THE ISLAND

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SCUGOG ISLAND

BY J. PETER HVIDSTEN

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Researched and Published by J. Peter Hvidsten

May 2023

Design and layout by J. Peter Hvidsten

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Acknowledgements

The following account of Scugog Island comes from a variety of sources, and the information presented here is not intended to reflect a complete detailed history of the Island community. What you find documented in the book has come from the memory of many local residents and resources available through multiple resources, as listed below.

The objective of this book was to assemble a brief history of Scugog Island, which includes well documented and published information, along with some of the lesser known, but interesting facts about Scugog Island.

Every effort has been made to be as accurate as possible, but once published, it's very possible more information will come forward. We welcome both the new facts and corrections, should any of the information not be correct.

Following are some of the sources researched, and individuals who helped provide the information contained on these pages. Sincere thanks to everyone who contributed.

- On The Shores of Scugog – Samuel Farmer,
- Scugog and It's Environs – Rev. F.G. Weir
- Historical Atlas of Ontario County – J.H. Beers & Co.
- Short Sketch of Ontario County – J.E. Farewell
- Ontario Observer newspaper
- North Ontario Observer
- The Port Perry Star
- Scugog Island, Tweedsmuir Community History
- Ontario Land Registry Records
- Scugog Digital Newspaper Collection
- Ancestry.ca
- Janis Carter
- Paul Arculus
- Marilyn Pearce
- Michael Fowler
- Erin Hayward

NOTE:

Throughout this book the words "Indian" and "Indian Church" have been used. The use of the word "Indian" has been used only to illustrate how our Indigenous neighbours were described in local and national documents and newspapers for more than 200 years, during the 1800s and 1900s.

It is fully understood that the term "Indian" is not the accepted description of the Indigenous community today, but its use as it was printed more than a century ago, helps illustrate how far modern society has come towards understanding, recognizing and respecting the Indigenous peoples of our Scugog community.

Scugog Island
In The Beginning

The following information, chronicling the history of Scugog Island, comes from two main sources, Samuel Farmer's book *"On The Shores of Scugog"* and Rev. Frank G. Weir's book, *"Scugog And Its Environs",* both written in the early 1900s.

The information presented here is not intended to reflect the entire history of the Island community, but should give a basic understanding of the difficulties and hardships of the earliest settlers.

Scugog Island was not settled quite as early as Reach Township, although it was surveyed by Major S. Wilmot in 1816. About this time it seems to have been uninhabited. There were some Mississauga Indians who camped at times where Port Perry now stands, but they did not live there permanently at first.

The present settlement on Scugog Island was purchased in 1843, by a group of Mississaugas living at Balsam Lake. They moved to Scugog Island in 1844. One of the first buildings they erected on their newly purchased land was a schoolhouse.

The first white settler on the Island is said to have been Joseph Graxton about 1834. There were settlers in Reach several years before there were any on the Island probably due to there being no bridge connecting it with the main land and horses and cattle and all luggage had to be transferred in a scow.

Some of the earliest settlers, following Graxton arrival were - the Readers, Rodmans, Grosveners, Pickles, Thompsons, Walkers, Gambles, and Scovilles. About 1843 others came including the Burkes, Thornes, Taylors, Conklins, Harpers and Nesbitts. Next came the Aldreds, Sweetmans, Hoods, Fralicks, Jacksons, and Grahams.

Joel Aldred came to spy out the land in 1844 and returned the following year and settled on the Island. He loaded all his worldly goods upon a raft, headed for the centre of the Island where he was met by Mr. Rodman.

Rodman loaded Aldred's belongings, hitched his yoke of oxen an guided his beasts past this bog, through the forest of tall timber where there is neither road nor trail.

This same story was told over and over again, as more and more young men and their families arrived to settle on Scugog Island. By 1847 a Missionary to the Indians reported that there were then 100 white persons living on the Island.

According to figures published in November 1866 there were 800 inhabitants on the Island, 105 ratepayers, and the levied tax was $580. The real estate at that time amounted to $97,149 and personal property to $5000. In 1869 real estate amounted to $99,960, and personal property $6,500; acres cleared 5081, and there were on the Island 239 horses, 660 cattle, 1030 sheep, 244 hogs and 33 dogs.

This brief introduction just give a sampling of how the Island was settled, and the hardships they endured. For more detailed information about Scugog Island, read one of the two books mentioned above. They can be found on the Scugog Heritage Gallery site at: https://scugogheritage.com/

The contents of this book provide stories and information on the institutions, settlements and people of this unique island community.

Table Of Contents

Chapter One

The Schools
of
Scugog Island

Pioneer Log School House

* Example of the type of primitive log school houses built in Ontario during the early 1800s.

While researching the history of Scugog Island schools, it became apparent there was nothing specific to the earliest of the Island schools. Fortunately the following description, found in a *Scugog Island W.I., Tweedsmuir Community History Book,* provided a insight into the primitive facilities the pioneer settlers established to ensure their children were educated.

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In these primitive times the schoolhouse was constructed of logs frequently unshaped and it contained a single room. The furniture consisted chiefly of fir or pine cut into planks of various sizes supported by pins inserted in the wall, used for desks; in front of which extended huge pieces of square timber supported by legs of uneven length.

The log walls were whitewashed, but that did not stop winter winds from whistling through the cracks between the logs. A raised platform was provided for the schoolmaster's desk and from which recitations were made. Since books were scarce most of the pupil's written work was done on a piece of black slate.

The schoolhouse was heated by means of an immense fireplace, similar to those in the dwelling houses of that time. Logs were cut and placed on a hearth to create a blazing fire which provided adequate heating, depending where the student was seated.

* The picture above is an example of a simple log school house, this one built in 1820 in Waterloo, Ontario. Photo courtesy of Waterloo Doors Open.

Head School
S.S. No.1

This photo is of first "Head School" house was built about 1866 . The white frame building, with a bell tower was located near the corner of Island Road and Portview Beach Rd.

Prior to 1860 a school had been built at the "Head" of the Island on the present Road 7, which extends the length of the Island. It was situated west and north of the present Museum Church. It is assumed that it was a log building.

When the church was built in 1860, the school was moved to its final site on the corner, separated from the Head Church by a burial ground. Five years later it burned down.

This 1877 map shows the location of the Head Church and Head School - S.S. No. 1.

In 1866 a one-room frame school was built on the same site. An outside building provided toilets and a woodshed for the wood, which kept the pot-bellied stove supplied. A small entrance porch at the end welcomed eight grades and the one teacher. Painted black-boards reflected the light from three windows on either side. double desks frequently were defaced with pupils' initials.

Children thought it was a privilege to pull the long rope which rang the belfry bell, calling classes in. Some people in the neighbourhood, set their clocks by the bell. When the local caretaker failed to see that a warm fire welcomed the pupils, the teacher or a trustworthy pupil had to get it going.

The teacher boarded in the area and was expected to help in Church and community. A lady teacher must not be married and their habits of living were very con-strained. A salary of one thousand dollars was considered

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Scugog Island's "Head School" is now the location for Scugog Shores Museum.

very generous by 1927. Occasionally, the school numbered as high as 44 pupils.

As time went on, there were three schools on the Island. Each had its own school board of three men which met twice a year to hire teachers or check on necessary items. Each school had its own Christmas concert. But in the Fall, teachers and pupils gathered with parents at the Township Hall for the School Fair where they competed in public speaking, exhibits or well conducted marching.

In 1928, the trustees, Thomas Redman, Alex Martyn and Oliver Reader decided to take a big step in school improvement. Therefore the class-room and clothing facilities were added. The luxuries of hydro and furnace were installed. A well was dug and the schoolyard was considerably enlarged.

While these changes were taking place, the teacher and pupils held school classes in the nearby, church tearoom, seated at long tables on rough planks. During winter they huddled around the inadequate stoves, as they tried to work. In the Spring of 1929, it was a very happy teacher, Reta Quantz (later Reta Reader), who led her excited pupils into their new and comfortable surroundings.

As time went on, more changes were to come. There was one school board for all the Island schools and they met at least once a month. Music and religion were taught. The schools united for Christmas concerts and Music festivals. They enjoyed oil heating, Movable desks, modern black-boards, travelling libraries, water by pressure system, pianos, radios and provided school supplies. The next big change in 1960, was busing the children, so the three schools could be used in a graded system.

Perhaps the biggest change for the Head School came in 1966, when it was decided to bus all Island children to Port Perry, though they didn't all start at the same time. At this time only one bus was required. Mrs. Measures was the last teacher in the regular Head School.

The school remained empty for a period until it served as a place of learning for the children with mental disabilities from the surrounding area. When other arrangements were made for Central Seven children, the school's fate was again a question.

By 1969 a Lake Scugog Historical Society had been formed and they were encouraging the people the area to start a museum and find a location. Eventually it was arranged with the Board of Education to acquire the Head School as a show place for Scugog Shores Museum displays.

Allene Kane became the Scugog museum's first curator.

By Mrs. Earl Reader
Reprinted from Scugog Island W.I.
Tweedsmuir Community History

Centre School
S.S. No.2

Centre School, constructed in 1927, was purchased in 20?? and is now a private home.

Scugog S.S. No.2, Centre School is located on the southwest corner of Island Road and Stephenson Point. Like its name suggests, Centre School is located at about 6 km north of Hwy. 7A approximately at the centre of Scugog Island.

It is believed the Centre School, may have been the first school constructed on Scugog Island. There are no details about this school, but it would likely have been simple log structure as described earlier.

Evidence supports Centre School being the first school established on Scugog Island. The proof is found in a report from the County of Ontario in June 1855, at the time Scugog was preparing to be separated from Township of Reach.

An Ontario County by-law ordered that the first meeting of the newly formed Township of Scugog was to be held in the Centre School on February 25, 1856. It was at this first meeting in the school, James W. Gamble was chosen as the first Reeve of the new Township of Scugog.

A second school house, a small white-frame building, was constructed on the same property in 1869. It would have been similar to "Head School" built a few years earlier. This school served the families of the Island until a 1927.

The third Centre School to be built on the site was officially opened on Monday, November 7, 1927. Ontario County Warden, A.W. Jackson declaring it opened.

The attractive red brick school house had to entrances on the north side of the building, one for girls and one for boys. It was well lit with natural light from five large triple pane windows along the west side of the building. It also featured a spacious basement with sill widows which allowed light into the basement.

Location of the "Centre School" can be seen, circled in this 1877 Atlas of Ontario County map.
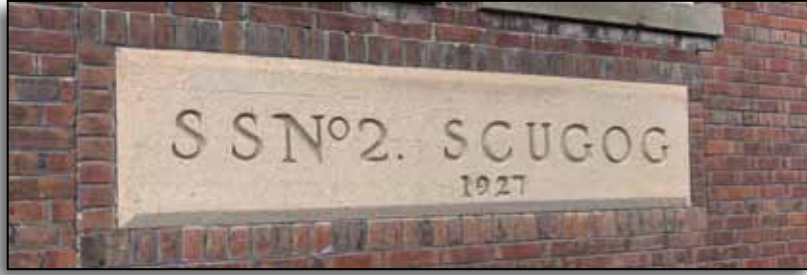
Corner stone shows the school was built in 1927.

For the next 25 years, in addition to the Centre School being used to educate the children of the Island, it was often the location for meetings and events until Scugog's town hall was opened in 1884.

Few changes were made to the Centre School house over ensuing years, although in 1947 hydro was finally installed.

In February 1948 the individual school boards for the three Island schools were dissolved and a new, five member school board, "Scugog Township School Area Board" was formed.

Sixteen years later school officials were informed by the Department of Education that Scugog Island's three schools would be closed at the end of the 1966 school year. Foot School closed on schedule but the children continued to attend classes at SS#1 Head School and SS#2 Centre School until the following year before being transferred to schools in Port Perry and Prince Albert.

Following the closer of the schools, in June 1967 Scugog Island council purchased the Centre School from the local Board of Education for $792.00. Although children no longer used the former school for learning, the schoolhouse became a popular location for a variety of community events for many years.

When Durham Region was formed in 1973, Port Perry amalgamated with Reach, Scugog and Cartwright Townships, becoming the new Township of Scugog. The new township assumed ownership of the property, and the empty schoolhouse was used for a number of years to store material and items collected from Scugog Shores Museum which had run out of storage room.

The Township of Scugog sold the former Centre Island school in April 2002. It was resold again in February 2015 and has since been converted into a single family dwelling.

The Centre School and sparate entrances for the boys and girls.

Foot School
S.S. No.3

Foot School, located near the north end of Scugog Island was built in 1866.

One of the earliest settlers on Scugog Island, William Aldred, is credited with having built the first school on the Island. "Foot School" as it became known, was constructed at the north end of Scugog Island in 1866. Until this time, classes for children would have been held in the homes of residents or in a simple log structure.

Mr. Aldred built the wood frame building, estimated to have been 18'x40' in size. It featured a high pitch roof and four large vertical windows along each side, which provided plenty of light into the classroom. Entrance to the large school room was made through a single door at the front.

A report in the local newspaper, the Ontario Observer, reported in March 1867 were three schools on Scugog Island in March 1867 – S.S. No.1, Head; S.S. No.2, Centre and S.S. No.3, Foot. Of these two were taught by females and S.S. No.3 by a male teacher.

Records from 1866 show Foot School averaged 23.5 students each day. Head School had an average of 29 students, and Centre School the least, with 20 students per day. Total cost to educate the 72.5 students of Scugog Island during 1866 amounted to $834.22.

This 1877 map shows the location of the Centre Church and Centre School - S.S. No. 1.

Foot School served the families of the north end of Scugog Island until a fire in July 1957, started in a supply shed and spread to the school damaging the rear of the building. Damage was not severe, allowing students to return to classes in September.

