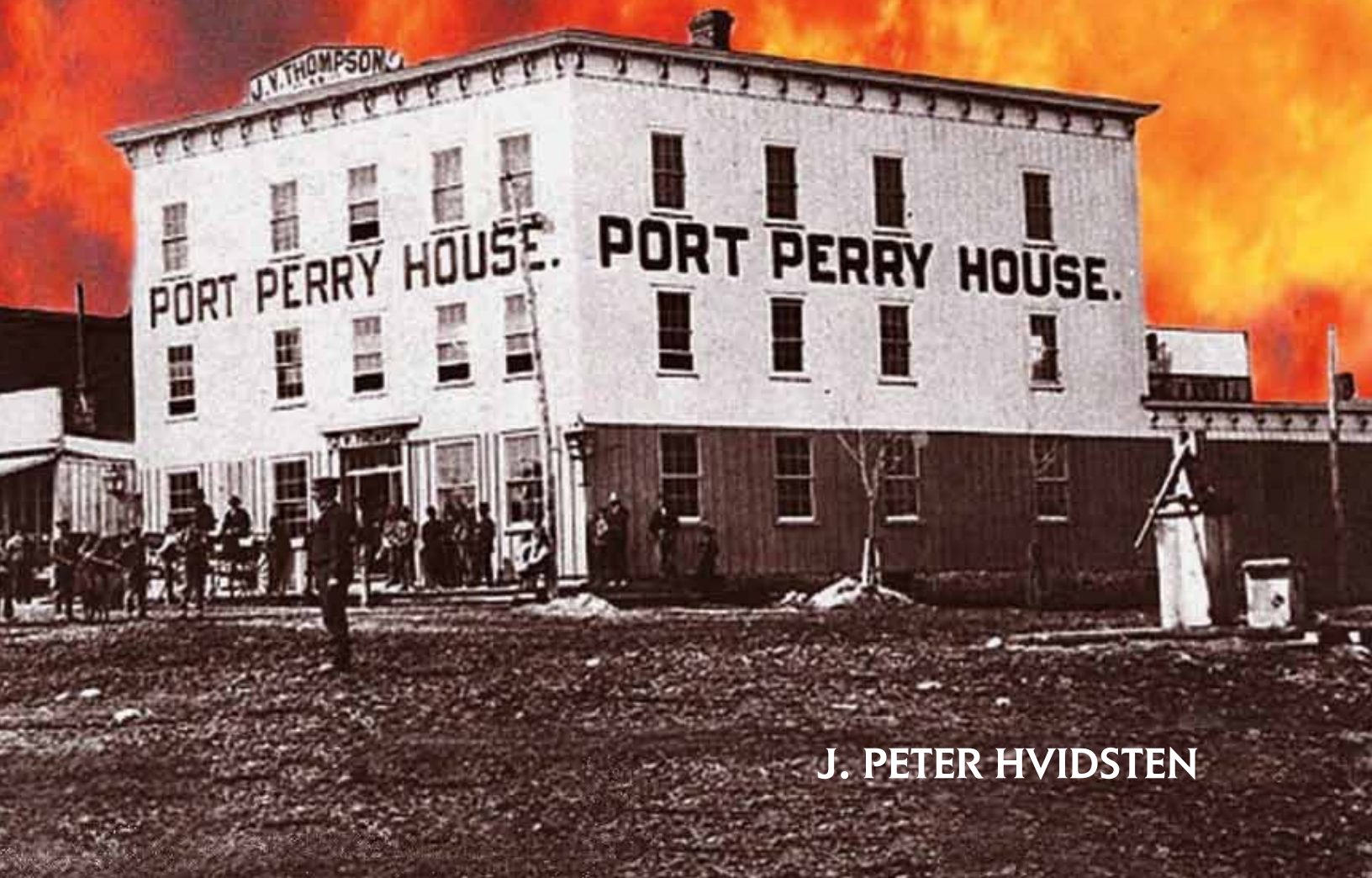


# A Tangle OF Tales

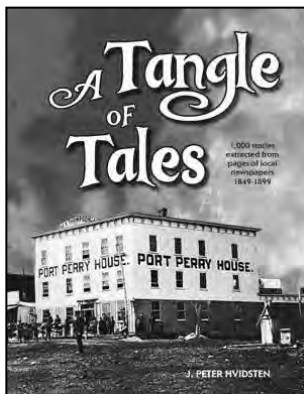
1,000 stories  
extracted from  
pages of local  
newspapers  
1849-1899



J. PETER HVIDSTEN

Contents of this publication have been extracted from the newspaper files of the:

- Ontario Observer
- North Ontario Observer
- Port Perry Standard
- Port Perry Star
- Whitby Chronicle & Reporter
- Toronto Examiner
- Toronto Globe
- Lindsay Post
- Bowmanville Statesman
- Uxbridge Journal, and more.



Cover Photo: A composite illustration of the Port Perry House hotel, with simulated fire in the background.

## A TANGLE OF TALES

Researched and Published by J. Peter Hvidsten

Layout and design by J. Peter Hvidsten

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# A Tangle OF Tales

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BY  
J. PETER HVIDSTEN

# Introduction

The book you find in your hands, which was never intended to be published, is a collection of stories from southern Ontario newspapers about the day-to-day activities, events and tragedies which faced the early pioneers of the village of Port Perry, and the townships of Reach and Scugog.

