cline arrived in Port Perry, although it's believed it wasn't until 1907, as a news reports say Mr. Cline leased a residence on Cochrane St. for some time before his family arrived from Toronto in April 1907, adding to the theory Mr. Cline had not been publisher of *The Standard* very long before they arrived in Port Perry.

Mr. Cline is referred to in many articles as Rev. Cline and



REV. W. H. CLINE

records show he was a guest preacher at many churches around the area during his time as publisher.

Mr. and Mrs. Cline had three children, Marion who lived in Blackstock during 1907, and two sons C. Gordon Cline and Herbert Crawford Cline.

In September 1907 Mr. Cline announced in a short article in *The Port Perry Star* he was going to sell the newspaper. He wrote "having been called somewhat unexpectedly to assume the pastoral oversight of a certain church in the vicinity of Buffalo, N.Y., the writer decided a few weeks ago to dispose of the newspaper and return to the work of the ministry."

Although there was never a mention of exactly where he was going, years later, an article in a May 13, 1913 copy of *The Port Perry Star* revealed Mr. Cline had become pastor of the First Baptist Church in East Aurora, New York. Some years later the Clines moved back to Canada, taking up residence in Hamilton, Ontario.



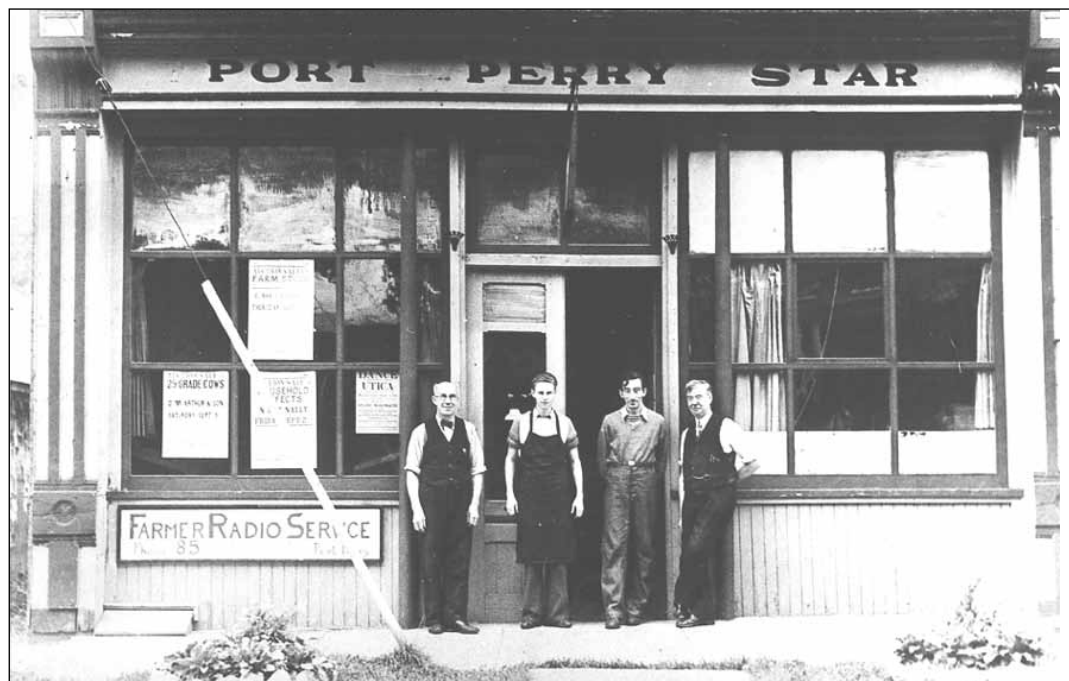
SAMUEL FARMER

SAMUEL FARMER

Samuel Farmer purchased *The Port Perry Star* in September 1907, and commenced publication of the paper as publisher and proprietor effective with this issue of Wednesday, October 2, 1907.

Samuel Farmer was described as a former resident of Reach Township who had attended Port Perry High School. He was connected with the *Uxbridge Journal* for a considerable time and for two years had been on the staff of *Saturday Night* in Toronto, one of the highest class papers in the Dominion, the report says.

In January 1920 *The Port Perry Star* moved its offices from the Blong Block at 191 Queen St. to the Jessop Block at 235 Queen St. and in October 1922 became the first business in town to install hydro and operate motors by electric power.



Sam Farmer, right, in front of *The Star* office with, from left, employees George Davey, Bruce Beare and Irving Boyd.

HISTORY OF NEWSPAPERS

Over the next 40 years Mr. Farmer saw *The Star* grow and flourish under his capable leadership. The *Port Perry Star* was described as a “labour of love” for Mr. Farmer and he was proud of the community and always strived for its best interests.

Mr. Farmer successfully published *The Star* until his death on April 30, 1948 at which time his family took over the publication.

Following the death of Mr. Farmer, his family combined forces to carry on the business for the next 15 years. The company consisted of Mr. John Farmer, president; Mr. Archie Farmer, vice president; Marion Boyd (nee Farmer) and I.A. Boyd all serving directly in the business as administrators. Anne Boyd (nee Farmer) and Mr. M.M. Boyd of Ottawa, served indirectly writing editorial and doing outside administrative work.

The family members working at *The Star* began to modernize the plant, replacing some of the old equipment with newer, more efficient models. Marion (Farmer) Boyd worked in the front office as receptionist and bookkeeper, and occasionally operated the linotype machine or platten press when necessary. Her husband Irving Boyd was responsible for sales and promotion of *The Star's* busy printing department.

Other family members who worked at *The Port Perry Star* during this period were Archie Farmer, who joined the firm in about 1950 to operate the presses and Clive Boyd (son of Irving and Marion Boyd). Longtime employee George R. Davey continued to work for the family as assistant in the printing department for many years, retiring in 1958 after about 50 years with *The Star*. Bruce Beare, who began working for Sam Farmer as a young man in 1937 continued with the company as a linotype operator and printer until 1974.

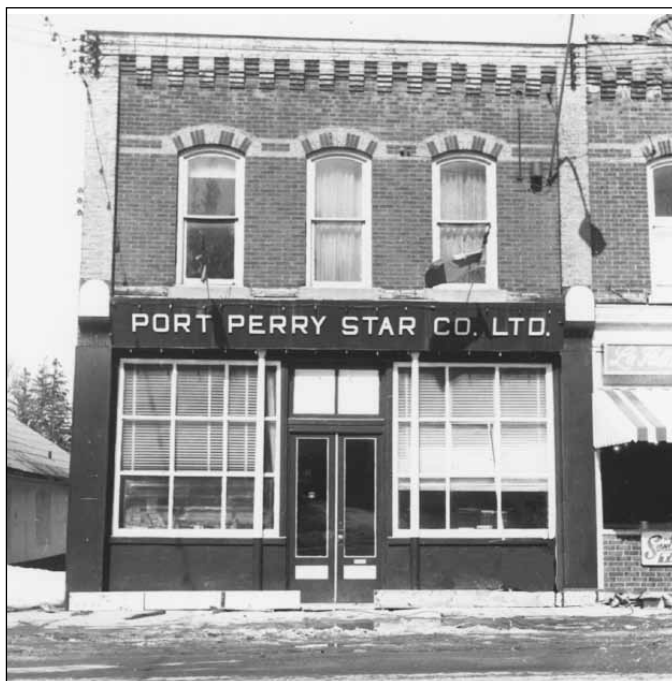
The *Port Perry Star* celebrated its' 50th Anniversary in September 1957 with a special Historical and memorial edition being published. Although the paper experienced slow growth during the time following



IRVING & MARION BOYD

Mr. Farmer's death, circulation of the paper reached an all-time high of 1,200 copies per week.

The Farmer family continued to operate the newspaper until September 1963 when *The Port Perry Star* was once again sold and changed ownership.



Port Perry Star offices at time of the sale in 1963.

PER & LEILA HVIDSTEN

The next owners of *The Port Perry Star* were Per and Leila Hvidsten, who also owned the *Uxbridge Times-Journal*. The Hvidsten's had been in the newspaper business in Uxbridge since they purchased that paper from Harold Cave in 1953.

Mr. Hvidsten's background in printing and newspapers went back to his homeland Norway where his father and grandfather before him had owned and operated a daily newspaper.

One of the first things the Hvidsten's did after acquiring *The Star*, was to hire William Harrison, a former employee of the newspaper who was working in Cobourg at the time. Mr. Harrison was appointed editor of *The Star* with Mr. Hvidsten assuming the role of publisher. Mrs. Hvidsten continued in her role as editor of the *Uxbridge Times Journal*, contributing editorials to *The Star* during the first few months under their ownership.

Former Farmer employees Clive Boyd, Archie Farmer and Bruce Beare continued to work at *The Star*, and rounding out the staff during the 1963-64 were Annabell Harrison, D'arcy Morden, Dorothy Mulholland and Ruby Roach.

Within months of purchasing *The Port Perry Star*, Per Hvidsten began to modernize the entire plant. Between the years 1963 and 1967, the shop (located at 235 Queen Street) was completely renovated and all the old machinery was replaced with modern equipment.

The last letterset newspaper was published at *The Star* office on June 8, 1967. On June 15, 1967 a whole new method of printing came about with *The Star* changing its printing method from the old

"hot metal type" to offset printing and the paper was downsized from a large format (known as broadsheet) to a tabloid newspaper.

With the introduction of 'offset printing' at *The Port Perry Star*, the old cast iron flatbed press which had churned out the paper for over 50 years was delegated to printing auction sale bills. Regrettably, only a few years later it was smashed into pieces and sold for scrap metal.

During the first few years of offset production, *The Star* was printed at Web Offset in Toronto. When Uxbridge Printing Company purchased a web offset press in the 1970s, *The Star* moved its printing contract to Uxbridge.

Two weeks after printing the first issue by offset, Mr. Hvidsten's son Peter joined the staff, after working for a web printing company and a professional photographer in Toronto for two years.

Further modernization came about in 1971 with the purchase of *The Star's* first computerized typesetter. This piece of



PER (PETE) HVIDSTEN



LEILA E. HVIDSTEN



Editor Bill Harrison, left, with Per Hvidsten the new owner of the *Port Perry Star*.

Dr. Dymond Sweeps Ontario Riding



Port Perry's own Dr. Matthew B. Dymond was re-elected by a substantial margin in yesterday's provincial election. He more than doubled the number of votes tallied by his nearest liberal. Liberal candidate Sam Hollingsworth. The total vote was Dymond 9,864; Hollingsworth 4,297; Edward 2,218.

This was better than a publication of the 1959 vote when Dr. Dymond more than doubled the votes of the Liberal candidate. This time however, he added another 1132 votes to his 1959 count.

New Ownership At Star

Last week the undersigned, Pete and Leila Huidsten, purchased the Port Perry Star and beginning with this issue will be its new publishers. We extend sincere appreciation to members of the Farmer Family for offering us the opportunity to purchase and for their good wishes on our behalf. We express since appreciation, also to numerous Port Perry residents who have already extended friendly greetings and a welcome to your town.

We are no strangers to Port Perry since we live but a few miles away and often have been visitors here. And in all the times we have visited, we have found you both outgoing and friendly. Gradually, we hope to meet and know many more of you as friends.

At this time we say a public thank-you to Mr. and Mrs. Irving Boyd, Mr. John Farmer, Mr. M. Boyd and Mr. Archie Farmer for friendly co-operation during the business changeover. All but the latter will no longer be associated with the Port Perry Star. Mr. Archie Farmer will continue in his same position, and important member of the Star's printing and technical staff. (Please see editorials elsewhere in this issue).

A public thank-you also to a long time acquaintance and Port's own Dr. Matt Dymond for his most friendly welcome and generous praise of our abilities reprinted on page five.

As for us, we will endeavour to give you a good paper. Having a substantial background in the weekly publishing field, we shall do all in our power to promote your town, record your activities and support your community projects. In a short time we hope you will appreciate your efforts to the extent that we even now like you.

signed....

Pete and Leila Huidsten



The above family is no doubt today the happiest family in Port Perry. Pictured in their beautiful home last night are from left to right, oldest daughter Beverly, Mrs. Dymond, Matt Dymond, and the youngest daughter Nancy.

Port Perry Star Photo

A Message To Our Readers



By Leila E. Huidsten

With the sale last week of your home town paper one era of the Port Perry Star was completed and another started.

The Star was established in 1864 and the next year it will observe its centenary, ranking with some of the older papers of the province. Since 1906 the Star has been operated by the Farmer family, first by Mr. S. Farmer, until his death in 1948 and since that time by members of his family.

Over half a century of publishing the same paper by members of the same family may not be exceptional but it is noteworthy and we feel they have served their town well. We appreciate being

given the opportunity of taking over the Star's publication and are grateful for the good wishes of family members.

Henceforth Star readers will have as their editor a native son in the person of Bill Harrison. We feel fortunate in re-claiming his services as editor in the town he likes so well and where he was active in sports and other community affairs. We know he is going to do a fine job for us and more particularly, he is going to serve you well.

These Are Our Plans

With the first issue we wish to outline a few plans and what may be expected under new ownership.

First, the present staff will remain employed in their respective positions, other than Mr. and Mr. Boyd whose interests have taken them elsewhere.

Second, the Port Perry Star paper office and printing business will occupy the same premises as at present although certain changes eventually will be made in office arrangement.

Third, this paper will continue to be interested wholly and completely in the affairs of you, your town and the district it serves. It will be oper-

ated completely as a Port Perry unit and will carry as much news of your activities and messages from your merchants as your demands may dictate.

Fourth, it will have several departments added, a new classified ad section, a women's page, cartoon, past years events and a weekly editorial page among others. Some have already been instituted for this issue; other will follow as time goes by.

As you have noticed, you now have a new page size - one that is increasingly growing in favour and which, we like to think, is a brighter, newsier format. Two or more local pictures will be carried each week.

We hope you like your new Port Perry Star and would appreciate letters to the editor telling us so or, on the other hand, perhaps making suggestions of your own. And, incidentally, there will always be space on the Star's pages for Opinions of Others department. We hope you will use that space.

We do want to make your Port Perry Star a newsy paper, a mirror of the residents and their activities. And our grateful thanks in advance for the excellent co-operation we know we will receive.



Star Editor and Publisher

After six years of service with the Colborne Chronicle, Bill Harrison is back in his home town, Port Perry. On Monday, he took over the position as managing editor of the "Star", the paper where he first learned the printing business. In the above picture is Bill seated at his desk while the new publisher, P. Huidsten is standing behind.

Port Perry Star Photo

The first issued of the Port Perry Star published by its new owners, the Huidstens, on September 26, 1963

equipment all but eliminated the need for the faithful old linotype as it increased efficiency and speed, allowing *The Star* to move its publication day from Thursday afternoon to Wednesday morning.

In 1975 Mr. Hvidsten sold the printing division of *The Port Perry Star* and concentrated all of his efforts on the newspaper. Mr. Henry Janssen, who purchased the printing department continued to work out of *The Star* office for five years before moving Port Perry Printing to a new building on North Street.

J. PETER HVIDSTEN

After publishing *The Star* for 13 years, Per Hvidsten retired and sold the company to his son Peter in January 1976. At the time of his retirement, he had seen the newspaper expand to an all-time high of 4,000 subscribers.

During the next eight years, Per Hvidsten continued to contribute to help with the production of *The Star* on a part-time basis. He passed away in May 1985, in his 73 year on May 27, 1985, following a short illness.

Between January 1976 and January 1991 *The Port Perry Star* underwent many expansions and renovations. The offices were renovated and enlarged on two occasions, allowing for a larger and brighter office product division.

In 1978, *The Star* once again changed printers, and began to print in Bowmanville at the Canadian Statesman offices, operated by the James family. It was at this time the publication date was changed from Wednesday to Tuesday mornings.

During the 1980s equipment was constantly modernized, changing over all typesetting, advertising, and bookkeeping procedures to computers.

In 1988 *The Star* introduced the latest typesetting equipment, known as "desktop publishing." This system allowed editorial and news reporters to typeset their own copy on computers and print it out on bond paper through a high quality laser-printer, ready for paste-up.

Typesetting procedures continue to improve with new programs and graphics and by 1988 about two thirds of the copy, and all advertising was produced by computer.

With the economy booming, subscribers reach an all time high of 7,000, and the future looking bright for the newspaper industry, Mr. Hvidsten began to plan for the future.

In July 1990, he began construction of a new building for *The Port Perry Star* at 188 Mary Street, directly south of the Post Office. The new home for Port Perry's newspaper was built to blend with the historic downtown architecture and consisted of 6800 sq. ft. of retail, production and office space on two floors.

The Star moved into its new premises on January 9, 1991 and published the first issue of the paper from its new location on January 15, 1991.

From the time *The Star* was moved into its new location on Mary Street, things began to change. *The Start-up* of a competing newspaper, and the economy going into a recession, made it increasing difficult to operate as in the past.

During 1992, in an effort to compete against free circulation newspapers, *The Star* introduced a



J. PETER HVIDSTEN
Port Perry Star office, January 1976

Scugog mayor predicts

Moderate, steady growth for '76

A year of "moderate" growth is what Scugog Mayor Lawrence Malcolm expects for the township this year, not because of the tightening of funds, but due

operating on sound, solid budgets. I think we have a fairly conservative council when it comes to spending. "In other words," he added, "we don't believe in blowing the bundle all at once."



to council's cautious approach to development. I don't think tight money will really have much effect here," he said. "We've been

While the gradual growth, particularly in the number of subdivisions going up, will make some developers happy, there will undoubtedly be some unhappy subdividers. In fact, there will be more unhappy than happy developers in 1976 because only a fraction will get the go-ahead due to council's "staging" of development over the next four or five years.

"It won't be a boom or bust situation in the township," said the Mayor, "no sudden surge followed by a slump. Instead, we'll have gradual methods growth. And for the community in general, I think the mayor, that's a better, nor manage-

able growth. "It'll probably be at a rate of 6 per cent... the same as last year."

Mayor Malcolm said that with a surge of commercial development in 1975, he expects the residential side of development to "catch up" this year.

The year 1976 will also give Scugog a brand new arena. Mayor Malcolm said Ontario Municipal Board approval of the building bylaw was received by the township, December 30. Although up to \$284,000 of

the project can be debentured, if need be, the mayor hopes that new grant structures and financing arrangements can be worked out that makes debenturing unnecessary. As the mayor sees it, that would be more in line with what other governments are starting to do... less borrowing, and more cash on the line. "The school board has already started working in that direction, and I think that direction will turn more to operating on a cash basis. It's simply too expensive to

Expensive duck pond

A dismayed Scugog Twp. Council listened, Monday night, as Mayor Lawrence Malcolm outlined some of the costs of purchasing conservation lands, particularly a section of swamp land purchased for a hefty \$1.5 million.

"We were told that some ducks land there in March every year," said Mayor Malcolm. "For that price," reflected Coun. Reg Rose, "they could have rented rooms at the Royal York."



Mandy White, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Norm White of Prince Albert, became Scugog's 1976 New Year's baby, mandy was the first child in the new year to be born at Port Perry's Community Memorial Hospital. The 7 lb., 8 1/2 oz. baby girl was born January 5 at 5:31 a.m., and joins a sibling, 3, Diane displays a proud smile while Mandy thinks it's all a big bore. No ham.

PORT PERRY STAR

Vol. 110 No. 9

28 Pages

Wednesday, January 7, 1976

Serving Scugog Township

Councillors not blackmailers

Coun. Bob Kenny doesn't want Scugog Township readers of the STAR to get the false impression that council is blackmailing Hazden and King Construction Ltd. Council resolved at the December 22 meeting that they approve a site for that company to operate a gravel pit at the south end of the township. One of the conditions being that "the conditions being given the option to purchase gravel at a reasonable cost."

To Coun. Kenny, that sounds like blackmail, at least the way it reads in the newspaper report last week. He said that what was meant was the township would be given the opportunity to buy at the going rate. "If we wanted gravel at a special rate, we would have included the price," said one councillor. "We are not asking that we get a

cut rate as a condition that we approve the operation." The discussion arose after last week's minutes were discussed and approved by council, however, and the council's resolution stayed as it was written. "I guess the company will have to live the condition," said Mayor Lawrence Malcolm.

Costly conservation

The high cost of conservation... particularly the enormous costs of acquiring conservation lands... was the discussion at Scugog Township Council Monday night after Mayor Lawrence Malcolm announced that council could elect a representative to the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority if they so desired.

Reason being, explained the mayor, to explain the enormous bills to the region which such bills come in. At the present time, he explained, there is no one to provide information on the huge bills at budget time. Case in point, according to the mayor, was the purchase by the authority recently of a section of land, 70 per cent marsh

Fire...

Only minor damage resulted to a tractor and shed on the Scugog Island farm of Cecil Pralick, R.R. 5, Port Perry, Friday morning, when efforts to start the tractor started a small fire.

When the rescue van and tanker of Scugog No. 1 Port Perry department arrived, according to Fire Chief Jack Cook, the fire was nearly out.



It is with some mixed emotions that Per Hvidsten and son Peter look to the new year, following the January 1 change-over of The Port Perry Star from publisher to son. While father regards the event as the culmination of a career in newspapers that began in Norway some 40 years ago, son Peter feels the weight of the additional responsibility, and faces a challenge to continue the kind of performance that has resulted in a circulation growth of the paper over the past 12 years from 1,100 to about 4,000. Mr. Hvidsten won't be withdrawing from the newspaper business altogether, however. He'll be helping out on a part-time basis in both the job of making up the paper, and "with advice," confides Peter.

Arena action

With Ontario Municipal Board approval for the new arena project received last month, Scugog Township Council made into law the bylaw authorizing the capital works program for the construction of the arena.

The bylaw gives the township the flexibility to debenture an amount up to \$284,000 over a term of no more than 10 years.

Mayor Lawrence Malcolm feels, however, that due to a number of new developments and new avenues for financing, it may be possible to build the arena without debenturing. A Wintario grant as well as an expected increase in the regular Community Centre grant are two of the ways the township hopes to avoid a heavy debenture.

Public subscription, set originally at \$200,00, is even more important now, as a dollar for dollar change in the Wintario grant structure means more money granted with more money raised locally.

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- Celebrities Page 17
- Looking Back at '75 Page 18
- Sports Page 18

First issue published under ownership of Peter Hvidsten January 7, 1976



Port Perry Star move to new offices and production facilities at 188 Perry Street on January 15, 1991.

new 17,000 free distribution paper called *Star Marketplace*. The name of the paper was later changed to *The Scugog Shores News*.

By 1996 a major decision was made to begin printing process color pictures on the front page of *The Port Perry Star*. At the same time, the weekend *Scugog Shores News* underwent a complete overhaul, including more local coverage, and its name was changed to the *Port Perry Weekend Star*.

In 1994, Star publisher Peter Hvidsten contracted the services of Don MacLeod to act as general manager of the newspaper. Mr. MacLeod, an employee of Citizen's Communication Group (CCG) located in Newmarket, was also publisher of the Uxbridge Times Journal at the time he began a one year term working part-time at *The Port Perry Star*.

Following the termination of this arrangement by CCG in July 1995, Mr. Hvidsten offered Mr. MacLeod a partnership in the business and on October 15, 1995 he began working at *The Port Perry Star* as a full partner.

DON MacLEOD

Five years after he joined the firm, Mr. MacLeod took over sole ownership of *The Port Perry Star*, although Mr. Hvidsten stayed on his capacity as publisher until April 2001, before retiring from the business he had worked and owned for more than 30 years.

Over the past century there has been many changes in the equipment and methods of publishing newspapers, but the one thing that has remained constant is the on-going commitment they have to the communities they represent and serve.

Port Perry community newspapers have played an important role in the history of the area, documenting each week the important events of today for future generations of area families to enjoy and study.



DON MACLEOD



Perry Perry Star ownership changes

It was with mixed emotions that Per Hvidsten, right, and son Peter looked to the new year, following the January 1, 1976 change of ownership of The Port Perry Star from publisher to son. Per Hvidsten purchased the paper in September 1963 and has seen the paper grow tremendously.



J. Peter Hvidsten, right, who has spent the past 34 years at The Port Perry Star, 25 as owner and publisher, sold the newspaper to Don MacLeod effective October 15, 2000. Mr. MacLeod has been general manager and partner in the business for the past five years. The Star had been in the Hvidsten family since 1963 when it was purchased from the Farmer family.



The Scugog Citizen

With the launch of the *Scugog Citizen* on May 25, 1991, Port Perry became home to two newspapers for the first time in more than 70 years.



JOHN B. MCLELLAND

The Scugog Citizen was launched by two long-time employees of *The Port Perry Star*, John B. McClelland (15 years) and Valerie Ellis (14 years) who resigned their positions as editor and advertising co-ordinator to start a new newspaper in Port Perry. The third partner in the venture was another former *Star* reporter, Cathy Olliffe.

The first issue of the new tabloid newspaper was published on Tuesday, June 25, 1991 with 8,000 papers being distributed free to households in Scugog Township from their office on Water Street, Port Perry.

The Citizen achieved moderate success during its first year, but not long after its first anniversary the three-way partnership broke up, with Cathy Olliffe leaving the operation following a dispute with her partners.

Following the break-up, Ms. Olliffe began to contribute to the pages of *The Port Perry Star* once again as a feature writer.

Mr. McClelland and Ms. Ellis continued to operate *The Citizen* until June 13, 1996, when financial problems forced the paper to close its doors. It was just two weeks short of reaching its fifth anniversary.

Following the closure of *The Scugog Citizen*, *Star* publisher J. Peter Hvidsten invited John B. McClelland to begin writing again, on a freelance basis. Mr. McClelland accepted the offer and has contributed to the columns of *The Port Perry Star* since that time primarily covering council and sporting activities.



VALERIE ELLIS

Within a few days after the closure of *The Scugog Citizen*, a new publication began to appear on the doorsteps of Scugog Township residents.



CATHY OLLIFFE



Left: Front page of the final addition of the independently owned Port Perry Star, July 20, 2004

A match made in heaven

Two local papers combine forces

PORT PERRY - The new and improved 'Port Perry Star' you are reading today has been 138 years in the making.

Today, the newly merged 'Port Perry Star' and 'Port Perry This Week' combine the best of two award-winning newspapers into one shining 'Star'. And the best news is the winners are our readers and advertisers.

We will continue to bring you the best local news, sports, entertainment and advertising coverage in publishing Wednesday and Friday editions. We will continue to do what's best for you - the reader.

For many years Tim Whittaker, Metroland Durham Region media Group publisher, has admired the work of the staff at the 'Port Perry Star.' Today he is happy to call the colleagues after years of being competitors.

"What a wonderful opportunity we have to merge the efforts of two winning teams in order to provide Port Perry and surrounding area with the best possible community newspaper," said Mr. Whittaker.



Right: The first copy of The Port Perry Star under ownership of Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing which was released on Wed., July 28, 2004.



Port Perry This Week

Port Perry This Week made its debut on June 15, 1996 with a hastily assembled weekend edition, to take up the void left by the closure of the *Scugog Citizen*. The paper operated from a small office on Water Street in Port Perry with Bruce Froude as its first managing editor and Tony Doyle as news reporter. It moved to a new location at the west limits of Port Perry in August 1998, with its offices located over Suny's Gas Bar.

Port Perry This Week was produced and printed in Oshawa by its sister paper, *Oshawa This Week*. It published twice weekly, Tuesday and Sunday and was delivered free to homes throughout the area.

Port Perry This Week is owned by *Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing*, owners of more than 25 community newspapers across Ontario.

Four years after first publishing *Port Perry This Week*, *Metroland Printing & Publishing* purchased *The Port Perry Star*, and closed its *Port Perry This Week* newspaper.

See details in following story.

Metroland Publishing

The final, and in my opinion, the saddest chapter in the history of local newspapers, was the takeover of *The Port Perry Star* on Thursday, July 22, 2004 by *Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing*.

Metroland is a division of the powerful *Torstar Corporation*, which operates from its head office at One Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario. *Torstar* is owner and publisher of Canada's largest daily newspaper, the *Toronto Star*, and through its *Metroland Printing and Publishing* division operates more than 60 community newspapers in southern Ontario.

It was inevitable for many years, that eventually the independently owned *Port Perry Star* would meet the fate of so many other community newspapers in recent years. Independent newspapers like *Bowmanville Canadian Statesman*, *Uxbridge Time-Journal* and *Stouffville Tribune*, just to mention a few have been consumed by this giant media machine over the past decade, while *The Port Perry Star* held out as long as possible.

Star owner/publisher Don MacLeod, had taken over sole ownership of the paper in October 2000, but being the only independent newspaper left in Durham Region, and the surrounding areas, it was only a matter of time until pressure was brought upon him to sell the paper. He finally succumbed to the pressure placed on him by *Metroland* after being informed that *The Port Perry Star* had been placed on the highest priority as an acquisition for 2004.

After months of negotiations and assurances by *Metroland* officials that they would take care of long-time employees of *The Star*, the legal papers were signed in the boardroom of *Torstar* in Toronto on the afternoon of Wed., July 21, 2004.

HISTORY OF NEWSPAPERS

Nobody could have ever imagined what happened next.

Minutes after Mr. MacLeod made the announcement to shocked staff the next morning, about a dozen Metroland executives and managers arrived and began to dismantel the staff and newspaper office.

Office manager Gayle Stapley, who had spent 33 years at *The Star* was told she was no longer needed and left the building in tears. The positions of the editor, one reporter, two typographers and about a dozen mailing room staff were terminated immediately. And a number of others were given short term contracts with no guarantees for the future.

Within a few hours of all these announcements, while those remaining were in a state of shock, movers began to remove desks and chairs, haul in files and set up their operation.

It was as if Metroland wanted to wipe the slate clean and remove every trace of *The Port Perry Star* of the past 138 years.

As I said at the beginning, this was the saddest day in the history of *The Port Perry Star*. And while there is no doubt the paper will continue for many years to come, I suspect it will be a mere shadow of the once respected and loved publication which served the community so proudly for so many years.

Metroland continued to publish *The Port Perry Star* from its offices at 188 Mary Street, until their lease expired. They then moved into a small office at the back of a building next door, at 180 Mary Street.