In February 1966, one hundred years after Foot school opened school officials were informed by the Department of Education that Scugog Island's three schools would close at the end of the year. Foot School closed on schedule but Island children attended classes at SS#1 and SS#1 until the following year before being transferred to schools in Port Perry and Prince Albert.

The the old school sat idle for a couple of years before being sold by auction in 1968 to Sid Chandler. Mr. Chandler was the clerk-treasurer of the township and paid $775 for the building and property. One condition of the sale, was that the old school building was to be removed.

Scugog Island - 1877

Illustration from the
HISTORICAL ATLAS
of the
COUNTY OF ONTARIO
1877

Chapter Two

The Scugog Island General Store

Scugog Island Hall and Store

Date of this picture of the Scugog Island general store is not known, but estimated to be circa 1900.
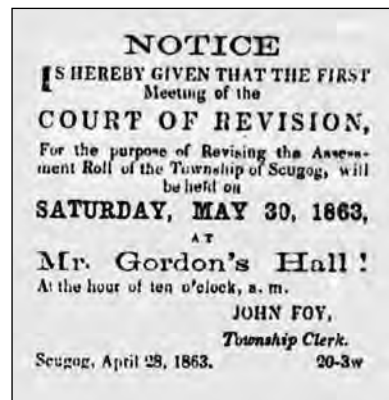*Photo courtesy Erin Hayward.*

As can be seen on the illustration below, the earliest record of the 200 acre property on which a small section later became the location of the Scugog Island general store, was owned by Benjamin French. The large property changed hands a number of times until it was purchased by Isaac Orchard about 1855.

Rev. Frank G. Weir's book *"Scugog And Its Environs"* suggests that during the 1860s there were about four of buildings on the corner (see map opposite page). On the very corner stood a building that was spoken of as a hotel/tavern operated by John Dwyer. Next to it there was a residential home, then a blacksmith shop owned by Joe Tyrrel and then James Gordon's store

Mr. Orser purchased the corner property with the intention of opening a bar in the building referred to as the Scugog Hotel, but the township council refused to grant him a license.

About 1861 Isaac Orser sold a 3/4 acre parcel of land with the building to James Gordon, after which it became known as Gordon's corner. There was a large room over the hotel, often referred to as Gordon's Hall, which was used for Scugog council meetings and court sessions for several years.

The property changed hands again in 1864, this time being purchased by William Farewell. Three years later, Mr. Farewell sold the property to Isaac Finley and it quickly became known as Finley's Hall *(see ad opposite page).*

> ## NOTICE
> IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE FIRST Meeting of the
> ## COURT OF REVISION,
> For the purpose of Revising the Assessment Roll of the Township of Scugog, will be held on
> ## SATURDAY, MAY 30, 1863,
> AT
> ## Mr. Gordon's Hall!
> At the hour of ten o'clock, a. m.
> JOHN FOY,
> *Township Clerk.*
> Scugog, April 28, 1863.   20-3w

Gordon's Hall, Scugog Island 1863.
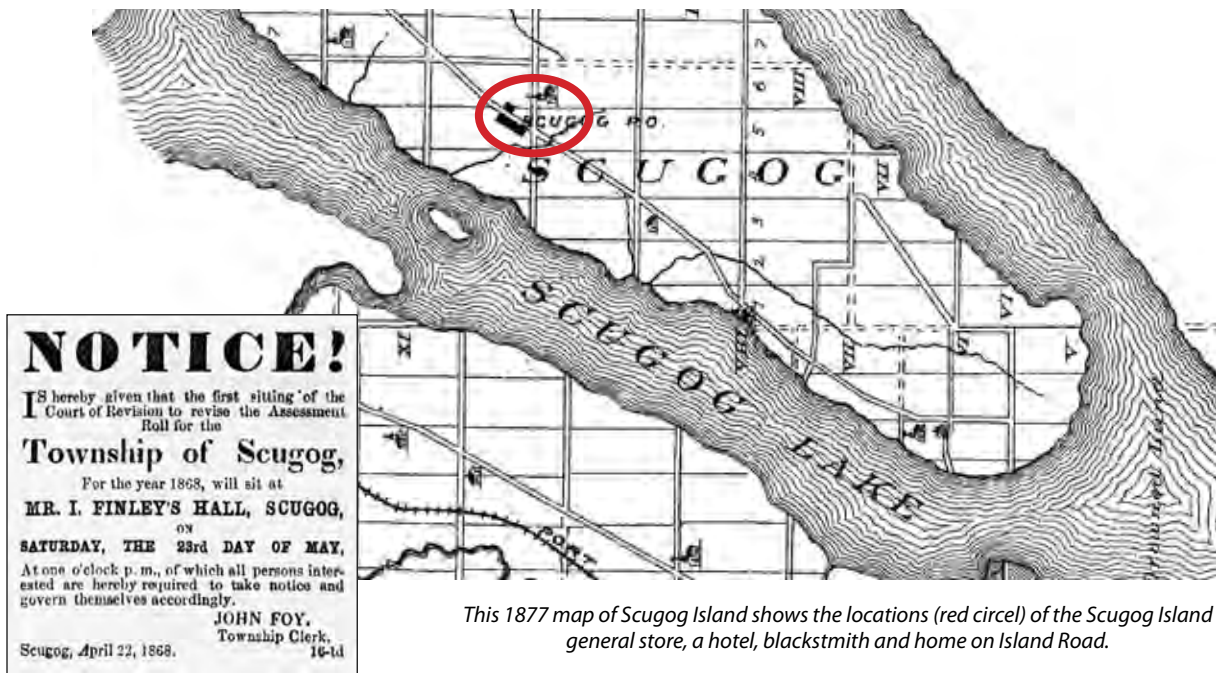
This 1877 map of Scugog Island shows the locations (red circel) of the Scugog Island general store, a hotel, blackstmith and home on Island Road.
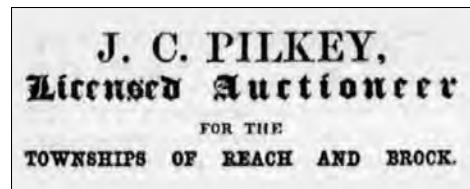

NOTICE!

IS hereby given that the first sitting of the Court of Revision to revise the Assessment Roll for the

Township of Scugog,

For the year 1868, will sit at

MR. I. FINLEY'S HALL, SCUGOG,

ON

SATURDAY, THE 23rd DAY OF MAY,

At one o'clock p. m., of which all persons interested are hereby required to take notice and govern themselves accordingly.

JOHN FOY.
Township Clerk.

Scugog, *April* 22, 1868.   16-td

Finley's Hall, Scugog Island 1868.

J. C. PILKEY,
Licensed Auctioneer
FOR THE
TOWNSHIPS OF REACH AND BROCK.

It was Mr. Finley who recognized a need for a general store on the Island and in August 1872 he established a store which provided groceries and dry goods for Island residents. Finley also became the first postmaster for the Island. Mr. Finley sold his business to local auctioneer J.C. Pilkey two years later but retained ownership of the property.

In 1876, nine years after purchasing the property, Isaac Finlay sold the property and business to James Sweetman and John Burke. The two men carried on the business for about 10 years with Mr. Sweetman becoming the postmaster, while Mr. Burke attended to the general store business.

With every change of ownership, the meeting hall above the store became known by the new owners name. Under this ownership it became Sweetman's Hall.

John Burke became the sold owner of the store, but tragedy struck in the fall of 1886 when the building was destroyed by fire.

Mr. Burke rebuilt the store immediately after the fire. The new building, which also served as a residence for the owners, faced onto Scugog Island Rd., with a simple covered porch as the entrance to the store. It was this store that stood on the northwest corner of Island Rd. and Seven Mile Island Rd. for more than a century.

In 1888 the general store changed hands again. John Burke sold the property and store to Alex and Mary Jane Earle who operated it until 1891 when they sold to John Jackson.

This 1930 postcard is the earliest known picture of the Scutot Island store and post office. John Joblin would have been the owern of the store at this time.

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JOHN L. SWEETMAN

*John L. Sweetman in front of his delivery truck, circa 1945.*

Mr. Jackson became one of the longest owners of the general store and the post office, operating it successfully for 20 years. After deciding to move to Greenbank, Mr. Jackson sold the property in February 1912 to John Joblin, a well respected retired pastor of the Methodist church on Scugog Island. Mr. Joblin and his family were popular on the Island and they served the local residents for more than 20 years.

John L. Sweetman and his wife Mabel were the next operators of the store, purchasing it about 1937. The made a good living selling food and operating the post office for about eight years.

While under their ownership of the store was operated under the "Red & White" banner and they also were they became the Island's postmasters. In addition to the general store, they also took on the local agency for Imperial gas and oil products.

Harold Archer's snowplough stops at the Red & White general store on Scugog Island about 1939, when it was owned by the Sweetmans. Pictured with the truck are Ross Prentice, left, and Don Anderson.
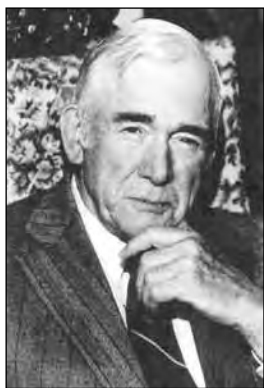
JOEL ALDRED

Aldred's Corner store, Scugog Island about 1994.

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After Aldred's Corner was sold to Bon-Hyung and Jung-He YU in 1998, the name of the store was changed to "Scugog Island General Store".

Throughout the next half century their were multiple owner of this important Scugog Island store. Samuel Arnold purchased the store from the Sweetman's for $5,000 in 1945. Seven years later Alfred and Muriel Eden became the next owner, purchasing it in 1952 for $8,200. "Alf" as he was best known, and his wife operated the store and post office until 1973.

After more than a century of being owned by independents, the Island's only store was sold to a large corporation. Mac's Milk Ltd. Co. purchased the store. Mac's Milk operated a chain of convenience stores across Canada, but only operated the Scugog Island store for about a year before selling to long-time Island resident Joel W. Aldred.

About a year after taking over the store, Mr. Aldred undertook a complete renovation of the store and re-opened the store in July 1976 under the name "Aldred's Corner". After almost 25 years as owner of the property, Mr. Aldred retired from business July 1998 and sold the store to Bon-Hyung and Jung-He YU.

The Scugog Island store's final owner was Jeff Gotthelf who operated under "Jeff's Centre Island Store". The century-old general store was purchased by the Mississaugas of Scugog Island January 2017 and after more than a century serving the residents of the Island, its doors were closed.

The new owners opened the Minisi Convenience/Arts & Craft store a short distance north of the old general store, across from the Great Blue Heron Casino in August 2017, and after receiving permission from the township, the former Scugog Island store was removed.

Jeff's Centre Island Store as it looked until 2017, when it was purchased by the Mississaugas of Scugog Island and later removed from the site.

Canada & Ontario Gazetteers & Directories

MITCHELL'S CANADA GAZETTEER
AND BUSINESS DIRECTORY
1864-1865

Scugog, C.W. – Sometimes called Gordon's Corners, a small country post office situated on Scugog Island in the township of the same name and County of Ontario. Distance from Whitby, the county town, 24 miles; Toronto 55 miles; and from Kingston, 200 miles.

James Gordon, postmaster
Henry Gordon, assistant postmaster

MITCHELL'S CANADA GAZETTEER
AND BUSINESS DIRECTORY
1865-66

Dwyre, John, Scugog Hotel
Farewell, W.T., postmaster

COUNTY OF ONTARIO DIRECTORY
1869

Scugog – A post office in the township of Scugog, 20 miles northeast of Whitby. Population, about 100.

Collins, J. Blacksmith
Finley, Isaac, postmaster
           and merchant
Foy, J., township clerk
Fralick, S., farmer
Hope, T., farmer
McKinley, M., builder

Nesbit, C., farmer
Reader, J., farmer
Sexton, W.S., Reeve
Thorn, J., lime dealer
Wakeford, T., cooper
Wallace, W. builder.

Chapter Three

Scugog Island Township Hall and councils

Scugog Island Township Hall

The Scugog Island Hall doesn't look much different today than when it was opened in 1884.

There appears to have been little fan-fare or celebration when Scugog Island's new town hall was opened in 1884 - in fact there appears to be no written record of it being constructed, or opened in available newspapers and documents.

This lack of documentation is presumably due to the fact that two great fires in 1883 and 1884 destroyed the entire business section of Port Perry. Among the buildings wiped out were offices and records of the town's two newspapers, the North Ontario Observer and the Port Perry Standard was among the businesses destroyed.

The Scugog Town Hall is located on a half-acre parcel on the south west corner of Island Rd. and Demara Rd., about 7 km north of Hwy. 7A. The land was purchased by the Township of Scugog in 1869 with the intent of building a Town Hall for the community.

Prior to 1855 Scugog Island was part of Reach Township. In June 1856 Ontario County Council passed a bylaw to separate the two townships, and the Island became a separate municipality. The first council was elected in February 25, 1856 in the Centre School.

An Ontario County by-law ordered that the first meeting of the newly formed Township of Scugog was to be held in the Centre School on February 25, 1856. It was at this first meeting in the school, James W. Gamble was chosen as the

Centre School, left of Island Rd. and Scugog Town Hall right side of Island Rd., from an 1877 map.

This is the oldest picture of the council of Scugog Township, taken in 1909. Reeve William Jackson is the man standing, and the other councillors include, in no particular order, George C. Sweetman, John F. Gerrow, Wellington Sweetman, John Graham and Thomas Graham, clerk-treasurer.

first Reeve of the new Township of Scugog and John Foy was appointed township clerk.