The project started out while researching and writing “Boom Towns,” which was published in September 2019. After accumulating a large number of stories about local families and businesses, for that publication, a decision was made to continue compiling intriguing stories from our past, and thus began an in-depth search for additional stories of interest about the aforementioned communities.

Thankfully a great number of local newspapers, beginning in December 1857 until 1900 were available on microfilm, making the research relatively easy, although time consuming. Unfortunately a large number of issues are missing, the majority of them lost in one of the many fires that were prevalent in those early days. You will see many of these reports throughout the book.

Missing issues from the Prince Albert and Port Perry newspapers were issues from 1885 to 1890, and also from 1895 to 1900. These newspapers were lost during disastrous fires which turned much of the commercial sector of Port Perry into ashes and scorched brick.

Fortunately, newspapers from some neighboring communities, Whitby, Uxbridge, Bowmanville and Lindsay, reported a number of Port Perry area events during this time period, and they were useful in filling in the blanks where information was not available from local media.

One of the most surprising sources of some of the earliest reports about this community came from much farther away. The Toronto Globe, a daily newspaper some 50 miles southwest of Port Perry, in what was then known as the “Home District”, was a treasure trove of news about the events taking place in this community.

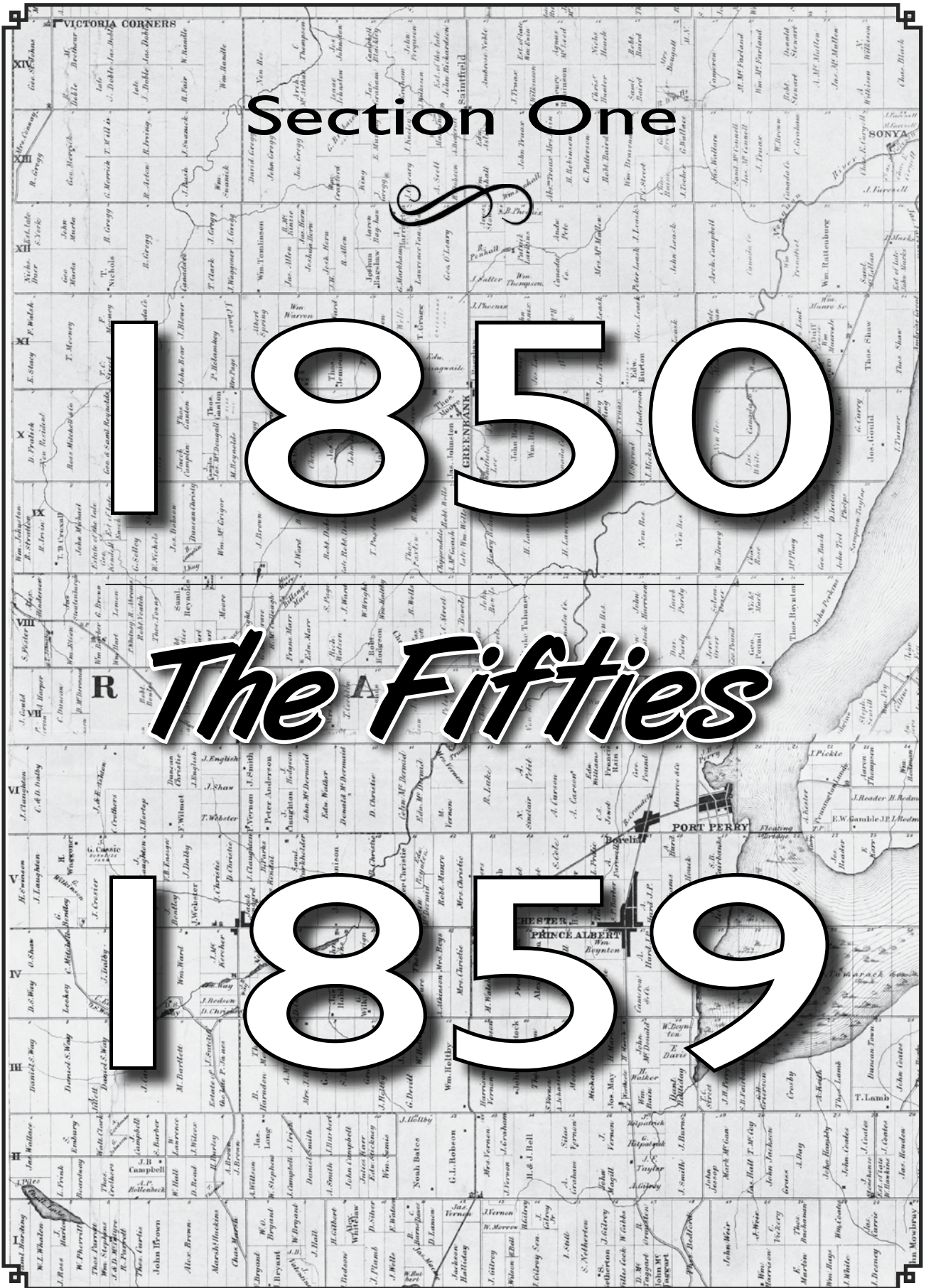
In selecting the articles to publish in this document, we avoided for the most part, the reports on the political scene, and also the controversial railway schemes which took place from the 1850s through to the 1880s. These topics are covered in other local historical publications. Most of the articles within this book bring light to the daily life of early settlers, as well as development projects, the steamboat era, difficulties on the lake, and unfortunate tragedies within the community.