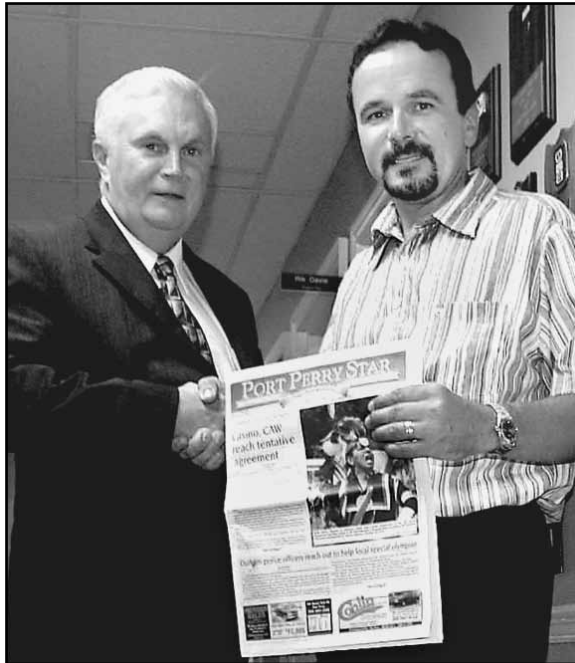
The newspaper dramatically changed after the sale to Metroland. The lack of a local ownership with solid ties to the Port Perry community, coupled with the newspaper's production being transferred to the Metroland Publishing plant in Oshawa, marked the beginning of an end to what was known as Scugog's "community newspaper".

Within a few years the page count of the newspaper had dropped dramatically as local coverage was reduced. Newspaper readership in general, plunged, partially due to the internet, but also the scaling back of local community content. Eventually *The Port Perry Star* was reduced to no more than eight pages, and became little more than a cover for delivering flyers.

The future of local newspapers like the *Port Perry Star*, and the hundreds of other weekly publications which serve smaller communities throughout Ontario and Canada is uncertain.

For this former owner and publisher of the *Port Perry Star*, it's a disheartening to see the decline of such a vibrant and informative publication. For more than 130 years it educated, informed and chronicled the day to day happenings in the community.

Today it is a mere shadow of what it once was, and little more than a wrapper to carry Metroland's flyers for its advertisers.



Metroland publisher Tim Whittaker, left, with Port Perry Star publisher Don MacLeod, seen here holding the last issue of the Port Perry Star as an independent newspaper.

J. Peter Hvidsten,
Publisher/Owner
Port Perry Star - 1976-2001

The day the Port Perry Star died

It took the Metroland Printing and Publishing less than 20 years to reduce Port Perry's thriving community newspaper, *The Port Perry Star*, from a respected publication into a flimsy wrapper for distributing flyers.

The Port Perry Star was sold to the giant Metroland publishing firm on Thursday, July 22, 2004, and its final print edition was published on September 14, 2023.

-30-

News of the closure of *The Port Perry Star* was not published in its final edition, but through its parent company, Torstar, which made the announcement the following day in its flagship daily newspaper *Toronto Star*.

The announcement read as follows: "*Metroland Media Group, the Toronto Star's sister company, has sought bankruptcy protection and will cease the print publication of its weekly community newspapers across Ontario, moving to an online-only model.*"

The move involves 605 layoffs, nearly two-thirds of the workforce, the company said in an announcement Friday morning."

In addition to the closure of *The Port Perry Star*, an estimated 70 weekly Ontario community newspapers shut their doors, and more than 60 journalists were laid off permanently.

The demise of *The Port Perry Star* leaves Scugog Township with only two publications.



Front page of the final print edition of *The Port Perry Star* - September 14, 2023

The *Standard Newspaper*, was launched on October 1, 2002, following the takeover of *The Port Perry Star* by Metroland. It has since changed its name to "*The Standard*" and it now provides small amounts of local news for Scugog, Uxbridge and the Kawarthas.

Scugog and Port Perry's most sought after publication is *Focus On Scugog* magazine, which is published once a month, providing coverage of primarily good local news, feature stories and promotes the many events taking place in the community.

Former 'Star' employees launch a new independent community newspaper



First issue of The Scugog Standard newspaper was published on Friday, October 1, 2004.

The Scugog Standard

Less than three months after *The Port Perry Star* was sold to the giant Metroland Corporation, a new local newspaper was launched.

The Scugog Standard published its first copy on Friday, October 1, 2004 as a 24 page tabloid news-paper, being distributed to about 10,000 homes by mail.

Following their dismissal from *The Port Perry Star*, a number of former employees, and other interested parties met to discuss the possibility of starting a new newspaper. Within a few weeks a plan was devised, and backed financially by more than a dozen local business *The Scugog Standard* was born.

This is not the first "Standard" newspaper to have been published in Port Perry. In fact, *The Port Perry Standard* was the first newspaper ever published in the town. Launched August 16, 1866 by owner/publisher Edward J. Mundy, *The Standard* served the community until about 1906.

The new *Scugog Standard* is headed by Gayle Stapley (Operations Mgr.), Rik Davie (Managing Editor), along with Travis Merrick (Production Mgr.), Linda Davie (Distribution Mgr.), Trudy

Empringham (Production), John B. McClelland and Heather McCrae (Freelance Writers) and Tracy Souch, Joanne Hawkins (Advertising Sales), Marion Freeman (Bookkeeper). All are former employees of *The Port Perry Star*, and lost their jobs during the takeover by Metroland.

In addition to the staff, a number of high profile business people, including Jim Grieve (IGA), Jeff Reid (Reid's Independent), Jeff Hodgkinson (CTC), and others help to financially launch the paper.

The birth of *The Standard* came about primarily because of the arrogant and thoughtless way in which so many former employees were let go. Had there been a little more compassion and thought put into the takeover by *Metroland* executives, there is little doubt *The Port Perry Star* could have gone on as the only newspaper in town for many years come. *The Standard* brings back a historical name and provides two newspapers in the community once again.



The Scugog Standard original offices were at 94 Water Street, Port Perry.

Note: The “*Scugog*” *Standard* has undergone a number of changes since its first issue rolled off the press in 2004. Ownership has changed twice, first being sold to David Nguyen, owner of Webnews Printing in North York, where *The Standard* was being printed. A number of years after the purchase of the newspaper, in about 2010, the *Scugog Standard*'s editor Rik Davie left the newspaper.

A few years later, Mr. Nguyn sold the newspaper to Colleen Green, and employee of the *Scugog Standard*. She and her family have published the newspaper since that time, having changed the name to simply, *The Standard*, to better reflect the expanded coverage. The weekly published newspaper now provides basic coverage of news and for primarily the Kawarthas, but also some coverage of Brock and Scugog Townships, as well as portions of the Kawarthas.

Originally located at 94 Water Street, Port Perry, *The Standard* newspaper has changed locations twice during its 16 years in business. It moved to Unit 193, on the North Port Rd. industrial site about 2016, and just recently (2021) moved back into town, opening an office at 94 Water St., a few doors south of the location in which they began in 2004.

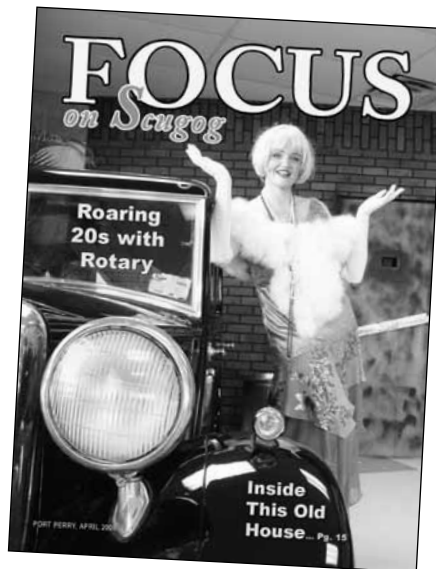
FOCUS *on Scugog*

Five years after retiring from *The Port Perry Star*, and being released from a non-competition agreement with Metroland Publishing, Peter Hvidsten redirected his energies to undertake another ambitious publishing project.

In April 2006, Focus on Scugog was launched from the former location of The Port Perry Star, at 188 Mary St. Port Perry.

Unlike a newspaper, the slick new publication was produced in a “magazine” format, making it easier for readers to hold and read. And unlike a newspaper, it was stitched and trimmed to give it a neat, professional look. About two years after the launch, the magazine was upgraded with a glossy cover, and introduced full colour throughout.

From the very first edition, due to its emphasis on local coverage, *Focus on Scugog* became an instant success. The magazine received overwhelming public response from both readers and advertisers, who enjoyed a refreshing blend of local news, features, community events and area history.



Cover from the first issue of Focus On Scugog in April 2006.



J. Peter Hvidsten is seen here with MaryAnn Fleming who assumed ownership of Focus on Scugog magazine on May 1, 2015.

The magazine was conceived with the help of two former employees of Mr. Hvidstens, when he published *The Port Perry Star*. Tracy Souch in advertising sales and Arlene Walker, in charge of production and design

From the beginning *Focus on Scugog* was issued free of charge and distributed to more than 10,000 Scugog households through Canada Post.

After almost 10 years as owner, editor and publisher of Focus on Scugog, Mr. Hvidsten retired for a second time, selling the magazine to MaryAnn Fleming, a employee and office manager at the magazine since 2007.

Despite the decline of newspapers, since the early 2000s, *Focus on Scugog* has thrived and grown. The secret to its success, although not really a secret, is its attention solely to local Scugog Township news and activities.

Chapter Two

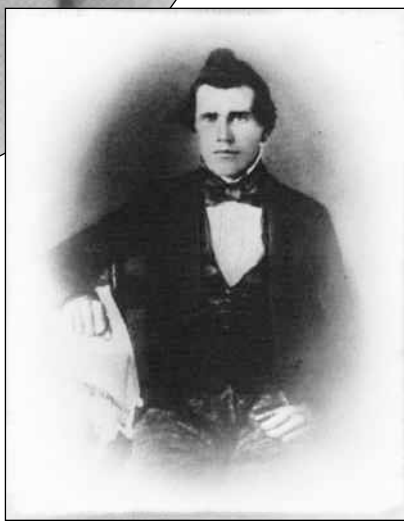


Port Perry Newspaper Owners / Publishers

This chapter introduces each of the men who owned and published a newspaper in Port Perry over the past century and a half.



James Holden
1828 to 1921
Established *Ontario Observer* in 1857



James Holden

JAMES HOLDEN lived in Prince Albert, Ontario for only a few years, moving there in 1857 and leaving for Whitby in 1864 following his appointment as Official Assignee.

He was born of Irish parents in Stouffville, County of York on February 29th, 1828 and first engaged in mercantile pursuits in this village.

In 1857, at the age of 29 years, he moved to Prince Albert and commenced publication of the first newspaper in the area, *The Ontario Observer*. Its first issue came off the presses on Thursday, December 10, 1857, two days late due to the late arrival of material.

Little is known of Mr. Holden's life during his seven years in the area as most records of this time are missing, but after moving to Whitby he immediately identified himself with the interests of the County Town and was largely responsible for the progress of the railway and particularly the extension of the railway line from Port Perry to Lindsay.

During his years in Whitby, Mr. Holden, a strong Liberal, held almost every municipal position, from councillor to reeve, and mayor of the town by acclamation. His only public defeat was to the Hon. Thomas N. Gibbs in 1873, the newly appointed Minister of Sir John A. MacDonald's cabinet.

He was only 53 years old when he passed away at Dominion City, Manitoba. His death on October 24, 1881 came as a shock to his many friends and to his colleagues from the Whitby, Port Perry and Lindsay Railway Company of which he was managing director. His funeral was the largest seen in Whitby for over a quarter century, with between three and four thousand people present.

It is said that up to 700 people arrived in Whitby by funeral train from the north, carriages number at 180, and almost all the townspeople turned out en masse to pay respect to this well respected man. He is reported to have been a man of great perseverance, and public enterprise, and although undemonstrative, a warm friend; he never forgot a friend or missed an opportunity to do him a good turn.

With his death, Mr. Holden left behind his widow, Orilla (Fitchett) and large family of nine children, four boys and five girls.



Henry Parsons
1838 to 1932

Published *Ontario Observer* from 1856 to 1920

Henry Parsons

HENRY PARSON had a long career in the newspaper business in Port Perry and Prince Albert, dating back as far as 1858. But it was not until about 1864 that he became an owner of the *North Ontario Observer*, a position which he retained until 1919 when the publication was discontinued.

He was born in Lincoln, England, in 1838, and came to Canada in 1850 with his parents, who took up residence in Stouffville.

In February 1853 he became an apprentice as a printer to the *Whitby Reporter*. After finishing his apprenticeship, he lived for one year in New York State, before returning to Canada.

In 1858 Henry Parsons joined the staff of the *North Ontario Observer*, which was under the ownership of James Holden, and published from Prince Albert. Then in about 1864 (date unknown) Mr. Parsons, and a partner, William Robinson, took over ownership of the *Observer*.

With the death of Mr. Robinson in 1866, Henry Parsons became the sole owner of the *Observer* until James Baird became his partner and editor on August 30, 1866. This partnership which lasted for the next eighteen years.

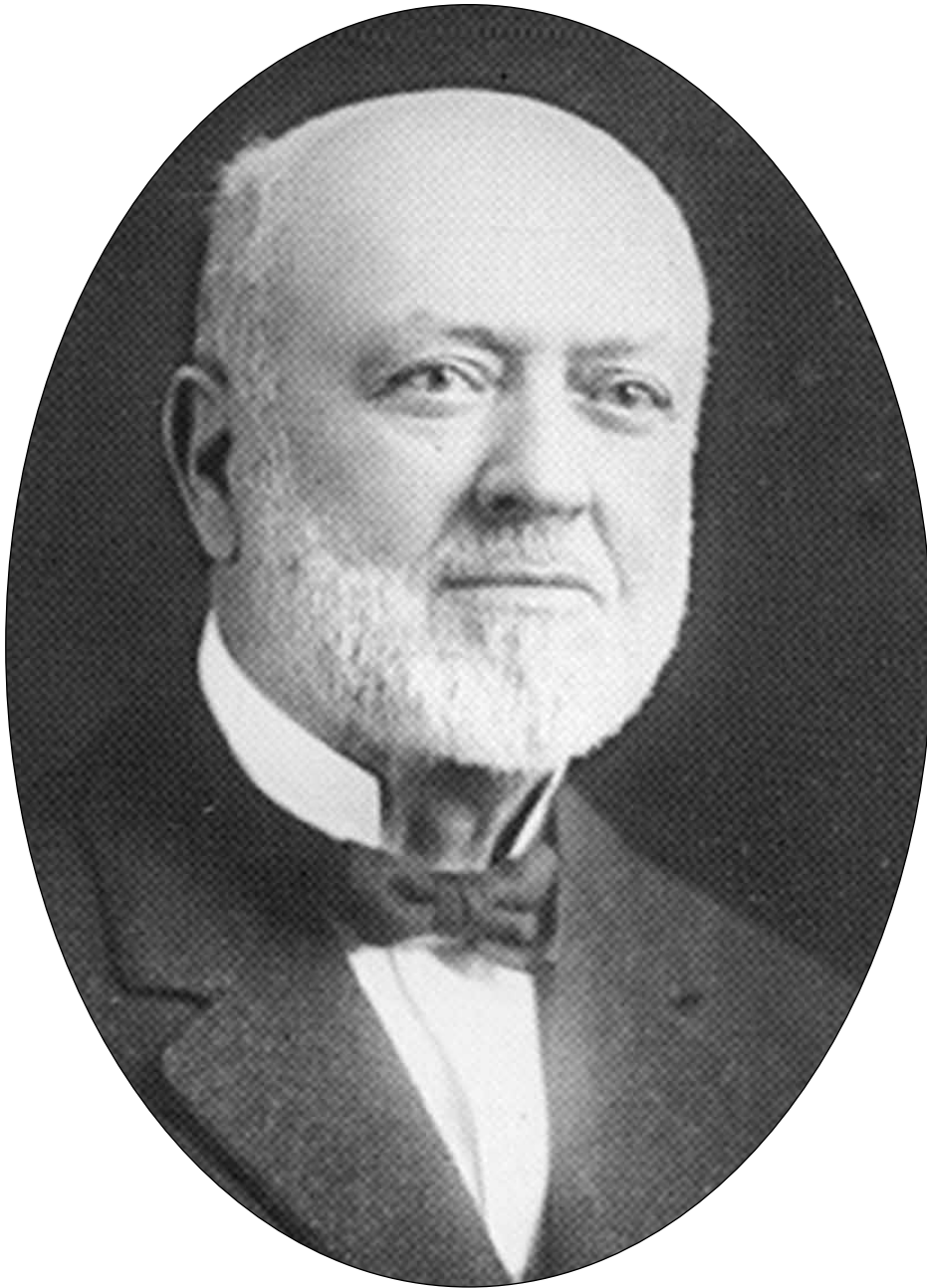
In 1873, the *Observer* moved their offices from Prince Albert to Port Perry and after two disastrous fires, Mr. Baird left the partnership. Mr. Parsons carried on as sole owner and editor of the newspaper until it ceased publication on December 4, 1919 (last paper of record) at the age of 81 years.

Following the termination of the *North Ontario Observer*, Mr. Parsons continued in the printing business under the name of the *Observer Printing Office*, being assisted by his grandson, Mr. Victor (Vic) Stouffer.

Mr. Parsons took a keen interest in municipal affairs, and at one time served a couple of terms as a councillor.

In 1864 he was married to Miss Francis Ruby Palmer, of Prince Albert, who predeceased him by some twenty years. He was survived by one daughter, Mrs. Andrew Stouffer and one grandson V.P. Stouffer.

Mr. Parsons passed away in his 94th year, at his home in Port Perry on Thursday morning, September 29th, 1932. Interment was held in Pine Grove Cemetery, Prince Albert, Ontario.



Edward J. Mundy

1838 to 1921

Established the *Port Perry Standard* in 1866

Edward J. Mundy

EDWARD J. MUNDY was born in Hull, England on February 20, 1838. He came to Canada when he was 11 years old and served his apprenticeship in the printing business in Toronto with the *Globe*, *The Leader*, *The Colonist* and the *Echo*, before striking out on his own. He is also reported to have been foreman at the *North Ontario Observer* office when it was published in Prince Albert, Ontario.

On November 28, 1861, at the age of 23 years, Edward Mundy started a newspaper in Uxbridge called the *North Ontario Advocate* and operated it as editor until 1866. The *Advocate* was published every Thursday morning and across the masthead he wrote "For the Queen, the Constitution and the People".

For almost five years Edward Mundy published the *Advocate* in Uxbridge, but eventually ceased the unsuccessful publication. Following the closure of the *Advocate*, Mundy moved to Port Perry and commenced publication of Port Perry's first publication, *The Port Perry Standard*, on August 16, 1866.

Little information has been found about the years Edward Mundy spent in Port Perry, although records show he owned a home on Cochrane Street. The house is illustrated in the Ontario County Atlas of 1877.

On July 1, 1878 Edward Mundy bought the *Oshawa Ontario Reformer*, and carried on with both newspapers for about three years before disposing of the *Port Perry Standard* in about 1881. While publishing both *The Standard* and the *Reformer* he travelled between Oshawa and Port Perry daily taking forms with him that could be used in either paper. The trip usually took hours on the rough roads in his shaky buggy.

He published and held a controlling interest in the *Ontario Reformer* for more than 40 years. In 1905 he took his son, Charles M. Mundy into the business with him and they successfully operated under the firm name of E. Mundy & Son until April 1, 1910, when E. Mundy retired from the active editorship of the paper.

It was at this time that the business was incorporated as the *Reformer Printing and Publishing Company*, with Edward J. Mundy as president and his son Charles Mundy as secretary-treasurer.

On Monday, January 24, 1921 Edward Mundy passed away about midnight after an illness of three weeks. He was in his 84th year at the time of this death.

Mr. Mundy was described as a quiet mannered gentleman, with good qualities of both heart and mind. He served as Chairman of the School Board for several terms and was a prominent Baptist and Mason, and a strong supporter of the Liberal party.

In 1860 Edward married Martha Nott of Toronto after a six week courtship. Martha was born in 1841 in Exeter, England and came to Canada with her father Richard Nott on September 1, 1840

Records show that Mundy and his wife Martha were parents to six children; Edward J. Mundy, Jr. (1861); Jessie J. (1863); Alice C. (1865); Mary L. (1870); Violet M. (1872) and Charles M. (1874).

It is believed Edward J. Mundy sold the *Port Perry Standard* sometime during 1889.

An article published in *Reminiscences and Recollection* by Dr. D. S. Hoig of Oshawa 1933 described the new owner of the town's paper as follows:

"The *Reformer* was bought by Edward Mundy, a printer and practical newspaperman, who had



Martha (Knott) Mundy
wife of Edward Mundy

published a paper in Port Perry successfully for a number of years, and now carries on both.

In the interest of economy, some forms of set up matter were transferred every week from one office to the other. One can imagine what a delicate task this would prove to be, driving over the roads of those days in a shaky buggy.

Known as a good-natured man, he was hardly ever alone, being usually asked to take a passenger or a parcel. The roads were very bad and often took many hours in negotiating, yet this intrepid publisher never failed once during the period of the dual publication.

Mr. Mundy was described as a quiet mannered gentleman, which led some truculent fellows into the error of believing that he was easy, but he could handle his fists quite scientifically, never failing to give a good account of himself.

Possessed of many good qualities of both heart and mind, he was lacking in an acute sense of the ridiculous. On one occasion he was speaking at the School Board, of which he was long a member and chairman for several terms, of the lack of respect shown by the younger generation, to their elders, a perennial subject of remark. "Why," said he, "Gentlemen, coming to this very meeting not an hour ago, I passed two young men on the street, and I heard one say to the other looking back at me, 'Good Lord Bill, is that old geezer living yet?'"

There was almost tears in the good old man's voice, as he related the incident, but the uncontrollable laughter with which it was received was too spontaneous to merit serious consideration of the matter. Mr. Mundy was Chairman of the School Board on several occasions.

His trips to Port Perry used up the horses pretty quickly, and he had many encounters with horse traders, often having poor animals foisted on him.

An incident of this kind occurred in a trade with a Bowmanville druggist, a prominent Baptist, as was also Mr. Mundy. The latter always demanded a lot of spirit and action in any horse he bought and the druggist, knowing this, had inserted a suppository under the root of the animal's tail just before offering it for inspection to Mundy who was delighted with the activity the horse showed, especially in the hind legs. He acquired the beast and it was only on his next journey north that he discovered his paragon to be just an ordinary plug.



Residence of Edward Mundy, Cochrane Street, Port Perry, in 1877.



Samuel Martineau Newton
1863 to 1933

Samuel M. Newton

SAMUEL NEWTON was born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England on Sept. 25, 1863, moving to Canada and settling in Lindsay, Ont. with his parents when he was six years old.

He was married in 1889 in Whitby to Miss Henrietta Howell and the couple had three children: Victor S., Florence and Isabelle.

His first involvement with newspapers was the purchase of the Lindsay Warder, in partnership with two of his brothers (George and E.A.). About four years later he purchased the Whitby Gazette which he published for 20 years. During this time he also purchased the Whitby Chronicle and Port Perry Standard and was involved with *The Standard* for about 16 years from 1889 to 1906.

A news item in the Bowmanville Statesman, dated March 20, 1901, reported "Mr. S. M. Newton, Whitby, is the newspaper 'King of Canada', being editor and publisher of the Whitby Gazer, The Whitby Chronicle and the Port Perry Star. He's a hustler and we wish him success."

In March 1899, Samuel Newton advertised in the Toronto Globe & Mail, that the Port Perry Standard was for sale, but it appears it took a number of years to sell the paper.

It is believed that sometime during 1906, he was finally able to sell his interest in all three newspapers of his newspapers. In August 1897 he was advertising his home on Cochrane Street, Port Perry for sale (see ad below).

After selling his Whitby and Port Perry newspapers, George Newton moved to Kingston, Ont. where he purchased the Kingston News, in August 1907. The Kingston newspaper had been owned and operated by a local company, with Mr. Newton as its manager for some time before he purchased it. He owned the Kingston newspaper for only a short time before selling in on April 10, 1908.

Eyeing the west, Sam Newton travelled to British Columbia, during the summer of 1909 and settled in Prince Rupert. Here he purchased the The Empire, a two-year-old newspaper started by John Houston and began a publishing career in that community which lasted until his death in 1933 at the age of 70 years.

During his ownership the The Empire, Newton was described as fighter with a scathing pen and The Empire became known as the most scurrilous and unrestrained newspaper in British Columbia.

During his years in Prince Rupert, Newton became very involved in municipal politics, becoming a member of Prince Rupert's second city council. He ran successfully for Mayor in 1912, was defeated in 1913, then retained the post of Mayor for two years (1914, 1915) and for five consecutive years from 1932-1927.

The feisty nature of Samuel Newton, the publisher, carried over to politics where he was described as being "totally unbridled in his statements and his name calling. In fact on more than one occasion he found himself being sued for libel.

A RARE OPPORTUNITY

TO SECURE

A Nice Home.

—

Owing to contemplated changes which necessitates my removal from Port Perry I offer for sale my house and lot on Cochrane street. The house is in first-class condition, while the garden is supplied with the choicest of fruit. There is also in connection a first-class stable and driving shed.

Reasonable terms can be made for cash.

Apply to

GEO. H. NEWTON,
Standard Office.

Port Perry Standard, August 12, 1897



George Henry Newton

1871 to 1949

Editor (co-owner) of the *Port Perry Standard* from 1889 to 1901

George H. Newton

GEORGE NEWTON was born in Lindsay, the youngest of nine brothers, in Feb. 1871. He was married in Whitby in 1893 to Jeanie Gordon, and the couple raised five children, two boys - Paul and Gordon, and three girls - Mrs. R.E. Morrison, Sudbury; Mrs. A.T. Roblin, Toronto; and Mrs. E.G. Weegar, North Bay.

G.H. Newton took an early interest in the newspapers, starting his career at the age of 16 years in the employ of *The Lindsay Warder*, where he remained for eight years. He then branched out publishing newspapers in Port Perry, *The Standard* and Ailsa Craig, *The Banner*. During this term he also acted as the local manager for the Bell Telephone Co. for three years.

Mr. Newton moved to North Bay in 1901, after serving as editor of *The Port Perry Star* for 12 years to take over *The Despatch* from his brother E.A. Newton who had started the publication five years earlier.

On Nov. 6, 1908 Mr. Newton became manager/director of an amalgamated paper known as *The Despatch and Tribune*, but a few years later the publication revert the briefer name *Despatch*.

In February 1927, after a long and honorable publishing career, George H. Newton suspended publication of *The Despatch*, selling the equipment to a printer from Sudbury. At the time of his retirement he had spent 40 years in the printing and publishing business, 26 of those with *The Despatch*.

When interviewed, Mr. Newton said he had no definite reason for retiring, but believed that a man of his age under the present circumstances would be better out of business.

George Henry Newton, 78, one of Port Perry and North Bay's early newspapermen, died in hospital in North Bay on May 16, 1949 after more than 40 years in the publishing business.

He was laid to rest in North Bay, with interment in Terrace Lawn Cemetery.

~

Charles H. Gordon

CHARLES H. GORDON was born on May 13, 1874, in Port Perry, Ontario, into an influential family. His father, Henry Gordon, served the community for more than 30 years, as a merchant, postmaster, magistrate, councillor, reeve and Warden of Ontario County. He was one of five children for his parents, Henry and Catherine (Shaw) Gordon.

He left the family home when he was a young man, and in 1891 was living in Toronto, working as a journalist. By 1899 he had moved to Kent County, where he became editor of the *Ridgetown Standard* newspaper. It was here he met Julia Grace Westland, and they married on June 19, 1901. During their life together they raised three children.

It's unclear if Charles and his family returned to his hometown of Port Perry to live, but about April 1906, he had purchased the *Port Perry Standard* from Samuel M. Newton. It's believed that it was during his time as owner and editor of the newspaper, the newspaper's name was changed to *The Port Perry Star*.

His ownership lasted only a few months. In November 1906 he is reported to have sold *The Port Perry Star* to Rev. William H. Cline. After leaving Port Perry, he began working for Toronto Type Foundry, becoming the company's Pacific Coast manager. In all he spent 40 years working for the type foundry.

Charles Howard Gordon died in Vancouver on January 31, 1947.



William Henry Cline
1853 to 1935

Owned and published *Port Perry Star* (Standard) from 1906 to 1907

William Henry Cline

WILLIAM H. CLINE became the next owner of *The Port Perry Star*, although his tenure as owner/publisher was for a very short period of time.

W. H. Cline purchased *The Port Perry Star* from Samuel M. Newton sometime late in 1906 and published the newspaper until the fall of 1907 when he sold it and returned to the ministry.

Before selling the paper in September 1907, Mr. Cline wrote, "having been called somewhat unexpectedly to assume the pastoral oversight of a certain church in the vicinity of Buffalo, N.Y., the writer decided a few weeks ago to dispose of the newspaper and return to the work of the ministry."

The following week the paper began being published by Samuel Farmer. Although he never did announce the precise location of the church he was going to oversee, research has revealed he moved to an area called East Aurora in New York state.

During his short stay in Port Perry, Mr. Cline leased and moved into a home owned by Mr. Douglas Adams on Cochrane St. in early April 1907. His wife and family arrived from Toronto to live in Port Perry at about this time.

While publishing *The Star*, Mr. Cline took time out for his first love, the ministry, and was reported to have been a guest preacher at a number of local churches as well as in Claremont and Glen Major.

William Henry Cline was born in Boston, Ontario on April 25, 1853 the eighth child in a family of 12. He studied for the ministry at Woodstock College for two years, then attended the University of Toronto where he received his B.A. degree in 1883 and his B.D. at Toronto Baptist College in 1885.

On October 21, 1884 he married Emily Crawford and travelled to Halifax, Nova Scotia on their honeymoon. It was here he was ordained and stayed for five years. The Cline's were parents to five children: Carl Gordon, Mabel Miriam, Evangeline, Herbert Crawford and Helen Barber.

During his years in the ministry, Rev. Cline held pastorates in many places, including Toronto, Paris, Owen Sound, East Aurora, N.Y., Hamilton and Georgetown. He lectured for a year at McMaster University and in May 1912 the university granted him an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree. His brief term as publisher of *The Port Perry Star* is the only known deviation from his career in the ministry.

Rev. Cline retired from the ministry in 1920 taking up residence on a farm near Grimsby, where he twice served as interim minister for the Grimsby Baptist Church.

In 1934 he and his wife Emily celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. On Aug. 14, 1935 he died of a heart attack while tending his fruit orchard.



Samuel Farmer
1871 to 1948

Grace Farmer



Published *Port Perry Star* from 1907 to 1948

Samuel Farmer

SAMUEL FARMER arrived in Port Perry during September 1907 and purchased *The Port Perry Star* and *Standard* from William H. Cline.

Mr. Farmer was born in England in 1871 and travelled to Canada at the age of 15 and took a job on a farm at Balinafad, Erin Township. In all he spent about 12 years working as a farmer's helper.