From 1856 until the Town Hall was built the newly elected Scugog council met in various places for meeting, including the Centre School. Among those who offered their homes for council meetings were James W. Gamble, Solomon Fralick, Daniel Williams and Isaac Orser.

* Finally in 1876 council began deliberations towards the building of a Town Hall. A site was obtained and the deed ware presented at the December meeting in 1879. The site chosen was on the northwest corner of Island Road.

It was three years later, in March 1883 that council authorized Reeve Wm. Bateman and town clerk John Foy to prepare plans and specifications for the erection of a Town Hall." Council met again on January 29, 1884 and agreed to proceed with building the hall.

Plans were prepared, and tenders were advertised. Of the five tenders received, council accepted the offer of Mr. Win. Trenum, of Bobcaygeon to build the hall, shed and fence for $1,000.

Council held its first meeting the new Town Hall on December 13, 1884. The main part of the building served as a town hall for decades, but in 1967, as a Centennial project, an addition was constructed to provide office space for the clerk-treasurer, a council chamber, and installation of central heating to the entire building.

In January 1973 the Region of Durham was formed and the four municipalities of Port Perry, Reach, Scugog and Cartwright amalgamated to become the new Township of Scugog, with a newly elected council to rule over the four townships.

One of the last by-laws passed by the Scugog council before the end of 1973 was one designating the town hall a community centre, and approving construction of a 70'x30' addition to the building which would provide for kitchen space for the centre.

The first major community function to be held in the newly named Scugog Island Community Hall was held on January 10, 1974 when more than 100 people crammed the hall to honour former Scugog councillors. Twenty eight men and women, who had served on Scugog Island council, attended the special event.

For almost a half century, the Island Hall became the main gathering spot community functions ranging from dances, celebrations, auction sales and more, but as it became less used and costs to operate the hall increased.

Township staff reports to council in 2021 showed that Scugog Island Hall had far more expenses that income and staff recommended the township begin to consult with the hall's user groups and public to find alternatives to the municipality maintaining them.

At the time of writing this story, no decision as to the future of the hall had been determined.

* Information recorded by Rev. F.G. Weir's
in his book -Scugog And Its Environs

Scugog Township Reeves

1856 - 1973

JAMES W. GAMBLE 1856 - 1857	EZRA W. GAMBLE 1858 - 1864	JOSEPH READER 1865 - 1866
WM. S. SEXTON 1867 - 1873	SAMUEL PLATTEN 1874 - 1875	JAMES GRAHAM 1876 - 1881

WILLIAM BATEMAN 1883 - 1886	WESLEY CROZIER 1888, 1897-1898	WILLIAM R. HAM 1889-90, 1895-96
THOMAS GRAHAM 1891 - 1894	PETER HOOD 1899 - 1902	WILLIAM ALDRED 1903 -1904

WILLIAM JACKSON 1908 -1910	JOHN F. GERROW 1911	WM. SWEETMAN 1912 - 1913
WILLIAM JACKSON 1914 - 1917	PETER HOOD 1918 - 1920	GEO. SWEETMAN 1921 - 1929

RUSSELL HOOD 1930	JONATHON ALDRED 1931 - 1933	FRANK GERROW 1934 - 1940
RUSSELL HOOD 1941 - 1945	EARL HAYNE 1946 - 1948	

JOHN SWEETMAN 1949 - 1954	ANSON GERROW 1955 - 1963	VICTOR ALDRED 1964 - 1968
CECIL FRALICK 1969 - 1972	CLIFF CROWELL 1973	

Former Scugog Township Councils

1973 LAST SCUGOG TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
Members of the last Township of Scugog council, before the formation of the Region of Durham. Front left: Sidney Chandler, clerk-treasurer; H. Clifton Crowell, reeve; Helen Redman, deputy-reeve. Back left: Councillors Michael Vanstrein, Sheldon Smith, Jerome Taylor

1970 SCUGOG TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
Scugog Councillors were sworn in at a ceremony held in the newly constructed municipal office in the Scugog Town Hall on January 17, 1977. From left, Sidney Chandler, clerk-treasurer, Grace Love, councillor; Victor Aldred, reeve; Joseph Dowson, deputy-reeve; June Crozier and Glenn Demara, councillors.

1966 SCUGOG COUNCILORS
Three women were elected to serve Scugog Township during the 1966 municipal election. Re-elected to council Mrs. June Crozier, left, and Mrs. Grace Love. Mrs. Helen Redman, right, was elected to the Public School Board.

1969 SCUGOG TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
Scugog Township council held their inaugural meeting in the Scugog Town Hall on Saturday, January 4, 1969. From left, Cliff Crowell, William Bell, councillors; Rev. George Teskey; Sidney Chandler, clerk-treasurer; Helen Redman, councillor; Grace Love, deputy-reeve; and Cecil Fralick, reeve.

Canada & Ontario Gazetteers & Directories

ONTARIO GAZETTEER & BUSINESS DIRECTORY

1869

Scugog – A village in the Township of Scugog, County Ontario, 26 miles distance from Whitby, the County town, and 65 from Toronto. Stages to Whitby and Oshawa, fare 75¢. Daily mail. Population 100.

Betts, Miss, teacher
Bond, Jones, butcher
Cantling, Rev. (Bible Christian)
Cleghorn, A. Teacher
Dunn, William, saddler
Earl, Rev. W.C (Christian)
Finley, Isaac, postmaster, general merchant and proprietor sash, door and find factory and livery stable
Finley, Thomas, carpenter
Foster, E., farmer
Foy, John, township clerk
Fralick, Solomon, farmer
Hall, Rufus, farmer
Harper, Charles, farmer
Hope, Thomas, farmer

Hull, Henry, shingle maker
Jackson, David, farmer
McKinley, Moses, carpenter
Nesbit, Charles, farmer
Pringle, E. Teacher
Reach, Rev. Mr. (Wesleyan)
Sanderson, R. (Methodist Episcopal)
Sexton, William, J.P., Reeve
Taylor, William, farmer
Taylor, William, jr.
Thorn, Joseph, lime and stone
Wakeford, Samuel, cooper
Wallace, William, carpenter
Watson, Thomas, farmer
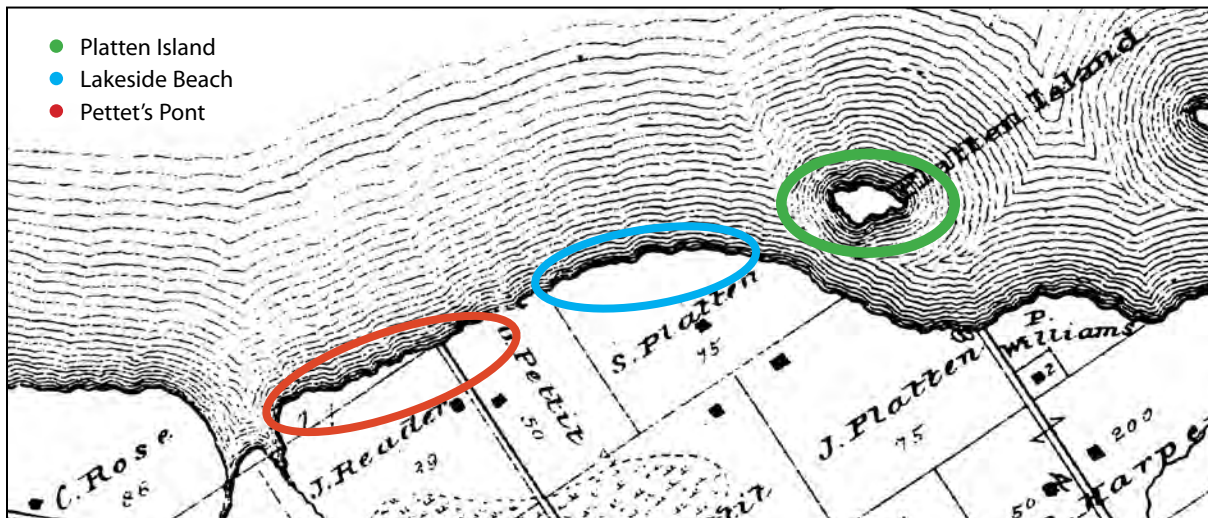Williams, Peter, farmer
Winn, Samuel, Cooper

Chapter Four

Platten Island
Lakeside Beach
& Pettet's Point

Some of Scugog Island's most popular summer vacation spots during the early 1900s could be found along the eastern shoreline of the Island, about seven km. north of 7A Highway. Visitors and families from near and far flocked to the area each summer to enjoy picnics, swimming, boating and fishing. As the popularity increased, cottages and other accommodations were added to accommodate the summer visitors.

Three areas in particular attracted the largest crowds – Platten Island, Lakeside Beach and Pettet's Point, later to be know as Stephenson's Point.

Platten Island

Platten Island could best be described as being a narrow eight acre strip of land located along the shore of Lake Scugog about 7 km northeast of Port Perry. The narrow strip of land is accessed by a narrow causeway adjacent to Lakeside Beach.

The name comes from Thomas Platten who purchased 75 acres of Lake Scugog lakefront property, which included the small island, from Thomas Redman in 1865.

His parents, Samuel and Ann Platten immigrated to Canada in 1826, settling in Cobourg, where Thomas was born. About 1857 the family moved to Port Perry where Samuel opened a Cooper manufacturing business. Following his death this sons, Thomas, Samuel Jr., and John M. took over their father's business.

Platten Island became a popular spot during the 1870s as a playground. On one occasion in July 1874 it was reported that upwards of 550 adults and 850 children enjoyed an excursion by steamboat to Platten Island for a day of picnics, games and musical concerts.

Platten Island was eventually divided into lots and over the next century it became a desired location for cottagers. By July 1947, as more and more people began to spend their summer months on the Island, a post office was opened at a booth operated by Mr. E. Fines. The post office made it convenient for summer residents on Lakeside Beach and Platten's Island to receive their mail.

In 1959 the property owners of the Island formed the Platten Island Ratepayers' Association with the aims of improving facilities in their community. Among the issues discussed were installation of street lights, improving the road, and public washroom facilities in the park.

The quiet of the small island community was interrupted during the 1970s when the neighbouring Goreski Marina began work on dredging and expanding their trailer park and boating facilities.

The Ratepayers Association mounted a fight for what they felt were intrusions onto their properties and their way of life. Disputes raged on in the courts for more than a decade and the conflict between the two parties became known locally as

"The Great Scugog Island Feud".

Platten Island residents launched a number of lawsuits against Goreski Summer Resorts Ltd. over a period of 16 years, beginning in 1970, but were unsuccessful in most.

Today, Platten Island looks much like it did a century ago. An estimated 35 cottages and permanent homes line the narrow tree lined road, providing a secluded haven for its residents, some who have lived there for more than half a century.

Platten Island is accessed by driving north along Island Road to Stephenson's Point Rd. Turn left onto Stephenson's to Platten Blvd. Road and follow it to the small island community.

Aerial view of cottages on Platten Island. Photo from Google Maps.

Lakeside Beach

Albert Rogerson, a wealthy businessman from Toronto, arrived in Port Perry in 1919 and purchased the St. Charles Hotel and the Sebert House, becoming owner of the towns two largest hotels. One year after arriving, his buying spree continued when he purchased the Milner farm between Pettet's Point and Seven Mile Island.

The Port Perry Star reported in April 1920 that *"Mr. Rogerson has plans there for summer campers, and later cottages will be erected. Two gasoline launches and a number of skiffs and canoes will be available to the guests for transportation and pleasure purposes."*

In addition he was reported to have further plans to enlarge the present hotel on the property by adding 10 more rooms, for the convenience and comfort of his summer guests. Six years after acquiring the property, he added 18 cottages along the beach property.

Rev. Frank G. Weir wrote in 1927, *"Lakeside Beach was well known and enjoyed by visitors from near and far as a good place for bathing and easy access to fishing grounds during the summer months. He also noted that the grassy slope with a western view over Lake Scugog made for a pleasant spot for picnicking."*

The area became a popular spot throughout the 1920s and 1930s attracting picnics from a variety of church groups, lodges, schools and individuals. During the 1930s the local cottagers formed the Scugog Lakeside Beach Association and began holding an annual Regatta consisting of land and water sports.

During the late 1940s, George Freeman opened the Lakeside Beach Pavilion where he offered dancing to an orchestra every Saturday night, for 50¢ per person.

George Freeman

LAKESIDE
BEACH PAVILION
GEO. FREEMAN, Prop.

OPENING DANCE
SATURDAY, JULY 2nd.
DANCE at 8.30 p.m.

Music by
ALEX. WILLIAMSON and
HIS ORCHESTRA

ADMISSION 50c. per person

Aerial view shows the cottages lined up along Lakeside Beach. Photo from Google Maps.

Phil Goreski

Years later, in the early 1960s, Phil Goreski purchased Lakeside Beach and surrounding property and in May 1964 opened Goreski Summer Resort, Lakeside Beach.

His large new facility provided next to the beach provided swimming, boating, picnics and camping. The resort also had on site a restaurant, snack bar, coin laundromat and grocery products.

Mr. Goreski expanded his operation in 1966, opening on May 28th "Club Annrene" on Lakeside Beach. He billed it as the largest and most modern dance hall in the County of Ontario. The venue provided live music Saturday nights and Teen Dances on Friday nights.

Phil and Anne Goreski announced the opening of the most modern dance hall in the County of Ontario, near Lakeside Beach, Scugog Island on Saturday, May 28, 1966

This aerial view shows a section of Platten Island with cottages, left; Lakevside Beach, centre and right; and Goreski's Marina and campgrounds and boat slips, across the short causeway to Platten Island.

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A postcard view from Pettet's Point looking over Lake Scugog, circa 1915.