It should be noted that the articles throughout this document have been re-printed word-for-word the way they were written and published more than a century ago. Within the writings, editors used terms and names which today would not be accepted as politically correct. There was consideration given to changing some to conform with today’s sensitivities, but after careful consideration the news articles have been published as they were written.

We recognize that there are people who may be uncomfortable with some terminology, but at that time, more than 130 years ago, they were commonly used words and terms. As has often been said, we can learn from history – but we can’t change history. But, what we can do is take what we have learned, and make the necessary changes going forward,

Hopefully the contents of this document will provide a more complete insight into the lives of our forefathers, those who first settled and developed the communities in which we live today.





Section One

1850

The Fifties

1859

George C. Tremaine's map of Reach Township, 1860.

# 1850 *The Fifties*

## ~ Pre-1850 ~

### Murder of John Sharp at Scugog camp

*Canadian Frontier: October 1804*

Two brothers, A Moody Farewell and William Farewell, were sons of a widow who had moved from Oswego to Niagara at the time of Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe. In the year 1796, the family moved to York. Around 1800, the two boys took up land and settled at Oshawa Creek.

The Farewell boys went north to Lake Scugog to trade with the Indians for furs and to trap. They were accompanied by John Sharp, who looked after Scugog camp in their absence. On their return, they found the unfortunate John Sharp had been murdered by club blows to the head.

The two brothers quickly returned to Oshawa and reported the murder to a neighbor, Elessir Lockwood. Lockwood had observed Indians encamped on the shore a day or so earlier. Some of them were intoxicated and one of them went through the actions of how he had killed poor Sharp. This was watched by the settler from a distance. The Indians move on to York.

On learning the story, Lockwood proceeded to York. He contacted the Indian Superintendent. A warrant was issued, a Sergeant and guard were procured, and the offending Indian was taken into custody, being given over to the authorities by his Chief.

A trial was held. The defense counsel assigned to the Indian argued that since the murder had been committed in the Newcastle District, the case must be tried in the Town of Newcastle. The court was adjourned.

The schooner "Speedy" was commissioned to take the Court to Presqu'île. Captain Thomas Paxton was ordered on October 5, 1804 to sail from York to Presqu'île. The members of the court, law officers, witnesses, the prisoner was thus conveyed to the Town of Newcastle at Presqu'île. The boat left York on Sunday evening, October 7 and more witnesses and Indians were taken on board at Oshawa.

The "Speedy" ran into a blowing gale and sunk, never to be seen again. A full account of the sinking of the "Speedy" can be found in historical records - <http://images.ourontario.ca/Partners/Cobourg/0533631T.PDF>.

### Travel throughout Upper Canada

*Kingston Chronicle & Gazette: June 29, 1833*

On the inland waters of the Newcastle District, several small steamers are now or will soon be in operation. On the Rice Lake, the *Otanabee*, a boat about 60 feet long,



*Otanabee steamer.*

and propelled by an engine of twelve horse power, owned by a company of proprietors at Port Hope, plies between Bewdley, at the extremity of Rice Lake, and on the Otanabee River, a distance of about 35 miles as far as Peterboro, calling at the rising villages of Claverton, Campbelltown, and Howard. She makes trips three times a week from Bewdley, which is about 12 miles, we believe, from Port Hope.

The *Rice Lake*, the property of J.G. Bethune, Esq. propelled by an engine of twenty-one horse power, leaves Sully, (a new village about fourteen miles from Cobourg, on the Rice Lake) every day for Peterboro, a distance of about 25 miles.

A new boat called the *Sturgeon*, belonging to the same enterprising gentleman, was lately launched at the new village now forming by Thomas Ward, Esq. of Port Hope, on the borders of Chemong Lake (distant a short portage of six miles from Peterboro).

The *Sturgeon* is eighty feet long, and an engine of about twenty or twenty-five horse power is now fitting up in her. She is intended to ply from the foot of the communication road leading from Peterboro to Chemong (commonly known as Mud Lake) through Buckhorn and Pidgeon Lakes for the present. When the contemplated improvements are completed, she will add Sturgeon Lake, Scugog River and Scugog Lake to her route, making a distance of upwards of sixty miles through waters bounded by the townships of Smith, Ennismore, Emily, Harvey, Verulam, Fenelon, Ops, Cartwright, and Reach, all of which are fast rising into flourishing settlements.

It is said, that the new boat, which is described as admirably adapted in point of construction for navigating the chain of waters on which she is to be employed, will be ready in about six weeks. The place of embarkation for travellers, who desire to proceed to the interior of the Newcastle District by this conveyance, will be the village, six miles from Peterboro, already noticed, where the launch took place.



## Water levels in Scugog river

*The British Whig, Kingston: December 2, 1834*

Notice is hereby given that it is the intention of William Purdy, and other inhabitants of the townships of Ops, Mariposa, Cartwright and Reach, to petition the Legislature at its next session to establish the William Purdy in the privilege of maintaining the water in the River Scugog at its present height, in order to secure the full operation of the mills known as Purdy's Mills, in the township of Ops, and the safe navigation of the River.