Mr. Farmer was a young man with much courage and perseverance and at the age of 23 took money a local farmer owed him in board and went to public school at Epsom to try his entrance for High School. Securing his certificate he attended Port Perry High School, walking six miles to school each day.

When his money was exhausted took a job at the Uxbridge Journal, where he had been a correspondent, for \$2.50 per week. His jobs included typesetting, press washing, reporting and sweeping the floors.

Mr. Farmer had a natural gift for clear unaffected writing and he read incessantly. His self-arranged education never stopped in spite of the long hours he worked to earn a living.

From Uxbridge he ventured to Toronto and spent 12 years in various offices. When he left Toronto he was a mechanical superintendent of Toronto Saturday Night. He used to say "it was my job to wipe the dust of the ages off the old paper and prepare it for its place in the sun of modern Canadian life."

While in Toronto, Mr. Farmer met Emily Grace Abernathy and in June 1901 the couple married at the Old St. Andrew's Church in that city. They lived "simply and naturally" because they had no money, raising four children, Marion, Anne, Archie and John.

The urge was strong to try for a paper of his own so with the help of the portrait artist, J.W.L. Forster, of Toronto, and I.R. Aiken of Grimsby, he was able to borrow enough to purchase *The Port Perry Star* in September 1907 from then owner Rev. W.H. Cline.

For forty years his work in Port Perry was a labour of love. He was a man in love with his work, and was proud of his community, always striving for its best interests.

He was a driving force for prohibition during the 1920s having absolutely no use for liquor or foul language, often editorializing against both.

He worked constantly for education and spent many extra days and weeks travelling around the country learning about schools and possible grants and teachers' values. Eventually he was honoured by being presented with a life membership in the O.E.A.

Mr. Farmer always tried to write constructively. He knew that destructive criticism left worse troubles in its wake than if it had never been given. If he could point out the faults in a piece of legislation and suggest something better he felt that as editor of the paper he must do so. If he could not suggest something better to put in place of the effort he saw being made, he kept quiet or suggested that a committee be formed to try and investigate the matter and see what could be done to improve the situation.

While living in Port Perry, Sam and Grace Farmer raised four children. Like her husband, Mrs. Farmer was always interested in education and the church. She taught a bible class for many years and worked along with her husband in both fields.

Mr. Farmer passed away April 30, 1948 after publishing *The Port Perry Star* successfully for 41 years. His wife, Mrs. Grace Farmer passed away four years later, on March 15, 1954.

The following story, *Progress Of The Star* was written by Samuel Farmer in March 1928.

When the "Star" fell into our hands its light had been considerably dimmed, and it was a question whether it was going to putter out altogether. We had not more than 300 bonafide subscribers,



Irving and Marion Boyd

(Marion Boyd was the daughter of Samuel Farmer)

Published *Port Perry Star* from 1948 to 1963

and the advertising was sold at next to nothing an inch and collection of the next-to-nothing was not a simple matter.

Then the main idea was to fill up the paper with anything that would occupy space, and what is known as "boiler plate", (already made stereotype news) was freely used. All kinds of organizations were using the paper for propaganda. It was issued at a time that suited the publisher's convenience, and apparently no great effort was made to get the paper out on time.

From a mechanical point of view the plant had little to build on. It was of the same character as the wardrobe of the man who went to have his suit pressed and had to stand in a barrel while the job was being done. There was not enough type to do a job of any size, and the presses were wonderful chiefly for the fact that they had served so many years.

The old plant has all been scrapped; it has been sold for junk, or has been melted up and made into new type. We have not a single piece of old machinery left and none of the small type, only a few fonts of the best wooden letters. Today we have an unusually well equipped country office. Perhaps the most wonderful of our machines is the linotype. It is very nearly human in its capacity to set and distribute type. It saves oceans of time and many weary eyes and much backache.

The chief concern is to make the paper of local interest and to be of service to the community. We cannot afford to hire a staff of reporters to gather news and put it in acceptable form. The reporting end of the newspaper work taxes our ability very frequently. We hear a rumour, after talking to several persons it is not always possible to get an accurate story and the whole thing may have to be dropped.

The Star can always come into any home and be read by any member without hurting the tone of the home. It has been our business to encourage every good thing for our people and we can say that in the twenty years that this paper has been under our management not an unfair word has been said of anyone.

The result is natural. Our circulation has grown and is assured. Because this is a local paper we do not attempt to print world news in any thorough-going fashion. We are not in competition with the dailies.

We are gratified with the work of our corps of news gatherers. They are turning out good stuff. Our present staff of writers is excellent. We could not ask for better.

Irving & Marion Boyd

Following the death of Samuel Farmer in 1948, his family combined forces to carry on the business for the next 15 years.

The Star became a limited liability company with Mr. John Farmer, of Weston, as president; Mr. Archie Farmer, Port Perry, vice-president; Marion Boyd (nee Farmer) and Irving A. Boyd all serving directly in the business as administrators. Anne Boyd (nee Farmer) and Mr. M.M. Boyd of Ottawa, served indirectly writing editorials and providing outside administrative work.

The business continued to grow slowly but steadily over the years. Nothing spectacular took place but each year realized new gain. The circulation of the paper continually increased from 300 in 1907 to 1,200 in 1957.

Commercial printing covered a very wide area and included work from cities such as Toronto and Ottawa. The local rural area has always been of great concern to us. At one time the editor used to trade butter-paper for butter and cheese for his family and potatoes as payment did not come amiss in the early days.

The farmer family sold the newspaper in September 1963 to Per and Leila Hvidsten of Uxbridge.



Per (Pete) Hvidsten
1910 to 1985

Leila and Pete Hvidsten, 1960

Published *Port Perry Star* from 1963 to 1976



Pete & Leila Hvidsten

PER HVIDSTEN became the sixth publisher of *The Port Perry Star* after he and his wife Leila purchased the company from the family of the late Samuel Farmer.

Mrs. Hvidsten recalled that they received a call from Mr. Irving Boyd on Sunday afternoon asking if they could meet to discuss a “matter of some importance and of mutual interest.”

Mr. and Mrs. Boyd, who were planning to retire offered the Hvidsten the opportunity to purchase *The Port Perry Star* rather than put it on the open market.

The transaction took place in September 1963 ending 56 years of ownership of newspaper by the Farmers.

During the next 13 years as owner and publisher of *The Star*, Mr. Hvidsten became well respected in the community and was known for his fairness in reporting events.

He became involved in many community functions and groups, including the Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce, Town Hall 1873 and in later years the Scugog Choral Society. But his real joy was publishing *The Port Perry Star* and he continually strived to make the paper better.

Per Hvidsten was born into the newspaper business in his hometown of Sarpsborg, Norway, where his father Peder Hvidsten published a daily newspaper. From the age of 17, he worked for his father at the newspaper, until his career was interrupted by the second world war in 1940.

He escaped from his German occupied country making his way to England and subsequently to Canada. Here he became an air-force instructor at Little Norway, located outside of Huntsville. It was during his stay near Huntsville he met Leila Todd, was married and they had two children.

After being discharged from the Norwegian Air Force he worked for a community newspaper in Huntsville called *The Forester* for a short time before moving to North Bay to establish his own printing business.

After six years of struggling in commercial printing, his dream of owning a newspaper came a reality. The *Uxbridge Times-Journal* was purchased in 1953 with Per as publisher and Leila taking on the duties of editor. Over the next few years the *T-J* grew and flourished as they introduced photographs and expanded local news coverage. The paper was eventually moved off Brock St. into a modern, new building on Bascom St. in the late 1950s.

With the Uxbridge paper operating smoothly, the couple decided to purchase the floundering *Port Perry Star* in September of 1963. Mrs. Hvidsten stayed in Uxbridge to operate the *Times-Journal*, while Per took up new roots in Port Perry.

For a time during this dual ownership, the Hvidsten’s daughter Gerri Lynn was her mother’s right hand at the *Uxbridge Times Journal*, while their son Peter worked along side his father in Port Perry.

Again, hard work paid-off in Port Perry as the newspaper began to gain respect and with the modernization of the plant also began to turn a profit.

During the time *The Star* was published by Per Hvidsten, the newspaper was the recipient of many awards for outstanding achievement. In 1969 Mr. Hvidsten was honoured by the Ontario Weekly Newspaper Association by being elected president.

In January 1976, after more than 40 years in the business, Per Hvidsten decided it was time to enjoy some leisure, so stepped aside and sold the business to his son Peter.

Although he retired from the day-to-day operation, he continued to keep his hand in the business he loved so dearly, working part-time for the next eight years along side his son.

Per Hvidsten passed away at Oshawa General Hospital on Monday, May 27, 1985 after a brief illness. His first wife, Leila passed away in Sept. 1999 at Uxbridge Nursing Home.

The following story was published January 7, 1976 on the occasion of the retirement of Per Hvidsten as owner and publisher of *The Port Perry Star*.

“Discharged from the Norwegian Air Force in post-war Canada, Per Hvidsten worked only three days for the Huntsville Forester before he realized that it could be the beginning of a rut he’d never

HISTORY OF NEWSPAPERS



Per Hvidsten at Little Norway near Huntsville about 1944.



Per Hvidsten, right, working on a Heidelberg printing press at his North Bay print shop called the "Northland Printer."



Per Hvidsten and an employee stand in front of the Northland Printer shop in North Bay in 1949, three years before he purchased the Uxbridge Times-Journal.

escape from. Backed by knowledge and experience earned on the staff of his father's newspaper in Norway before the war, he started looking for machinery to stock a North Bay printing shop. Even at that time, in 1946, he had already made up his mind that he'd eventually get back into the newspaper business... a dream he'd realize some seven years later with the purchase of the Uxbridge weekly.

The North Bay printing shop was a moderate success despite some ominous fore-warnings. For example, the shop he'd rented in North Bay wasn't ready for occupancy. In fact, it had been rented... at the same time... to a second party.

He was forced to look for new accommodations, and with money borrowed, scrounged and scraped up from friends and a finance company, he purchased a shop at 2017 Fraser St. in May 1946. He called his new shop The Northland Printer.

And then, there was the less than encouraging civic welcome provided by the then mayor of North Bay, who let the young Norwegian have it straight off the cuff.

"Might as well get out of town now," he predicted solemnly, "because the (North Bay) Nugget will run you out sooner or later."

With money tight, he recalls ordering a much-needed stitching machine from a traveling salesman, an order accompanied with a good down payment. When the machine didn't arrive, inquires by the new printer revealed that he'd been had. The salesman had been dismissed a year before.

Although the North Bay business was a struggle, he repeatedly declined offers by the Nugget to work for them even though the offer included the top going rate at the time.

He sold his first building at a moderate profit after a couple of years, then moved into a second North Bay location where he operated for the next five or six years. It was a time of sacrifices, work and more work, he recalled in an interview. A time of many days away from home, and late hours at night in the shop. But despite that, his wife Leila, was behind him all the way, a factor he considers vital to his ability to keep it up in those early years.

"I couldn't have managed it without her," he said.

With business a bit better, the Hvidstens were ready to pursue their overall objective... a newspaper. After sending out feelers with salesmen, he heard the Uxbridge Times-Journal was for sale, and decided to buy it.

The sale of his building and business provided enough money to buy the Uxbridge paper, but wasn't enough to cover working capital. When he couldn't raise enough from friends, he tried another source... his North Bay rivals... the *North Bay Nugget*.

Impressed by the Hvidsten shop's performance, the Nugget didn't hesitate to back the Uxbridge operation... a loan that was repaid within seven months.

The Uxbridge Times-Journal grew a great deal during the time it was owned by the Hvidstens. Leila Hvidsten held down the editorial end of the business, revealing an obvious flair for writing. The Hvidstens introduced or expanded local news coverage, the use of pictures, as well as circulation and advertising.

There are things, of course, that he'd rather forget about.

Like when he found the paper had too little news material and advertising to fill the paper, and former owner Harold Cave had a simple solution. "Run a blank page in the middle of the paper," said Cave, who was assisting the Hvidsten in the change-over period. "Nobody will notice," he said. So they did run a blank page and true to his word, nobody apparently noticed.

Purchasing the Uxbridge newspaper brought Per (Pete) back to familiar territory, after a 10-year interruption. "I felt like a huge weight was off my shoulders as soon as I took over," he said. "A newspaper was what I'd always wanted, for I knew that work best."

His experience and effort along with his wife, reflected in the growth of the paper. When they couldn't negotiate a suitable price for the Times Journal building located on Brock St., they built a new one on land purchased from the town.

Throughout the first ten years of operating the Times-Journal, neither of the Hvidsten's had a drivers license, so trips to council meetings, photo assignments and any other travel was carried out by taxi. It wasn't until 1965 they purchased their first car, but even then relied on their children



Leila E. Hvidsten
1918 to 1999

to drive them to various functions around the town and township.

In 1963, The *Port Perry Star* became available and the Hvidstens purchased the paper. Within months a modernization process began on the paper and building.

"And it had a long way to go," recalled employees like Annabell Harrison, who remembered standing on an overturned sink to operate the old-fashioned hand-fed folder.

Headings and ad displays were all set by hand and the type set by the "hot type" method. Two pages were printed at a time on a hand-fed press and were hand-folded, hand-gathered, hand-trimmed and hand-mailed. The process to the entire staff almost a day and was a dirty, business.

Between 1963 and 1967 the shop was renovated, remodeled and old machinery replaced by newer, more modern equipment as money became available.

With business growing steadily and things looking generally good Per decided it was time to learn to drive. After almost two years of traveling back and forth between the two towns by taxi, or with D'arcy Morden, a *Star* employee who lived in Uxbridge, he began his driving career at 54 years of age.

Later the paper went to the "offset" system, but still used some older equipment. And even with all the modernization of the plant, "it was still a struggle," remembers Bill Harrison, editor at the time of changeover to offset printing. "It took us until 2 a.m. the first time after the change-over to offset to get the paper out."

The changes that took place were obviously for the better, as *The Star* began to be recognized with association awards for achievement in the newspaper field.

A "cold type" machine purchased in the late '60s made the job of production somewhat easier, but it wasn't until new, modern computerized photo typesetting machines were purchased in 1973, the increased efficiency moved publishing time ahead almost two days. Instead of Thursday afternoon, the paper was now ready Wednesday morning.

After publishing The *Port Perry Star* successfully for 13 years, Per Hvidsten decided to retire. On January 1, 1976 he sold the business to his son Peter, although continued to work in a part-time capacity until his death in 1985.

Members of the staff at the time of Per Hvidsten's retirement in January 1976 were: Annabell Harrison, Gayle Stapley, Ruby Roach, John Gast, Heather Short and Dorothy Catton.



Jan Peter Hvidsten

Nancy and Peter Hvidsten, 2000

Published *Port Perry Star* from 1976 to 2000

J. Peter Hvidsten

PETER HVIDSTEN - Commencing in 1976, *The Port Perry Star's* next owner was J. Peter Hvidsten, the second generation of the Hvidsten family to publish the newspaper.

He was born in Huntsville, Ontario in 1945 and as a young boy moved to North Bay with his mother, father and sister Gerri Lynn.

In 1952 the Hvidsten family moved to Uxbridge after purchasing the Uxbridge Times Journal and it was here he received his education at both Uxbridge Public and High Schools.

During his high school years, Peter worked part time in the backshop helping in the plant, but his main interest was in photography. At 15 years of age he began to shoot the occasional photo assignment and began processing films and prints in the darkroom for the newspaper. A year later he took over the darkroom duties for the entire summer, when his parents travelled to Norway for a visit.

Upon completion of High School the lure of the "big city" drew Peter away from home and the newspaper for about three years. Having grown up so close to the smell of ink and the rumble of presses, he was not sure if he wanted to pursue a career in publishing, so took a job at the Province of Ontario Savings Office in Toronto.

A few months later, he returned to his love of photography as an assistant to a very well known professional photographer in Toronto. He held this position for about a year and a half, before realizing there was no future in the small studio so returned to the printing business as a press operator at a large plant called Web Offset, in north Toronto.

In 1967, a few years after his parents had purchased *The Port Perry Star*, Peter returned home to take up a position as apprentice printer. Over the next nine years he worked in both the newspaper and job printing, gaining experience in all aspects of the business.

During the fall of 1975 Peter Hvidsten announced he was going to retire, and in January 1976 Peter purchased *The Port Perry Star* from his father, and operated the paper for the next 25 years.

Peter was married in February 1981 to Nancy Taylor and they have three children, Matthew and twins Jamie Lee and Katie Lynn. He also has two girls from an earlier marriage Jannine and Sherri Lee. His first wife's name was Eileen (Finbow).

After purchasing *The Port Perry Star* in 1976 Peter continued the modernization of the business, incorporating an office supply division, and constant upgrading the methods of producing the newspaper.

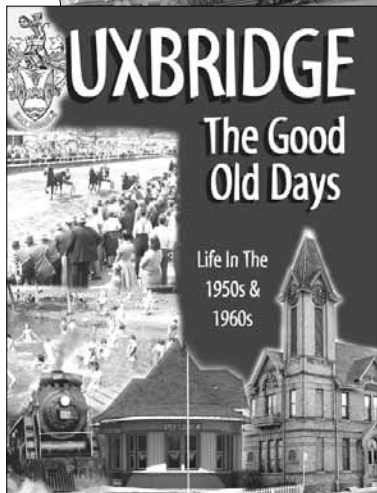
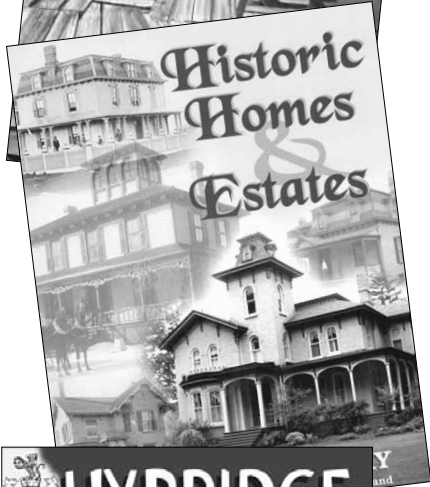
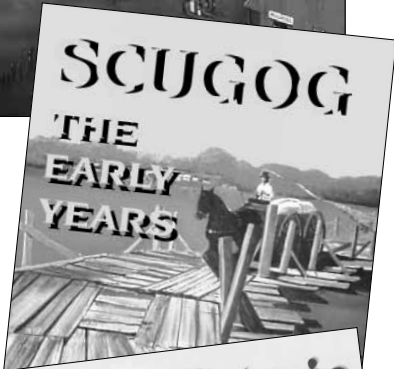
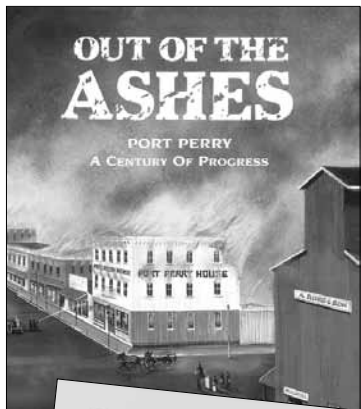
In the late 1980s with the newspaper at an all time high of more than 7,000 subscribers and the future looking bright, he undertook to move *The Star* from its home of the past 80 years on Queen St., to a large, modern facility being constructed on Mary Street.

Unknown to anyone at the time, a recession was about to hit, and as the newspaper moved into its new home in *The Star* Building in January 1991 it was faced with a large debt.

In addition to the downswing in business due to the recession, a second newspaper (Scugog Citizen) headed up by former staff members, opened its doors and began publishing a few months later.

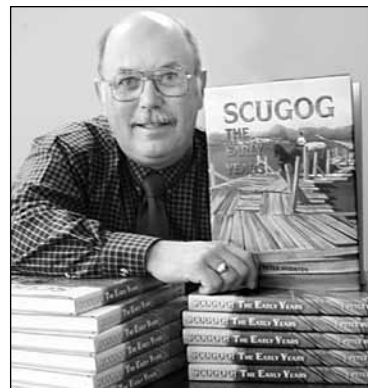
Over the next four years, *The Star* fought to keep its market share of advertisers and subscribers, but the effects of the recession and competition gradually eroded its strong position in the community. With a free newspaper being distributed to every household, subscriptions to *The Star* began to dwindle, and revenues from advertising dropped.

During this time, Peter's philosophy was very simple... "The *Port Perry Star* must survive."

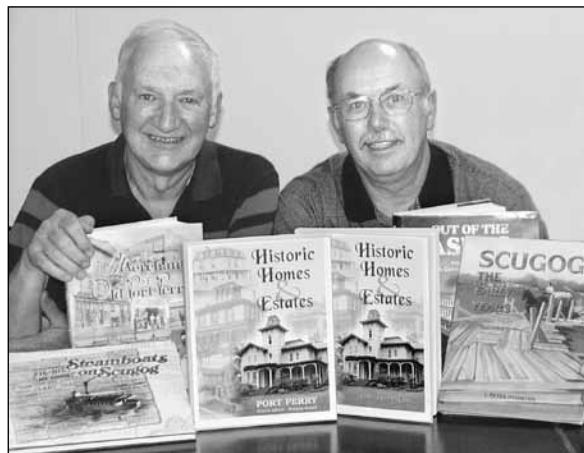


The Hvidsten family at the launch of Out Of The Ashes in Sept. 1999
From left, Peter, Katie, Matthew, Jamie and Nancy Hvidsten.

Some of the local history books researched and published by J. Peter Hvidsten.



Peter at the launch of his second book Scugog: The Early Years in 2000.



Peter and his good friend, and colleague, Paul Arculus at the launch of their book Historical Homes & Estates in 2002.

And while he was concerned about his future and that of the staff, he was determined to do whatever necessary to ensure *The Star*, which had celebrated its 130th anniversary in 1991, would continue to serve the public well into the future.

To this end, with regret, he implemented many cost saving measures, including reduction of hours and staff layoffs. This was the low point of his entire career and one that haunted him for many years.

In 1995, almost five years of struggle, fighting the competition and the economy things took a turn for the better. Rival newspaper The Scugog Citizen ceased publication and the worst recession in decades gradually wound down.

Drained of energy and enthusiasm after years of working night and day to save the paper, he decided it was time to make some changes. While not ready sell *The Star*, he decided it was time to hand over some of the burden to someone else. He negotiated with a newspaper group to provide him with a manger to take care of the day-to-day operation of the newspaper at no charge for one year, in return for their right to purchase the newspaper over a period of five years.

About eight months into the agreement, Citizen's Communication Group (the management company), opted to pull-out of the agreement and their general manager, Don MacLeod, was returned to his position with that company.

Subsequently Peter negotiated with Mr. MacLeod personally, bringing him to The *Port Perry Star* in October 1995 as General Manager, after offering him a 50 percent ownership in the newspaper.

With the heavy responsibility of the managing of operations and staffing being taken care of by a general manager, he now put his efforts into his main love, growing and improving the newspaper. Mr. MacLeod took over complete ownership of the paper in October 2000, and in April 2001, Mr. Hvidsten stepped down as publisher to devote his time to other interests.

In 1998, while still publisher of *The Star*, he began work on a project, a book to be published as a Millenium project at the turn of the century. For the next 16 months he immersed himself in the project, researching every microfilmed page of The *Port Perry Star* from 1900 to the year 1999, and documenting the events which shaped the century.

He scoured files at the museum, collected photos from residents and eventually scanned more than 1,200 photographs to accompany the 300 pages of text.

The book, entitled "Out of the Ashes", was published and presented to the public at a book launch on his birthday, September 14, 1999. Since then he has gone on to publish a second book, Scugog: The Early Years, which covers the history of the Scugog area from the early 1800s to 1899, and has collaborated with local historian Paul Arculus on a third book, Historic Homes & Estates of Port Perry.

During his years in the business, Peter was active and involved in the community. He served as president of the Scugog Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the Business Improvement Area, and a member of the hospital expansion committee. He also served as a director on the Ontario Community Newspaper Association and was presented the Centennial Medal for his contributions to the community.

Currently he serves as chairman of Heritage Scugog and is an active member of the Rotary Club of Port Perry. His most recent projects include this book on the history of the newspapers, and Uxbridge: The Good Old Days which was published in February 2003.

He continues to work in collaboration with his good friend and colleague, Paul Arculus on a number stories and books of historic nature.



Don MacLeod

Don and Brigitta MacLeod with son Christopher

Purchased *Port Perry Star* in Oct. 2000
and sold it in 2004.

Don MacLeod

DON MacLEOD, the current owner and publisher of *The Port Perry Star*, was born in Kingston, Ontario in 1963 and educated at West Park Secondary School and Brock University at St. Catharines, Ontario.

Mr. MacLeod began his career in the newspaper business as a member of the campus paper at Brock University where he studied political science and business management.

He entered the community newspaper industry in 1986, selling advertising at the Niagara Advance before moving on to take a position as advertising manager at the Lincoln Post Express in Beamsville, Ont.

In 1989 he accepted a position in Uxbridge where he became advertising manager of the Times-Journal and Stouffville Sun. A few years later he was promoted to publisher for both papers. As the company grew, he accepted an offer to assume the responsibility for the company's weekly newspapers in Bobcaygeon and Fenelon Falls as well.

Mr. MacLeod's association with *The Port Perry Star* began in 1994, when his parent company, Citizen's Communication Group, was contracted by Star publisher Peter Hvidsten to provide management services for the paper. Mr. MacLeod was asked to take on the role and he became general manager of the paper.

When the arrangement between CCG and *The Port Perry Star* was terminated, Don accepted an invitation from Mr. Hvidsten to join the firm as a 50 per cent partner and an opportunity to purchase *The Star* in five years. He and his wife Brigitta purchased a home in Port Perry in 1999 and reside there with their two children, son Christopher and daughter Olivia.

As a partner in *The Star*, Mr. MacLeod helped initiate a number of new programs which ensured *The Star* continue to be the leading newspaper in Scugog Township, despite *The Startup* of competing papers. He was instrumental in introducing the very successful Weekend Star edition, and a popular website, and expanded with the Uxbridge Star in August, 2000.

Mr. MacLeod assumed full ownership of the Port Perry's newspaper in October 2000, and he continues to look for ways to expand the business.

Mr. MacLeod sees diversity as a key part of the paper's success. The business publishes a number of specialty publications, including Discover Scugog, a tourist information guide, Scugog Township Recreation guides, large print telephone books, as well as a variety of special sections for the newspaper. The company currently produces more than 50 publications a year outside of the newspaper.

Chapter Three



Introducing the newspapers to the public

As will become evident over the next few pages of this chapter, publishers of the areas two local newspapers had no respect for each other. They were strong supporters different political parties and friends and had no fear in using the pages of their papers to condemn or criticize each other. Early publishers and editors of both the *Port Perry Standard* and the *North Ontario Observer* wrote scathing articles attacking each other in a manner which would have been libelous today.



James Holden Introduces the Ontario Observer

The first issue of The Ontario Observer was published from Prince Albert, Ontario, dated Saturday, December 12, 1857. The newspaper's publisher, James Holden apologized to his readers on page three, for the two-day unavoidable delay of the paper (Saturday), due to the late arrival of material from Toronto. "This Journal will, for the future, be published regularly every Thursday morning," he wrote.

The following article is re-printed from Volume 1, No. 1 of The Ontario Observer, and is a condensed version of the introductory message written by Mr. Holden.

In introducing to our readers the first number of the "*Ontario Observer*," we think it necessary to state THE CAUSE OF IT BEING ESTABLISHED, THE MEANS OF ITS SUPPORT, THE OBJECTS TO WHICH IT WILL BE DEVOTED and THE MODE IN WHICH IT WILL BE CONDUCTED.

As the increasing importance of the County of Ontario, and the rapid progress of Prince Albert, Borelia, Port Perry, and surrounding country has become developed, the want of a first-class journal, devoted the interests of this neighbourhood, has long been felt. To supply this desideratum, the *Ontario Observer* is established, whereby the claims of a large and influential district will be fully and fairly represented and advocated.

In proportion as the business of the County of Ontario has been extended, the necessity for an organ specially set apart to supply the trading requirements of the public has gradually arisen. It is, therefore, at the request of many of the gentry, merchants, tradesmen, and others, that we venture upon this undertaking, for the purpose of opening a medium in which to publish the business and other public announcements connected with this district. An extensive subscription list has already been obtained in the district we now have the honour to represent.

Politically, our standard will be that of Reform; all measures relating to social progress, and real, substantial Reform, will receive our cordial and warmest support. With a General Election close at hand, and amidst the existing disorganized position of political affairs, we refrain, at present, from declaring our adherence to any section or coalition who may constitute the future Government; suffice it to say, that we are opposed to the present Government, and shall ever discountenance abuses, from whatever source they may emanate.

Education is a medium through which we have access to commercial greatness, social progress, and intellectual attainment. It is a subject in which not only individuals are deeply

concerned, but upon which depends the rise or fall of nations; a subject from which emanates all that is ennobling, through embracing diversified options and having for its retinue a train conflicting systems. The subject of Education is one of such vital importance, that we shall, from time to time, publish articles upon this topic.

On the subject of Religion we desire to say but little in this notice, believing that while it is the province of the press to elevate the morals and refine the taste of the community at large, it is the duty of the priest to build upon the moral foundation, thus laid, by scriptural teaching and example. We do not, however, wish it to be inferred that we are careless on a subject which so immediately concerns each and all of us, when we state that the columns of a Newspaper is not a consistent medium in which to hold a religious controversy.

Experience has taught us that a journal, to be successful, should not be conducted in a niggardly or parsimonious spirit. We have therefor made arrangements whereby we shall be enabled to furnish our readers with the fullest and latest intelligence connected with the County we now have the honour to represent; a carefully selected digest of general news will also be given in each publication. Local interests will especially claim our strictest attention, and all events transpiring in the district of North Ontario will be found in our columns.

Whilst pursuing any given course, or upholding a particular form of government, it is not our intention to exclude the views of those who may differ from us in sentiment, providing the opinions communicated to us are not in direct antagonism to the line of policy we bind ourselves to pursue. We court discussion on matters of public import, and should value the opinions of correspondents on subjects of general interest, but anonymous communications cannot be admitted into our issues. The state of the Toronto and New York Markets will be transmitted to us by telegraph up to the hour of going to press with each number.

To Advertisers, the *Ontario Observer* will become a valuable medium, as a large subscription list has been secured among the leading inhabitants of the Counties of Ontario and York. A circulation has likewise been obtained in the City of Toronto, where a talented correspondent and an active agent will seek to promote the interests of this Journal. To the city merchants, the *Ontario Observer* will be an eligible source through which to give publicity to their business announcements.