Pettet's Point

Pettet's Point is better known today as Stephenson's Point, but it was George Pettet whose vision for the property made it one of the most popular destinations on the western shore Scugog Island for family vacations, picnics and excursions during the first half of the twentieth century.

Just south of Lakeside Beach is Pettet's Point, one of the earliest areas along the lake to become a popular summer spot. In May 1894, George Pettet was reported to have been making extensive improvements to his already *"famous summer resort."*

The North Ontario Observer, Port Perry's newspaper wrote that month, *"Mr. Pettet, the enterprising proprietor of Pettet's Point has just completed two additional cottages which are much larger than any of the six cottages erected by him."* The newly expanded facilities could accommodate larger families who could enjoy fishing, bathing and a large playground for the children.

The spacious grounds along the shore of Lake Scugog also became a favourite location for large excursions throughout the early 1900s. Most weekends large groups could be seen boarding the steamship "Cora" at the Port Perry wharf to travel to Pettet's Point for picnics and reunions.

George and Mary Ann Pettet raised a family of four boys and one girl named Minnie while living on the Island. In 1899, when Minnie was 28 years old she married Levi Stephenson, a Scugog Island farmer. Following the death of her father in 1907, the Pettet property was transferred into Minnie Stephenson's name and she continued her

People dressed in their "Sunday best" are seen here about 1915 boarding the small steamer "Cora" on their way to Pettet Point.

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The Pettet's large boarding house at Pettet's Point, circa 1910.

family's resort business. It was during this time that the property became known as Stephenson's Point.

In addition to the cottages, the Stephenson's also operated a large boarding house on the property and during the summer months it wasn't uncommon for as many as 50 guests to spend their holidays at the point. It was said that the scenery around the point was spectacular and the view from the balcony of the boarding house provided an exceptional view west from the balcony. *"The western aspect, the elevation; and the gentle slope down to the shore all combine to make this an excellent spot to enjoy the sunset and all the peculiar charm of summer evenings by the water,"* wrote Rev. Frank G. Weir in his book *Scugog And The Environs.*

In July 1928, Stephenson's Point was leased for five years to an interdenominational group of Toronto area churches to operated a camp for boys. Cedar Grove Camping was established on the spacious property and was described as being located on an elevated open field on the shore of lakes Scugog.

During the summer of 1929, Stephenson's Point was leased for five years to the Interdenominational group of churches to operated their camp for boys. The grounds were lit with electricity and a permanent cook house was built.

During its first week 80 boys attended the camp and following week 150 boys from Weston were in attendance. The church group was said to have plan two more camps, one for senior boys and the other for girls, one at Scugog Point.

For more than next three decades, Stephenson's Point was one of the most popular locations for picnics and reunion by local residents and groups. There wasn't a week went by during this period when it was not used for churches and,Sunday school picnics, family picnics, wiener roasts and special occasions.

But changes came in 1967 when a plan of subdivision was brought forward to Scugog Council by Donald Crozier to considered. The application, and subsequent approval, brought a stop to the camps and gatherings on the property.

Within four years, advertisements for large scenic lots were being advertised for sale on Stephenson Point starting at $11,200. Today the spacious lakefront property on Lake Scugog is lined with more than a dozen homes.

Chapter Five

Scugog Island Cemeteries

Scoville Cemetery

Scugog Island was settled quite a lot later than the surrounding townships in the area, primarily due to its rather isolated situation. Even so, there are two pioneer cemeteries, both located towards the southern end of the Island.

One is the "Head Memorial Cemetery", located on the grounds of the Scugog Shores Museum. It was established in about 1870 as a burying ground for the Head Methodist Church by Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Canada. Although it became a Methodist Cemetery in early 1870, there had already been earlier burials taking place there.

The other pioneer cemetery is the "Scovill Cemetery", located a couple of miles north of the Head Cemetery, on the west side of the Island Road, with access through a cornfield.

Stephan Scoville (sometimes spelled Scovill or Scovell) and his extended family were some of the earliest settlers on Scugog Island. His granddaughter, Helen Pickle is reputed to be the first white child born on the Island, in 1833. Mr Scoville settled at Concession 7 Lot 23, with his land being not being registered until 1846.

He donated one half acre of his farm to become a public cemetery. Registered in 1864, the land was transferred from himself and a grandson-in-law, Richard Davey, for a price of five dollars, to trustees Samuel Wakeford, Samuel McKinley and James Smallman, for the purpose of a public burying ground..

It is quite likely that there had been burials taking place here well before that time, as one of his sons-in-law, Thomas Pickle had drowned in Lake Scugog about 1836. However, there is no monument for him, so it is just supposition that this is his burial place.

Very few stones still exist and they are starting to fall into disrepair. The cemetery has a lovely view out over Lake Scugog and the grounds themselves are surrounded by growth of trees, brush and grapevines which in some places are encroaching on the burial sites. There are also a lot of groundhog holes among the gravesites

The cemetery stones have been transcribed. The stone with the oldest burial date is dated 1847; Catherine Cole, died June 1847, wife of Henry Cole. Other researchers have said that Catherine Cole was originally buried further up the Island near Lakeside Beach, and that her body was moved and re-interred in this cemetery, after it became a public cemetery.

Aside from Catherine's stone, the oldest burial dates on existing

stones are for 1858. One for the young sons of Samuel and Harriet Wakeford; William age 3 and George age 6. How sad to lose two young children at the same time. The other stone from 1858 is for Mable May Noon.

The latest death date on existing stones is for Alma E Emerton, 1891-1974, wife of Charles Emerton 1891-1944.

There is an existing plot map, drawn in 1936 by J. L. Sweetman, and a list of known burials, probably compiled about the same time. Between these two sources and the existing monuments, this is a multitude of early Scugog Island settlers' names, some of the families still residing on the Island today.

Some of these names are: Scovell, Aldred, Cole, Colton, Collins, Foster, Finley, Sweetman, Gerrow, Hadley, McDermott, McKinley, Plum, Reader, Thorn, Wannamaker, Davey, Vincent and Wakeford and many others.

There are a few existing markers that have distinctive emblems on them. The marker of a Scovell son, has the emblem of a weeping willow, meaning 'resurrection of the soul'. There is a broken stone with the top containing a thistle design, flanked by a rose on each side. The stone is broken above any names, but the rose emblem is generally used on a female's marker and the thistle is quite often used for some-one originally from Scotland. A Thorn monument has a left hand with the index finger pointing up and surrounded by a banner. The hand positioned this way generally means 'hope of Heaven'.
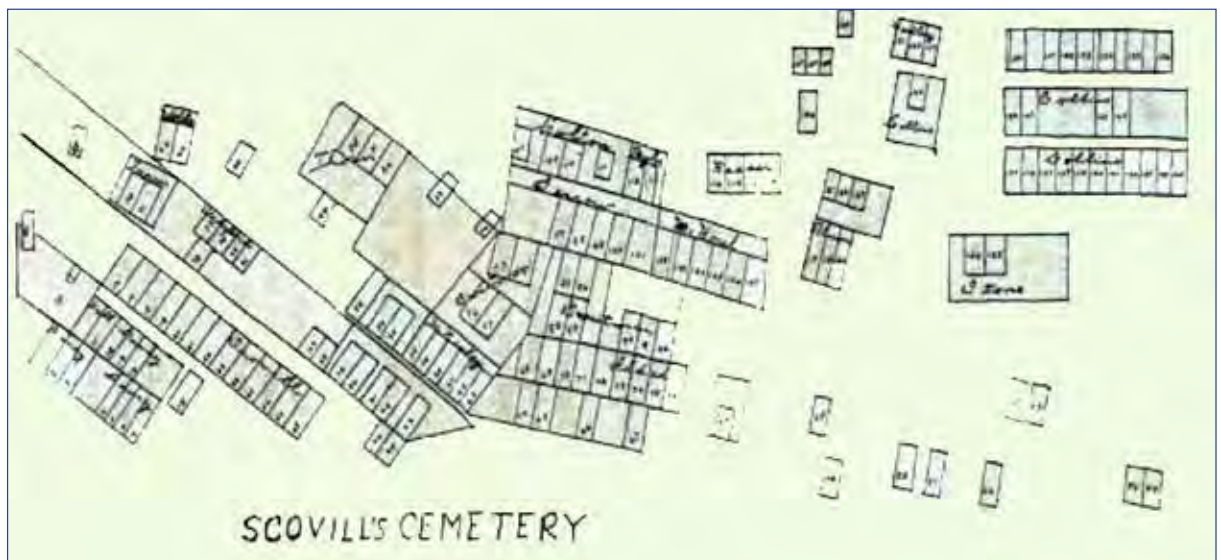
There is also a Ryan stone that has had the lettering hand carved.

A complete transcription of the cemetery can be pur-chased at: Scugog Township – Ontario Ancestors (ogs.on.ca) for a cost of $3.00.

Researched and written by Janis Carter

Headstone for James and his wife, Emily (Finley) Sweetman at Scoville Cemetery.

Plot map of the Scoville Cemetery on Scugog Island.

Head Cemetery

Exactly when Head Cemetery was established is difficult to determine, but records point to purchased from a Mr. Pennington Lundy, circa 1870. The story is that although Mr. Lundy was selling the land, Isaac Rodman donated it, having paid for it with a pine tree, valued at $30.00.

The property was described as being 48 square rods which would accommodate the establishment of a Methodist Episcopal Church and adjoining burial ground. Trustees of the cemetery were Solomon Fralick, William Rodman and William Bateman.

The first burial according to stones is Sarah Rodman, 1834. However, Sarah is not actually buried here. She is buried somewhere near Bradford, but when her husband took the stone to mark her burial spot, he was unable to find it, so he brought it back to Scugog with him.

Mary Ann Henery (Henry) is therefore the earliest burial in 1855. There are several other burials recorded before 1870, so presumably the cemetery was established before the land for the church was purchased. The last burials were Jim Staley in 1955 and George Bratley in 1969.

The first clean-up of the cemetery, which by then had become an eyesore came in July 1939. An article in *The Port Perry Star* pointed out that Scugog had a cemetery problem which was common with many old townships. The problem being, that old burial plots with the graves of early setters in many places were covered with thickets of brush, due to lack of maintenance.

While Scugog was not considered to be a great offender, both the Scoville Cemetery and Head Cemetery were in need of clean-up and identification of plots

A plan was developed to survey and draw a plan locating every grave and every name possible. These plans would be kept on file at the Clerk's office for future reference.

The next step was to provide cement blocks bearing number, and place them on each grave which did not have a head store. The number and name would then be recorded on the plan. This would enable anyone wishing to visit a grave unmarked by a headstone, could call the clerk's office and find the location.

The plan for the Head Cemetery was drawn and verified, the work of resetting the grave stones and cleaning and levelling the ground was

This plan shows the Head Cemetery grave locations which were located, verified and recorded in 1939.

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The Head Cemetery cairn with the Museum Methodist Church at the museum.   *Rev. Reg Rose dedicated the cairn in June 1973.*

completed, making the site, located between the school and church much more attractive.

   Plans for a monument and renovation of the Head Cemetery, which was in a deplorable state, were started in 1965 as a Centennial Project by the Head U.CW.

   After receiving information and details from families buried there, John Sweetman drew ups plan to locate the 95 graves in the cemetery, of which only 33 of them have head stones. The initial plans was to gather all the stones in a central space at the south end of the cemetery.

   Unfortunately, due to lack of funds, it was delayed until the Historical Society began to work with the Property Committee of the Museum Board. Finally by January 1973 the cairn was completed and the Head U.C.W. began making plans for the dedication.

   On June 3, 1973 the Scugog Shores Museum held a Cairn Dedication at the "Head Memorial" Church. Rev. Reg Rose, Church of the Ascension, delivered and address and paid tribute the Island's forefathers. Three wreaths were laid and family members were invited to place flowers at the cairn.

***

Gaabibendaagzijig
Cemetery
Mississaugas of
Scugog Island
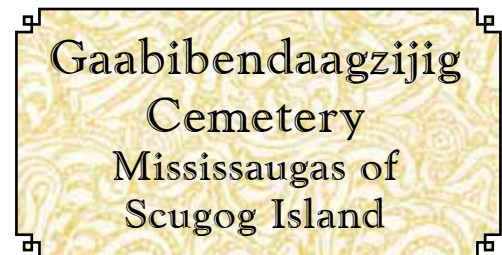
   This Mississaugas of Scugog Island cemetery has been established for a long time, but until the 1970s there were very few markers in the cemetery. Most of the existing grave markers were donated by the armed forces, for citizens who had served in the War.

   Although many burials are known to have taken place at this cemetery, there are not many records, available, as it was not the custom to mark the graves.

   As of 2016, there are 35 headstones in the cemetery, some recording older burials and some more recent. There is also a cairn listing other band members who are known to be buried at this cemetery.

   The Mississaugas "Gaabibendaagzijig Cemetery" is located just south of the Hood Drive on the east side of Fralick's Beach Road.

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Canada & Ontario Gazetteers & Directories

LOVELL'S PROVINCE
OF ONTARIO DIRECTORY
1871

Scugog – A village in the township of Scugog, county of Ontario. The principal business is in manufactures of various kinds. Distance from Oshawa, a station of the Grand Trunk Railway, 24 miles, fare $1. Mail daily. Populations about 200.