## Large catch of musky from Scugog

*Kingston Chronicle & Gazette: March 2, 1844*

We were somewhat surprised the other day in passing through the market to observe a large sleigh well filled with that excellent fish the Masknonge, many of them averaging from 30 to 40 lbs. On enquiry we found that these fish had been taken in Lake Scugog, Township of Cartwright, Newcastle District.



## Wild animal in Prince Albert shot

*Toronto Examiner: July 18, 1849*

On Friday last, within about four rods (20 feet) of the dwelling house of Mr. Joshua Wright, an animal of large size was driven up a tree by a dog. The alarm was given through the neighborhood and some few persons were collected with guns.

After firing a few rounds the animal was brought to the ground by the deadly show of Mr. James Wright, senior. The animal was considerably below the size of a common wolf and of the same color – the head resembling that of a cat with tufts of black hair at the tip of each ear, and a short stubbed tail of about three inches in length.

There have been two more of the same kind taken in this neighborhood during the last few months; one shot by an Indian and other taken in a trap by Mr. Solomon Orser – the first ever seen in these parts.

At close quarters the animals in question would take short work of a man, as the claws alone, to say nothing of the teeth, were frightful. We are at a loss to know what name to give them; some say they are wild cats, some say lynx and others wolverines.

## Cash for wheat

*Toronto Globe: December 26, 1849*

The subscribers will pay the "Highest Prices" for all merchantable produce delivered at their stores, either at Port Whitby, or Crandell's Corner, Reach Twp.

John Martin & Co. also beg leave to remind their friends and customers that they have commenced business at Crandell's Corner, Reach; and by steady attention, hope for a share of public patronage.

# ~ 1850 ~

## Notices of Applications to Parliament

*Toronto Globe: March 16, 1850*

Among the applications announced for charters to come before Parliament at the coming session, include: "For a bill to form a County of the Eastern Section of the Home District (or County of York); also to attached to Mariposa the portion of Cartwright north of Lake Scugog, and to form Scugog Island into a new Township.

## Union Hotel has new owner

*Whitby Chronicle: May 5, 1850*

The subscriber, Christopher C. Covey, having taken the Tavern formerly kept by Robert Hunter, on the Plank Road, first concession of Reach; hopes from strict attention to business, to merit a share of public patronage.

## Report of large tornado in Reach

*Toronto Examiner: July 17, 1850*

The *Toronto Examiner* gave a very full account of the terrific tornado that swept through Reach, July 5, 1850. According to the account (see page 4), the tornado swept through the townships of Scugog, Reach, Cartwright and Darlington, into Lake Ontario.

It prostrated dwellings, raised up barns and twisted them into shreds, leveled the woods, destroyed farm stock, killed several people, and formed a huge waterspout at the head of Lake Scugog, which threatened to drink the Scugog dry.



*Sketch of a typical 1850s era stagecoach.*

## New stages service Port Perry

*Whitby Reporter: August 17, 1850 (advertisement)*

Thomas H. Scripture & Company advertise a new Line of stages from Whitby to Port Perry begins daily beginning immediately. Stages scheduled to leave Whitby Village every morning (Sunday's excepted) at Eight o'clock, calling at Brooklin, Prince Albert, and Crandell's Corners.

Returning, will leave Port Perry at Three o'clock P.M., calling at the above named places. Passengers coming off the steamboat America can go north by stage next morning. Extras furnished to order or on shortest notice.

## Meeting to discuss Plank Road

*Whitby Ontario Reporter: September 7, 1850*

At a special meeting of the York County Council, discussion relating to the purchase of the public roads, and of the Whitby and Scugog Plank Road were discussed. In



*Photo illustration is not connected with tornado of 1850*

## Reach Township assailed by tornado in July 1850

*Presbyterian Minister, Rev. R. Monteith, a resident of Prince Albert, writings about the "History of the Township of Reach" in 1859, recalled a tremendous storm with swept through much of Reach Township. The story goes as follows:*

"In the afternoon of July 5, 1850 a storm assailed the township of Reach as dreadful and yet so rapid that although we must mention it we need not attempt to describe it: description is impossible.

The sky of course was exceedingly war and even in the forenoon, most people were beginning to image that something serious was brewing.

But after midday these prehensions were greatly increased, the sultry nature of the atmosphere and the ominous clouds in the north-west making it next to certain that a hurricane was hastening on.

At length the crises came; flashes of lighting and peals of thunder, succeeded as quickly by rain and tempest, all arrested the eye and the ear with a force and a wildness which cannot be imagined.

The scene was as terrible as a tropical tornado; every mind was agitated by it; every heart quailed before it. It did not indeed continue long, scarcely as long as ten minutes; and it did not set on a large extent, little more that a quarter of a mile in breadth.

~

But in the line which it took, from north-west to south-west its effects sufficiently appalling, standing trees and lying logs, houses and mills and farm offices, cattle and flocks and human beings, all being forced to own it supremacy.