Having thus introduced the *Ontario Observer* to our readers, it now remains for us to solicit that amount of patronage which will enable us to carry out the arrangements we have made to supply a Paper that will not only be generally read, but sought after and acknowledged for its faithful records. We are fully prepared to redeem the pledges we have given, and must now leave the issue with the public, fully confident that the result will not only be satisfactory, but flattering to ourselves.

JAMES HOLDEN
Publisher

The Port Perry Standard.

Edward Mundy introduces the Port Perry Standard

The following is a condensed version of the Edward Mundy's introductory article in the Port Perry Standard on Thursday, August 16, 1866. The Standard was the first newspaper for the community and was published every Thursday morning from their offices in Paxton's new building on Queen Street. Cost of The Standard was \$1.50 per year; or \$1 if paid in advance.

In coming before the public to solicit their confidence and patronage, it not only due to ourselves but the country at large, that there should be no mistake or misunderstanding as to the position we propose to occupy as a public journalist.

When the writer started the "North Ontario Advocate", at Uxbridge, the political lines between the two contending parties in Canada were so distinctly drawn that it was impossible to be mistaken in them. At that time we did not hesitate to take our position, and boldly assert our right, under the Moderate party; and while professing to be Moderate, we totally disclaim every having advocated the views of the Tory party of twenty years ago, asserting, as they did, that "the old paths" are the past, and that other paths are not proper to walk in. And on the other hand we never lent our influence to what some might misname Reform, until we were satisfied that the changes proposed would tend to the peace, progress, and the prosperity of our people. This we did because we believed such a course to be consistent with the best interests of the country.

Since then, however, the political aspect of this country has entirely changed. The Honourables John A. McDonald and George Brown were driven to the conclusion, by a series of failures, that the government of this colony could not be successfully conducted by accidental majorities of one, two or three; and that unless a panacea could be found which would counteract the evils of dead-lock, we must naturally drift to complete disorganization of all government heads.

Too many of our country papers are now lead by the nose through the influence of their big brothers in Toronto, Montreal and elsewhere. As for *The Standard*, it will not cry wolf! wolf! In echo to the *Globe*; or "bribery and corruption" in response to the *Leader*. No, we have a duty to the public to perform, and in doing that duty will be guided by what we conceive to be right and wrong, good and bad, irrespective of party leaders and party influence: -- in a word, our politics will be "progressive Canadian."

Everything calculated to develop the resources of our country -- to secure the peace and happiness of our people -- to lighten our burdens -- to encourage education -- and to give Canada that status to which she is entitled, from her geographical position, and the intelligence and enterprise of her inhabitants, will receive our warmest support. Our county and local interests will not be lost sight of; but receive our careful consideration.

Such, then, after mature deliberation, are our conclusions and honest convictions; and we trust that they may meet with the support and approbation of an intelligent and discriminating public, that *The Standard* may rise to a prominent position of usefulness.

Edward J. Mundy
Publisher
August 16, 1866

Prospectus by Edward Mundy

The following "Prospectus" was published on the front page of the first edition of the *Port Perry Standard*, August 16, 1866. It had been sent out to members of the community about three weeks prior to the publication of the first newspaper in the Village: Reaction was quick from *The Ontario Observer*, who commented on the Prospectus in its August 2, 1866 issue. Those comments can be found elsewhere in this issue.

"In presenting to the Public a Prospectus of the *Port Perry Standard*, it is necessary and proper to say a few words with respect to the future course of the Journal and the objects and aims which the Publisher has in view.



Thomas Paxton

Regarding Politics, it may be said, that the country is now in a state of quiescence and this position of affairs will probably continue until the settlement of the question of Confederation. Under these circumstances, the Publisher, while observing a strictly neutral and independent course, committing himself to no side -- will reserve the right of commenting on the various questions which may arise, and reproduce extracts from the press generally, bearing on both sides of the topics under consideration.

The Standard, then, whilst non-political, will be made to subserve the various and useful purposes of a Family Newspaper. Articles and extracts calculated to advance the cause of Religion, Morality and General Knowledge, will be the staple of its columns -- and by this mean, and by a careful attention to the typography and general appearance of the sheet, the Publisher hopes to lay before his readers a Weekly Paper every way deserving of public support and confidence.



Joseph Bigelow

While advocating the expediency and utility of cultivating amicable relations with the neighbouring Union, *The Standard* will, on all occasion, inoculate a spirit of loyalty and attachment to the Mother Country, regarding the connection existing between Britain and her North American Provinces as the surest safeguard of the rights, privileges and freedom of the latter.

The advantage of the protection of a great and powerful Empire -- the mightiest of the earth -- is not to be lightly esteemed: and no true subject of Victoria would be willing to exchange it for the doubtful advantage of forming part of a Republic, whose liberties and councils are, in a great measure, dependent on the will of an unrestrained Democracy.

As an advocate of all that is calculated to advance the interests of Port Perry and vicinity, *The Standard* will identify itself with every measure and every individual earnestly devoted to the same. In this connection, correspondence on any questions affecting the advancement and progress of this locality, will be favourably attended to.

The state of Markets, and the latest Telegrams respecting Local and Foreign News, will be given, up to the hour of publication.

It is trusted that establishment of a weekly local newspaper, devoted to the interests of the Village and County, will meet with the countenance and support which enable and encourage the Publisher to carry out his undertaking to a successful issue.

The first issue of *The Standard* will appear during the second or third week of August.

E. MUNDY.

Port Perry, July 30, 1866

Reply to The Standard Prospectus by Henry Parsons of the Ontario Observer

The following article is reprinted from The Ontario Observer on August 2, 1966. The Ontario Observer, listed as the Official Paper of the County, was being published at this time by Henry Parsons and W. Robinson from the Victoria Block in Prince Albert, Ontario. Until the Port Perry Standard came on the scene, the Observer was the only newspaper serving the immediate area.

THE PORT PERRY "STANDARD"

There has been placed in our hands the prospectus of a weekly paper, to be published at Port Perry, bearing the above title. In politics the publisher proposes to observe a strictly neutral and 'independent' course, committing himself to "no side," merely "reserving the right of commenting on the various questions which may arise, and reproduce extracts from the press generally bearing on both sides of topics under consideration."

It was scarcely necessary to preface the above declaration, with the statement, that "the country is now in a state of quiescence," it was equally unnecessary to plead that "quiescent" state as an apology for taking "no side" in politics. The publisher has already occupied a position on two political sides since he made his appearance in this vicinity, and as a change appears to be necessary, he has no alternative but to take rank among the non-descript clan, of whom it has been said "they are neither fish, flesh, nor good red herring."

It would be exceedingly difficult for Mr. Mundy, after having borne the Tory colors for Mr. M. C. Cameron, and, until lately, subsisted on his bounty, and went nearly frantic in his exertions for the Conservative party, while he controlled the Uxbridge Advocate, to come out boldly and profess an instantaneous conversion to the opinions of his new friends, the supporters of Mr. McDougall. By all means let the transition be gradual. Take "no side" at present, but by and by throw off the encumbrances, emerge from the chrysalis state, and appear before the world, a polished proselyte, a full fledged and ardent radical, and truly represent the opinions of your matters.

We are informed that "as an advocate of all that is calculated to advance the interests of Port Perry and vicinity, *The Standard* will identify itself with every measure and every individual, earnestly devoted to the same." The avowal is indicative of a broad and comprehensive policy in local affairs. No measure shall be neglected, or unsupported, that originates in Port Perry.

Every individual who has the good fortune to reside within its limits, will find himself "identified with the advocate of home interests." But beyond the lines which bound the village, we must believe, from reading the Prospectus, *The Standard* is not to be advanced.

"The visual ray which girts him round

Is the world's extreme"

We apprehend that it will make but little difference to the public whether *The Standard* is Reform, conservative, or "nothing," if the narrow policy is pursued in conducting the journal, which is indicated in the Prospectus.

We believe the Messrs. Paxton and Bigelow are the proprietors of *The Port Perry Standard*.

Report on the Progress of Port Perry

The following account of the progress of Port Perry was taken from the December 13, 1866 issue of the Port Perry Standard. It was the 18th issue of the Port Perry's newest newspaper and was written by the editor and publisher, Mr. Edward Mundy.

In noticing the improvements and advancement of Port Perry for the past year, we cannot help observing the marked increase in almost every branch of business, and if the present rate of progress is maintained for a few years the place will be a town of considerable consequence. A large increase in its population has also taken place within the same period, which would doubtless have been much larger could business places and private dwellings have been had.

We trust the property holder will make every exertion to supply a want so much felt. The location of this place, at the head of an extensive inland navigation, reaching some 150 miles into the interior, and the fine agricultural country by which it is surrounded, with roads leading in almost every direction, together with its present extensive manufactures, points to its future destiny as one of importance. Almost all places in their infancy have had difficulties to contend with, and at times have indicated a faltering or standing still. Sometimes the state of monetary affairs, the failure of crops, the deranged state of trade or a limited demand for manufactures, weighs heavily on small towns and villages. Port Perry has been to the rule no exception.

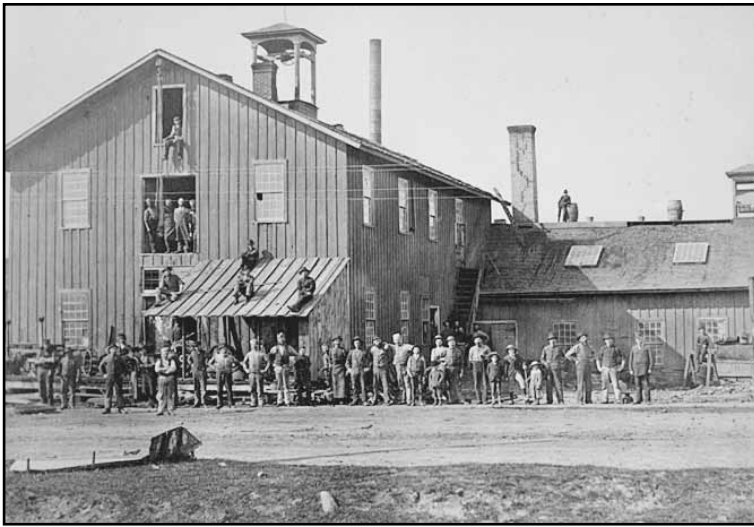
The improvements made in this place the present year, have been most gratifying, and as we have already indicated, much needed. Two blocks containing four stores, have been erected on Queen Street, and present a very neat, city-like appearance. One of the buildings is completed, consisting of two stores and Post Office, and the second story being occupied by *The Standard* Printing Office, a Tailor Shop and Millinery Establishment. The other block is designed for a Drug Store, Stove and Tin Shop, and Photograph Gallery, which will be finished about the last of this month.



The Bigelow Arcade, is one of the buildings described in Edward Mundy's story of progress.

There has also been erected during the present year, on the north side of Perry street, a large Foundry and Agricultural Implement Manufactory, occupying about an acre of ground, and comprising two buildings 36x60 each, in the form of an L. Engine House 18x36, and Blacksmith Shop 20x40, all of which are nearly completed. Active operation in the way of manufacturing and repairing all kinds of agricultural implements, and Mill Machinery, have already commenced. This establishment is very much needed in this section of country, and will give employment to a large number of hands.

Mr. Gibson, the proprietor of the



The Williams Foundry and Agricultural Implement Manufacturer as described by Edward Mundy.

business is sparing no pains in fitting up the machinery, having secured first-class workmen, and being a first-class workman himself, he can do anything required in his line, as well as it can be done in Canada or elsewhere.

On North street there is in course of erection a beautiful Episcopal church of brick, 50 by 30, in the Gothic style of architecture Judging from the designs, it will be an ornament to the place and a credit to the contractors and Building Committee.

The Mechanics Hall or Institute has lately been sold

to the Baptists for a church, and is undergoing extensive alteration, internally and externally, and is to be fitted up in good style, with Vestries in the rear, and steeple in front. The building will have quite a new and elegant appearance, and occupies a most beautiful site, commanding from its elevated position a view of Port Perry, Lake Scugog and the Island. We may add that a parsonage is also about to be erected by the Baptists, 40x30, two story high, with cottage roof. Private dwellings have also been put up which give the place quite a changed aspect.

Port Perry has suffered much for want of house accommodation, several families having had to board at the Hotels. Every house in the place is occupied by from one to four families. We understand a large number of dwelling will be put up next year to supply the deficiency.

We also understand arrangements are being completed by Bigelow Bros. for building a large woolen Factory during the next summer, which will be commenced as early as the weather will permit in the spring. The building is to be 40 by 80, three stores high, of brick, and will be capable of turning out from four to five hundred yards of cloth per day,---employing some thirty hands.

Messrs. Bigelow, Paxton and Cochrane have made a purchase of fifty acres of land from Mr. Crandell, on the rise of ground between Port Perry and Borelia, for the purpose of laying out town lots which will be sold without special regard to price, to parties who are desirous of building. This property is beautifully situated as it rises gradually from East to West and affords a fine view of the Port, Lake Scugog, the Island and surrounding country. There can be no handsomer or more pleasant location for private residences. We understand a large number of the lots have been already taken up, and buildings are in course of erection on some of them. When spring opens we expect to see several fine residences in the part of the town.

The manufacturers have experienced a considerable difficulty the past season in getting their property shipped, one steamer being entirely inadequate to the task, though she has worked almost night and day. A large amount of lumber will have to lay over until spring. To meet this difficulty another steamer has been put on the stocks which will be completed by the time navigation opens to ply between this place and Lindsay. She will be propelled by a forty horse-power engine.

An agency of the Royal Canadian Bank has also been opened here, a movement which we are sure the directors will have no reason to regret, as there must be a great deal for one Bank to do. The position is central, and the business transacted in Port Perry, Prince Albert, Manchester, and the surrounding country, sufficiently warrants the directors in the step they have taken.

Chapter Four



Employees

*The success of any good business is its employees and
The Port Perry Star has been fortunate to
have had many dedicated
and loyal employees.*



GEORGE
DAVEY
40 Years



BRUCE
BEARE
40 Years



GAYLE
STAPLEY
30 Years



ANNABELL
HARRISON
33 Years



GEORGE DAVEY

George R. Davey

When George R. Davey started working for Samuel Farmer at *The Port Perry Star* in 1914, little did he know he would spend the next 40 years working at the communities best loved newspaper.

Before becoming a printer, George Davey operated a grocery business in Port Perry. In 1911 he purchased the stock of Oke & McGregor and operating his store successfully until November 1913, when he sold the business. Only a few months later, in early 1914, he began working for the *Port Perry Star* and Samuel Farmer.

In 1957, he wrote to *The Port Perry Star*, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary to offer some recollections of his career at the newspaper. He said he could remember when the entire paper was set by hand and treddling off 1,000 or more sheets of butter paper when the gasoline engine failed to start. He also noted that when hydro power came, it was a "wonderful convenience". The linotype was another great advance as well as the automatic press,

he recalled.

In all the years Mr. Davey lived in the town, he made a considerable contribution to the community life. He served on the School Board and on council for a number of years. He served as a member of and secretary for the Masonic Lodge and was also very active in the Sons of England lodge here for 25 years. He was also keenly involved in the local Citizen's Band.

George R. Davey was born May 26, 1866 and passed away September 4, 1965 at 79 years of age. He was interred in Pine Grove Cemetery, Prince Albert. He was married to Clara May (Perkins) who predeceased him on Dec. 10, 1960.

Bruce Beare

Like so many young printers before him, Bruce Beare got his start in the business from Samuel Farmer, owner of *The Port Perry Star*.

It was 1937 when he first joined the company as a 16 year-old high school student for two hours each evening after school as a "printer's devil," an old fashioned printing term used for apprentice. By the time he was 18 years-old, Bruce was working full time in the printing shop, and aside from a four year stint in the Air force (1941-1945) he spent his working life operating a variety of presses, and setting type on the linotype machine.

Even before starting to work for Mr. Farmer, Bruce used to accompany his older brother Clarence to the shop early on cold winter mornings, to get a fire going in the stove and warm the building before the employees reported for work at 8 a.m.

When Bruce started at *The Star*, a printing shop was a far different place from the modern well lighted shops of today. Much of the printing work was done by hand; the setting of type, feeding paper into the presses, folding and stapling the finished product and the cleaning of the presses.



BRUCE BEARE

Recalling his career in 1988, Bruce remembered the shop was not very well lighted, heat came from an old stove and there was no indoor plumbing. The toilet, he recalled, was a two-seater outhouse in the back yard where employees would take their smoke breaks.

Mr. Beare said that in the early days the paper contained four pages of national and international news, which was prepared by an agency, and another four pages containing local news, advertising and the lively editorial written by Mr. Farmer. He said it was tedious work setting row upon row of type by hand, but you could get pretty quick and proficient at it with practice.

The printing of “job work” included auction posters in two colours, wedding invitations, envelopes and letter-heads, butter-paper for the farmers and funeral notices.



Bruce Beare, works away at the Linotype machine a few years before he retired in 1980.

Mr. Beare said he greatly enjoyed the printing business because of the variety of things to do. His career spanned 40 years, and during that time he saw an enormous amount of change. There was a shift from the labour intensive process to automation, the disappearance of the “hot lead” process of typesetting and the switch from printing the newspaper in-house on the big flatbed press to being contracted out.

In July 1974 when the printing department of *The Port Perry Star* was sold, Bruce became an employee of Port Perry Printing, owned by Henry Janssen, but continued to come to work at 235 Queen St. until 1977 when the company moved to a new building on North St.

In 1980, after more than 40 years working in the printing trade, Bruce retired, ending a career that began as a high school student.



*Bruce Beare explaining how type is cast in metal on the Linotype to one of many classes who regularly toured *The Port Perry Star* offices during the school year.*



ANNABELL HARRISON

Annabell Harrison

Annabell Harrison remembers it was in September 1963 when Per and Leila Hvidsten of Uxbridge purchased *The Port Perry Star* from the family of the late Samuel Farmer and one of the first things they did was to hire her husband, Bill, as editor.

Mr. Harrison was a former employee of the *The Port Perry Star*, but was working at *The Chronicle* in Colborne at the time of the offer to be editor of *The Star*. Later that fall Annabell began working at the newspaper part-time, and about 10 years later, when Bill resigned, Annabell stayed on.

In an interview with Annabell in 1997, just weeks before her retirement, she remembered her early years of employment. She said she had seen a tremendous amount of technological advance in the business. Hired when much of the work was done manually, she's seen the paper go through major changes and growth over the 35

years she's worked at *The Star*.

When the printing division of *The Port Perry Star* was sold to Henry Janssen in 1975, Annabell continued to work at the paper part-time, devoting much of her time to operating the darkroom, where newspaper pages are photographed and pictures processed.

During the late 60s and 70s she drove the page negatives to a Toronto plant which printed the paper. Arriving in the city around noon, she would wait until the paper was printed, then bring them back in the trunk of her car for distribution that evening.

Years later *The Star* switched printers, moving to web plants in both Uxbridge and Bowmanville. During this period Annabell made many 6 a.m. treks to these towns to ensure delivery of the paper in time for mailing to subscribers.

Over the years Annabell has been mostly self-taught as the newspaper business wasn't anywhere as technical as it is now. And she learned immensely about the ins and outs of the business after Peter Hvidsten took over the business in the mid-seventies.

If you were to ask Annabell what major changes she's seen over the years she'd say it was when the newspaper switched from hot type to cold type in the 70s. The other significant change was the arrival of computers in the 80s.

During the last few years at *The Star*, she was responsible for the classified and real estate sections of the newspaper. "Putting the classified ads together is like doing a giant jig-saw puzzle every week," she chuckles. "But I always enjoyed that challenge," she says.

While an employee of *The Star*, Annabell worked for only two employers. First was Per Hvidsten and when he retired in 1976, the business was taken over by Peter Hvidsten.



Annabell and Bill Harrison were featured in an article in *The Port Perry Star* on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the paper in the ownership of the Hvidsten family.



BILL HARRISON

William (Bill) Harrison

Bill Harrison began his career at *The Port Perry Star* when he was only 15 years-old, starting to work as a “printer’s devil” for Samuel Farmer. It was his job to wash and clean the presses every day after school and on Saturday, and was paid \$8 a week for the job.

When Bill turned 19 years-old, Sam offered him a full-time job, and he still remembers the late publisher saying “you’ve hit the big time now,” and with that gave Bill a raise to \$12 per week. He recalls Sam Farmer as being a wonderful man. “He was a great guy to work for and a good teacher,” he said in a 1988 interview.

After Mr. Farmer passed away in 1948, Bill continued to work for the family who took over the operation of the newspaper. His new bosses were Irving and Marion (Farmer) Boyd. After leaving for a short time to work for General Printers in Oshawa, Bill returned to his familiar job at *The Star* and worked for the Boyd’s until 1958

when he was offered a job as editor of a newspaper in Colborne. He stayed on at this position until 1963 when a call came from Per Hvidsten, the new owner of *The Star*, asking him to return and become editor of his hometown paper.

It was an offer he couldn’t refuse, so in September 1963 he returned to Port Perry with his wife Annabell and seven-year-old daughter Kim.

Bill recalls that soon after the Hvidsten’s purchased the paper things began to change. Per immediately bought a new furnace so time would not be wasted waiting for the machinery to warm-up in the cold winter months; an indoor washroom was installed in the building for the first time; and old equipment and type was replaced.

But the biggest change was the switch from hot metal type to the new offset printing method. The last newspaper produced with hot metal type, and printed on-premises rolled off the old flatbed press on June 8, 1967, he recalls.

Bill worked as editor and plant manager at *The Star* until 1974 when the printing division of the newspaper was sold. Then after a career of ?? years in the newspaper business, ?? of them at *The Star*, Bill accepted a job at Alger Press in Oshawa.





Gayle Stapley

Gayle Stapley joined *The Star* in 1969, working part-time in the front office, helping with billing and retail sales, and now 33 years later is the office manager and heads five person office staff.

Like so many of her fellow colleagues, Gayle has seen tremendous change in the newspaper industry since she started working at *The Star*. In addition to the technological changes, Gayle has seen ownership of the newspaper change three times in her years at the paper.

When she began her career, she worked for Per Hvidsten. In 1976 the paper was taken over by J. Peter Hvidsten who operated it until the turn of the century. *The Star* changed hands once again in October 2000, and she now works for the new owner and publisher, Don MacLeod.

Gayle is a concerned and hard working employee who is dedicated to her job and extremely loyal to her employers.

Kathy Dudley

Kathy Dudley joined the office staff of *The Star* in 1985 and since that time has worked in the retail division. She began her career at *The Star* under the tutelage of her mother, Gayle Stapley. Since that time she taken over as manager of the office supply division and is now responsible for this important part of the business. Kathy has now been with the newspaper for 18 years and is a valuable and dedicated employee of the company.



Debbie McEachern

Debbie McEachern first joined *The Star* in the late 1970s working in the advertising department. She left for a few years, then returned and has now completed more than 17 years with the paper. She has worked in both advertising production and sales and is currently manager of advertising at the newspaper.

Trudy Empringham

Trudy Empringham began working at *The Port Perry Star* in 1986 as a typesetter for the paper. Trudy is an excellent typist and has continued in the capacity for more than 16 years. In addition to typesetting, she is also responsible for assembling the classified advertising and assisting with proof reading.



Judy Ashby

Judy Ashby is the *Port Perry Star's* bookkeeper, payroll clerk and also assists in the retail store when required. Judy began her career at *The Star* in 1987 and like her longtime friends, has seen dramatic changes in her job. Her tremendous experience and loyalty to her employer

The Editors

Editors of The *Port Perry Star* from 1963 to 2002

Over the past twenty five years, The *Port Perry Star* has seen many editors come and go.

Some of those men who held the position of editor with *The Star* were here a very short time before moving on. Others, like Bill Harrison and John B. McClelland gave many years of service to Port Perry's community newspaper and have been a big part in its growth and success.

When The *Port Perry Star* was purchased in September 1963 by Per and Leila Hvidsten, one of the conditions of the sale was that Bill Harrison would take on the role of editor of the paper.

Having began his newspaper career in Port Perry as a young man, it was not hard to convince Bill to leave his job as managing editor of the Colborne Chronicle and return to his hometown. Bill held the position of Editor until September 1971.

Following in Bill's footsteps came John B. McClelland, 24, a graduate of a three year course in journalism at Centennial College, Toronto.

John's help in the editorial department of *The Star* proved very valuable, but after one short year, he decided to leave Port Perry to pursue his career in the news department of the Oshawa Times. Later he left that position for a job as assistant editor with a large weekly serving the city of Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories.



Bill Harrison



John McClelland

About three weeks after John left *The Star*, a replacement for the editorial department was found in John Sims. Mr. Sims was a freelance writer in the areas of news, films and public relations in the Toronto area before assuming his position with *The Star*. Two weeks after starting, Mr. Sims wrote an editorial that he was departing The *Port Perry Star* to accept another job offer.

Next to join *The Star* editorial staff for a short stay was a young man from Ottawa, Paul Phillips. A graduate of Carleton University with four years in the teaching profession, Mr. Phillips said he left teaching to "broaden my horizons" feeling journalism was the answer.

But less than three months later Paul Phillips was replaced by Bruce Arnold, 35, of Toronto and Collingwood. Mr. Arnold, who is married, with four children, was a former evangelist, had studied journalism at Conestoga College near Kitchener and worked for a number of weekly newspapers before coming to *The Star*.

About one year after his arrival at *The Star* Bruce Arnold left to further his career as a free-lance writer after a number of policy disagreements with the publisher of *The Star*. Following his departure, publisher Per Hvidsten wrote, "despite the fact that the publisher of this newspaper was not always in agreement with him (Mr. Arnold), he was a prolific writer, aggressive and unafraid, and we regret very much he found it necessary to leave."



Bruce Arnold



Ashok Chandwani

Following the departure of Bruce Arnold a few weeks passed before Ashok Chandwani, 24, of Toronto joined the staff on March 22, 1974. Before coming to Canada in September of 1973, Mr. Chandwani was the assistant editor of an English daily newspaper published from Nagpur in central India. Again, after a very brief stay, Mr. Chandwani left the position of editor at *The Star* vacant.

So once again publisher Per Hvidsten began looking for a new editor and on September 11, 1974 hired twenty three year-old Bruce Stewart to fill the position.

Mr. Stewart was a native of Hamilton, and accepted the position in Port Perry although he had offers from several larger newspapers. Prior to coming to *The Star*, Bruce had travelled extensively around the world, worked as the Lindsay Bureau Chief for the

Peterborough Examiner and as a reporter for the Hamilton Spectator.

Everyone at *The Star* was happy with the acquisition of Bruce as editor and it was a bitter disappointment when less than three months later he left to accept a job on the editorial staff of the Hamilton Spectator.

By this time, with six editors in just over three years Per Hvidsten was beginning to wonder what was causing the large turnover of editors. He wrote in an editorial "we don't seem to be able to hold on to the writers we engage", and said as much as we hate to see Bruce go, the staff wished him all the best in his chosen career.

Next to arrive in Port Perry to take up the position of editor was John Gast, a seasoned reporter/photographer of seven years with experience on two daily newspapers. Wanting to settle down in a small community and get some roots, Mr. Gast said "reporters are like nomads, constantly on the

move from smaller to larger for financial or prestigious considerations".

Accepting the position with *The Star* was because "this is the type of place I want to belong to, and raise my children", he said.

John worked as editor with *The Star* for 2 1/2 years, and was well liked and respected in the community. He left in May of 1977 to take up a position at the Hamilton Spectator, but kept in touch with his former boss, Per Hvidsten, visiting his home on many occasion with his wife Sharron and their children.

When former editor John B. McClelland answered an ad in the *Globe & Mail* in May of 1977, he had no way of knowing it was his old haunt, *The Port Perry Star*, looking for someone to replace John Gast.

After a brief telephone conversation, with *The Star's* new publisher Peter Hvidsten, John was hired and he moved his wife Joan and young boy Ian to Port Perry taking-up where he had left-off five years earlier.

John not only took on the job as editor of *The Star* but he became emersed into the community, and especially enjoyed reporting sports.

Almost 15 years after joining *The Star* for his second tenure, John submitted his resignation in May 1991, and along with another employee left *The Star* to start a new community newspaper called the *Scugog Citizen*. The fledgling paper operated for just under five years before closing in mid 1995.



Bruce Stewart



John Gast



Scott Anderson



Jeff Mitchell

After the unexpected departure of Mr. McClelland, publisher Peter Hvidsten acquired the services of Scott Anderson in July 1991. Mr. Anderson capably filled the position and became respected in the community, but after three years moved on.

He was replaced in 1994 by Jeff Mitchell, who had worked previously with the *Lake Simcoe Advocate*, which operated from Sutton, Ont. *The Star* enjoyed the services of Mr. Mitchell for almost six years, before he accepted a position nearer his home in Sutton.

Chris Hall became the successor to Mr. Mitchell in August 2001. Mr. Hall, graduated from Canadore College, North Bay in 1995, and joined *The Star* as a reporter in 1997. Before becoming editor he had worked under the tutelage of editor Mitchell for about four years, learning all aspects

of his craft, from editing to production of pages.

With the departure of Mr. Mitchell, the appointment of Chris Hall to the position of editor was the natural choice. Mr. Hall served as the editor of the *Port Perry Star* for a short time before accepting a writing position with the Metroland newspaper, Port Perry This Week.

In 2004, the *Port Perry Star* newspaper was sold to Metroland Printing and Publishing, ending 138 years of independent ownership by Port Perry's leading newspaper.



Chris Hall

Star Employee at work



Clive
Boyd

Clive Boyd, a grandson of Samuel Farmer, worked at The Port Perry Star until the late 1960s.

He is seen in this picture in 1989 working on The Star's old hand-fed Miller press, which was donated to the Scugog Shores Museum Village.

Chapter Four



A

Photo Album
of pictures taken
at the *Port Perry Star*
between
1963 and 1995

HISTORY OF NEWSPAPERS



Peter Hvidsten at his desk in 1976 not long after taking over ownership of The Port Perry Star.



Peter Hvidsten in his new office at 188 Mary Street about one year before selling The Port Perry Star to Don MacLeod.

Christmas was always a special time at The Port Perry Star



A 1964 back shop Christmas party at *The Port Perry Star*. Staff gathered for an exchange of gifts and a few drinks before heading home for the holidays.

From left, Bruce Beare, Dorothy Mulholland, Annabell and Kim Harrison. Back left, Ruby Roach, Archie Farmer, D'Arcy Morden, Clive Boyd, Bill Harrison and Pete Hvidsten.



Star staff gather in 1966 before heading home to their families for a party. From left, Bruce Beare, Per Hvidsten, Ruby and Arnold Roach, Susan Roach, Clive Boyd, Annabell Harrison and daughter Kim.