Aldred, Henry, brick maker
Attil, Daniel, music teacher
Bateman, David, carriage maker
Brooks, William, farmer
Burr, William, Cooper and farmer
Collins, John, blacksmith
Finley Isaac, postmaster,
      storekeeper
Foster, Horace, farmer
Fralick, Solomon, farmer
Harper, Charles, farmer
Hood, Charles, farmer
Hope, Thomas, farmer
Jackson, David, machinist
McKinley, M. Builder
Nesbit, Charles, farmer
Pickle, S.G., farmer
Platten, Samuel, farmer

Rodman, Mary, weaver
Savage, George, machinist
Savage, Lyman, farmer
Sugget, Richard, farmer
Sweetman, James, farmer
Sweetman, John, farmer
Taylor, William, farmer
Taylor, H., builder
Thorn, Joseph, lime dealer
Tupper, Johnson, assessor
Wakeford, Charles, farmer
Wakeford, S. Cooper
Wallace, William, builder
Watson, Thomas, farmer
Welbood, William, shoemaker
Williams, Peter, farmer
Wood Thomas, trader

Chapter Six

The Churches
of
Scugog Island

Scugog's First Churches

The history of church work on Scugog Island begins with the establishment of a mission among the Indians, by the Wesleyans, about 1845. In 1847 the missionary lived on the Island but after his health failed and a local teacher had served, the work received service from the Mission. Apparently this Mission continued for some years attached to Cartwright and Manvers townships. In 1862 the white population of Scugog was assigned to Prince Albert Mission.

In these early days there were four branches of the Methodist Church. The Episcopal missionaries had come from U.S.A, and adopted the name from their form of government. The Wesleyan Church retained it's name from the influence of the Wesleyan government.

The Bible Christians were founded in 1815 by a Cornishman who had been excluded from the Methodist Church because of irregularities. We do not know the origin of the Christian Church and mention it here because they all came to the Island.

Scugog Island Church Buildings

A. The "Head" white settlers decided to erect a building in 1860 to carry on their work and assure a future life for their children. Many of us this year renew the labours for future families.

In 1868, the Christian and Bible Christian built two churches. The Christian Church was built almost across from John Sweetman's present house but did not survive too long.

B. The Bible Christian Church was built on the road east of the Island general store. It later was moved to the present Centre site (C).

C. The present Scugog "Grace" United Church, opened in 1947. It replaced the original Bible Christian moved to the site, as mentioned above.

D. In 1869 a Wesleyan Methodist Church was built between the Head and Centre and later was moved a short distance and served as a house for many years.

E. In 1869 an Indian Church on the Reserve was dedicated apparently by Wesleyans of Cartwright or Prince Albert as Scugog had come into Prince Albert

Mission by 1862. It fell into disrepair and was torn down.

In 1880 the Methodist Episcopal decided to have another church at the Foot and one was purchased in Port Hoover and brought across in the winter or spring. It was dismantled after 1942 to combine in the new church at Centre.

Thus we learn there were six church buildings on the Centre Road between 1850 and 1880 to accommodate the population which had grown to 800 by 1866.

To-day we have two buildings left to accommodate a population of 388 plus the summer residents. The one at the Centre, Scugog "Grace" United, ministers to the whole Island for church services.

Scugog "Head Memorial" still serves the Head Community for a Sunday School, Women's Association and various church functions.
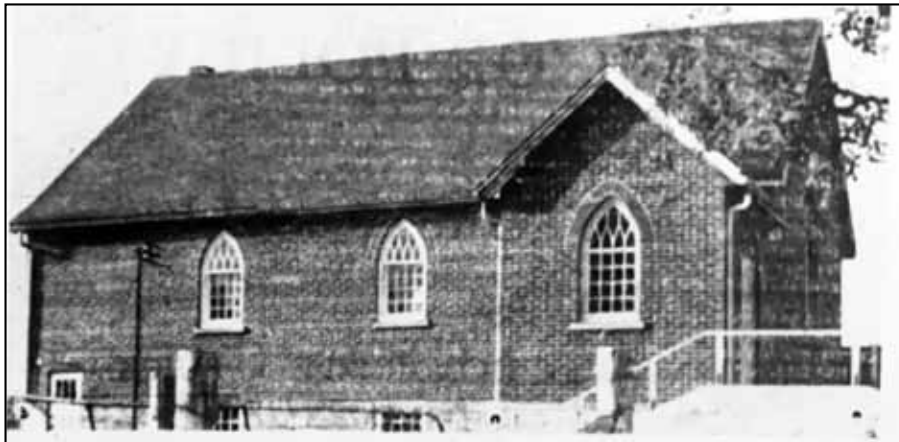
Note: *The information for this article was researched and written by Reta Reader at the time of the Centennial of the church and recorded in the Scugog Island Tweedsmuir History.*

This 1877 maps shows the approximate locations of the churches which provided service to the residents of Scugog Island.

Grace United Church

Scugog Grace United Church as it looked prior to Dedication Service held in November 1947.

The Scugog Island United Church, located on the west side of Island Rd., just north of the intersection with Stephenson's Point Rd. had its origins in a small, wood frame Church which was built in 1868. The original church was located at the north-west corner of Lot 6, in the 10th concession, about half a mile east of the former general store.

It's denomination was "Bible Christian".

This building was later moved, on skids, by horses, in the winter, to the present location at the "Centre".

An October 1896 article in the Whitby Chronicle reported that *"extended improvements are being made in the Centre Church by making it much larger and more comfortable. The Church is far too small and Scugog circuit is in need of an commodious building at the centre."*

At the re-opening service held in December 1897, conducted by Rev. J.W Mallet, it was reported, *"The church is now completed and presents a very comfortable appearance, and is a credit to the members of that denomination."*

There are two stories concerning the addition. The first is that of an addition of about 20 feet on the rear or west end. The second is that another small church which happened to be identical in width was moved bodily to the site and placed against the west end, the two opposing end walls being removed to make one large room.

In either case this would be shortly before 1910. The building had no basement but there was a big closed-in porch or entrance on the front in which such things as brooms, coal, oil for the lamps and extra wood for the big box stove were kept. There was also a long, wide, wooden platform with steps up to it at the front.

There was an open front shed, facing south, at the rear, which would accommodate the horses and buggies of the regular congregation, also the main supply of hardwood fuel of the stove.

The Centre Church building was destroyed by fire on June 10, 1941. One week later, under the leadership of Rev. F. G. Joblin, plans began for a new building. Church services were carried on in the Township Hall.

The congregation got together and erected

Scugog Grace United Church, 2023.

a solid brick church with the Corner Stone in the north-east corner being laid in 1943 by the Rev. Fred Joblin.

This was during the pastorate of the Rev. Mr. Foley and it was he who cast the Corner Stone itself from concrete leaving a space in the centre in which several items were de-posited. Mr. Foley also made the wooden numerals which were embedded in the fresh concrete to produce the date 1943 in the finished Stone.

The brick work was done by Wm. Brown of Port Perry. The building stood for three or four years with the interior unfinished. The walls, windows, roof and main floor were in place, and some of these materials such as the flooring and joists came out of the old Foot Church and the Indian Church, both of which were taken down at this time.

However all the lathing, the ceiling, the plastering, all the trim, the painting, the interior doors, and of course the furniture were still to be supplied,

Several committees had been formed to raise money, each committee undertaking to deal with a certain phase of the work. After a time most of the money had been raised but some minor dis-agreements concerning priorities, types and kinds of materials, etc. arose among the committees.

This resulted in a temporary delay of the work. Finally in the fall of 1945 a joint meeting was held in which it was agreed that all money would go into one fund and that John Sweetman would be empowered to go ahead and finish the interior without any instruction or interference from any source.

The work on the interior was completed in time for the dedication service which was held in the new Grace United Church on Sunday, November 2, 1947.

The new red brick church seats about 150 people and replaces the frame church which was destroyed by fire in 1941. A record congregation filled the new church to capacity for the first dedication service.

You are Invited to the
DEDICATION SERVICE
of Grace United Church
SCUGOG ISLAND
at three o'clock in the afternoon,
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd
Service will be conducted by Rev. J. E. Griffith, B.A., address by Rev. Geo. Telford, B.A., B.D. Special Music.
An offering will be taken in aid of the Church Building Fund.

Photos of the Scugog "Centre" United Church, date unknown.

Note:
   This History of the Scugog Grace United Church was written from the memories of John L. Sweetman on May 2, 1974.

   A few ,inor changes and additional information has been added to complete Mr. Sweetman's report.

Photos courtesy Scugog Island WI Tweedsmuir Community History

Head Methodist Church

The beautiful colour illustration of the Head Church was painted by Port Perry artist Les Parkes, in1977.

Beginning in the 1840s, Episcopal Methodist ministers held frequent revival meetings at the south end of Scugog Island. This area became known as "the Head" of the Island.

By 1860, the early settlers of the Head had collected sufficient funds, so work began on erecting a church to carry on their work and assure a future life for their children.

During the dedication of the new church hall, the minister congratulated the residents of the Island on the success of the community on having erected a beautiful chapel, stating "It is a credit to the Island."

The church was a simple frame structure with three windows along each side which could accommodate about 100 people. The cost of building the church, along with a shed was $677. On the morning of the dedication of the church, there was till $177 owing, but by the close of the service $181 had been raised to pay the debt.

A small vestibule at the front of the church was added to the church in 1905. This provided shelter from the weather, and loss of heat during the winter as people entered the church.

Another addition was added in 1914, when a tea rooms was constructed at the rear of church. This area was used Sunday school concerts, community meetings, social programs, and pot luck suppers.

The church continued to be used for Sunday services into Oct. 1967??

In October 1969 members of Reach, Scugog and Port Perry council met with the Historical Society who informed them it was important that the Head Church be recognized as a Museum and learn about grants available from the government for this purpose.

Work got under way on the start of restoration of the Head Memorial Church during the summer of 1993.

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The Head United Church, Scugog Island - 1989.

Interior of the Head United Church, looking from the vestibule towards the front of the church, 1981.

Interior of the Head United Church, shows the seating, lamps and wood stove looking from the front to back of church, 1981.

Head Church Restoration

The Head United Church at Scugog Shores Museum Village was in need of a major restoration job estimated to cost approximately $60,000. In May 1993. Pictured above standing in front of the historic 1860 Head Church, are Paul Arculus, president of the Lake Scugog Historical Society and Jack Kane, a society member.

During the summer of 1992, concerns were expressed about the deteriorating condition of this church. Roof shingles were loose, the floor was so badly warped that the outside walls were much lower than the centre of the floor, and the Tea Room was coining away from the main building. The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario was contacted and they appointed Phillip Carter to report on the condition of the church. He stressed the need to preserve the church because of its historical and architectural importance and that there was an urgency to extensively restore the church.

In the spring of 1993 the Lake Scugog Historical Society organized a fund raising campaign in order to carry out the project. The Society also applied to the Ministry of Employment and Immigration to restore this church as a job creation project under the Unemployment Insurance Section 25 Job Creation Program. This provided the project with six workers for 18 weeks.

Gary Moore was hired as Project Supervisor. The building was raised in order to replace sections of two sill beams. At that point, it was discovered that the church was in far worse condition than expected and that all the sill beams and floor rafter beams had to be replaced if the church was to be preserved.

This significantly increased the cost of supplies and materials. The entire community rallied behind the project. Douglas fir was used instead of the original pine and the workers used the original method of mortice and tenon joints when replacing the beams.

The church was set on piers, which left it almost two feet higher than original, thus keeping the sill beams off the

Volunteers gathered at Head "Memorial" Church in May 1993 to undertake cleaning and applying a new coaat of white paint to the church.

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ground and allowing air to circulate underneath, thereby extending the life of the base of the church. In order to keep the building drier, proper drainage was created.

All of the windows were removed and rebuilt using the original glass where possible. The roof was shingled, defective siding was replaced, and the entire building repainted.

The Tea Room chimney was rebuilt so that a wood burning stove could provide heat; new washrooms were added at the north-west corner, and year-round running water was provided.

It is hoped that no major restoration will be needed again until after the year 2100.

The Indian Church

Note: The word "Indian" in this article is used only to identify the church as it was named during the 1880s to mid-1900s.

The history of Scugog Island begins centuries ago with the Iroquois who left this region in the 1600s. In their place came the Mississaugas whose descendants still live on the Island to this day.

It was not until the 1830s that the first European settlers arrived in the area to establish their farms. Some of the earliest settlers on Scugog Island included the Graxtons, Readers, Pickles, Scovilles, Rodmans, Gambles, Aldreds, Sweetmans, Platens and Batemans.

The first schoolhouse on the Island was located at the north end of the Island and was a simple log building that stood in the corner of an orchard. Exactly when the first Indian Church was opened is not known, but it is reported to have been located " across a road" from the school.

The first mention of the Indian Church in local media is found in May 1897 when John W. Davis, a local furniture manufacturer, presented the congregation of the Indian Church with two beautiful arm chairs for the pulpit.

During the summer of 1911, the old church had deteriorated to a point that it required repairs and painting. Members the Indian Church

gathered together and painted the church. *"Instead of an unsightly black church, on the outside, it is now with a fresh coat of paint - a white and attractive looking church",* the local newspaper reported.

The Scugog Island pastoral charge was made up of four churches. Sunday services took place at all four churches, with services beginning at the Foot Church at 10:30 a.m., Indian Church at 11:45 a.m., Head Church at 2:30 p.m., and Centre Church at 7:30 p.m.

In addition to church services and social events, the Indian Church was also the venue for the community to gather to pay respects to those who had passed on. One of these was after the sudden passing of Austin Goose in May 1934. Mr. Goose was highly respected in his community and was only 33 years old. Following a service in the Indian Church Mr. Goose was interred in the Indian Cemetery beside the church.

The last mention of the Indian Church was in the August 25, 1949, and although but the exact date it ceased to operate in unknown it was reported seven years later that it had fallen into disrepair and had finally been torn down.

The Church was located beside the Indian Cemetery, both of which are located near the corner of Hood Road and Fralick's Beach Rd., Scugog Island. Approximate location is the red circle.