On the farm of Mr. Ianson, in the 10th conc., it wrought fearful mischief; there it overturned innumerable trees, which speak as its memento

to the present day; and beside overthrowing the dwelling house, it killed Mr. Ianson's boy and sister-in-law.

The the south side of Lake Scugog it was nearly as mischievous; a man by the name of McLeod was killed by it, and it greatly thinned the surrounding forest.

In other quarters it took up boys and men from the ground, whirled them like tops in the open air, and then at some rods distance set them down on the ground again.

Fortunately enough it scarcely touched Borelia or Prince Albert as it passed as it were between them; but it left traces of its fury in the neighbourhood.

Mr. Hurd's sawmill yielded before it and so did a host of trees immediately adjoining of which there are traces yet.

And one of the most amusing things, close to Borelia, on the side of the 6th conc. there stood then a little cottage, with an open space between it and the ground. The owner of it was away elsewhere; and his wife as the storm was approaching its worst, naturally enough betook herself to the house of a neighbour. She had scarcely reached her neighbour, when her own house was blown away and tumbled down on the other side of the public road.

We could tell of other effects of the storm, but enough has been said already to give an idea of its power; the like of it was never seen before, nor since, at least in this township.

And perhaps we should add that although it was felt in other townships, as in Brock and Scott and Cartwright and Darlington, it appears to have reserved its worst for Reach."

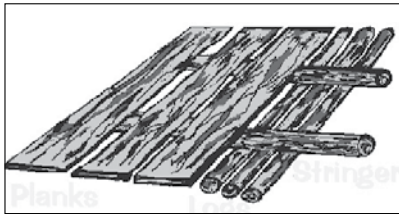
particular, are of greatest importance to the inhabitants of this section of the country is the sense of necessity there is to the welfare and prosperity that the Whitby and Scugog Plank Road should pass into the possession of a Joint Stock Company.

## Lindsay Lock to be repaired

*Peterboro Despatch, September 17, 1850*

On Thursday last, the new and beautiful steamboat, *Woodman*, was launched at Port Perry, on Scugog Lake. Several hundred persons from Whitby, Cartwright, Mariposa, and Ops, were present to witness the proceeding. The day was very fine, and those who attended were well repaid by so agreeable an excursion.

The *Woodman* is over a hundred feet in length, and altogether a "perfect beauty." She is destined to make daily trips between Port Perry and Lindsay, and can, if required, go to Fenelon Falls and down the back lakes to Mud Lake Landing, within seven miles of Peterboro'. We wish the enterprising proprietors every success.



Plank road construction.

## Jobs for rebuilding Plank Road

*Ontario Reporter: October 26, 1850*

An announcement for a public auction of Road Jobs for the Port Whitby and Lake Scugog, Simcoe and Huron Road Company was held at Snider's Tavern in Brooklin on November 1, 1850.

Several jobs in Whitby and Reach, required the of removing the old worn out planks and gravelling replacing with gravel, as well as gravelling such portions of the road as have not been planked or gravelled. The sale also includes the erection of two Toll Houses, gates and bars, as per specifications.

The gravelling of the road to be laid in this section to be 10 feet wide, with gravel nine inches thick in the centre, and regularly rounded to six inches at the edges.

## Thief flees to Reach Township

*Toronto Globe: November 12, 1850*

About three weeks ago, a person calling himself William Ward, came into West Dumpfries and put up at the tavern of Mr. Nelson Newcombe, proceeded to Mr. Isaac C. , of Wilmot and purchased a horse, for which they paid 92 dollars – \$90 of which were forgeries on the Montreal Bank.

They also discharged their bill at Mr. Newcombe's with a forged \$5 note. As soon as the forgeries were discovered, Mr. Newcombe and Mr. Shantz proceeded in pursuit of the purchaser to Reach Twp., 52 miles north east of Toronto, where they succeeded in capturing the thief.

A warrant was issued for bringing him before a Magistrate, but on the road to the Magistrate's house, he knocked down the constable and escaped; and the

pursuers were thereby deprived of justice.

Since their return, Mr. Newcombe has received a letter purporting to be from Ward's father, enclosing a five dollar bill, as payment of his loss, but enclosing none of the money due to Mr. Shantz. It is proper to say, that every assistance was given by the magistrates of Reach, particularly Mr. Hurd, of the Village of Prince Albert, who raised the country, and had a least 40 persons negated in endeavoring to discover the thief, but in vain.

The horse of Mr. Shantz, was discovered in Uxbridge, but had be sold, and the purchaser refused to give it up for it full value, which the sufferers will yet endeavor to recover.

~ 1851 ~

## Man goes through ice and drowns

*Whitby Reporter: Saturday, March 8, 1851*

On Wednesday, the 26th inst., while returning from Prince Albert, a person by the name of Patrick Kenny, drove his horses into an opening of the ice on Lake Scugog, and was drowned. The horses were got out by some individuals living near the place.

We understand the deceased has left a wife, but no children. He was a native of Ireland and lived in the Township of Ops.