Celebrating Christmas at The Star

The traditional back shop Christmas Party at *The Port Perry Star* in 1969. Attending the party are, from left, Bob and Clint Stapley, Catherine Midgley with Cathy Stapley, Gayle Stapley, Pete Hvidsten, Annabell Harrison, Ruby and Arnold Roach, Bill Harrison, Bruce Beare and front Joe Jordan.



A combined *Port Perry Star*, Uxbridge Time-Journal staff Christmas Party about 1969, held at Hotel Evelyn, Uxbridge. Front left, Pete Hvidsten, Graham Lightfoot, Peter Hvidsten, Leila Hvidsten. Centre left, Bruce Beare, Jennette Painter, Eileen Hvidsten, Judy Lightfoot, Pat Boyd, and Annabell Harrison. Back left, Thelma Beare, Roy Painter, Ruby Roach, Gerri Lynn and Ian O'Connor, Clive Boyd and Bill Harrison.



This 1981 Christmas party took place in the basement of Peter and Nancy's new home on Scugog Island. Back left, Per Hvidsten, Rick McEachern, Harvey Dearborn, John Ross, Gayle Stapley, Bill Harrison, Ruby (Roach) Hvidsten, John McClelland, Valerie and Paul Ellis, Doug Prentice. Front left, Barb Ross, Joan McClelland, Nancy Hvidsten, Nancy Prentice, Annabell Harrison, Debbie McEachern and Ruby Dearborn



The Star staff lined up outside the building at 188 Mary St. in Dec. 1994 for this staff photo. Front left, Suzanne Aladen, Dandy Dunham, Gayle Stapley, Trudy Empringhoma, Annabell Harrison, Cindy Jobin, Nancy Lee, Kathy Dudley, Louise Hope and Richard Drew. Back left, Peter Hvidsten, Susan Milne, Rhonda Mulcahy, Anna Jackman, Bob Taylor, Kelly Lown, Judy Ashby, bill Eastwood, Jeff Mitchell and Don MacLeod.

Special Occasions & Celebrations



Publisher Peter Hvidsten presents Annabell Harrison with the Ontario Community Newspaper Bronze Quill award, presented in September 1983, for her 20 years service to *The Port Perry Star*.



Annabell flanked by her two bosses, Peter Hvidsten, left and Per Hvidsten, on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the Hvidsten's owning *The Port Perry Star*.



20th Anniversary Celebration

Star staff back left, Valerie Ellis, Marilyn Taylor, Debbie McEachern, Annabell Harrison, John McClelland, Per Hvidsten. Centre: Barb Ross, Gayle Stapley and Marilyn Wood. Front: Cathy Olliffe, Nancy Hvidsten, Peter Hvidsten, Brenda Haist and Ruby Roach.

Special Occasions & Celebrations



In September 1993, Peter Hvidsten celebrated the 30th anniversary of his family owning *The Port Perry Star*. Long-time employees An-nabell Harrison, left, and Gayle Stapley were presented a plaque and gift for the long and dedicated service to the company.



Some of the staff gather around the boss "Peter Hvidsten" on the occasion of his birthday in 1978. From left, back, Gayle Stapley and Nancy Prentice. Front left, Barb Ross and Debbie McEachern.



The Star staff get together in 1980 to wish employee Nancy Prentice farewell. Nancy had worked for in the front office on billing and retail for about five years and was well liked by her fellow staffers. Attending the farewell party were, back left Marilyn Taylor, Kathy Dudley, Joy Werry, Gayle Stapley, Barb Ross, John McClelland. Front left, Cathy Olliffe, Nancy and Peter Hvidsten, Nancy Prentice, Annabell Harrison and Brenda Haist.

HISTORY OF NEWSPAPERS

Gayle Stapley is seen here in December 1997 receiving a \$1,000 cheque and a new home computer from her employers, J. Peter Hvidsten and Don MacLeod in recognition of her 25 years of service to *The Port Perry Star*. The company held a staff dinner for the special occasion.



This picture was run in process colour on the front of *The Port Perry Star* on June 30, 1992, on the occasion of Canada's 125th birthday. From left, seated, Kathy Dudley, Gayle Stapley, Judy Ashby, Louise Hope, Julia Dempsey. Standing centre left, Scott Anderson, Pam Hickey, Annabell Harrison, Marlene Moore, Vera McMahon, Anna Jackman, Barbara Lachapelle, Trudy Empringham, Barb Bell, Peter Hvidsten. Back row, left, Richard Drew, Bob Taylor, Jackie Metz and Kelly Lown.

Peter retires after 34 years at *The Star*

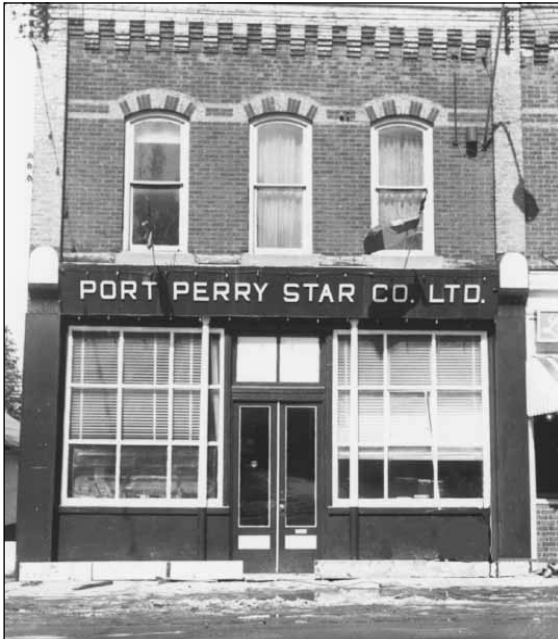


Star publisher Peter Hvidsten retired in April 2001 after a 34 year career with the newspaper. Staff held a special retirement dinner at the Jester's Court, Port Perry. Above, Peter with his wife Nancy, and at left, Peter's partner Don MacLeod presents him with a cake made up like the front page of *The Port Perry Star*.



A large number of the *Port Perry Star* staff gathered in April 2001 to honour their former boss, Peter Hvidsten, on the occasion of his retirement. Attending the party were, from left, back: Gayle Stapley, Arlene Cheel, Annabell Harrison, Sandra Spiers, Heather McCrae, Debbie McEachern, Trudy Empringham, Janet Rankin and Judy Ashby. Kneeling, centre left, Lisa Monk, Kathy Dudley, Lesley West, Peter, Anna Jackman, Cindy Jobin. Seated left, Linda Clarke, Ginni Todd, Janet Archer.

Renovations... always more renovations



Renovations were just a way of life around the *Port Perry Star* from the time Per Hvidsten purchased the paper in 1963 until 1991 when the company moved into a new building at 188 Mary St., Port Perry. The picture at left shows the front of the building as it look in 1968 before the first exterior renovations got underway. The new front, seen in lower photo, lasted until about 1984 when construction began on enlarging and restoring the building.

Not long after taking over the *Port Perry Star* in January 1976, Peter Hvidsten expanded the office supply division of the company by opening Star Stationery and Office Supply in the east block of Queen St.

The store operated out of this location until 1978 when renovations at the Port Perry Star office enabled the office supply store to be moved back to its home at 235 Queen St.



1978 Office Renovation



Before renovations, an old stairway led from the back shop to the second storey. Peter Hvidsten is seen sitting on the step in this 1978 photo, before the first renovation of the front office.

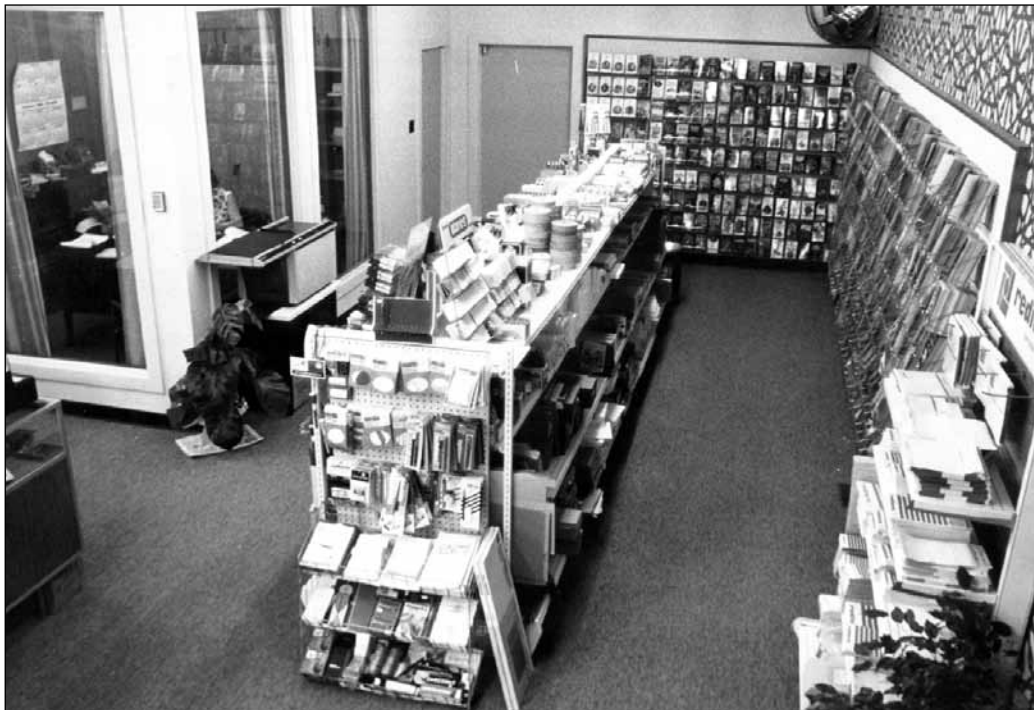
Following renovation, a new stairway was installed, below, and the retail office supply enlarged. This was again enlarged in an 1984 renovation, as seen on the preceding pages.



Renovations of the front office



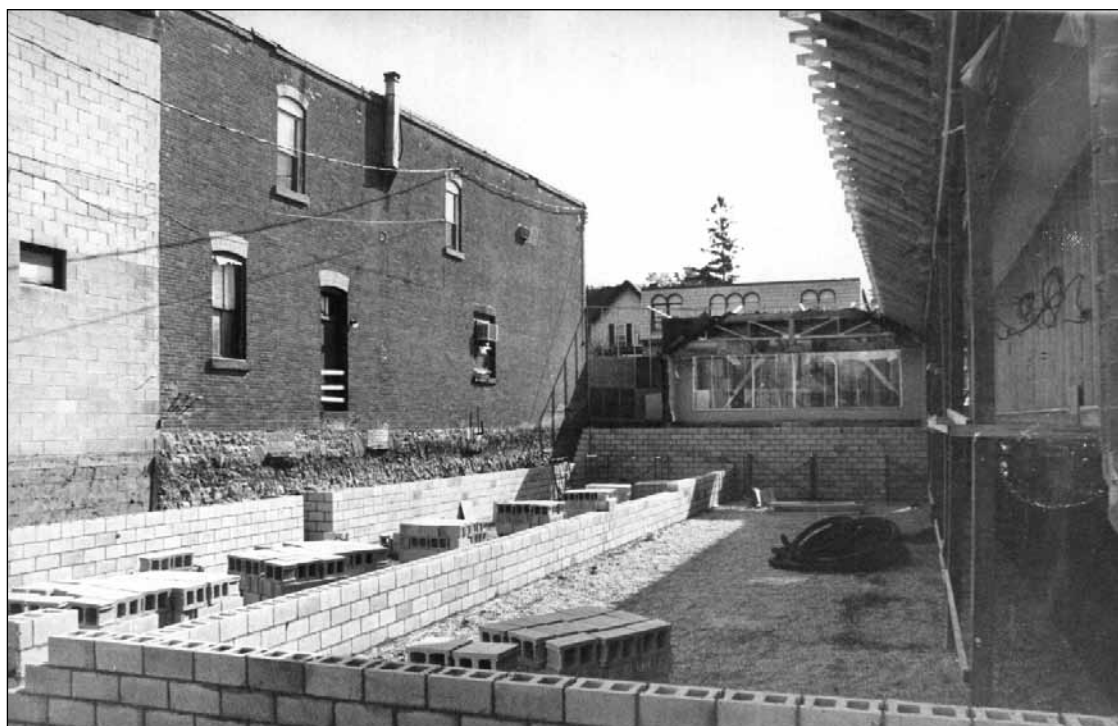
The two pictures on the page show the front office after renovations in 1978. At top, Debbie McEachern (standing) and Nancy Prentice are seen at work at the front counter, and below a view of the office supplies and books for sale in the store. The glass enclosed area to the right was the accounting office.

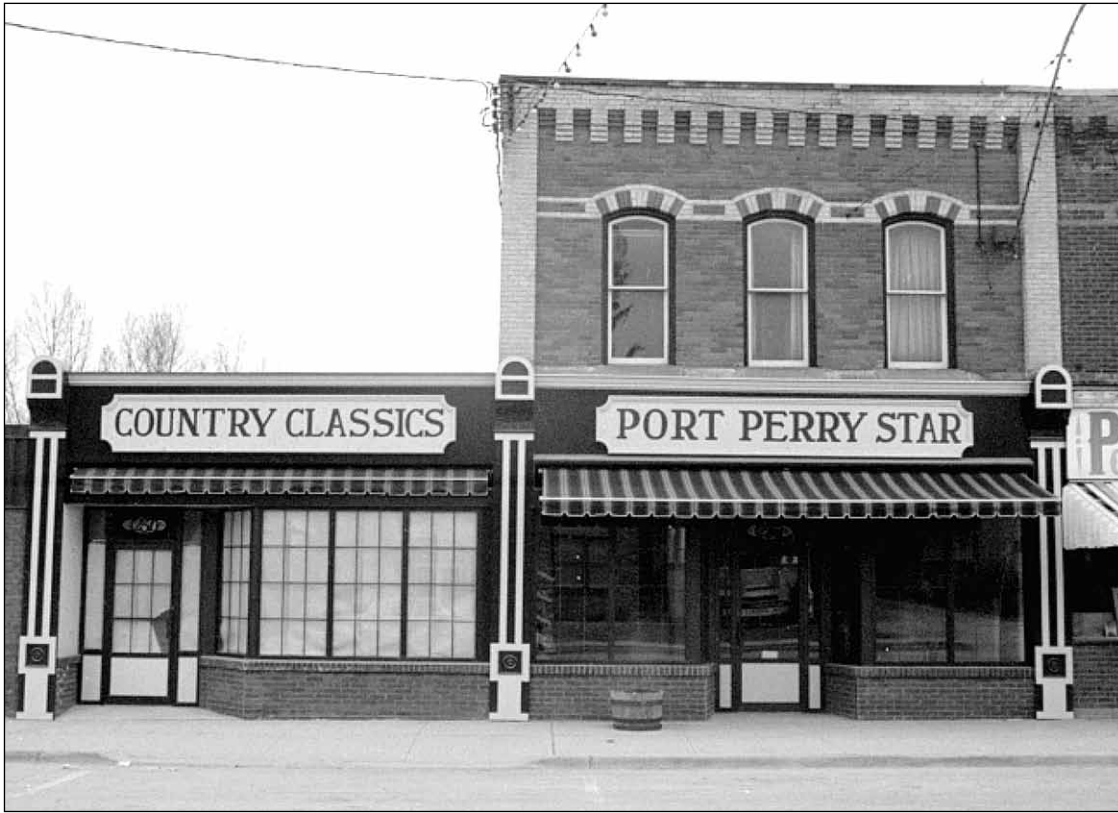


Renovations... another project in 1984



The above show the front of the *Port Perry Star* building before construction underway on the enlarging the building in 1984. At left is the House of Howard building, which included Radio Shack store owned by Howard Hall. Bottom is a picture from the rear of the building looking towards Queen St. during construction. Peter Hvidsten, purchased a few feet from Howard Hall, who owned the adjoining property and constructed a new building where the alley was located.





These pictures show the change in the front of the *Port Perry Star* building following construction during the summer of 1984. The new and existing buildings were refurbished with fronts to blend into the town's architecture.

When completed 800 sq. ft. in the front section of the new 2,000 sq. ft. building was rented to a retail clothing store called Country Classics.

The remaining space, plus the basement was taken over by *The Star* for an accounting office, staff room, production facilities and mailing room in the basement.

Picture at left is of was taken about 1986, after the decorative brickwork was replaced on top of the building. Power roll out awnings were also installed at front of each building.



These two views of the interior of the *Port Perry Star* \$150,000 expansion in 1984, show the extensive renovations and enlarging of the office supply division of the business. *The Star* provided the community a full line of office supplies, office furniture, business machines, books, magazines and greeting cards. *The Star* was the first business in town to provide a faxing service, and also did extensive photocopying.



The above show the front of the *Port Perry Star* building before construction underway on the enlarging the building in 1984. Bottom is a picture from the rear of the building looking towards Queen St. during construction.

Construction begins on new building for The Star on Mary St. in 1990



This property at 188 Mary St. was purchased in 1990 for \$325,000 and construction began on a new home for the *Port Perry Star*.

Construction took place during the summer of 1990 and staff moved into the new building in January 1991.

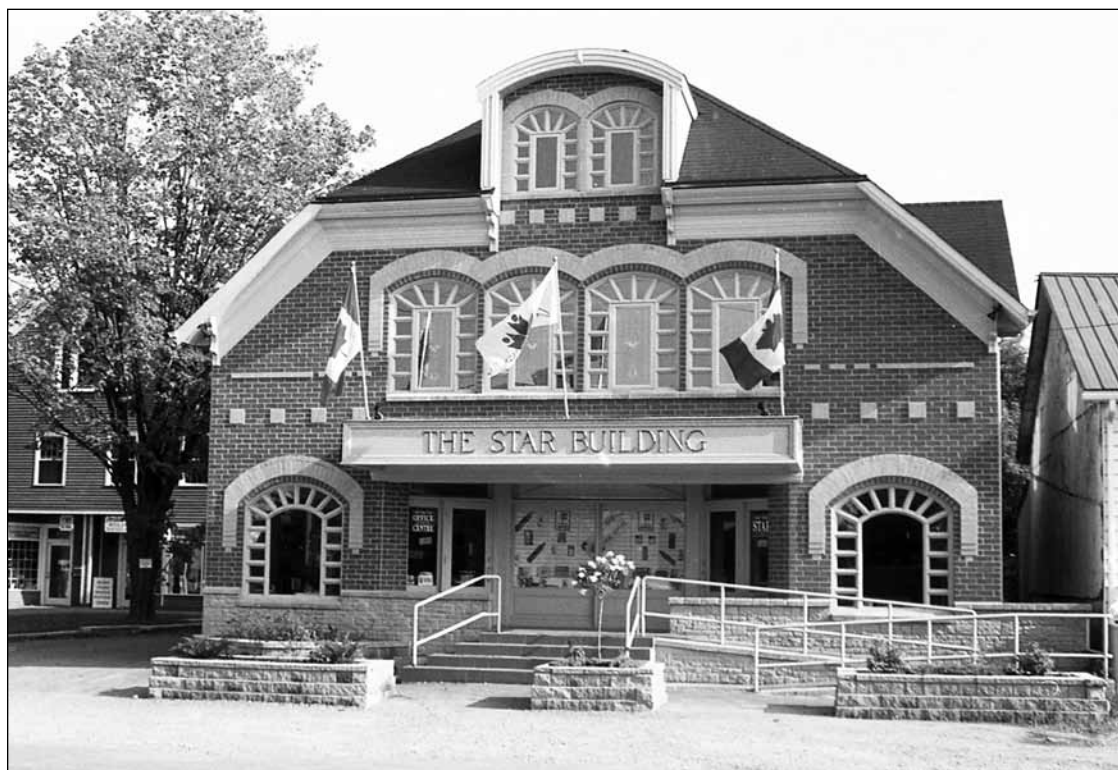
Total cost of the project, including land, was more than \$1.2 million.



These two views of the interior of the *Port Perry Star* \$150,000 expansion in 1984, show the extensive renovations and enlarging of the office supply division of the business. *The Star* provided the community a full line of office supplies, office furniture, business machines, books, magazines and greeting cards. *The Star* was the first business in town to provide a faxing service, and also did extensive photocopying.



Construction continued on the new *Port Perry Star* building throughout the summer of 1990.



The building as it looked during the summer of 1991.

Inside the new Port Perry Star building



The reception area and accounting office were originally located through the right hand side door of the new building. Here we see Louise Hope at work behind the reception desk in early 1991.

Below is an interior view of the retail and reception area where a large assortment of office and school supplies, office furniture and business machines were on display in the brightly lit office.



Staff join in celebrations for official opening

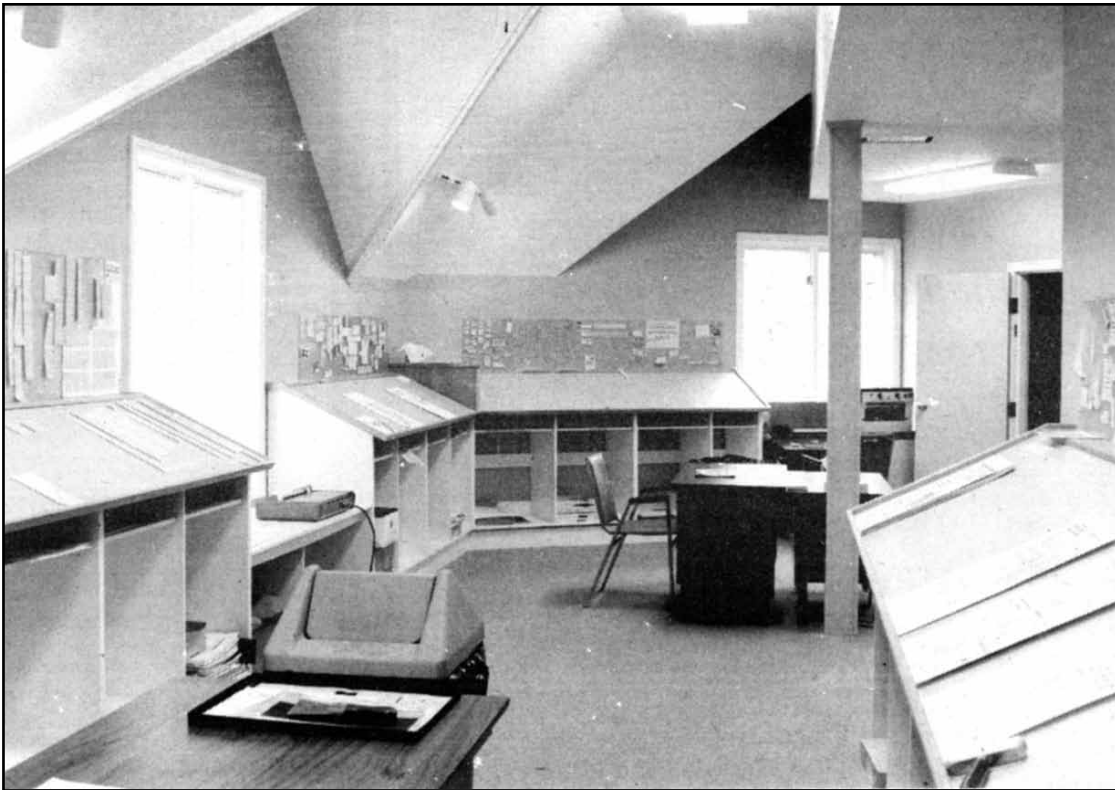
The Star staff was introduced in the special edition published for the official opening of the new *Port Perry Star* building on April 9, 1991.

At left, are staff who work in the reception, office centre and accounting division of the business. From black left, Judy Ashby, accounts; Kathy Dudley, retail sales; Tracy O'Neil, retail sales. Centre left, Lynda Rhul, retail sales; Gayle Stapley, office manager, and at front Louise Hope, billing department.

Bottom right, are the members of *The Star's* production and sales departments. Back left, Annabell Harrison, darkroom; Trudy Empringham, typesetting. Front left Barbara Lachapelle, typesetting and Anna Gouldburn, advertising sales.

Bottom left, members of the newspaper's editorial staff. Back left, John B. McClelland, editor, J. Peter Hvidsten, publisher. Front left, Julia Dempsey and Kelly Lown, reporters and photographers.





Upper: The new production room of *The Star* is bright and clean with high ceilings and plenty of ventilation. The room featured 65' of sloped tables for with 'banks' for laying-out and assembling pages of the newspaper. It also provided easy access to darkrooms, stripping tables and proof reading desks.



Above: The advertising room at *The Star* included a large bank for assembling pages and ads, two sales desks and the latest Compugraphic typesetting equipment. The rooms in the new building are all bright and clean with high ceilings and plenty of ventilation.



Left: When *The Star* moved into its new building in Jan. 1991, it installed the latest compugraphic typesetting and desktop publishing computer systems. Above, are two work station in the advertising room which used the Compugraphic equipment.

Official opening of new building in April 1991



Although occupied since January 1991, the official opening of the new *Port Perry Star* building in took place in April that year. Pictured during the official ribbon cutting are, from left, Katie and Harry Stemp, executive director of the Ontario Community Newspaper Association, Peter Hvidsten, Mayor Howard Hall and Nancy Hvidsten.



Below, Peter Hvidsten shows Rik and Karen Rondeau the special edition put out for the official opening of the new building, constructed by the Rondeau's company, Fourteen Estates.

Mastheads used by Port Perry's newspapers



Masthead used by the *Ontario Observer* during the 1800s



Masthead used by the *Port Perry Standard* during the 1800s



Masthead used by *The Port Perry Star* commencing in 1906



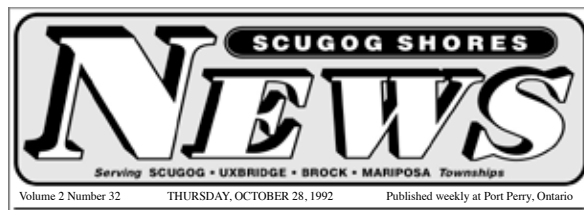
Masthead used 1960s & 70s



Masthead used during 1970s & 80s



Masthead used by *The Port Perry Star* commencing its 125th Anniversary in 1988



Masthead for *Port Perry Star* free distribution weekend paper 1993

Mastheads used by Port Perry's newspapers



Masthead for Port Perry Weekend Star - commencing October 1996



Mastheads used for *The Port Perry Star* and *Port Perry Weekend Star*
and *Uxbridge Star* starting in January 2000.

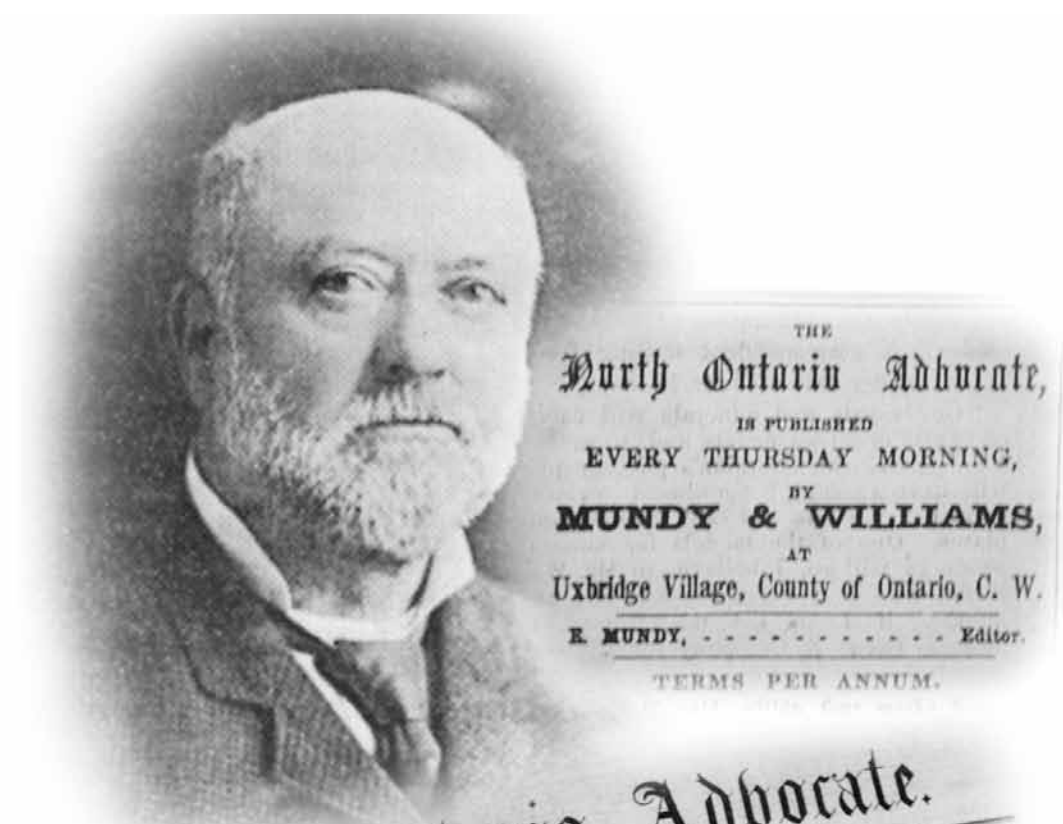
Chapter Six



UXBRIDGE

This chapter introduces the pioneer printers, their successes and failures, as they started newspapers to bring the printed word to Uxbridge.

The determination and efforts of these early publishers provided the residents of the town a window on the world, and a voice in their local community.



THE
North Ontario Advertiser,
 IS PUBLISHED
 EVERY THURSDAY MORNING,
 BY
MUNDY & WILLIAMS,
 AT
 Uxbridge Village, County of Ontario, C. W.
 E. MUNDY, Editor.

TERMS PER ANNUM.

North Ontario Advertiser.
 -For the Queen, the Constitution, and the People.-
 Uxbridge, Thursday, July 17, 1862.

THE North Ontario Advertiser,
 IS PUBLISHED
 EVERY THURSDAY MORNING,
 BY
MUNDY & WILLIAMS,
 AT
 Uxbridge Village, County of Ontario, C. W.
 E. MUNDY, Editor.

TERMS PER ANNUM.
 For the year in advance, \$1.00 in advance.
 For the year in arrears, \$1.50 in advance.
 For the year in arrears, \$1.50 in advance.
 For the year in arrears, \$1.50 in advance.

ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT.
 For the year in advance, \$1.00 in advance.
 For the year in arrears, \$1.50 in advance.
 For the year in arrears, \$1.50 in advance.

WATER OF ADVERTISING.
 For the year in advance, \$1.00 in advance.
 For the year in arrears, \$1.50 in advance.
 For the year in arrears, \$1.50 in advance.

ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT.
 For the year in advance, \$1.00 in advance.
 For the year in arrears, \$1.50 in advance.
 For the year in arrears, \$1.50 in advance.

DRUGGIST.
False and True.
FOUNDED ON FACT.

WATER OF ADVERTISING.
 For the year in advance, \$1.00 in advance.
 For the year in arrears, \$1.50 in advance.
 For the year in arrears, \$1.50 in advance.

WATER OF ADVERTISING.
 For the year in advance, \$1.00 in advance.
 For the year in arrears, \$1.50 in advance.
 For the year in arrears, \$1.50 in advance.

ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT.
 For the year in advance, \$1.00 in advance.
 For the year in arrears, \$1.50 in advance.
 For the year in arrears, \$1.50 in advance.

The Packet

The first newspaper to be published in the northern reaches of the County of Ontario was started by William Hillman in the village of Beaverton in 1855. After a couple of unsuccessful years in that community, Mr. Hillman moved the paper to Uxbridge. He hired Caldwell Brown as editor and began publishing *The Packet* sometime during 1857.

The newspaper profession was not unfamiliar to Mr. Brown, having unsuccessfully tried a number of times to set up a newspaper in Uxbridge before the arrival of *The Packet*, but it wasn't until *The Packet* arrived that Uxbridge could claim to have its very own publication.

Very little information is available about the newspaper while it was in Uxbridge, and no copies have ever been located. It would appear as if the village's first newspaper, like many start-up newspapers in other small northern communities at this time, was unable to attract enough business to keep it operating for long.



CALDWELL BROWN
Editor of *The Packet*, when it
commenced in 1857.

North Ontario Advocate



EDWARD MUNDY
Establishes *North Ontario*
Advocate in 1861.

The next paper to make its debut in Uxbridge was the *North Ontario Advocate*, which began publishing on November 28, 1861. Its owner and editor was Edward J. Mundy, a staunch Tory supporter and he used the paper to further the cause of his chosen party. Mr. Mundy operated in collaboration with a Mr. Williams for about five years before tiring of the village and moving on to Port Perry, where he started the *Port Perry Standard* on August 16, 1866.

The *North Ontario Advocate* is believed to have ceased publishing in the mid-1860s, possibly shutting down when Mr. Mundy moved out of Uxbridge to start the newspaper in Port Perry.

Very few issues of *The North Ontario Advocate* have been located, but those which have are now archived and preserved on microfilm at the Archives of Ontario, and also at the Uxbridge-Scott Historical Museum Archives.

The Uxbridge Journal



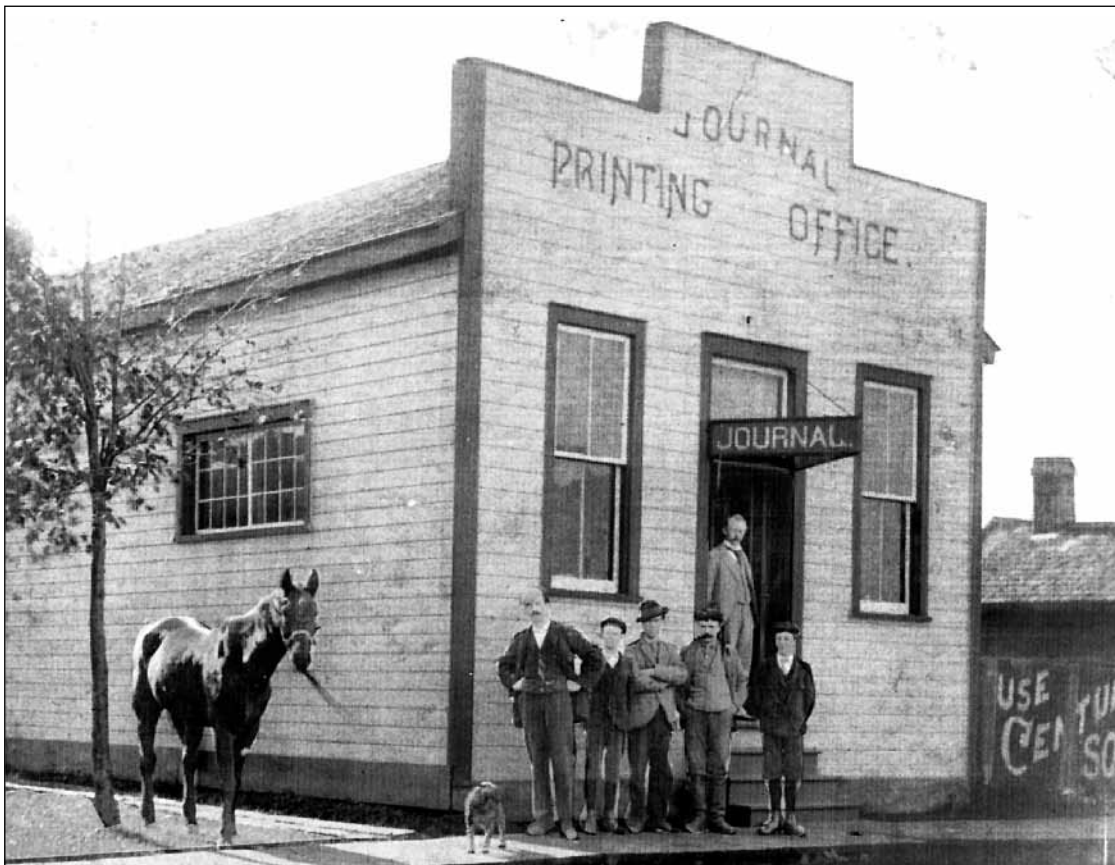
JAMES B. GRAHAM
Launched the Uxbridge Journal
on June 9, 1869

Uxbridge was without a newspaper for about two years before another publication appeared in the village. Messrs James Lund and James B. Graham were the next to try their luck at publishing, launching the *Uxbridge Journal*, a Reform (Liberal) newspaper, on June 9, 1869.

The *Uxbridge Journal*, like most small town newspapers of the time, was to a large extent devoted to local news, but also printed news about national issues, and often editorialized on the same.

After publishing for less than one year, on April 6, 1870, Mr. Lund and Mr. Graham dissolved their partnership and Mr. Lund left the newspaper. Robert Jones joined Mr. Graham at *The Journal*, and almost immediately the new owners began improvements, by acquiring new presses and type. But this new partnership was short lived as well and James Graham and Robert Jones dissolved their partnership and sold the business to Francis E. Keller, of Whitby, effective March 15, 1871.

The arrival of Mr. Keller in Uxbridge was an important event for the



The first Uxbridge Journal Printing Office was located a little west of the corner of Brock and Church St. It is believed that Francis Keller is the man in the doorway, with this staff standing in front.

newspaper's customers and readers, as he offered the fledgling newspaper much needed stability, after two years of uncertainty. Mr. Keller was a well respected businessman, having served the County of Ontario in many capacities. Prior to coming to Uxbridge, he was postmaster in both Oshawa and Whitby.

Mr. Keller immediately implemented many changes to the paper, including moving the publishing date from Wednesday to Thursday. In May 1872 he moved *The Journal* office to a new location on the north west corner of Brock and Church St. and less than a year later, in April 1873, he purchased a larger printing press and enlarged and improved the overall look of the newspaper.

With the newspaper growing in both size and respect, Mr. Keller next hired an editor to assist him. On January 22, 1880, Edwin Graham became editor of *The Journal* and the two men operated the firm under the name of Keller & Graham until April 19, 1883 when the partnership was dissolved after Mr. Graham became seriously ill. Only a few months later, Edwin Graham died in Port Perry at 31 years of age.

Frances Keller was next joined by his son William H. Keller, and the father and son team operated under the name Keller & Son until 1888, when due to failing health Frances Keller retired and sold the business to his son.

William Keller was raised and educated in Uxbridge and started working at an early age in *The Journal* office for his father. He was still a young man, only 22 years of age, when he took over ownership of the newspaper and following the death of his father on Feb. 13, 1890, William was left to carry on with only his mother and sister as advisers.

Under his leadership *The Journal* became one of the strongest and most respected newspapers in the district. He dedicated his life to the paper until January 16, 1913, when he sold the newspaper to Thomas



The new Uxbridge Journal Printing Office was constructed at the corner of Brock and Church St., just east of its old stand, which can partially be seen at the far right.



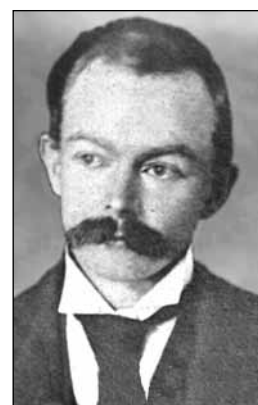
FRANCIS KELLER

Purchased *The Journal* on
March 15, 1871.



EDWIN GRAHAM

Becomes partner of Frances
Kellar in 1880.



WILLIAM H. KELLER

Joins father at *The Journal* as
partner in 1888.



TOMMY GOWANS
Buys The Journal in 1913.



ARTHUR J. DE CARLE
Buys The Journal in 1922

Gowans of Thornbury. But three years later (January 6, 1916) Mr. Keller returned and assumed ownership of *The Journal*. He continued publishing the popular weekly paper for another five years.

Mr. W.H. Keller finally retired from the newspaper business in 1921, after disposing of his office to Albert V. Nolan. Mr. Nolan, who had owned the competing *North Ontario Times* a decade earlier, operated the *The Uxbridge Journal* until 1922, at which time he sold it to Arthur J. de Carle.

Mr. de Carle published *The Journal* successfully until 1930, at which time the 60 year old newspaper was purchased by Harold Cave, and amalgamated with the *North Ontario Times*.

In his farewell, Mr. de Carle wrote, "with this issue of *The Journal*, serving the people of this vicinity since 1869, it ceases publication. Not because we have not enjoyed the support of the people but realizing that conditions have changed considerably in recent years and that it would be to the advantage of the citizens of Uxbridge and community to amalgamate with the *North Ontario Times*, which will be issued next week under the title "The Uxbridge Times-Journal."

The last issue of *The Uxbridge Journal* rolled off the press at 4:31 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12, 1930. (see picture on opposite page)



W.H. Keller (left) and Arthur Joseph de Carle (right) taken in 1927 at the Uxbridge High School reunion.

Wednesday March 12/30
 Last paper off press. Printed by Ted Asling at 4:31 p.m. Folded by Jack de Carle at 4:58. Wrapped by Margaret de Carle at 5:00 p.m.

Jack Bustard
 Electrical Contractor
 Writing for every electrical need. Call day or night.
 PHONE 132
 Or write Box 266

The Uxbridge Journal

Press started at 3:24

Jack Bustard
 Electrical Contractor
 Always in stock. Pictures, Bulbs, Fuses, Hotplates, etc.
 PHONE 132
 Or write Box 266

VOL. NO 60 UXBIDGE, ONT THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 1930 NUMBER 11

Dental
DR. W. F. GANTON
 DENTIST
 OFFICE OVER WELSH'S STORE
 Phone 5001
 UXBIDGE — ONTARIO

Medical
WALTER C. SHIER, B.A., M.D.
 Consultations — Anesthetic
EYR, EAR, NOSE AND THROAT
 Cosmo for Ontario County
 Surgeon to C. N. R.
 UXBIDGE — ONTARIO

DR. R. B. F. WILSON
 PHYSICIAN, SURGEON,
 OBSTETRICIAN
 Office and Residence Brock Street E.
 Uxbridge, Ont. Phone 133

Chiropractic
J. A. HETHERINGTON
 Chiropractor and Tongue Therapist
 34 Waterleigh Blvd., Toronto
 Phone Margrave 9590.
 In Uxbridge—Tuesday, Thursday and
 Saturday, from 9 to 7 p.m. Phone 55.
 Office over F. G. Crosby's Store

Optometrical
EARL A. CRUBIN, R.O.
 Eyesight Specialist
 Honor graduate of the College
 of Optometry of Canada; Gold medalist
 and first Honorant prize winner
 in 1928 At Uxbridge every Wednesday
 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Office
 over F. G. Crosby's store At Stouffville
 from Thursday to Saturday of
 each week.
 Eyes Examined, Glasses Fitted
 And repaired. No glasses prescribed
 when not necessary. Highest
 quality at lowest prices.

MARCH MEETING OF SCOTT COUCL
 Scott Township Council held its regular monthly meeting on Saturday, March 8th, at 1:30 p.m. All members present.
 Communications were read from Department of Public Highways, advising that the amount of Legislative grant on Highway expenditure for 1929 would be \$2,762.22; from Law-ence Stead, School Attendance Officer, report for February; from Mr. J. O'Hara, stating he had been assessed in 1929 for a dog in error; from Ontario Bridge Company with price list of road machinery and cutovers; from Mr. Harvey Shier, tendering his resignation as Weed Inspector; from Department of Forests and Mines in reference to Municipal forest plots. The delegates who attended the convention of the Ontario Good Road Association gave full report of the proceedings there.
 Mr. Heaton of the Flaxton, Hastings Insurance Office, Toronto, was present and on request addressed the Council on the matter of Municipal Insurance of Highway Liability.
 Hain-Lanney—That this Council desires to express our sincere regret to Mr. George Lapp's family in their recent bereavement in the loss of a loving father in whom we all highly respected and whose demise we so deeply regret.
 Hain-Pige—That in order to give our Road Superintendent an opportunity to have his accounts ready for Council meetings, the road foremen be requested to have their bill in the Superintendent's hands three days previous to Council meeting.
 Councilor Loney gave notice that at the next meeting of the Council he would introduce a by-law to appoint Fence Viewers, Fences Keepers and Shovel Valuers for 1930.
 The following accounts were passed:
 Fred Walker, shovelling snow, \$12.25;
 Hercules Keene, shov. snow, \$12.25;
 James A. Smith, shov. snow, \$5.75;
 H. Meyers, N.T.L., shov. snow, \$2.00;
 F. Smith, of 36, shov. snow, \$7.00;
 Daniel Meyer, shov. snow, \$7.50;
 John J. Meyers, shov. snow, \$14.00.

FAREWELL
 With this issue of The Journal, serving the people of this vicinity since 1920, it ceases publication, not because we have not enjoyed the support of the people but realizing that conditions have changed considerably in recent years and that it would be to the advantage of the citizens of Uxbridge and community to amalgamate with the North Ontario Times, which will be issued next week under the title "The Uxbridge Times-Journal". Mr. Cavo, who has been here for some ten years, is well known in this section and we are sure will issue a paper that will be a credit to him and the town.
 The Journal, by its large number of subscribers, has been a favorite in the homes of this section all these years, besides those who have moved away to the West, the United States and even India have kept in touch with their home town through its columns.
 The present owner during his stay in Uxbridge has enjoyed a large amount of work and with the co-operation of our many correspondents, in whom we extend our thanks, we have been able to turn out a very attractive paper. It is with regret the editor and his family have come to the time when we have to leave, but we will always have a warm spot in our hearts for the people of Uxbridge.
 It is over sixty years ago or so to be exact in 1869 The Uxbridge Journal was first published, and in that long period of time has only occupied two buildings, the one which stands west of the present building and the building now in use. Most of these years the paper was carried on by the Keller family, the father of Mr. W. H. Keller having established it. Mr. Keller carried his connections with The Journal in 1921, when Mr. A. V. Noller took it over, to be followed by the present owner, Mr. A. J. DeCarle. In the departure of Mr. Keller the town lost one of the most highly respected and capable editors a weekly newspaper could boast of.
 Mr. Cavo will take over the subscription list and those who are back in their payment will in due course receive a bill from him. Subscribers who are paid in advance will receive the Times-Journal. All money owing on printing and advertising is due The Journal and should be paid not later than March 20th, otherwise accounts will be put in for collection.

TOWN COUNCIL HAS BUSY MEETING
 A regular meeting of Town Council was held on Tuesday evening last. Members all present. Mayor Pollard in the chair.
 Communications were received as follows:
 From J. W. Gould, Sec.-Treas. of Horticultural Society asking for a grant for street decoration.
 The L. O. D. E. communication re upkeep of Memorial Park was again read.
 T. F. Thompson's communication re auditors' report was again read.
 Mrs. S. S. Sharpe being present was heard, re Memorial to soldiers who had lost their lives in the war. Mrs. Sharpe stated that she had an offer of \$1,000 from an outside source to apply in the erection of a memorial to the library.
 Mr. McLean reported the minutes of a meeting in a Memorial Hospital which was found to be impracticable.
 Low-McLean—That the Clerk be instructed to ask advice from postmaster re granting a sum of money for a memorial for the town of Uxbridge, this advice to be brought on the Council at the next meeting.
 Gillilan-Low—That the amount of Wm. Muselman of \$11.00 for snow shovelling re lot of Mrs. McLean will be paid as charges are excessive and this account be referred to Finance Committee for investigation and report.
 Gillilan-Baker—That Chairman of Streets Committee be requested to investigate recent tax bills of property as to extent of boundaries.
 Low-Gillilan—That Mr. Jarvis be sent on a night constable until April 15, as per petition submitted to the Council.
 Taitwell-Low—That the request of Mr. A. Chai Fei re increase of salary to \$100 per year be granted.
 McLean-Low—That the letter from T. F. Thompson re Auditors' Report be filed.
 McLean-Taitwell—That

NOTICE
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ALL ARREARS OF TAXES DUE THE TOWN OF UXBIDGE MUST BE PAID ON OR BEFORE MARCH 20, 1930. AFTER THAT DATE SAME WILL BE COLLECTED ACCORDING TO STATUTES.
 By order of the Council
 J. O. VICARS, Collector

CHURCH NOTES
ROSEVILLE
 Gospel meetings every Sunday at 7 o'clock. All welcome.
 William Kendall

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 Chalmers' and St. Andrew's
 Rev. J. C. Robinson, Minister.
 Chalmers' Services 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.
 Young People's, Monday, 8 p.m.
 Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 8 p.m.
 St. Andrew's Services, 5 p.m.
 St. Andrew's Sunday School 3 p.m.

UXBRIDGE UNITED CHURCH
 Rev. A. E. Owen, Pastor
 10 a.m.—Prayer Service.
 12:15 a.m.—Catechism Class.
 11 a.m.—Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
 7 p.m.—People that mind and people that fall, or why do some people come to grief and others succeed?
 10 a.m.—Prayer Service

PERSONAL
 Mr. Norris Reynolds of Orillia visiting in town.
 Miss Ella Paxton, Toronto, home over the week end.
 Miss Don Browncombe visiting in Toronto on Monday.
 Miss Magley Anderson spent the week end in Stouffville.
 Mrs. Walter Tunstall is visiting in Toronto for a few days.
 Mr. Walter Barron of Whistler, visiting in town over the week end.
 Miss Myra Beare was in Toronto attending a C.G.I.T. camp reunion.
 Mr. Rev. Bishop Lucas is a guest of Mr. and Mrs. P. G. Powell at the Rosery.
 Mr. Jack Nix of Toronto, visiting his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. B. Cameron.
 Mrs. Chambers, a former high school teacher here, spent the week end in town.
 Mrs. Wm. Matthews is visiting her sister, Mrs. John Childs, in Tottenham, for a few days.
 Mr. L. Walker of Toronto visiting in town.

Picture of the last copy of The Uxbridge Journal to come off the press on Wednesday, March 12, 1930. As can be seen by the hand writing on top of the front page, the presses started at 3:24 p.m., the last copy was printed by Ted Asling at 4:31 p.m., was folded by Jack de Carle at 4:58 p.m. and wrapped by Margaret de Carle at 5:00 p.m.

See enlargement of Mr. de Carle's Farewell on next page.

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FAREWELL

With this issue of The Journal, serving the people of this vicinity since 1869, it ceases publication, not because we have not enjoyed the support of the people but realizing that conditions have changed considerably in recent years and that it would be to the advantage of the citizens of Uxbridge and community to amalgamate with the North Ontario Times, which will be issued next week under the title "The Uxbridge Times-Journal." Mr. Cave, who has been here for some ten years, is well known in this section and we are sure will issue a paper that will be a credit to him and the town.

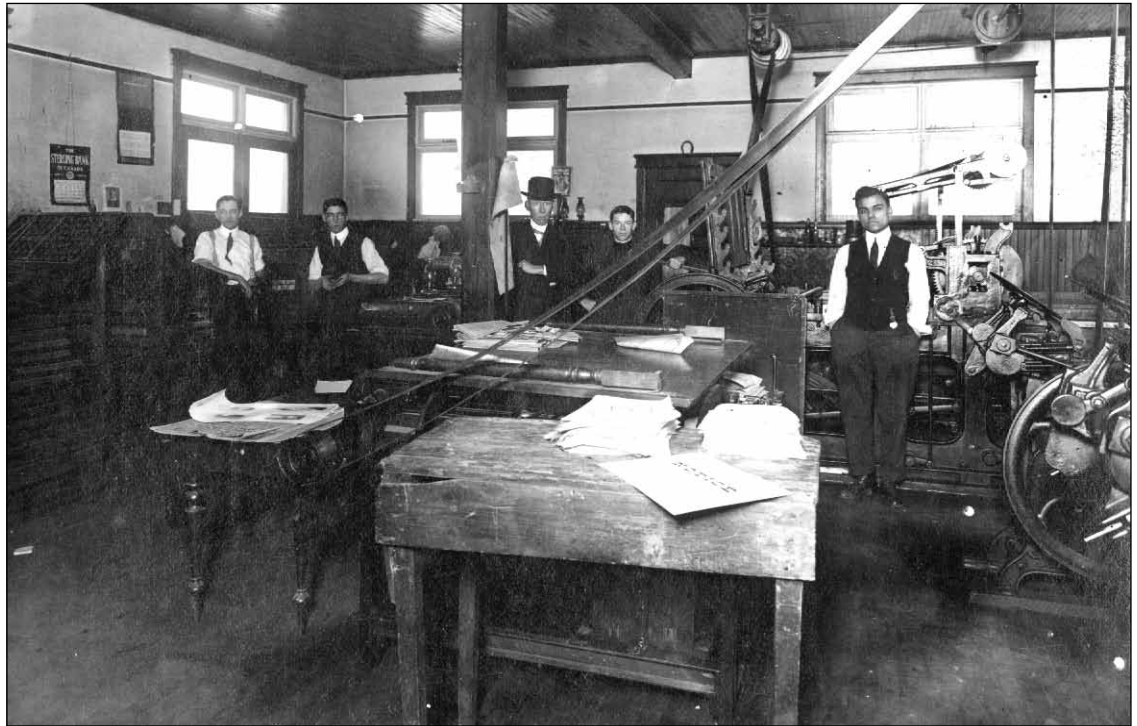
The Journal, by its large number of subscribers, has been a favorite in the homes of this section all these years, besides those who have moved away to the West, the United States and even India have kept in touch with their home town through its columns.

The present owner during his stay in Uxbridge has enjoyed a large amount of work and with the co-operation of our many correspondents, to whom we extend our thanks, we have been able to turn out a very attractive paper. It is with regret the editor and his family have come to the time when we have to leave, but we will always have a warm spot in our hearts for the people of Uxbridge.

It is over sixty years ago or to be exact in 1869 The Uxbridge Journal was first published, and in that long period of time has only occupied two buildings, the one which stands west of the present building and the building now in use. Most of these years the paper was carried on by the Keller family, the father of Mr. W. H. Keller having established it. Mr. Keller severed his connections with The Journal in 1921, when Mr. A. V. Nolan took it over, to be followed by the present owner, Mr. A. J. DeCarle. In the departure of Mr. Keller the town lost one of the most highly respected and capable editors a weekly newspaper could boast of.

Mr. Cave will take over the subscription list and those who are back in their payment will in due course receive a bill from him. Subscribers who are paid in advance will receive the Times-Journal. All money owing on printing and advertising is due The Journal and should be paid not later than March 20th, otherwise accounts will be put in for collection.

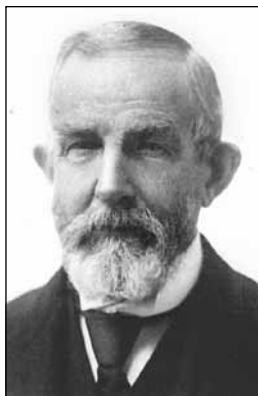
An enlargement of the farewell address given by Arthur J. de Carle in March 1930.



Interior of the Uxbridge Journal Printing Office, about 1915, located at the corner of Brock and Church St., Staff members from left are: Oswald Lee, Jean Gowans, Tommy Gowans, owner, Nelson Gerrow and Jack Blackburn.



The Uxbridge Journal Printing Office was owned by ? DeCarle when this picture was taken about 1925. The two men in the picture are, left, Arthur J. DeCarle and Lloyd Wolters.



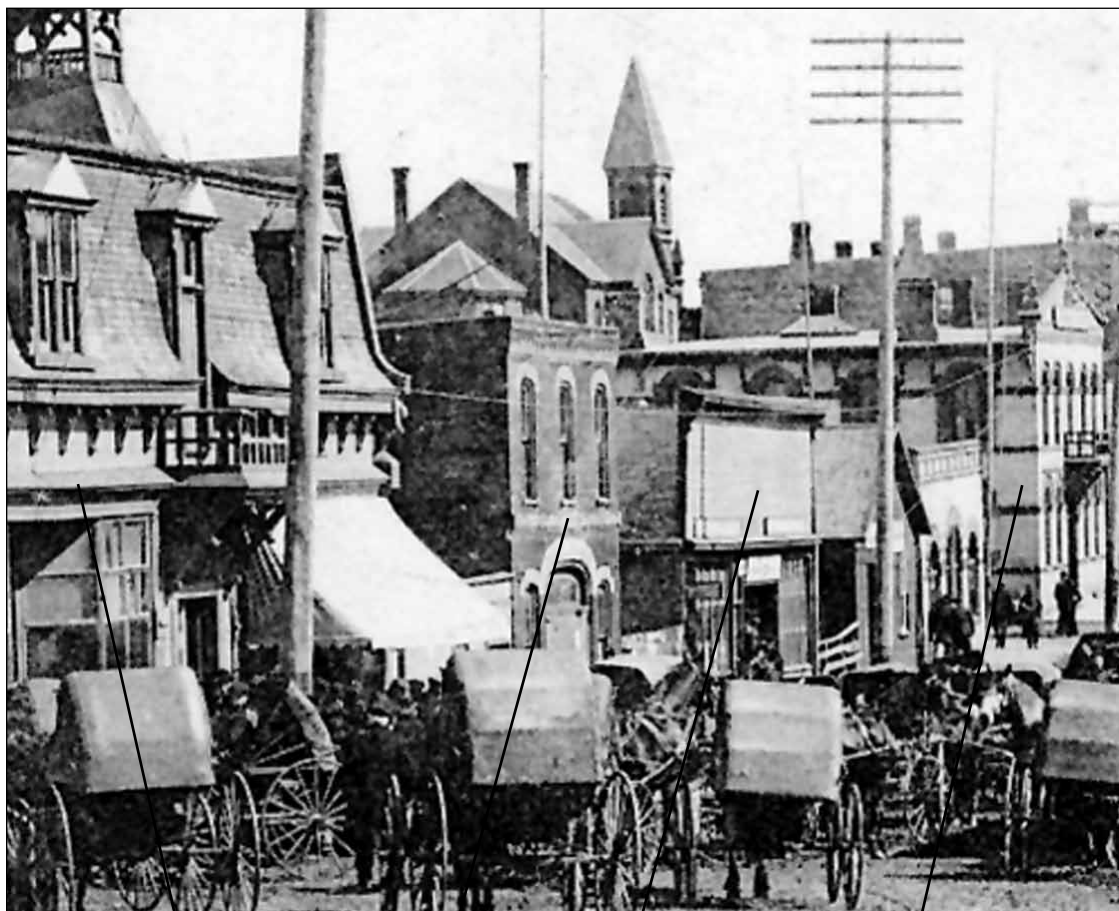
WM. PEMBERTON
Begins publishing the Uxbridge Guardian in 1874.

The Uxbridge Guardian

In January 1874 a second newspaper began to be published in the village. This was the *Uxbridge Guardian*, also Reform (Liberal) in politics, and operated by William Pemberton, a relentless critic of many of the leading businessmen and politicians of the village, in particular Reeve George Wheler.

Mr. Pemberton was an ambitious young man, who had worked with Mr. Keller at *The Journal* office as a foreman. It was during this time that Mr. Pemberton unsuccessfully attempted to secretly purchase the mortgage on the *The Journal*, while Francis Keller was seriously ill and confined to his bed. But Mr. Wheler refused to sell the mortgage to him, resulting in an ongoing conflict between the two men for many years.

Mr. Pemberton first began operating *The Guardian* out of an office above the store of Mr. Walks on Brock St., but by August 1877 the news-



MARKET
HALL

FIRE
HALL

GUARDIAN
OFFICE

BASCOM
HOUSE HOTEL

Early in 1878 *The Guardian* moved into new offices next door to the Fire Hall on Brock St. Although this picture was taken later, it shows the approximate location of the *Guardian* at that time. This later became the Uxbridge Times office.

paper was in trouble. After falling behind on his mortgage payments, the entire printing plant and contents of the *Uxbridge Guardian* was put up for sale by the Sheriff of the County of Ontario and was purchased by the local druggist, Mr. A.D. Weeks to satisfy his mortgage.

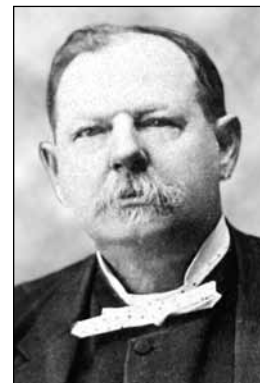
Ownership of *The Guardian* was now in the hands of Mr. Weeks, but Mr. Pemberton was hired to fill the role of editor and he continued his scurrilous articles aimed at destroying the character of many worthy citizens. In addition to his attacks against townsmen, Mr. Pemberton also wrote abusive articles about his competitors at *The Journal*.

Early in 1878 *The Guardian* moved into new offices next door to the Fire Hall on Brock St., where the enterprising Mr. Pemberton, in addition to his newspaper and printing office, established in the basement of his new office, public showers and plunge baths, with water piped in from the mill flume. About one year later *The Guardian* was enlarged in format to a 32 column paper, four pages with eight columns per page, and was sporting a new masthead on the front page.

Like so many businesses at this time, fire was always one of the worst enemies. The first of two fires to disrupt *The Guardian* took place in May 1883 when a large fire destroyed much of the town, including *The Guardian* office. Flames quickly spread through the printing office, causing more than \$3,300 damage to building and contents. Following the fire Mr. Pemberton quickly found accommodation on the second story of Mr. Henry's building, opposite the Wheler Block where he commenced publishing almost immediately.