Chapter Seven

Pine Point
on
Scugog Island

Pine Point
on Scugog Island

A few of the more than 25 cottages found along Pine Point Lane.

The history of Pine Point road can be traced back to 1856, but it was not until October 1861 that the council of the Township of Scugog authorized William E. Yarnold, to survey and stake out the road known as the Pine Point Road to the width of 50 feet.

Articles published in the North Ontario Observer by the 1890s show that Pine Point was being used by the pubic for camping, fishing and hunting, but it wasn't until years later that cottages were constructed on the site.

During the early 1890s Henry Osler formed a company called the Scugog Game Preserve and purchased about 2,000 acres of land and marsh. He furthered his land holdings in 1914, purchasing 200 acres of the Pine Point property, with intent to reforest the area. Ten years after planting the trees, it was reported that the trees had reached a height of 18 feet.

About a year later, Mr. Osler sold 50 acres of his Pine Point property to a syndicate called the Pine Point Development Co.

The company established Pine Point Park as a seasonal residential community in 1917 and by 1932 the park comprised 47 residential lots owned by 41 individuals, all given a 99 year lease.

Land both in front of the residential lots along Lake Scugog, and the forested area to the rear of the properties, remained the property of the corporation, but tenants of Pine Point had access and use of these lands.

Pine Street, as laid out on the 1917 park plan, at the rear of the lots was owned by the Township of Scugog, but was never opened. Access to the cottages along the lakefront is made along a narrow road called Pine Point Lane. The "Lane" is a private right-of-way maintained by the Pine Point corporation, not the township.

Today, all owners of properties in this unique, secluded private community have access to their cottages along Pine Point Lane. The also have access to the forested land which abuts the rear of the property. Each of the owners pays a proportionate share of the cost to maintain the public areas of Pine Point.

~

A report by Ronald G. Tozer in May 1971 pointed out that the woodlot located on Pine Point had a stand of mature trees, which was rare in southern Ontario. The stand consisted of Maple, Beech, Oak, White Pine and Hemlock, and urged that the magnificent trees should be preserved.

It also pointed out a nesting colony of Great Blue Herons was established at Pine Point in 1959, and that it had grown steadily over the years until in 1970 there were an estimated 180 occupied nests.

It concluded that the Pine Point heronry was very important since it was the only known nesting location for the entire Oshawa-Scugog region.

PINE POINT PARK

PLAN
SHOWING SUBDIVISION OF
PART OF LOT 8 CON 8
Tp SCUGOG (FORMERLY CARTWRIGH

Dated November 14, 1917

ROAD BETWEEN CONS. 8 and 9

STREET

LAKE SCUGOG

Some of the 40 or more cottages along Pine Point Lane, Scugog Island.

NOTE: *Pine Street
was never opened.*

View of Pine Point, on Scugog Island, taken from the lake, circa 1920.

Canada & Ontario Gazetteers & Directories

ONTARIO GAZETTEER & BUSINESS DIRECTORY

1886-1887

Scugog – A country post office on an island of the same name in Lake Scugog (which forms the township of Scugog), Ontario County, 24 miles north of Whitby, the county seat, and 7 miles northeast of Port Perry. On the Midland division CT Railway, its nearest railway and banking point. It contains Methodist and Christian churches and common schools. Stage twice a week to Port Perry. Population 100. Mail semi-weekly. John Burke, postmaster.

  Burke, John, grocer, postmaster
  Conklin, Elija, blacksmith

ONTARIO GAZETTEER & BUSINESS DIRECTORY

1888-1889

Scugog – A country post office on an island of the same name in Lake Scugog (which forms the township of Scugog), Ontario County, 24 miles north of Whitby, the county seat, and 7 miles northeast of Port Perry. On the Midland division CT Railway, its nearest railway and banking point. It contains Methodist and Christian churches and common schools. Stage twice a week to Port Perry. Population 100. Mail semi-weekly. Alexander Earle, postmaster

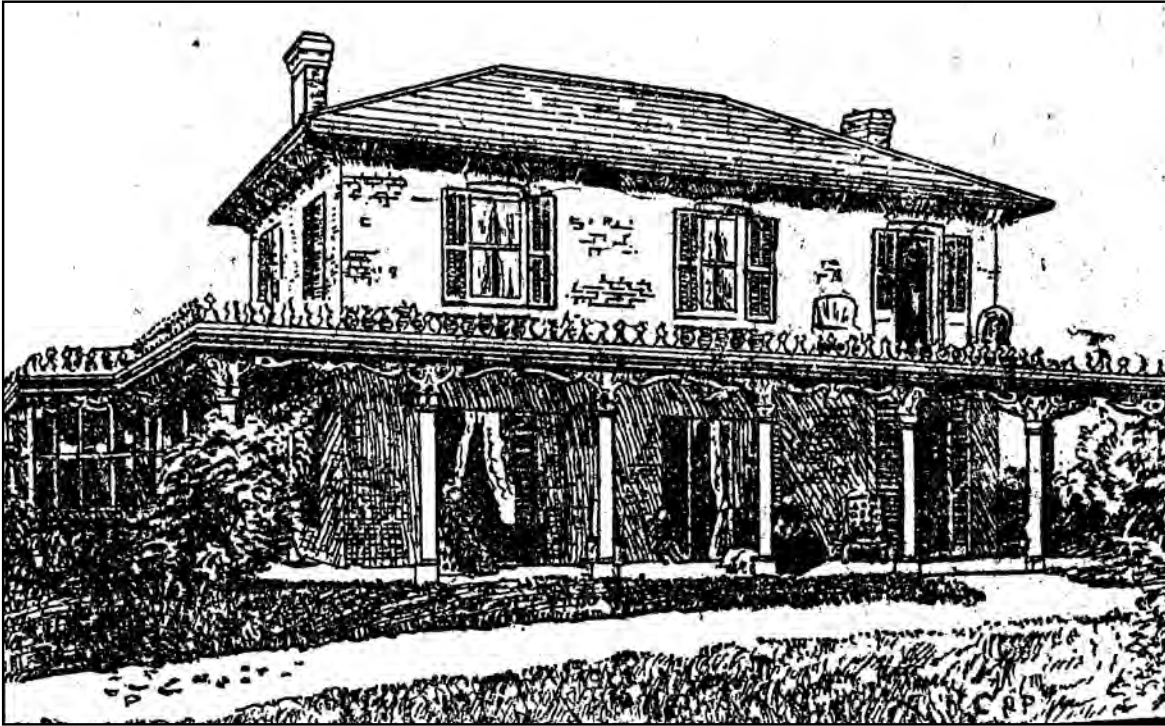 Conklin, Elijah, blacksmith
  Earle, Alexander, grocer

Chapter Eight

Ambleside
Farm
Scugog Island

Ambleside Farm

Sketch of the Adam's home, Ambleside, from abut 1884.

This magnificent Scugog Island property dates back to 1843 when it was Crown Land. It had a number of owners until 1869 when two local businessmen, Thomas C. Forman and William S. Sexton, purchased the property. It was during their ownership that the first house was constructed.

Messrs. Forman and Sexton then sold 125 acre estate property to John Adams in September 1871.

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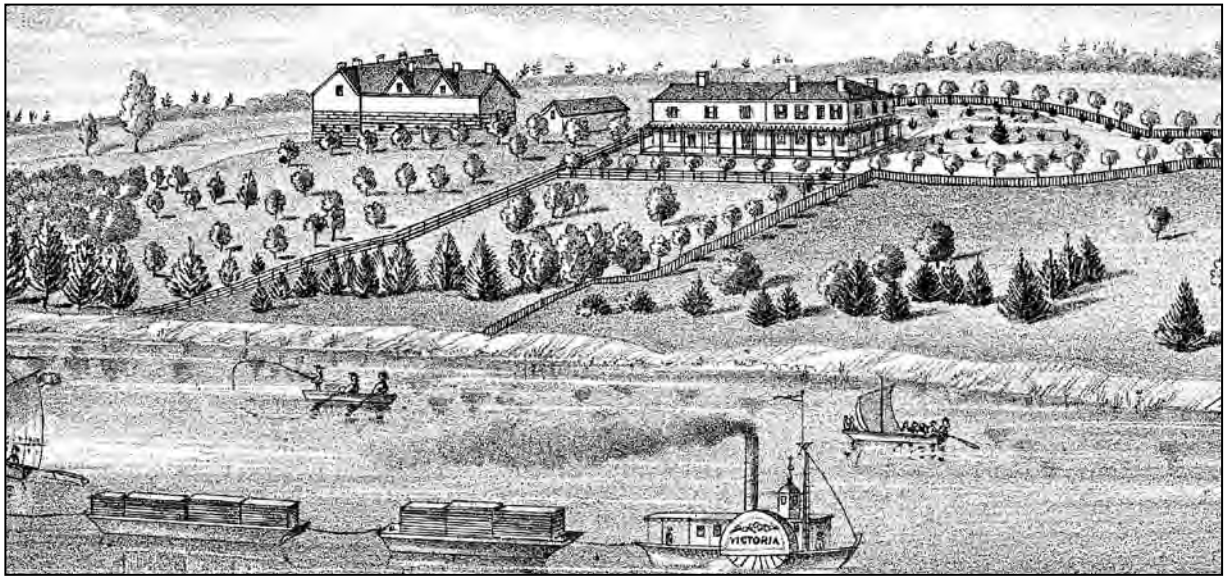

JOHN ADAMS

During his ownership of *Ambleside* as it became known, the property became a favourite destination for steamboat excursions from Port Perry and communities as far north as Lindsay. Here hundreds of excursionists, usually organized by local churches, would disembark on the rising ground near the lake to enjoy day-long picnics and activities along the lakeshore.

Two years after purchasing the property Mr. Adams erected a large new barn and also remodeled and enlarge the original house. He added a large conservatory to the west side, featuring three skylights and a wall of windows facing the lake.

Unlike many homes which used a centre hall plan, the Adams' home was entered through side doors, which allowed for very spacious rooms inside. The living and dining rooms, both measuring

This sketch found in the Ontario County Atlas of 1877 shows the property of John Adams on Scugog Island.

18'x28' are divided by a wide, arched opening, accented with heavy crown mouldings on either side. Both rooms feature marble fireplaces, beautiful plaster crown mouldings around the nine foot high ceilings, and elaborate decorative plaster mouldings accent the chandelier-styled lights in both rooms.

The 40'x30' red brick, two-storey exterior is accented by a wide verandah which stretches around three sides of the red brick home, giving it a rambling and elegant appearance. The verandah floor is not elevated but is built at the ground level, enhancing the colonial aspect of the home.

Originally the verandah had a flat roof and access to the roof was gained through a doorway on the right hand side, providing a comfortable outdoor lounge area for the bedrooms.

During his time on Scugog Island Mr. Adams became one of the most extensive importers and breeders of valuable heavy horses and cattle, and was identified with area agricultural institutions until he sold his farming operation in 1897 to John A. McGillivray.

In later years, the property was sold the Gerrow family. They registered a plan of subdivision on the farm in May 1972, then sold the prop-

Interior of John Adams home.

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This unique and attractive home, known as Ambleside, dates back to about 1871 and was home to one of Scugog Islands most respected residents from the 1870 to1890s. The home sits and sits prominently on Scugog Island overlooking Lake Scugog.

erty in 1979 to Murray Wm. Jackson, a Scugog Island farmer and auctioneer. Mr. Jackson lived in the house for about five years, before selling it to a development group called Ambleside Country Estates Ltd., who separated 17 acres along Gerrow's Road for housing development.

The original Adams *Ambleside* home, sits on one of the highest points on Scugog Island and remains one of the most unique and attractive homes on the Island.

John and Margaret Adams, right, in their Ambleside home.

Chapter Nine

Scugog Township Seven Mile Island

Seven Mile Island

This aerial view of Seven Mile Island, circa 1985, shows the large fields and barns to the north, and hidden amongst the trees on the south end of the island, the large house, swimming pool, tea house, reflection pool and boathouse.

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

Records dating back to the early 1880s show Albert C. Stevens as owner of the land, which at that time was referred to as Nonquon Island. Mr. Stevens operated the property as a sportsman's home, providing comfortable accommodation for hunters and fishermen, many whom travelled from parts of Canada and the U.S.A., to enjoy the tremendous fishing and shooting available on and around Lake Scugog. While Mr. Stevens and his wife provided adequate facilities for their guests, the property paled in comparison to what it would become through much of the next century.

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


In the beginning, Seven Mile Island was known as "Nonquon Island." During the 1880s, this log cabin was used as accommodation for hunters and fishermen coming to Lake Scugog.