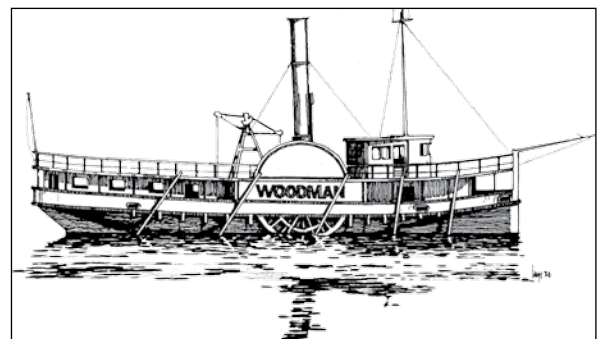
## Woodman steamship makes maiden trip on Lake Scugog

*The Whitby Reporter: Saturday, May 24, 1851*

The *Woodman* steamer, commanded by Capt. Hugh Chisholm, built last season at Port Perry, for Messrs. James Cotton & James Rowe, to ply on Lake Scugog, between the head of the lake and Lindsay, made her trail trip a short time since, having on board a large company of gentlemen and which proved most satisfactory, coming fully up to the anticipation of her owners.

The large and increasing traffic between those important points, imperatively demanded a steamer to meet its wants, which object has a length been obtained, and no doubt will be justly appreciated by the inhabitants on the shores of the whole length of lake.

It formerly required two days to travel from Lindsay to Toronto, which can be easily accomplished in 15 hours leaving Lindsay on either Monday, Wednesday or Friday at 9 o'clock, a.m., arriving at Port Perry between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m., thence to Port Whitby per Scripture & Ray's Stage,



Sketch of the Woodman steamship.



meeting the steamer Admiral at 8 o'clock, on her upward trip to Toronto.

The *Woodman* returns to Lindsay on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning at 9 a.m., touching at Hoovers, Darlington and Ambrose Land.

We understand it is proposed to place a line of Stages on the northern end of the route between Lindsay and Peterborough, which will complete the Line, making it a pleasant and speedy route for the denizens of the rising and flourishing town of Peterborough, to reach the shores of blue Ontario.

The dimensions of the *Woodman*, which is commanded by Captain Hugh Chisholm, are as follows: Length of keel, 95 feet; overall length 100 feet; 25 foot beam; extreme width 30 feet; depth of hold 5.5 feet; draft of water 3 feet; beam engine 25 h.p.; five feet stroke. Boiler is constructed on a new principle, only consuming three cords of wood on her trip up and down, a distance of about 60 miles.

Her model for a boat of her size is really beautiful, having a fine entrance and clear run, "walking the waters like a thing of life," at the rate of nine miles per hour.

The cabin is on the main deck, which considering the size of the boat, is large and roomy, fitted and furnished in a style that would favourably compare with steamers of much greater pretensions.

Those who intend making a pleasure tour of a day or two, will find no slight inducements to take this route, there being many objects of interest to examine and fish and game in abundance.

## Stage from Port Perry to Whitby

*Whitby Ontario Reporter: May 12, 1851*

The subscriber, Bowerman, Flanagan & Co., of the Whitby Woolen Factory, being anxious to keep pace with the times, keeps on hand a good assortment of cloths, cashmeres, satinettes, tweeds, flannels, blankets and stocking yarn for cash or wool, wholesale or retail.

Manufacturing and spinning by the pound, done to suit customers and Wool Carding and Cloth Dressing done on the shortest notice. They intend to start an accommodation car to run between Port Perry and the Whitby Woolen Factory.

They will run their Express once a week, calling at Mr. S. Tanner's tannery at Prince Albert, and at Lund's store, Port Perry, for the accommodation of the Farmers of Mariposa,



1851. LAKE SCUGOG, 1851.

The New Fast Sailing Steamer  
**WOODMAN,**  
HUGH CHISHOLM, MASTER,

Will leave Lindsay for Port Perry calling at intermediate Landings, every MONDAY, WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY MORNINGS, at TEN o'clock, on the arrival of the Stage from Peterborough.

Returning:—Will leave PORT PERRY every TUESDAY, THURSDAY and SATURDAY MORNINGS, at TEN o'clock, on the arrival of the Stage from Port Whitby.

For Freight or Passage, apply to the Captain on board.  
Lindsay, July 3, 1851. 14-11.

Woodman advertisement 1851

Scugog Island and surrounding country. They will receive wool at Hoover's Point by the steamer *Woodman*, and have it returned weekly by the same conveyance.

## Woodman first steamer on Scugog

*Toronto Globe: May 24, 1851*

Perhaps it may arise from my not seeing all the Toronto papers, or those published out of the city, but it has appeared to me strange, that no notice has been taken in the public prints of a recently addition to our means of internal communication.

I refer to the fact of the water of Lake Scugog being traversed by a steamboat for the first time on Friday, the 25th ultimo. For this most desirable improvement, the inhabitants of the townships adjoining the borders of this inland lake are indebted to the enterprise of Messrs. James Cotton and James Rowe.

A number of gentlemen from Toronto, Streetsville, Whitby and Oshawa, having accepted the invitation of the owners to be present for the trial trip, proceeded to the point of embarkation along the really excellent road which leads from Windsor Bay, on Lake Ontario, to Port Perry, on Lake Scugog.

After some delay, the steamer *Woodman* got underway with a numerous party on board, and on reaching the foot of the lake, entered on the more intricate navigation of the River Scugog.