A few months after the first fire, in September 1883, *The Guardian* office was once again destroyed as fire swept through the old Finch Hotel, where *The Guardian* was located on the second floor. This time damage amounted to about \$3,800., but undaunted, Mr. Pemberton started up again, this time in new office space next to the new fire hall.

In the mid-1880s, William Pemberton's son, Arthur W. joined *The Uxbridge Guardian* and the two men continued to publish the paper until about 1889, when it appears to have been sold to Samuel Smith. Wm. Pemberton then moved to Delhi, Ontario where he purchased the printing plant of the *Delhi Reporter* which he successfully operated for about 20 years.



A. D. WEEKS
Takes over ownership of The
Guardian in 1877.



This view of the south east corner of Brock and Toronto Streets shows the library and the Jones Hardware building.



JOHN A. MCGILLIVRAY
Stockholder in the North
Ontario Times 1887.

North Ontario Times

A small article in *The Uxbridge Journal* on April 7, 1887 informed its readers a third newspaper would soon open in the village. Wm. Kellar, editor of *The Journal* wrote of the news, "just think of a place of 2,000 inhabitants with three newspaper," obviously unhappy with the prospect of more competition.

The town's new newspaper was published under the banner of the *North Ontario Times*. Stockholders in the newspaper included Mr. D. M. Card and Mr. John A. McGillivray, but the daily operations of the newspaper were carried out by an editor R.R. Elliot, for the owners. Mr. Elliot served as editor for three years, until it was sold to S.C. Smith.

Mr. McGillivray's company, the *Uxbridge Printing & Publishing Co.*, also published the *Sunderland Times*, but his venture into the publishing field lasted only about three years, over which time the paper struggled financially and had little success.



The North Ontario Times operated out of the old Guardian office for some time until moving farther east along Brock St.. This picture, taken about 1901, shows the Times office just to the right of the brick Fire Hall.

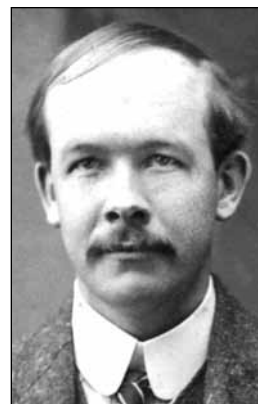
In May 1890, *Uxbridge Guardian* owner Samuel C. Smith, 61, purchased *The Times* and amalgamated the two newspapers. Retaining the *North Ontario Times* name, Mr. Smith began to print the paper with *The Guardian's* name printed as subtitle under the masthead.

Mr. Smith is listed as the paper's proprietor from 1890 to 1895, at which time he was joined by Samuel Sharpe. It's believed Mr. Sharpe was merely an investor, and never worked for the newspaper. Mr Sharpe later attained prominence in the army and had a distinguished career as a soldier in the First World War. He also went on to become a Member of Parliament.

There is some discrepancy in ownership at this point, as an article in the Dec. 31, 1896 issue of *The Journal* announces: "*The Times* is expected to change hands again soon. Messrs. J.A. Ker and Gold are the outgoing firm and it is reported their successor will be Mr. S.C. Smith."

In the late 1890s, Messrs. Smith and Sharpe sold *The Times* to W.J. Young who operated for a short time before taking Mr. J.H. Chinn in as a partner to operated the newspaper. It's believed Mr. Young left the paper shortly after and Mr. Chinn continued on is own for some time.

After operating the paper for a number of years, Mr. Chinn sold the *North Ontario Times* in 1911 to a young printer by the name of Albert V. Nolan. He was a young man of about 22 years of age when he took over the paper, but shortly after purchasing it, he realized it would be difficult to operate a successful newspaper with a competing paper (*The Journal*) already established in the village.



SAMUEL SHARPE
Partner in *The Times* during
the 1890s.



J. A. (Fred) KER
Was a partner in *The Times*
during the 1890s.

There is no record to indicated exactly when the *North Ontario Times* moved to this location on Brock St., although it was before 1911. This section of the north side of Brock St., Uxbridge, shows the location of *The Times* office (arched windows in centre of photo) about 1912. The address today is 7 Brock St. West. Turn page for another photo.



The North Ontario Times office as it looked about 1912, at the time it was owned by A.V. Nolan, who is seen standing in the doorway with cap on his head.

After a short time in Uxbridge, Mr. Nolan sold the *North Ontario Times* and moved on to become a partner in Chelsey, Ontario, publishing the *Chelsey Enterprise*.

The next owner of *The Times* was Mr. R. H. Davey, who took over the paper about 1912 and published it for about five years. He sold it in 1917 to Harold Cave, who arrived in town from Beaverton, where his family operated another newspaper.



J.H. (Jack) CHINN
Partner in *The Times*.

During July 1919, Mr. Cave added a supplement to the *North Ontario Times*, which carried news from Sunderland called the *Sunderland Mirror*.



A.V. Nolan is seen here talking on the telephone when working for the *Stouffville Tribune*.

Uxbridge Times-Journal

In 1920 Mr. Cave purchased the former Bascom House hotel, just west of *The North Ontario Times* building and moved the machinery and offices to the much larger premises.

The energetic and ambitious new owner of the *North Ontario Times* next purchased the *Uxbridge Journal* from A.J. de Carle on March 20, 1930 and amalgamated the two newspapers to form the Uxbridge Times-Journal. He closed the Journal office at the corner of Brock and Church St. and moved *The Journal's* equipment to his plant in the former Bascom Hotel on Brock St. where he had been publishing *The Times* for a number of years. The amalgamation of the papers ended a bitter rivalry between *The Journal* and *The Guardian/Times* which had lasted almost 60 years.

With the amalgamation of the town's two newspaper, Mr. Cave dropped support for both political parties, and pledged the newspaper would support anything which had the best interests of the community at heart.

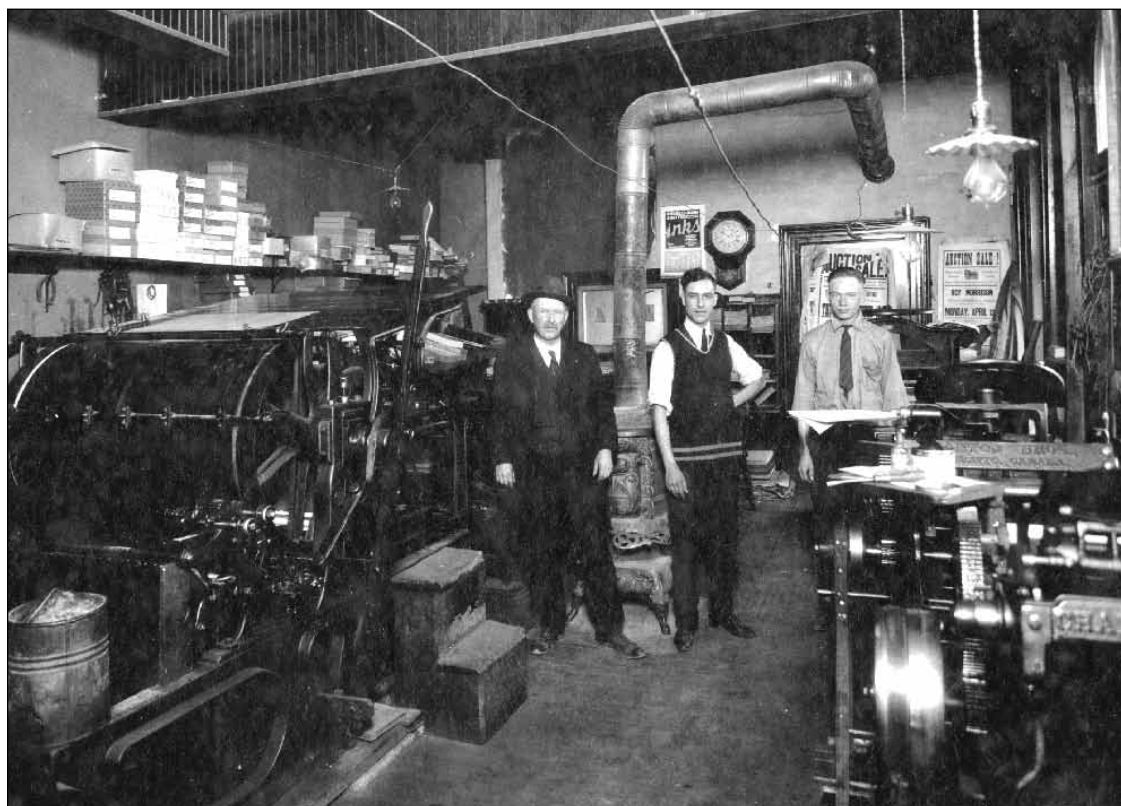
The inside of Mr. Cave's building consisted of three areas.

Inside the front door was a small office from which the office



HAROLD CAVE

Amalgamated the two newspapers to form the *Uxbridge Times-Journal*



The North Ontario Times, which was located in the former Bascom House building about 1925, when owned by Harold Cave. In photo from left, are V.M. Hare, Art Knight, and Ted Asling.



PER HVIDSTEN

staff greeted customers. Behind this, was the larger shop space in which could be found the printing press, paper cutter, folder and two hand-fed presses. The third room contained typesetting machines, composition equipment and the stone banks used for assembling newspaper pages and commercial printing jobs.

From the time of its appearance as an amalgamated paper in 1930, the *Uxbridge Times-Journal* pursued an independent line politically and Mr. Cave successfully operated it until he was 66 years old.

On January 1, 1953, Per and Leila Hvidsten, arriving in Uxbridge from North Bay, purchased the *Times-Journal* and operated it for the next 20 years. Mr. Hvidsten took on the role of publisher, while Mrs. Hvidsten handled the editorial needs of the paper, and both took an avid interest in the community.

It wasn't long after taking over ownership of the T-J, the Hvidstens began to modernized the plant and equipment. The newspaper was enlarged and for the first time in its history, local photographs and editorials began to appear on the pages of the *Times-Journal*.

Unable to come to suitable lease terms with Harold Cave, the owner of the T-J building, forced the Hvidstens to search for a new home for the newspaper, and in November 1957 the printing plant and newspaper was moved from its longtime stand on Brock St., to a newly constructed building located less than a block south at 22 Bascom St.

The new building provided a large, bright office on the first floor, with room to display and sell office supplies and typewriters, and two small offices. Also on the main floor, accessible through the T-J office was the Hvidstens new apartment. The heavy printing machinery, casting machines, and metal types found a new home on the lower level, and it was from here for the next 18 years the *Times-Journal* was published and printed.

In 1960, the Hvidstens decided they wanted to concentrate their efforts



LEILA HVIDSTEN



Uxbridge Times-Journal was located in the former Bascom House hotel.



Uxbridge Times-Journal's new building on Bascom St.

on growing and improving the newspaper. After lengthy discussions, they split away the commercial printing division of the company, selling it to long-time *Times-Journal* employee Harry Stemp and William Keyzers, a young printer who had been with the paper since 1955. The arrangement provided for the two young men to form their own company, *The Uxbridge Printing Company*, and continue to print the *T-J* for the Hvidstens until such a time as they wanted to sell the paper.

On July 18, 1974, Mrs. Hvidsten sold the *Times-Journal*, ending 22 years of ownership in the family.

The new owners of the *Times-Journal*, split the roles of publisher and editor, much like their predecessors. Mr. Keyzers became publisher and Mr. Stemp assumed the duties of editor and reporter.

Not long after taking over the newspaper, the new owners began plans for the erection of a new and larger building in which to operate, not only the *T-J*, but their growing commercial printing business along with other newspapers they had acquired over the past decade.

The new *Uxbridge Printing Company* plant opened near the end of October, 1975, at 191 Main Street, North, as one of the most modern in the country. The company had evolved from the use of heavy and noisy equipment to produce the newspaper, to a clean and quiet environment with its perforated tape fed computerized typesetting system, and a printing plant including a three-unit web press which could print at an astounding speed of up to 15,000 copies per hour.

Over the next decade Messrs. Stemp and Keyzers successfully published the *Uxbridge Times-Journal* and expanded their business to include weekly newspapers in Sutton, Markham, Stouffville, Bobcaygeon, Fenelon Falls, Cannington and Beaverton, as well as operate commercial printing operations in many of these same centres.

Mr. Stemp took on the added responsibility as executive director of the Ontario Community Newspaper Association in 1988, and wanting to pursue this career further, he and Mr. Keyzers felt the time was right to sell the *Uxbridge Printing Company* and its holdings.

This came about a year later. On March 1, 1989, the partners announced they had sold the company to *Laurentian Publishing Group*, headed by Michael Atkins. *Laurentian Publishing* was a diversified



HARRY STEM



WM. (BILL) KEYZERS

HISTORY OF NEWSPAPERS

publisher of weekly newspapers, trade magazines and regional business newspapers, with its home office in Sudbury, Ont. Aside from the departure of Harry Stemp and Bill Keyzers little changed at the newspaper at this time.

The most notable, and regrettable difference under the new ownership was that the *Times-Journal* did not have a local owner. For the first time in the 120 year history of newspaper publishing in Uxbridge, the local paper was no longer operated by an owner who lived in the community and took an active part in the day to day operations of the newspaper.

From this time forward, the *Uxbridge Times-Journal* faced an uncertain future. Not long after Mr. Michael Atkins purchased the company, financial problems began to plague his *Laurentian Publishing Group*. In the later part of 1992, operations of the company were taken over by *Laurentian's* creditor, *TD Capital*, a division of the *Toronto Dominion Bank*. This ended Laurentian's brief ownership of the *Times-Journal*.

Unable to sell the company without losing a large amount of money, *TD Capital* decided to set up a company called *Citizen's Communication Group* to operate the group of newspapers, including the *Times-Journal*, until it could be sold profitably. CCG as it became known was formed in 1993 and operated under the watchful eyes of general manager Ken Koyama, a former *Metroland Publishing* employee who was hired on as president of the company.

The *Times-Journal* continued to operate from its Uxbridge Printing Company headquarters on Main St., north for about two years, before Mr. Ken Koyama was replaced in 1995 by Marjorie Fleming, a CCG publisher from western Ontario. Not long after Ms. Fleming took over as president of the company, unable to secure a suitable lease from its landlord, CCG moved its entire printing operation and offices to Newmarket.

Wanting to keep a presence in Uxbridge, the *Time-Journal* leased office space from which to operate in a small house on Bell Street. Ironically the building was two doors south of the former *Uxbridge Journal* office which had operated in Uxbridge from 1869 to 1930.

This building provided office, editorial and a small production department for a number of years, before the *Times-Journal* was moved to larger quarters on Bascom Street, in the former Department of Agriculture building. Once again, it is ironic that this move to Bascom St., located the paper beside the building which housed the *Times-Journal* from 1957 to 1974.

In 2000, with the economy on the rebound, TD Capital sold Citizen's Communication Group along with all its holdings, including the *Times Journal*. This time it was the giant Metroland Printing and Publishing Co., owned by Torstar, which purchased the paper. TorStar is a subsidiary of the Toronto Star, Canada's largest daily newspaper.

Since then the T-J has been operated under the guidance of Tim Whitaker, publisher of the Oshawa division of Metroland which includes newspapers in Oshawa, Whitby, Pickering, Bowmanville, Port Perry and Uxbridge.



Following the sale of the *Uxbridge Times-Journal* in 2000, Don MacLeod, general manager of *The Port Perry Star* sensed there was an opening for another independent newspaper in the town. *The Uxbridge Star* was opened in late 2000. Mr. MacLeod was familiar with Uxbridge having been advertising manager for the T-J for about five years before moving to Port Perry.

With the decline of local coverage in the *Uxbridge Times-Journal*, after being purchased by Metroland, the *Uxbridge Star* was welcomed into the community, but it was short-lived.

Four years later, in 2004, *The Port Perry Star* was sold to Metroland Publishing, ending the era of independent publishers for the Uxbridge.

Your Universe
The Uxbridge Cosmos

Creation of Uxbridge Cosmos

Increasing frustration with the amount of editorial and advertising material in the *Uxbridge Times-Journal* that had no application to, or interest for, an Uxbridge reader led to the creation of *The Uxbridge Cosmos*.

A group of Uxbridge residents felt that there was room in the local media market for a newspaper that had an exclusively Uxbridge focus. Rallied together by Conrad Boyce, almost 100 residents helped fund the new paper, and a board of directors was created. Local businesswoman Shirley Baster was the first and long-time chair of the board, which held its first meeting a few weeks before the first issue on September 1, 2005. Another key member was writer and journalism professor Ted Barris, who has contributed a column to every issue since the paper's inception.



CONRAD BOYCE

The initial investors knew that an independent going up against a media monster like *TorStar/Metroland* would be a tough go. But gradually, advertisers and readers alike realized the value of a publication exclusively by, about and for Uxbridge readers. The paper has never strayed from that vision, and has resisted several attempts to be bought by its competitors.

Boyce became editor/publisher of the paper, and a small staff of four got the paper off the ground. Boyce had a journalism diploma, and had worked in the business for over 30 years. In the early 2000s, he had edited a couple of monthlies in Newmarket and Stouffville, as well as a publication for the College of Nurses of Ontario, and he had lived in Uxbridge for 10 years, so was familiar with the community.



The first issue of *The Uxbridge Cosmos* came off the press on September 1, 2005.

The name of the paper – *The Uxbridge Cosmos* – has been puzzling to some, but closer investigation and a little imagination shows that it is actually an amusing double-entendre: the Cosmos is the Township of Uxbridge's floral symbol, and it also means "universe," the implication being that this paper is all about the reader's immediate universe, his or her home. Hence the paper's slogan, located just above the flag – "Your Universe."

The *Cosmos* immediately set itself apart from other "local" newspapers by printing on a paper stock that was better than traditional newsprint, and making the tabloid layout larger than the other newspapers. This pleased advertisers, whose colour ads looked superior on the pages that didn't soak up ink as readily as newsprint did.

The *Cosmos* initially set up shop in an old warehouse out by the train tracks in Uxbridge, now occupied by FitzE Electric. Within a couple of months, it was offered its current space at 38 Toronto St. N. It originally occupied a back office which had storefront exposure, but when a local music teacher moved her studio to the same location, it made sense for her to turn that office into her studio, so *Cosmos* customers wouldn't be traipsing through her music lessons.

The original staff worked indeterminate hours until the work load sorted itself out: Boyce was editor/publisher, Fred Coty did advertising sales, Lee Ursell was in charge of design and layout, and Suzanne Crone covered the office. These jobs were gradually taken over by Boyce once the board realized that ad volume couldn't support a full office. Contributing writers, photographers and cartoonists were paid on a per-item basis, and from almost the very beginning, the paper used both secondary and post-secondary co-op students to supplement the editorial department.

From the very beginning, the *Cosmos* insisted upon on free delivery to every business and residence in the township, so decided that, instead of using paper carriers, it would contract Canada Post to be delivered weekly via the mail. This ensured that every corner of the township was covered. Original circulation by mail was around 7,500 copies, plus several hundred more for pick-up distribution around the township. By 2021, postal circulation increased to just under 9,000, with 500 more printed for pick-up distribution.

In 2013, Boyce wanted to retire. He approached Lisha Van Nieuwenhove, a long-time contributor to the *Cosmos*, and asked if she might be interested in taking over the publication. She agreed, and in June 2013 the board of directors was dissolved and the stockholders paid off. As publisher/editor, Van Nieuwenhove created *Cosmos Publishing Inc.*, and took over both *The Uxbridge Cosmos* and *Cosmos Print Services*, a commercial print company that had been owned and run by Boyce's wife, Lisa, a former Uxbridge Print Company and Metroland employee.



LISHA NIEUWEHOVE

Van Nieuwenhove held a degree in Journalism, and had been a freelance writer/editor for newspapers and magazines (including writing for an English parenting magazine published in Switzerland, where she lived for a time). She worked at turning the *Cosmos* from a somewhat arts-focused newsletter into the paper-of-record newspaper for the township. *The Cosmos* became a member of the Ontario Community Newspaper Association and NewsMedia Canada, and quickly became an award-winning newspaper, both provincially and nationally.

As digital media became more prevalent and print services were required less and less, in 2018, Van Nieuwenhove decided to close down the print division and focus more on keeping the newspaper alive and relevant in the digital age. The *Cosmos* redesigned its website and began pushing content there, in addition to the weekly printed version of the paper, with the intention of engaging township residents of all ages.

In 2021, *The Cosmos* introduced a new flag, or logo, keeping the *cosmos* flower and slogan but updating the "look" of the paper.

*Submitted by Lisha Nieuwehove
Owner, Editor & Publisher
The Uxbridge Cosmos*

Chapter Seven



Uxbridge Newspaper Owners / Publishers

This chapter introduces each of the men who owned and published a newspaper in Uxbridge over the past century and a half.



J. W. Caldwell Brown
1825 to 1874

Established The Packet in Uxbridge in 1857

J.W. Caldwell Brown

Owner of the first Uxbridge newspaper

- The Packet -

J.W. CALDWELL BROWN was born in Saltfleet, Ontario. His father had immigrated to America, from Northern Ireland as a youth in 1778. The family appears to have been raised in that area and is believed to be where Caldwell Brown was educated and later studied law.

It's not certain when Mr. Brown moved to Uxbridge, but he tried several times to set up a newspaper in the town unsuccessfully. He later bought a newspaper, *The Packet*, in Beaverton in 1855 and brought it down to Uxbridge, to be the first newspaper in the town. In 1857 records show Mr. Brown as editor of *The Packet*. Once again the newspaper appears to have failed and was either taken over, or replaced by the *North Ontario Advocate* in November 1862.

Mr. Brown is said to have been a successful farmer, although there is no record showing he owned land. He served as superintendent of education in the County of Ontario, Uxbridge being the County seat. He took an active part in politics and other public matters and was a lieutenant in the Ontario Militia. While in Uxbridge he had a successful practice as a conveyancer, a Land and Divisions court agent, and commissioner in Queen's Bench and Common pleas'.

Mr. Brown used various combinations of his name: Joseph W.C. Brown, J.W. Caldwell Brown and J.W.C. Brown.

He married Martha Wilson of Whitchurch on July 31, 1851 and the couple had five children. Caldwell Brown, pioneer newspaperman, died in Uxbridge on Sept. 27, 1874 at the age of 49 years.



Edward J. Mundy
1838 to 1921

Established the North Ontario Advocate in 1861

Edward J. Mundy

Edward J. Mundy begins publishing the
North Ontario Advocate in 1861.

EDWARD J. MUNDY was born in Hull, England on February 20, 1838. He came to Canada when he was 11 years old and served his apprenticeship in the printing business in Toronto with the *Globe*, *The Leader*, *The Colonist* and the *Echo*, before striking out on his own. He is also reported to have been foreman at the *North Ontario Observer* office when it was published in Prince Albert, Ontario.

On November 28, 1861, at the age of 23 years, Edward Mundy started a newspaper in Uxbridge called the *North Ontario Advocate* and operated it as editor until 1866. *The Advocate* was published every Thursday morning and across the masthead he wrote "For the Queen, the Constitution and the People".

For almost five years Edward Mundy published *The Advocate* in Uxbridge, but eventually ceased the unsuccessful publication. Following the closure of *The Advocate*, Mundy moved to Port Perry and commenced publication of Port Perry's first publication, *The Port Perry Standard*, on August 16, 1866.

On July 1, 1878 Edward Mundy bought the *Oshawa Ontario Reformer*, and carried on with both newspapers for about three years before disposing of the *Port Perry Standard* in about 1881. While publishing both *The Standard* and *The Reformer* he travelled between Oshawa and Port Perry daily taking forms with him that could be used in either paper. The trip usually took hours on the rough roads in his shaky buggy.

He published and held a controlling interest in the *Ontario Reformer* for more than 40 years. In 1905 he took his son, Charles M. Mundy into the business with him and they successfully operated under the firm name of E. Mundy & Son until April 1, 1910, when Edward Mundy retired from the active editorship of the paper.

On Monday, January 24, 1921 Edward Mundy passed away about midnight after an illness of three weeks. He was in his 84th year at the time of this death.

Mr. Mundy was described as a quiet mannered gentleman, with good qualities of both heart and mind. He served as Chairman of the School Board for several terms and was a prominent Baptist and Mason, and a strong supporter of the Liberal party.

In 1860 Edward married Martha Nott of Toronto after a six week courtship. Records show that Mundy and his wife Martha were parents to six children.



James B. Graham
1840 to 1936

Established the Uxbridge Journal in 1869

James B. Graham

Establishes the Uxbridge Journal in 1869

JAMES BLAIN GRAHAM was one of the pioneer newspaper men in the Uxbridge area during the mid 1800s, and was the man most responsible for establishing the *Uxbridge Journal*, which operated for more than 60 years before being amalgamated with its competitor, the *North Ontario Times*.

James B. Graham was born in County Down, Ireland, July 18, 1840 and in company with his parents in 1846 sailed from Belfast for Canada. There were seven in the family, but on the boat, cholera took its toll, and James was the only one who had survived when the boat arrived in St. John, New Brunswick.

James Graham was taken to Toronto to live with relatives, but at 11 years of age he entered the newspaper field as a 'printer's devil' and from then on was on his own. He was associated with various journals, either as a member of staff or owner in such towns as London, Hamilton, Dundas, Barrie and Streetsville. One of his first business ventures was the establishment of the *Uxbridge Journal*, which began publishing on June 9, 1869. Mr. Graham, in partnership with Mr. Lund, and later Robert Jones, operated for about two years before selling the paper to Francis E. Keller on March 15, 1871.

During his long and active career, Mr. Graham has in one way and another been much in the public eye. In 1871, he joined A.F. & A.M. Zeredatha Lodge, Uxbridge, Ont. He has always been an ardent musician, having commenced playing in Streetsville, Ont., in 1862 and proudly possessed of a tin type photograph of himself in band uniform in that year. He was for long years a member of the Presbyterian Church.

While living in Ontario, James Graham served on a number of newspapers, including the Hamilton Spectator, Fergus New-Record, Owen Sound Comet, Bowmanville Statesman. He also spent some time in Quebec with the Hull Advance and Qu'Appelle Progress before moving to Manitoba, where he worked at the Brandon Sun and Brandon Mail.

In 1879 he moved west with his family and became a homesteader near Rapid City, Manitoba. In 1883 he gave up farming and again returned to the newspaper business, moving to Brandon, Manitoba to work for the paper there.

In 1890 he purchase the Melita Enterprise and lived in that community until 1915, when at the age of 75 years, he sold the paper and moved to Grandview, Manitoba. While in Grandview he worked for his son Geo. A. Graham at the Exponent, and with his daughter Mrs. (Dr.) G.D. Shortreed until his death in 1936 at the age 97 years of age.

At the time of his death he was the oldest, and longest serving Mason in Canada.



William Pemberton
1837 to 1910

Lydia Pemberton



Established the Uxbridge Guardian in 1874

William Pemberton

Launches the
Uxbridge Guardian in 1874.

WILLIAM PEMBERTON was one of the pioneer publishers of Uxbridge, beginning publication of the town's second newspaper about the 23rd of January, 1874. Mr. Pemberton was foreman of the Uxbridge Journal prior to this venture, but after an unsuccessful attempt to purchase the paper, he began publishing the Uxbridge Guardian from space over F. Morgan's boot and shoe store on Brock St., and offered subscriptions at \$1.00 per year.

Wm. Pemberton was born in England on April 22, 1836 and is believed to have come to Canada about 1870 with his wife and son Ernest. A daughter, Elizabeth, was born in Ontario the following year, possibly in Uxbridge.

By all accounts Mr. Pemberton was a feisty editor, not backing down from controversial topics, often responsible for scurrilous articles, and quick to attack public officials where he saw fit. After publishing the Uxbridge Guardian for about 15 years, he sold the newspaper in December 1889, and moved from the community.

While in Uxbridge, Mr. Pemberton lost his first wife. In 1888 he married Lydia (Kilby) Hickling, whose husband William passed away suddenly at the age of 42 years in 1885. Mrs. Hickling had a large family from her first marriage, three daughters and five sons, who all moved to the Pemberton's new home in Delhi, Ontario.

In May 1890, Mr Pemberton purchased the printing plant of the Delhi Reporter and successfully operated that paper for a period of 20 years. In 1898 he took over the Delhi Vindicator, a Conservative newspaper started up in opposition to The Reporter.

Wm. Pemberton passed away on July 24, 1910, after an illness of five weeks, aged 73 years. He left behind his wife Lydia, and children from both his first and second marriages. Interment in the Delhi Cemetery on July 26, 1910.

Following the death of William Pemberton, it appears the Delhi Reporter ceased business, although his stepsons Samuel and Charles carried on the printing business, as well as running a grocery store.

Lydia E. Pemberton passed away on Tuesday, September 10th, 1912 at her home on King St. west, Delhi, Ontario and was laid to rest beside her husband.



Francis E. Keller
1821 to 1890

Published the Uxbridge Journal from 1871 to 1888

Francis E. Keller

Purchased the
Uxbridge Journal in 1871

FRANCIS E. KELLER was born in the Township of Markham in 1821, the eldest of 10 children. He was the son of the late Charles Miller Keller and Rebecca (Tomlinson). His father had served as Justice of the Peace and Clerk of the Division Court in Markham, Ontario.

The young Keller became well known to most of the old settlers of both York and Ontario, and when a young man of about 20 years, he moved from his home near Markham to Oshawa, and shortly afterwards took up his residence in Whitby.

He was an active participant in the struggle of the County of Ontario from the union with the Counties of York and Peel, and for separation with Whitby as the County Town. Following success, in 1853-54 he took an active part in the celebration of the erection of the Ontario County buildings in Whitby.

He was one of the first Ontario County officials, being appointed High Constable at its formation. Not long after he was elected a member of the town council. Subsequently Mr. Keller held the position of deputy reeve and a member of the council of the County of Ontario.

In the early years Mr. Keller was a keen promoter of County interests, securing grants for appropriations for the improving of county roads, the building of railways, etc. He was a successful businessman who acquired his wealth in business and from speculation in town lots during the boom in Whitby. It was Mr. Keller and Abraham Farewell, M.P.P., who presented the site of the old Mechanics' Institute to the people of Whitby. He also held the office of postmaster of Oshawa and later of Whitby, Ont.

In 1871, Mr. Keller along with his wife Mary (Stuart) and their family, left Whitby and moved to Uxbridge where he became proprietor of the *Uxbridge Journal*. For a number of years he operated the paper with great success, but when his health began to fail in the mid 1880s, he gave up active participation in the business. The entire control of the paper was turned over to his son, William H. who carried on the business as publisher and editor.