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

A news item in an October 1912 issue of the Port Perry Star reported that Seven Mile Island Hotel was a popular spot for hunters, indicating that Mr. Stinzel rented out rooms to duck hunters during the fall. Another report in 1916 suggests that the Island was a popular spot for excursions, where participants could enjoy swimming, boating and picnics in front of the hotel.
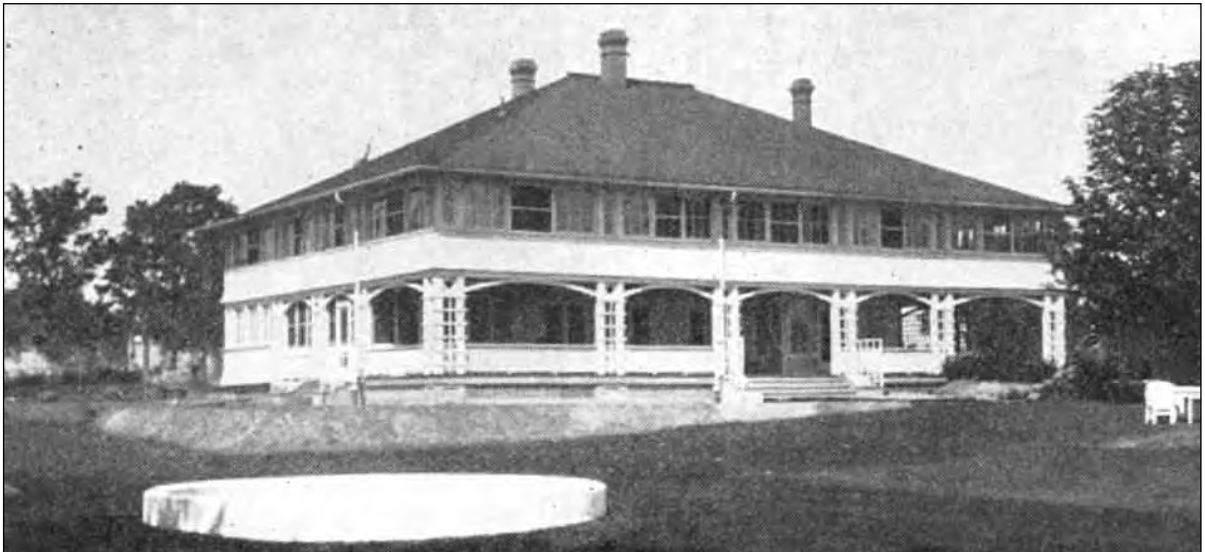
The Wilson's main residential building was impressively set on a large manicured lawn. The 5,200 sq. ft. two storey house, enlarged from Delmont Cottage (page 4) had four fireplaces, eight bedrooms, a den, large kitchen and livingroom.

While Seven Mile Island was under the ownership of Mr. Stinzel, he also developed a registered plan of subdivision for 19 lots along the north-west shore of Lake Scugog.

On May 2, 1919, Alex Ross Wilson and his wife Mary purchased Seven Mile Island from Thomas Stinzel and began to develop the property into what would become a magnificent estate.

Mr. Wilson amassed his wealth as owner of his father's company, Andrew Wilson & Co., which manufactured the very popular "Bachelor" brand cigars. In 1923 the business was taken over by the Imperial Tobacco Co. Ltd., although Mr. Wilson continued as its president until 1929.

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

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

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

Following the death of her Alex Wilson, his wife lost interest in the estate and about two years later, in September 1943, she sold Seven Mile Island for a mere $18,000 to Harry S. Ely and his wife Freda. Mr. Ely was the owner of "VanKirk Chocolate Corporation," and was most famous for developing a baking product under the brand name "Chipits."

While owner of Seven Mile Island, the Elys also purchased two farms adjacent to the island estate, but outside the main gates on the mainland of Scugog Island.

After Harry Ely died in 1950, Mrs. Ely remained on the property until June 1958, when she sold Seven Mile Island to Patrick Harrison and his wife

The statue of Mercury, which was located in the middle of the reflecting pool

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Lucette. Mr. Harrison was a mining engineer at the time, and initially he and his wife used the property as a summer retreat.

Eventually, the Harrisons moved in and took up permanent residence at Seven Mile Island, living there until 1983 when the property was once again sold to the Ching Chung Taoist Society of Canada.

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

Over the next few years the property was leased for a number of uses, including Harmony Island Estate, a school for troubled boys, and Artis Orbus Inc., a school for the study of art.

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

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

In June 1995 the property was transferred into the name of the International Taoist Church of Canada, and during the summer of 1998, Seven Mile Island once again was listed for sale. Unfortunately, over the past decade, the property has become run-down, fencing and build-ings have started to deteriorate, or have been vandalized and this once magnificent estate is now in a sad state of disrepair.
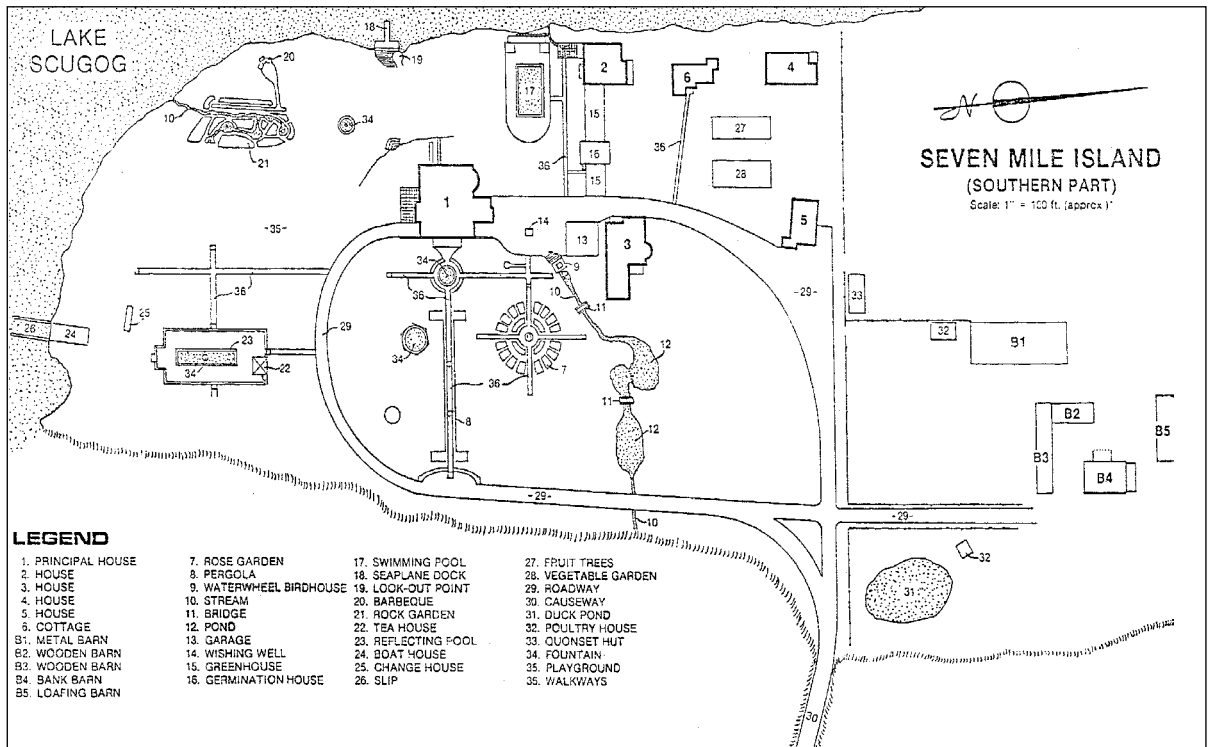
In June 2002, a group of enthusiastic investors, many from the artistic community, purchased the property with the idea of estab-
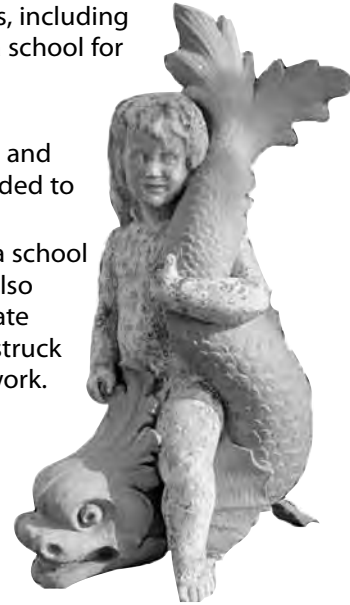
One of the many oranmental figurines found around the large property.

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

LAKE
SCUGOG

SEVEN MILE ISLAND
(SOUTHERN PART)
Scale: 1" = 100 ft. (approx.)

LEGEND

1. PRINCIPAL HOUSE	7. ROSE GARDEN	17. SWIMMING POOL	27. FRUIT TREES
2. HOUSE	8. PERGOLA	18. SEAPLANE DOCK	28. VEGETABLE GARDEN
3. HOUSE	9. WATERWHEEL BIRDHOUSE	19. LOOK-OUT POINT	29. ROADWAY
4. HOUSE	10. STREAM	20. BARBEQUE	30. CAUSEWAY
5. HOUSE	11. BRIDGE	21. ROCK GARDEN	31. DUCK POND
6. COTTAGE	12. POND	22. TEA HOUSE	32. POULTRY HOUSE
B1. METAL BARN	13. GARAGE	23. REFLECTING POOL	33. QUONSET HUT
B2. WOODEN BARN	14. WISHING WELL	24. BOAT HOUSE	34. FOUNTAIN
B3. WOODEN BARN	15. GREENHOUSE	25. CHANGE HOUSE	35. PLAYGROUND
B4. BANK BARN	16. GERMINATION HOUSE	26. SLIP	36. WALKWAYS
B5. LOAFING BARN			

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

Taken in 1930 from the top of the estate's water tower, the picture shows the west and south sides of the Wilson's estate, with there beautifully manicured lawns. The decorative fence along the bottom picture surrounds the entire swimming pool area.

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Below, a unidentified woman and child relax beside the reflecting pool and tea house about 1920 at Seven Mile Island.

The two-storey boathouse was located at the south end of the island on the shoreline of Lake Scugog. The second floor was surrounded by 35 large windows lighting the spacious room, below, which featured a dance floor.

Looking across the 50'x24' in-ground swimming pool towards the Wilson's main residence, surrounded by gardens.

lishing a school for the study of art. The group, Artis Orbus Inc. is headed by Charlotte Hale, owner of Veni Vidi Gallery in Port Perry. Work began immediately on stabalizing the buildings and damaged structures, as well as cleaning and clearing the property of overgrowth created by decades of neglect.

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

Unfortunately, the ambitious plans for the estate arts community never did materialize, partly due to financial constraints and also differing opinions of investors on how to proceed.

Despite the problems, the Seven Mile Island Arts Community operated for about two years before making the tough decision to cease operations and sell the property. Sadly, in the spring of the group listed the Wilson's estate property for sale.

Seven Mile Island was placed on the market for sale in early 2005 with a price tag of $1,250,000.

The Mississaugas of Scugog First Nation purchased the former estate property in mid-June 2005. Following the purchase of the Seven Mile Island property, Mississaugas officials began the job of cleaning up the property which had continued to deteriorate over the years.

The work included the demolition of the former Wilson House and one cottage, both of which were unsafe and beyond repair. They also filled in the in-ground swimming pool which in poor shape and dangerous due to neglect.

At this time, the future of Seven Mile Island is not known.

The beautiful arbor, as it looked about 1948. At the far end is the water fountain in front of the house.

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Canada & Ontario Gazetteers & Directories

ONTARIO GAZETTEER & BUSINESS DIRECTORY
1892-1893

Scugog – A country post office on an island of the same name in Lake Scugog (which forms the township of Scugog), Ontario County, 24 miles north of Whitby, the county seat, and 7 miles northeast of Port Perry. On the Midland division CT Railway, its nearest railway and banking point. It contains Methodist and Christian churches and common schools. Stage twice a week to Port Perry. Population 100. John Jackson, postmaster.

    Conklin, Elijah, blacksmith

    Jacons, John, general store

ONTARIO GAZETTEER & BUSINESS DIRECTORY
1895

Scugog – A post office on an island of the same name in Lake Scugog, Scugog Twp., Ontario Cty. 24 miles north of Whitby, the county seat, and 7 miles northeast of Port Perry, on the Midland division, GTR, it nearest railway and banking point. It contains Methodist and Christian churches and common schools. Stage twice a week to Port Perry. Population 100. Mail semi-weekly. John Jackson postmaster.

    Jackson, John, general store and post office

    Stephenson, Joseph, shingle mill

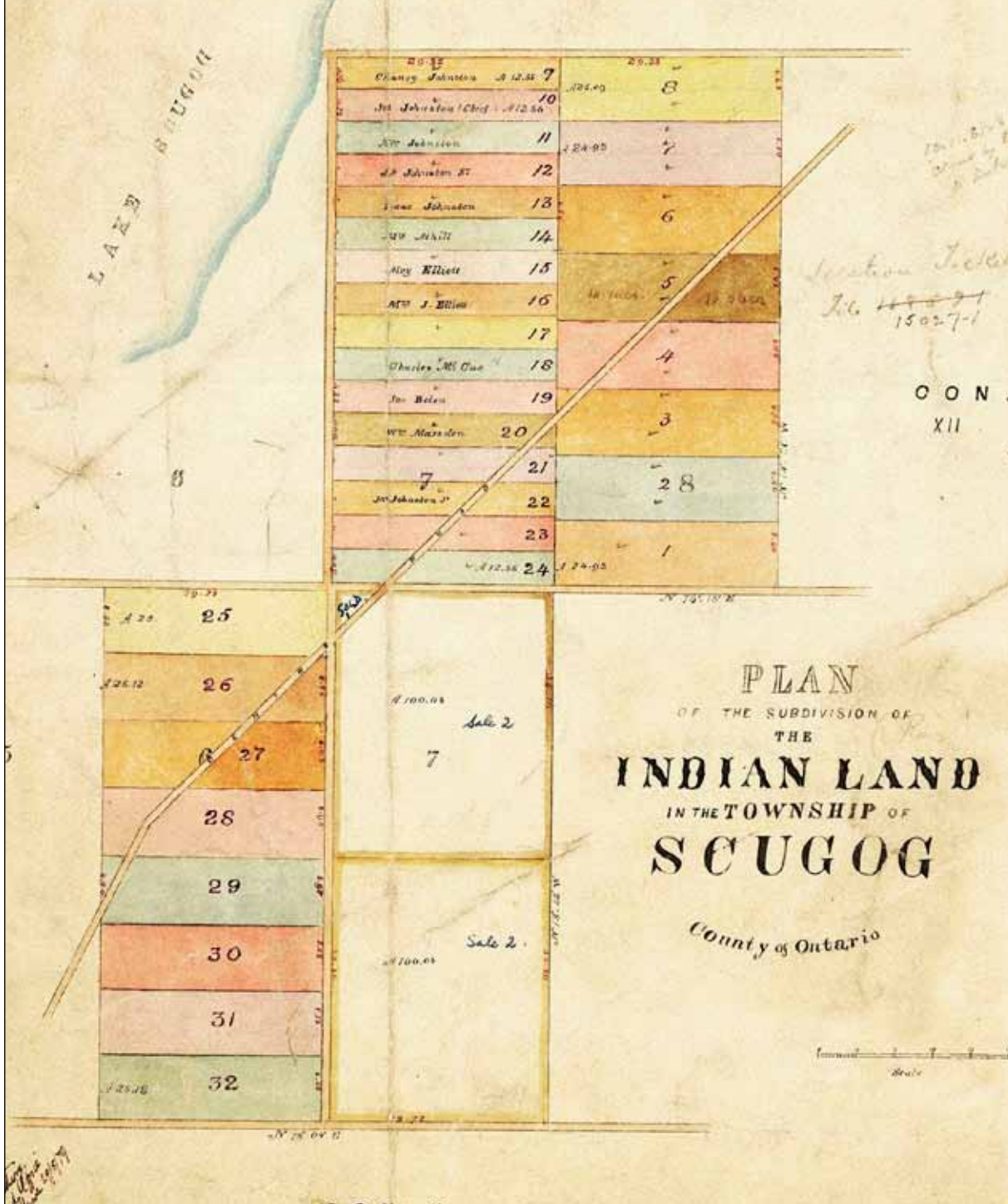   Winans, Elder, J.P (Christian Church)