## Steamer Woodman sunk

*Toronto Globe: December 6, 1851*

The new Steamer *Woodman* built last year by the enterprising firm of Cotton & Rowe, and having plied for this season on Lake Scugog, from Port Perry to Lindsay, was discovered last Monday morning sunk at the wharf at Port Perry. The steamer had been laid up for nearly two weeks, and it is feared that she has been scuttled by some malicious persons.

## Commercial Hotel in Borelia

*Toronto Globe: June 6, 1851*

The subscriber, Thomas Gorey, returns his thanks for the liberal support he has received since he commenced in the old stand, formerly kept by Mr. R. Hunter, at Crandell's Corners. He hopes by strict attention to business to be favored with the patronage hitherto conferred. The bar is furnished with the best liquors, and the table supplied with the choicest eatables that can be procured.

Providing good stabling and a steady Hostler in attendance. Every accommodation to make travellers comfortable. Stage daily to and from Port Whitby.

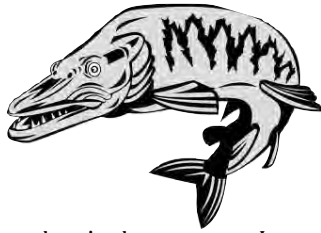
~ 1852 ~

## Unbelievable monster fish story

*Whitby Chronicle: April 24, 1852*

A story in the *Maumee Times*, provided the most astonishing "fresh water fish story" ever to be heard.

The story provided a report of a monster fish caught in the Maumee River, which took two horses and 30 fishermen to draw in. The *Maumee Times* says it was the



largest fish ever taken in those waters. It measured, from tip of its mouth to end of its tale, 23 feet, 4 inches. In circumference, in the largest place of its body it was 4 feet, nine inches.

On opening the fish, it was found to contain in its stomach two good sized muskellunge, about half a barrel of pickerel together with a very respectable complement of the smaller members of the finny tribe. Proving conclusively that "the larger fishes swallow the little ones." There was also found in its insides, two joints of stove pipe, a pair of old boots and the remnant of an India rubber overcoat.

The Whitby editor replied: The above can be beat by the history of Lake Scugog fishing. Muskellunge grow very large there. One is said to have been caught, in whose stomach was found the timbers of an old scow, and several saw logs, together with the ruins of an ancient Indian village. From a recent visit to Port Perry we should judge that place to be the headquarters of piscatorial amusements.

## Port Perry's extensive saw mills

*Kingston British Whig: May 6, 1852*

Few people at a distance have any just conception of the immense fertile country travelled north by the at Center Raod from Port

Whitby through to Sturgeon Bay on Lake Huron. A short ride by stage to Port Perry, on Lake Scugog, will give some idea of what this productive region is destined to become.

Dotted with busy and thriving villages from Whitby to the above terminus of the Scugog navigation from Lindsay, the country presents every feature of agriculture prosperity. Business recently brought us out to Port Perry, and there is no time for making these correct observations that the trade of that neighborhood is really entitled to, but which we will refer to more minutely hereafter.

We cannot, however, refrain from noticing the extensive steam saw mills at the latter place, belonging respectively to mr. Paxton, the enterprising Reeve of Reach, and Mr. Samuel Hall. These mills are very extensive and geared with the most complete machinery we ever saw.



*Illustration of an 1850s saw mill.*

The logs are supplied in abundance by the great timber region of Lake Scugog, and by an ingenious contrivance at the mill of Mr. Paxton., they slide out of the raft and hauled up by machinery into the mill, where the saws speedily covert them into boards.

The aggregate production of these two mills alone, we are informed, amounts to about 20,000 feet per day throughout the year. The steamer Woodman, at Port Perry, is rapidly preparing for her summer busy season on this lake, when Borelia, Port Perry and Prince Albert, will again assume their same appearance.

## By-Law to regulate meetings in Reach

*Whitby Ontario Reporter: June 12, 1852*

It was enacted by the Municipality of the United Townships of Reach and Scugog, a by-law to regulate meeting to be held in the Town Hall, Manchester

By-law No. 58 enacts – That all denominations of Christians may have the opportunity of holding regular appointments in the Town Hall, upon the conditions proposed in the prayer of the petition presented by a Committee from the inhabitants of the village of Manchester, being by them duly complied with, as in case of their failing, then by any other, that may require the use of the same, which conditions are to clean and put in proper order the said Town Hall previous to the holding of each meeting.

And be it further enacted that it shall be the duty of the Township Clerk (David Mitchell) to deliver the key to all parties applying for the same subject to this By-law. Signed by Thomas Paxton, Town Reeve. (portion of the by-law).

## Woodman Steamer in the woods

*Whitby Ontario Reporter: June 15, 1852*

The traveling community are now reaping the advantage of the enterprising firm of Cotton & Rowe, in placing on Lake Scugog the above steamer, plying regularly between Port Perry and Lindsay.

The crowded stages arriving daily at Whitby from the former place sufficiently attest this; and the extremely low fare at present established, offers an additional inducement to travelers from Peterboro, and that section of the country, to prefer this route to Toronto.

On Saturday last, the Woodman made a trip to Fenelon Falls, having passed through the Lock at Lindsay, and thence to Bobcaygeon. She arrived at Lindsay the next morning, having made the return trip in five hours.