Francis Keller died on Thursday, February 20th, 1890, at his residence in the Town of Uxbridge. During his life he was married twice. His first wife, Jane Clancy died at an early age leaving two girls and a boy, both of whom died before attaining mature age. He later married Mary Stuart of Trenton, who gave birth to a son and daughter.

Francis Keller is said to have enjoyed the friendship and good will of all who knew him and was described as a true friend and a kind, affectionate father and husband. He was always a faithful adherent of the Roman Catholic Church, and the large attendance at his funeral gave evidence of the high respect in which himself and family were held by the community.



Edwin Graham
1852 to 1883

Partner in the Uxbridge Journal from 1880 to 1883

Edwin Graham

Became Uxbridge Journal partner in 1880

EDWIN GRAHAM began his career in the printing business a very early age, entering the *Ontario Observer* office, Prince Albert, as an apprentice printer. Here his faithful and strict attention to duty did not escape observation and soon gained for him the respect and confidence not alone of his employers but of all in the office.

He is reported to have been a very reliable and trustworthy young man, carrying out his duties faithfully and efficiently for his employer.

After completing his apprenticeship in *The Observer* office, he following the natural ambition of youth, to court fortune in other fields, leaving *The Observer* and the locality and setting out to learn more of the world, and gaining more experience as printer.

In comparatively short time he entered into partnership in the newspaper business in Western Ontario. Some years later, he returned to Ontario County and became partner in the *Uxbridge Journal* office, at the age of 20 years, with Mr. Francis Keller.

It was a position he retained until the deteriorating state of his health would not allow him to continue in business. At his request, his partnership with Mr. Keller was dissolved on April 14, 1883, and he withdrew from the newspaper business with his reputation untarnished and bright.

Edwin Graham died in Port Perry on Saturday, July 15, 1883 at the young age of 31 years. A large circle of friends from Uxbridge and Port Perry attended his funeral. He left behind his respected father, Henry Graham, and mother, of whom he was the only remaining unmarried son.

His former partner, Francis Keller wrote in *The Journal*, that he and many customers and acquaintances of Mr. Graham's deeply regretted his passing.

He was a member of the Methodist Church and a thoughtful considerate Christian, taking a warm interest in his own church work, but having consideration for the beliefs of his neighbours of different persuasions. Uxbridge Division Sons of Temperance of whom Mr. Graham was a member, passed a resolution of condolence and ordered the name of their late brother to be inscribed on their memorial tablet.



William H. Keller
1866 to 1935

Partner with father in the Uxbridge Journal from 1883 to 1888

Publisher of Uxbridge Journal from 1888 to 1921



William H. Keller

WILLIAM HENRY KELLER was born in Whitby, Ont., the son of Francis E. and Mary Keller, and came to Uxbridge with his parents when a lad of five years of age. His father purchased *the Uxbridge Journal* on March 23, 1871, from James Graham and Robert Jones, the same year that the Toronto Nipissing Railway commenced operation to the village.

William received his education in Uxbridge public and high schools and started working as an apprentice at *The Journal* office with his father at a very young age. In 1888, when his father's health failed, took over the management of the newspaper. He was only 22 years of age at the time.

When his father, Francis Keller, died on February 13, 1890, young William was left with only his mother and sister to carry on, and with her as a constant guide and adviser *The Journal* became one of the strongest newspapers in the district.

During his ownership, *The Journal* always supported the Liberal policies and he carried its banner through each and every campaign. His broad-minded view of public matters included a high standard of principle which sought to maintain in all his activities. Mr. Keller was always ready to help with matters pertaining to the general welfare of the community, and morally, anything of questionable nature was known to meet his frown.

In 1922, after 24 years as owner and editor of the *Uxbridge Journal*, William Keller retired from the newspaper business and selling the newspaper to Albert V. Nolan, ending half a century of ownership of *The Journal* by the Keller family. He and his family moved to Toronto.

From the time he was a young boy, William H. Keller held a most exalted idea of principle and honesty. Through this he earned the highest esteem of everyone. In business he was the same and carried it out in all his dealings. He had a very quiet, unostentatious way about him, but believed the laborer worthy of his hire and carried it out in all his dealings.

Wm. H. Keller passed away suddenly at his home on Fulton Ave., Toronto, on Sunday, June 2, 1935, while in his 69th year. The news came as a tremendous shock to his family and a wide circle of friends, as he had been enjoying good health until the time of his death. Left to mourn his loss was his wife Hermine (Dollard), who he married in 1907 and their four daughters, Hermine, Whilemine, Mary and Helen.

He was a member of the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, Uxbridge, where a Mass was celebrated on Tuesday morning, preceding interment at Uxbridge cemetery.



Albert V. Nolan
1890 to 1950

Published the Uxbridge Journal from 1921 to 1922

Albert V. Nolan

Published The Uxbridge Journal and
the North Ontario Times

ALBERT V. NOLAN, or "Bert" as he was so fondly know in Uxbridge was born in Uxbridge, the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Henry Nolan, and as a young man he learned the printing trade as an apprentice with the *Uxbridge Journal*.

On completion of his apprenticeship he went to Peterborough for a short time and when Messrs. Sharpe and Smith bought the *North Ontario Times*, Mr. Nolan returned took charge of the office, later taking it over in his own name in 1911 for a short period.

Mr. Nolan next moved to Chesley, Ontario where he managed the *Chesley Enterprise* for a couple of years before moving on to take over the *Barrie Advance*. After a few years there he returned to Uxbridge and purchased "*The Uxbridge Journal*" in 1921. He carried on the newspaper for almost two years, before selling to A.J. de Carle in 1922. Arthur de Carle operated *The Journal* until 1930 when it was purchased by Harold Cave and was merged with *The Ontario Times* to become the *Uxbridge Times-Journal*.

After selling the *The Journal*, Mr. Nolan moved to Stouffville where he purchased the Stouffville Tribune, building it into one of the best country weeklies in Ontario. His son Charles H. joined him and was his partner for 14 years, at the time of his death.

Prominent in most organizations in Stouffville, and the surrounding township, Mr. Nolan served as Pastmaster of Richardson Masonic Lodge, a member of Stouffville Lions Club and was affiliated with Stouffville United Church, where he was a member of the Board. He also held the post of Justice of the Peace for more than a decade.

Many old friends and acquaintances in Uxbridge and Sunderland district learned with regret of the sudden death of Albert Victor Nolan, at his home in Stouffville on Thursday, April 27, 1950. The burial took place at Stouffville cemetery on Sunday, April 30th, 1950, services being held in the United Church, Stouffville.

At the time of his death, he left his wife, the former Pearle M. Griffiths, whom he met and married in Uxbridge; one son Charles H., two sisters, Mrs. Charles Reid, of Leaside, and Mrs. Charles Gansler, of Toronto and a brother W.G. Nolan of Toronto.



Arthur J. de Carle
1880 to 1967

Published the Uxbridge Journal from 1922 to 1930



Arthur J. de Carle

Published The Journal
from 1922 to 1930

ARTHUR JOSEPH DE CARLE was born in England in 1880 and came to Canada with his parents Arthur and Elizabeth (Hall) at an early age, settling near Toronto.

He began his printing career setting type at the *Toronto Globe* working on the Linotype machine. In fact, he became somewhat of an expert on the Linotype and travelled around Canada and the U.S.A. helping to repair the machines.

In 1905 he married Wilma (Collingwood) in Toronto and the couple had six children; Aileen, born in 1907; Lea 1909; Margaret 1911; Jack 1913; Vera 1915; Len 1921.

Although busy in the printing industry, Mr. de Carle was also interested in construction and spent his spare time building a number of houses around the Beaches area of Toronto. In 1922 he decided to leave construction, moving to Uxbridge to purchase *The Journal*, a weekly newspaper in that community. At the newspaper, the entire de Carle family got involved in production of the newspaper.

After eight years in Uxbridge, the pressures of the depression, as well two papers serving the small town, *The Journal* and the *North Ontario Times*, prompted Mr. de Carle to sell the paper to rival publisher Harold Cave in 1930. Mr. Cave immediately amalgamated the two newspapers and re-named it the *Uxbridge Time-Journal*. After disposing of *The Journal* Mr. de Carle, who was only 50 years of age, moved from Uxbridge to Parkhill, Ont., near London, where he purchased the *Parkhill Gazette*.

This venture in the newspaper business did not last long, and a few years later Mr. de Carle sold *The Gazette* and moved his family to Toronto. This ended his lifelong career as a printer and publisher.

In Toronto he opened and operated a grocery store in the east end of the city, and later expanded to open another grocery store in the west end. In 1938 the family moved to Ottawa, where he opened his last store.

Mr. de Carle passed away in 1967 at the age of 87 years, and was buried in Beechwood Cemetery, Ottawa.



Harold J. Cave

1884 to 1958

Harold and Belle Cave



Purchased the Uxbridge Journal in 1930 and amalgamated it with the North Ontario Times. He published the combined Uxbridge Times-Journal from 1930 to 1952

Harold J. Cave

Amalgamates the North Ontario Times and
The Uxbridge Journal in 1930

HAROLD J. CAVE began his newspaper career as a very young lad, when he began to apprentice as a compositor in his father's newspaper plant in Beaverton. He learned the trade from the ground up, which in those days took a great deal of grit and perseverance, due to lack of electricity, power machines and the modern equipment of today.

Having learned his trade, he left the family home and worked for some time in western Canada before returning to Ontario and settling in Uxbridge in 1918 with his wife Belle (Galloway). Upon his arrival in town, he purchased the *North Ontario Times*, owned by Mr. R.H. Davey, and settled down to make Uxbridge his new home.

Two years after taking over *The Times*, the ambitious young publisher purchased the former Bascom House Hotel on Brock street and moved the newspaper from its former cramped space a few buildings east. In the large new premises he successfully operated for 10 years, before having the opportunity to purchase his competition, the *Uxbridge Journal*, in 1929. The *Uxbridge Journal*, had been owned by A.J. de Carle and was published from its long time stand at the corner of Brock and Church Streets.

Having completed the purchase, Mr. Cave immediately amalgamated the two newspapers and re-named the local newspaper the *Uxbridge Times-Journal*. Now, as owner of the only newspaper in town, he took on the roles of publisher, editor, shop man and chore boy when it demanded. His was a long and progressive career, but he was also active in town affairs, in church and belonged to the Masonic Lodge.

After 34 years publishing a newspaper in Uxbridge Mr. Cave decided to take things a little easier, and in 1952, at the age of 66, he sold the Times-Journal to it Per and Leila Hvidsten and semi-retired. After the Hvidsten's took over, he stayed on as a mentor for a number of months.

When he finally did retire, he decided to move to his original home town of Beaverton to build a new home and live among his friends and relatives there. He and his wife Belle moved from Uxbridge in November 1956, but tragically, three months later Belle Cave died suddenly. Mr. Cave plunged into work, this time helping his brother Gordon Cave, who had taken over the family newspaper, the Beaverton Express.

Then, just as suddenly as his wife, Harold J. Cave died in Beaverton on Thursday, May 28, 1958, after succumbing to a fatal seizure in the doctor's office just prior to a trip he had planned to make to Uxbridge. His death came as a shock to a host of friends and business associations around the town and district.

The funeral service for Harold Cave was held on Sunday, May 25, 1958 with interment in the Stone Church Cemetery, Thorah. With his passing, the long and distinguished history of the Cave family in the weekly newspaper business also came to an end.



Per (Pete) Hvidsten
1913 to 1985

Leila and Per Hvidsten, 1960



Co-owner, publisher of the Uxbridge Journal from
1952 to 1963

Per (Pete) Hvidsten & Leila Hvidsten

Purchase the Uxbridge Times Journal from
Harold Cave in January 1953.

PER HVIDSTEN was born into the newspaper business in his hometown of Sarpsborg, Norway, where his father Peder Hvidsten published a daily newspaper. From the age of 17, he worked for his father at the newspaper, until his career was interrupted by the second world war in 1940.

He escaped from his German occupied country making his way to England and subsequently to Canada. Here he became an air-force instructor at Little Norway, located outside of Huntsville. It was during his stay near Huntsville he met his future wife, Leila Elsie Todd.

LEILA HVIDSTEN was born in Huntsville, Ontario, the only daughter of Samuel and Alice Todd. During World War II, while working at a local drug store in Huntsville, Leila met her husband to be, an officer stationed at Little Norway. They were married and had two children, Gerri Lynn and Peter.

After being discharged from the Norwegian Air Force Mr. Hvidsten worked for a community newspaper in Huntsville called the *Huntsville Forester* for a short time before moving to North Bay to establish his own printing business, which was called the *Northland Printer*.

After six years of struggling in commercial printing, his dream of owning a newspaper came a reality. The *Uxbridge Times-Journal* was purchased in January 1953 with Per as publisher and Leila taking on the duties of editor. Over the next few years the *T-J*, as it became known, grew and flourished as they introduced photographs, editorial page and expanded local new coverage. Mrs. Hvidsten, although not a trained journalist, had a remarkable flair for writing and provided many thought provoking editorials and comments in the paper each week. She was rewarded for her efforts in 1957 when she won the prestigious Editorial Award from the Canadian Weekly Newspaper.

Despite her demanding role as editor of the *Times-Journal* she ran successfully for a seat on council during the late 1950s. Her interest in local politics was from her coverage of council meetings

The *Times-Journal* was eventually moved from its stand on Brock St. (in the former Bascom Hotel), into a modern, new building on Bascom St. after unsuccessfully attempting to purchase the building from the former owner. With modernized facilities, the paper continued to flourish and was often recipient of provincial and national newspaper awards.

With the Uxbridge paper operating smoothly, the couple decided to purchase the floundering Port Perry Star from the family of the late Samuel Farmer, in September of 1963. Mrs. Hvidsten stayed in Uxbridge to operate the *Times-Journal*, while Mr. Hvidsten took up new roots in Port Perry. Ironically, Samuel Farmer began his career in the printing business as an apprentice at the *Uxbridge Journal* many years earlier. For a time during this dual ownership, the Hvidsten's daughter Gerri Lynn was her mother's right hand at the *Uxbridge Times Journal*, while their son Peter worked along side his father at the Port Perry newspaper.



Leila E. Hvidsten

1919 to 1999

Co-owner, editor of the Uxbridge Journal from
1952 to 1963.

She assumed full ownership in 1963 and published the
Times-Journal until 1974

Leila Hvidsten took over the dual role of publisher/editor of the *Times-Journal* and continued publishing the paper until July 1974, ending a 22 years ownership of the *T-J* by the Hvidsten family. The paper was purchased by former employees Harry Stemp and Bill Keyzers, through an arrangement agreed upon by the two parties a decade earlier. Mr. Stemp and Keyzers had purchased the printing division of the *T-J* during the 1960s and operated the Uxbridge Printing Company independent of the newspaper until this time, when the two were once again amalgamated.

After selling the Times-Journal, Mrs. Hvidsten left the community she had called home for over two decades and moved near Lakefield, Ont., where she once again began to pursue her newspaper career. Working out of her Young's Point home basement, she purchased typesetting equipment, hired an advertising salesman and writer, and in January 1975 began a weekly publication called *The Kawartha Canadian*. This venture lasted until March 24, 1977 when she closed it down. About 1985 she moved to Port Perry, where her son Peter operated the local newspaper. After living in Port Perry for about 12 years, she entered the Uxbridge Nursing Home, where she passed away in September 1999. She was buried beside her parents in the Huntsville cemetery.

During the time the Port Perry Star was published by Per Hvidsten, the newspaper was the recipient of many awards for outstanding achievement. In 1969 Mr. Hvidsten was honoured by the Ontario Weekly Newspaper Association by being elected president.

In January 1976, after more than 40 years in the business, Per Hvidsten decided it was time to retire, and sold the business to his son Peter. Although he retired from the day-to-day operation, he continued to keep his hand in the business he loved so dearly, working part-time for the next eight years along side his son. Per Hvidsten passed away at Oshawa General Hospital on Monday, May 27, 1985 after a brief illness, and was interred at Canarvan, Ont.



Harry Stemp
Born 1934

Co-owner, editor of the Uxbridge Journal from
1974 to 1989

Harry Stemp

Purchases Times-Journal in July 1974
along with his partner Bill Keyzers

HARRY STEMPE was no stranger to newspapers when he purchased the *Uxbridge Times-Journal* in 1974. Born on December 14, 1934, son of Jack and May Stemp, he grew up and attended school in Uxbridge. But his love of the newspaper/printing business was fostered through his uncles, Ted Asling and Walter Stemp, both who apprenticed at the Times-Journal.

At the young age of 14, in November 1949, he became an apprentice (printer's devil) at the *Times-Journal* under the guidance of owner Harold Cave. Here he learned how to operate the Linotype, set type by hand, compose pages of the *Times-Journal* and operate the handfed printing presses. As the apprentice he was also put in charge of sidewalk snow removal and making sure the auto coal feeder that fired the steam boiler was always topped up and, once a week, cleaning out the long tubes that produced the steam to heat the large building. All these duties and more were performed for \$6 per week.

His writing career began writing sports reports for Mr. Cave, but when Per and Leila Hvidsten purchased the Times-Journal in 1953 they expanded the coverage to a full sports page including a personal column. Mr. Stemp soon developed an opinionated, and outspoken style of writing and, although loved by the sports fans, he was often in hot water with team managers, coaches and game officials. He came to love controversy, a trait that would follow him through his entire journalistic career.

The Hvidsten's sold the commercial printing division of the *Times-Journal* to Harry and William Keyzers in 1960. The two former employees formed the Uxbridge Printing Company, and immediately began to expand, first purchasing the *Lake Simcoe Advocate* in Sutton, and later Sutton Printers and *Beaverton Express*. Later they would add the *Markham Economist and Sun*.

In 1974 Mr. Stemp realized his dream to own his hometown newspaper. Along with his partner, Mr. Keyzers, they purchased the *Uxbridge Times-Journal*, the paper where Mr. Stemp's newspaper career started many years earlier.

When Uxbridge Printing Company Limited was sold in 1989 they owned several community newspapers; *Uxbridge Times-Journal*, *Stouffville Sun*, *Lake Simcoe Advocate*, *East Gwillimbury Communicator*, *Beaverton Express*, *Cannington Gleaner*, *Bobcaygeon Independent* and the *Fenelon Falls Gazette*. They also operated a large centralized printing operation in Uxbridge and had 110 employees.

In 1987 Harry started a new career with the Ontario Community Newspaper Association, and two years later he was appointed Executive Director of OCNA, a position he held until 1995 when he was terminated by the board of directors.

Mr. Stemp was always involved in community activities. He was a member of the local Kinsmen Club, the Spring Water Days, spearheaded the expansion to the Uxbridge Library, and Uxbridge Arena. He had a love for the Uxbridge Legion and was honoured to be named a Meritorious Life Member, the highest honour that can be bestowed on a non-veteran.

Over the years Mr. Stemp received a number of community awards. The one he treasures most is the Uxbridge Citizen of the Year which he received in 1988.



William Keyzers
Born 1932



Riki Keyzers

William (Bill) Keyzers

Purchases Times-Journal in July 1974
along with his partner Harry Stemp

WILLIAM KEYZERS came by his love for printing at an early age, learning his trade from his parents, who owned a weekly newspaper and commercial printing shop in the Netherlands. The printing business remains in the family until this day.

Mr. Keyzers was born in the Netherlands on October 22, 1932 and moved to Canada as a young man in July 1953. He first worked in Grossle Isle, north of Winnipeg, Manitoba. After a couple of years there he decided to move east and settled in Uxbridge in March 1955. Here he successfully applied for a job as a printer at the *Uxbridge Times-Journal*, then owned by Pete and Leila Hvidsten.

At the Times-Journal, he worked along side of Harry Stemp, who eventually became his partner. In January 1960 the Hvidsten's leased the commercial printing department to Bill and Harry and they formed *Uxbridge Printing Co. Ltd.* The former employees leased the space and equipment from the *Uxbridge Times-Journal* until 1965 when the printing business was sold to Mr. Keyzers and Mr. Stemp.

In 1971 the partners purchased the Markham Economist & Sun and Bill took over the duties of publisher of the newspaper. They next acquired the *Uxbridge Times-Journal* in June 1974, when Mrs. Hvidsten retired and sold the paper to Bill and Harry. Bill took over the role of publisher and Harry that of editor. Bill was directly responsible for the production of the newspapers and the finances of the company

When Bill and Harry sold the *Uxbridge Printing Co. Ltd.* in 1989 they were publishing eight weekly newspapers and operated a large commercial printing business.

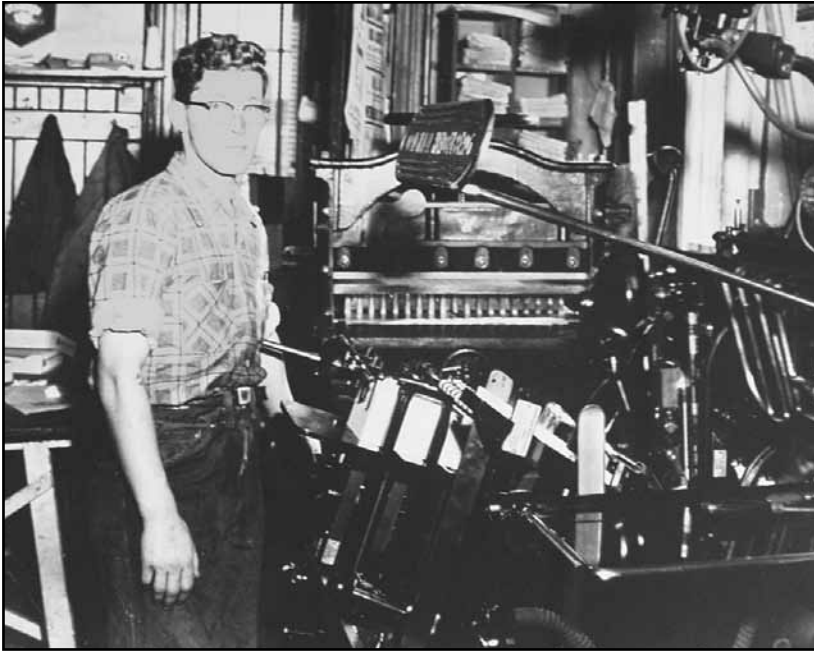
Bill was married on October 13, 1956 to Riki Janssen a native from the Netherlands who he met in Uxbridge. The couple raised two children Dorothy and Frank. Frank started as an apprentice with the printing company in 1976, but tragically his career was cut short due to a car accident in 1978 which took his life.

In March 1989, after selling *Uxbridge Printing Co. Ltd.*, Bill and his daughter Dorothy purchased Uxbridge Travel, which she continues to operate to this day.

Bill has taken an active part in his community. He held the office of president of the Kinsmen Club of Uxbridge, served on the Committee of Minor Variances, was chairman of the local Catholic Separate School Board and has served for 11 years on the Uxbridge Credit Union Board.

Although he is not actively involved in the printing industry anymore, ink still runs in his blood. In 1999, with the help of a former employee, Floyd Morton, Bill's dream became a reality with the opening of the Quaker Hill Printing Shop at the Uxbridge-Scott Museum. Most of the equipment at the museum was donated by *Uxbridge Printing Co.*, and repaired and reconditioned by the two men. The print show is operational during the summer season.

HISTORY OF NEWSPAPERS



Bill Keyzers working on the Heidelberg press at the Uxbridge Times Journal about 1957.



Bill and Riki Keyzers volunteered at the Uxbridge-Scott Museum Steam Days in Sept. 2001 and are seen here in front of an old Miller hand-fed press used at the T-J for many years. The press is now on display at the museum.

Times-Journal Photo Album

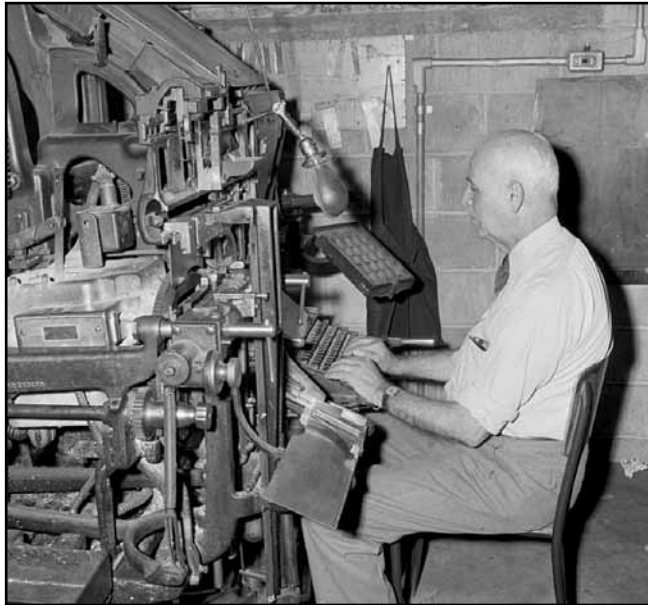


Albert Victor Nolan, editor of the Stouffville Tribune at his desk in 1939. Mr. Nolan was owner of the North Ontario Times in Uxbridge for a short time about 1911 before purchasing the Chesley Enterprise with a partner. He returned to Stouffville in 1922 and purchased the Stouffville Tribune. A.V. Nolan passed away in 1950.

Photos courtesy of Mrs. Charles Nolan, Stouffville



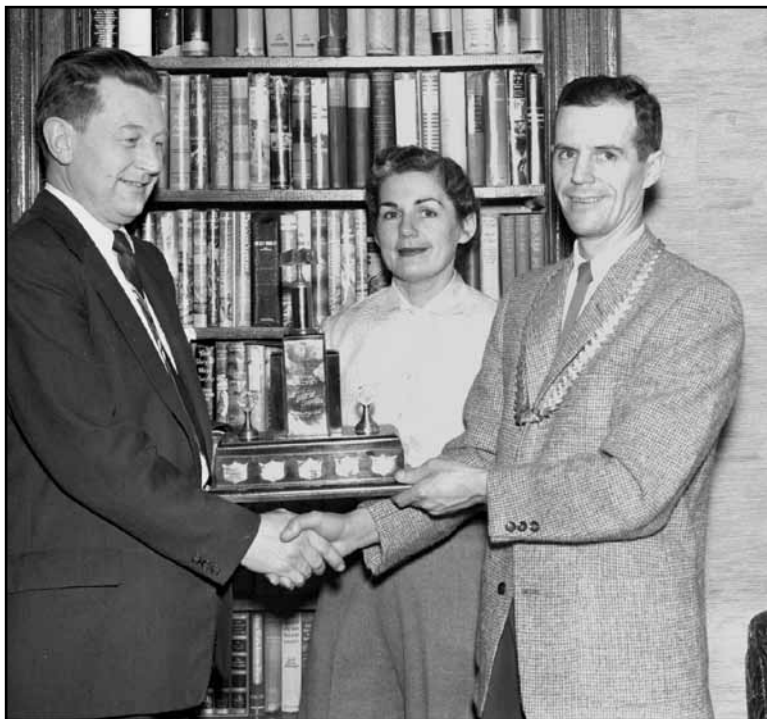
Albert V. Nolan with his son Charles, who took over the Stouffville Tribune following his death. This picture was taken in the back shop of the Tribune in 1939.



Long time Times-Journal employee Art Knight, working at the linotype machine in 1958, in the new Uxbridge Times-Journal office on Bascom St.



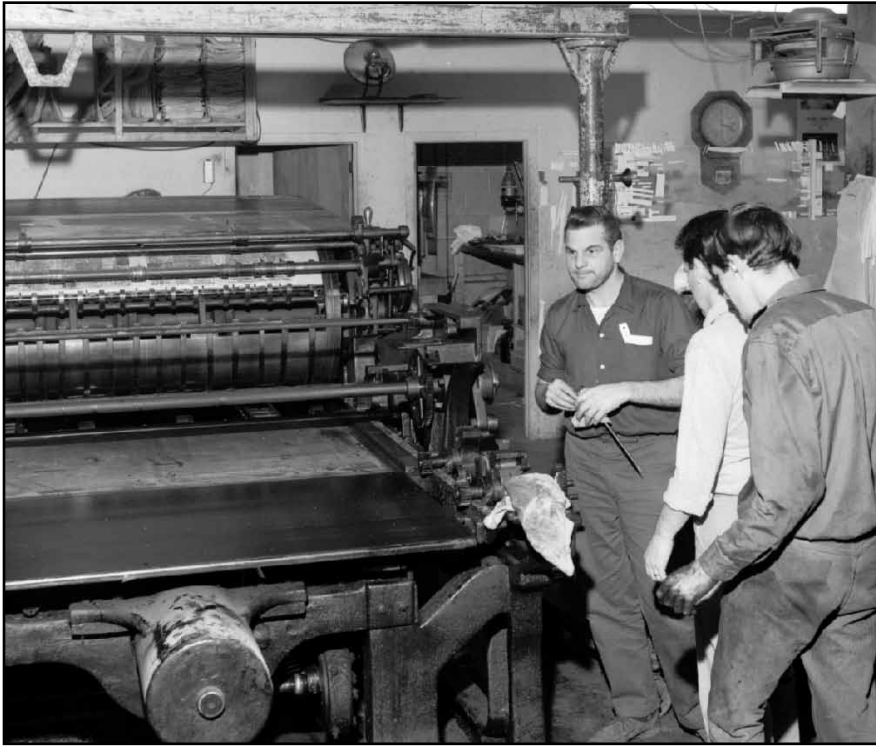
The Uxbridge Times-Journal staff following the move to Bascom St. in 1957, Back left, John Mitchell, Bill Kezyers, Ralph (Zeke) Mount. Front left, Harry Stemp, Eileen Gould and Art Knight.



On February 21, 1957, Uxbridge Mayor Carl Puterbough presented the Editorial Writing Award to Leila and Per Hvidsten, on behalf of the Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association. The first place award was won for an editorial written by Mrs. Hvidsten in the Uxbridge Times-Journal.



The new Uxbridge Times-Journal on Bascom St. is seen during construction in 1957. The building was completed and formally opened in November 1957, with Mayor Carl Puterbough cutting the ribbon for the official opening.



It was the end of an era at Uxbridge Printing (formerly part of the Uxbridge Times-Journal) as the old Optimus newspaper press was dismantled in 1968.

The old hand-fed press was purchased in 1925 by Harold Cave and every week since had printed an issue of the Times-Journal as well as large printing jobs like fair posters and auction sale bills.

It is estimated about 4,500,000 copies rolled off the press over the 50 years it was in use.

In the lower photo, Ralph Mount (left) back and Kent Painter are seen helping dismantle the 13 ton flatbed press for scrap. The press had been used for printing the Uxbridge Times-Journal for more than half a century.



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