Chapter Ten

Mississaugas
of
Scugog Island

Plan of Subdivision of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island, in the Township of Scugog, County of Ontario, as prepared by John J. Dalton, P.L.S., Toronto, Ontario, April 8, 1879

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Mississaugas of Scugog Island

The first Mississauga people to settle in the basin of Lake Scugog around 1700 appreciated the bountiful resources available in the virgin forests and unspoiled wetlands. Game and fur animals, waterfowl and fish abounded, and wild rice grew in profusion in the shallow waters.

The people flourished in this paradise for nearly a century until the British arrived with their insatiable appetite for aboriginal land. Having just lost the American War of Independence, British refugees came flooding north into Upper Canada seeking new land.

Government officials were soon conducting land acquisition treaties with Mississauga and Ojibwa people who neither understood the language of these powerful strangers nor fully grasped the revolutionary concept of permanently selling their Mother Earth. Millions of acres of valuable native lands were given up through these treaties with very little received in return.

Unfortunately, fair dealings were not the order of the day. In one instance, the land on the west side of Lake Scugog, all the way north to Lake Simcoe was not negotiated or treatied for with the resident Mississauga people, at all. They were simply ignored and swept aside and the land was given out to non-native settlers who chopped down forests to make their farms.

By 1830, with strangers despoiling their hunting lands and with rising water from a new dam on the Scugog River at Lindsay flooding their rice beds, the Mississauga people moved away at the government's insistence. Some went to Lake Simcoe and onto the new reserve at Coldwater, and some moved to live with their friends at Chemong Lake (also called Mud Lake). Scugog Chief Jacob Crane went with the group to Mud Lake.

In 1836, Chief Crane and his people moved farther west to reserve land at Balsam Lake. But by 1843, with non-native settlement increasing and game populations declining, the government was encouraging native people to take up subsistence farming to supply their food needs. Owing to the unproductive rocky soil at Balsam Lake, Chief Crane's people sought better land, and they chose to move back to Scugog.

With increasing settlement at Scugog, the only land available was an 800 acre (320 hectare) landlocked parcel on Scugog Island. And despite the thousands of acres west of Lake Scugog earlier taken from them, Mississauga people were required to purchase these 800 acres with their own money.

Area outlined in blue is the approximate area the 800 acres purchased by the Mississaugas of Scugog Island.

In 1844 Chief Crane and his people returned home to Scugog, although it was no longer the paradise it had once been. Chief Crane died at Scugog in 1861.

Over the century and a half that followed, the people tried subsistence farming, but this didn't prove viable; fur trapping, hunting and basket-making supplied a meager income.

Later, off-reserve jobs in the cities to the south were resorted to, but times were never bountiful. In spite of heavy enlistment for the great wars, and the recent history of Residential Schools, the "60s Scoop," and a dwindling member population, the Mississauga people survived and rebuilt their community.

After much forward-thinking and hard work, the Mississaugas opened their community economic development project in 1997, the Great Blue Heron Casino. With the advent of the casino also came the Baagwating Community Association. Baagwating is run by members of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation and is the charitable-arm of the Great Blue Heron.

Through building community networks, the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation have built relationships of trust and respect with the Scugog Township, the Durham Region, and the local townspeople.

Work was progressing quickly on the Great Blue Heron Casino and Bingo complex in October 1996 when Chief Gary Edgar, right, toured the site. With him are, from left, Sean Eade, Thomas Keliner and Ron Steiner.

Aerial photo of the Great Blue Heron Casino, on Scugog Island, which opened in 1997.

Education & Schools

Formal education was brought to the Mississauga children in the early 1800s by missionaries who organized day schools.

Records show that the first school house was a small log building that stood in the corner of an orchard. The *Indian Church*, as it was referred to, was located "across a road" from the school years later.

The location of the *Indian School* has not been confirmed, although it's thought to have been near the church cemetery.---

In 1847 it was reported there were 21 students attending the Indian School.

By 1870 the *Indian School* was reported as in a healthy state, but only a few years later the school was abandoned. This may have been due to a new school being built a few years earlier.

The new school, which became known as the *Foot School* was constructed in 1866, and it was here the children of the Mississaugas attended along-side children of the white settlers.

The Foot School, Scugog Island circa 1940.

The *Foot School*, named as it was located at the "foot" of the Island, served the families at the north end of Scugog Island for a century.

In February 1966, 100 years after *Foot School* opened, the Ontario Department of Education closed Scugog Island's three primary schools at the end of the school year. Following the closures, students from the Island were transferred to schools in Port Perry and Prince Albert.

The the historical old school house sat empty and idle for about two years before being sold by auction and removed from the site.


This photo of the "Foot School" was taken in 1909 and shows 32 students, both indigenous and white, in front of the school with their teacher.

The Islands in Lake Scugog

This map of "The Island in Lake Scugog" prepared by William E. Yarnold, for the Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs in May 1916. The map shows Scugog Island, and below enlarged, Seven Mile Island Platten Island and Washburn Island.
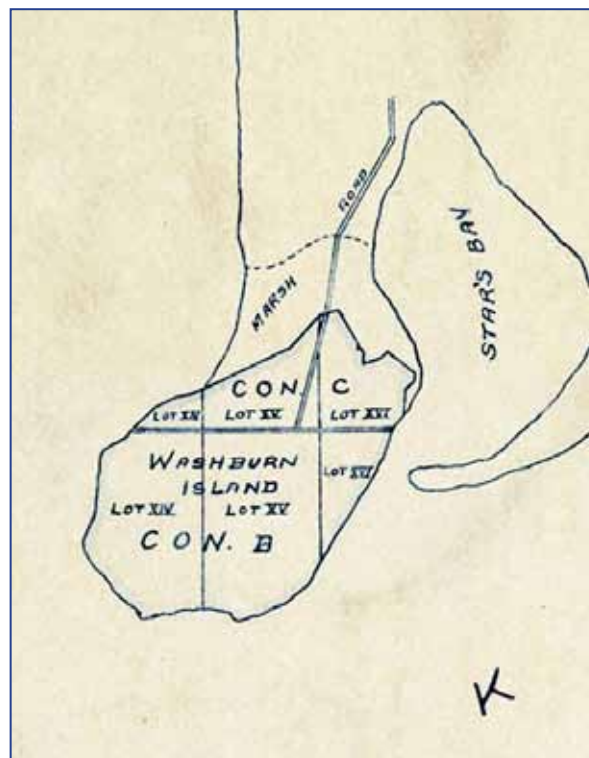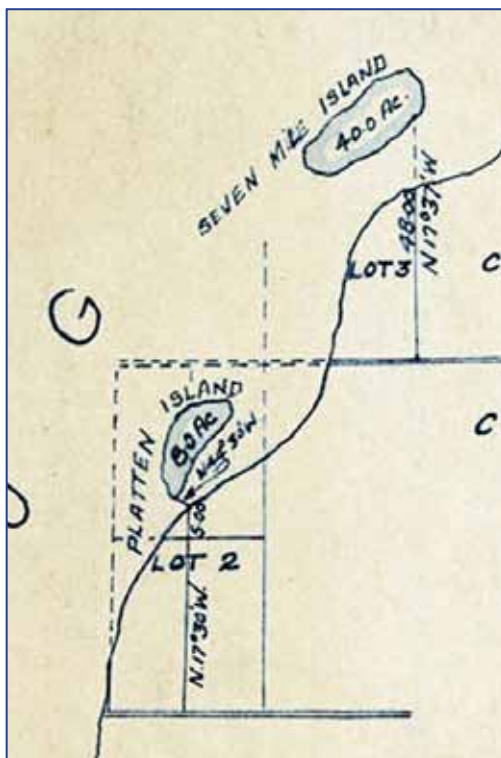
Chapter Eleven

Scugog Shores Museum & Archives

Scugog Shores Museum

Lake Scugog Historical Society president Bill Brock welcomes more than 200 guests at the opening of the Scugog Shores Museum in July 1970.

Aleene and Jack Kate, who were instruments in the museum being formed attened the official opening on Sunday,July 5, 1970.

The Lake Scugog Historical Society was formed in January 1969 with William (Bill) Brock as its first president, and by the fall of that year plans were underway to have the Head Church recognized as a museum for the community.

This site was picked because the church and the pioneer cemetery could provide the nucleus for a larger museum. It was also in a central location, accessible from all areas of Port Perry, Reach and Cartwright Townships.

During the following year Head Church as closed by the United Church of Canada and the title passed to Scugog Township. A museum board was then formed, and an agreement was struck with the Ontario County School Board for use of the Head School as a summer museum. At the time is was the location of the Central Seven Association for children. It was two years later, in 1972 that the school house was taken over by the Historical Society and it became a permanent part of the museum property.

One of the first steps in expanding the museum took place during the summer of 1969 when an old log cabin, located in Manvers Township, was donated to the Historical Society. It was more than two years before enough funds were raised for its move, and it finally made its way to the museum site in 1972.

In July 1970 the official opening of Scugog Shores Historical Museum took place, attracting more than 200 area residents, as well as local, federal and board of education representatives; and Mrs. Ina Goose and her son Arnold, in full ceremonial dress, representing the Mississaugas of Scugog Island.

The next major addition to the museum took place in May 1973 when the 120 year-old Lee House at Greenbank was donated to the Island. The house, owned by Ernie Lee, was moved to the museum, restored, painted and officially opened to the public June 1973.

Log Cabin Arrives At The Museum

This old log cabin was donated the Scugog Historical Society by Mr. and Mrs. Jim K. Lawrence, owners of the Country Store, Nestleton in May 1969. The Historical Society raised funds to move the century old home, which was located in Manvers Township, in 1972. The cabin was disassembled, marking each log with a tag, then moved to the Scugog Museum site and reassembled in 1974.

Lee House Moved From Greenbank

The Lee House was donated to the Musueum by Ernie Lee of Greenbank. It was moved to the site in May 10, 1972 with Russel Harrison supervising the move.

Greenbank's Lee House was raised off its foundation and moved to the Scugog Shores Museum site on Scugog Island, onMay 10, 1972.

The 120 years old Lee House making its way along a narrow road on the way to the Scugog Island museum site.

A large crowd gathered at Head Memorial Church, Scugog Island on Sunday, June 3, 1973 to witness the Dedication of the an attractive cairn just south of the church.

Over the years, the cemetery had become run down and many stones were toppled and missing. The Head U.C.W., with the help of John Sweetman, began making plans to honour the township's early settler by locating all the all the marked and unmarked graves.

After years of work, the project was completed and Rev. Reg Rose dedicated the attractive monument and paid tribute to the Island's forfathers.

Rev. B. Pogue officiated the laying of the wreaths in front of the new cairn.

William "Bill" Brock welcomes people, including Ontario Lieutenant Governor, Mrs. Pauline McGibbon to the 10th Anniversary of Scugog Shores Museum in May 1979. Almost 1,000 people attended the event held during the two day "Pioneer Days" event.

Scugog Shores Museum & Archives
CURATORS
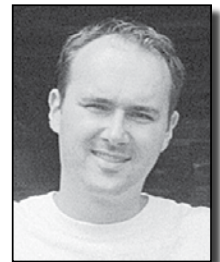## 1971 - 2020
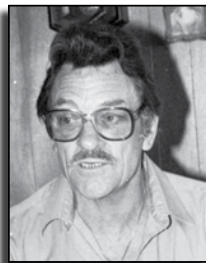
ALEENE KANE
1971-1975

DOREEN ADAM
1976-1977

TRISH HOLMAN
1980-1983

LEONARD GREEN
1984-1988

MARY LYNN WILLIAMSON
1989-1990

GAIL SHERIDAN
1990-1992

KIM HARPER
1993-1994

DAN ROBERT
1994-1999

SUSAN NEALE
1999-2002

SHANNON KELLY
2003-2020

Aleen and Jack Kane at the opening of the Scugog Shores Museum in May 1970.

NOTE: Mrs. Jane Baird served as Scugog Shores Museum curator from November 1977 to September 1979

CHARLES E. GOAD MAP 1877
Scugog Township.

THE ISLAND

BY J. PETER HVIDSTEN