The Locks at Bobcaygeon were not large enough to admit her, otherwise she would have travelled through this romantic chain of inland lakes, whose solitary waters were never before ruffled by a steamer.

As soon as a swing bridge can be erected on the lock at Lindsay, it is the intention of her enterprising owners to continue the Woodman regularly on this route through to Fenelon Falls and Bobcaygeon.

There is a large amount of lumber, shingles, &c., manufactured at these places, and whenever a ready facility is afforded for bringing this commodity to the American market by way of Port Perry and Whitby, the business in that vast lumber country, aided by the immense water power will soon quadruple the present amount.

## Stagecoach overturns, man injured

*Toronto Globe: July 8, 1852*

The *Ontario Reporter* says, "On Saturday, as the Lake Scugog and Port Whitby stage coach was turning at McBrien's Hotel, west end of Whitby, it overturned, and Mr. Joseph Moon was severely injured, the driver had his thigh fractured and severe other parties suffered severely in consequence.

On Monday, the Express Stage belonging to the same firm, while on the way to Whitby, broke down a little beyond Brooklin, and caused considerable consternation but no serious injury.

On the afternoon of Wednesday last, while this same Lake Scugog Stage was turning the corner of Brock and Main Streets, Whitby, the king bolt gave way and the coach was upset in front of Mr. Smith's hotel. There were seventeen passengers on the stage at the time and two of them were injured. On female passenger slightly, and the other, Dr. Allison, of Brooklin, who had his shoulder dislocated and his face and head seriously bruised."

## Spooked horse attacks man

*Ontario Reporter, Whitby: July 10, 1852*

Thomas Paxton, Esq., Reeve of Reach, met with a serious injury on Wednesday last, we are informed by a gentleman from the neighbourhood, which will nigh prove fatal.

As he was taking his horse into his stall, Mr. Paxton's brother, who was passing at the time, touched the animal on the hind flanks with the halter of a horse he was leading by, when the animal become so enraged that he sprang at Mr. Paxton with his teeth, jerking him under his forefeet and stamping on him.

Mr. Paxton was fortunately relieved with all speed from the danger, but was so much injured as to speechless for a time. We are happy to hear that he is now recovering.

## Travel is cheap to the north

*Ontario Reporter, Whitby: July 10, 1852*

In these days of improvement and progress, our numerous patrons in this vicinity can enjoy themselves by travelling, as cheap, if not cheaper, than they can stay at home.

We have now three lines of Stages daily to the North, all well filled with bright and cheerful countenances. In fact there is no chance to grumble; the gentlemanly proprietors of the different lines carry passengers for any sum they choose to offer, and if not satisfied with that, we are told they give them a capital dinner in the bargain and therefore, picnics and pleasure parties are the order of the day.

The fare on the Lake Scugog steamer "Woodman" is also very moderate, with fine living on board, and plenty of cheerful company to pass away the time while going from one beautiful village to another.

Owing to the great facilities of communication, the town of Lindsay has already become a place of considerable importance, so much so, that the proprietor of the land adjoining to the village, has been induced to lay it out in beautiful Park lots.

## Meeting to consider English Church

*Ontario Reporter, Whitby: August 26, 1852*

William Powson, clerk, Manchester, Reach, announces a public meeting will be held in the Township of Reach, in the Town Hall on Tuesday the 10th day of September, next, at the hour of two o'clock in the afternoon, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of building a church for the members of the Church of England.

In the event of its being considered necessary and proper to build such a church; then it is intended at the said meeting to elect a committee for the purpose of carrying into effect the resolutions of said meeting, and at the same time to take a vote of the parties present. As to the locality in which such church so to be erected, should be built, so as to best suit the wants and conveniences of the Township at large.

## Daily mail despatched to Port Perry

*Ontario Reporter, Whitby: September 4, 1852*

On and after Monday, the 6th inst., a daily mail will be despatched from this town (Whitby) to Port Perry, and from thence, tri-weekly, to Lindsay per steamer "Woodman", on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, returning on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

This is an improvement in the northern route long desired, and will be of great convenience to the inhabitants of these places.

~ 1853 ~

## Port Whitby-Lake Scugog road

*Whitby Reporter: March 5, 1853*

It is the intention of the Port Whitby and Lake Scugog Road company, to extend and improve the Road from Manchester through the Townships of Reach and Brock Townships.

That this line of road has remained unimproved too long none will deny. That it will open up a large section of country, heretofore shut out from a market two thirds of the year, all will admit. That it is precisely the road required to give that identity of the interest to the front and rear, so essentially necessary to the prosperity of Ontario is obvious to every man in the country.

It is proposed to make the whole route from the northern boundary line of Brock to Manchester.

The resolution respecting this project passed a late meeting of the Directors, is as follows: Resolved - That the President and Secretary be authorized to proceed to Reach and Brock, for the purpose of making arrangements with the people of those Townships to extend the Road on such terms as they may deem advisable for the interest of the back country and this company.

## Reach & Scugog hold first Spring Fair

*Whitby Ontario Reporter: March 26, 1853*

The first Spring Fair of the Agriculture Society of the United Townships of Reach and Scugog was held at Prince Albert on the 8th of the month; and considering that this was the first attempt of anything of the kind in those Townships, passed off very satisfactory.

The show grain and seed was very good, and the attendance and interest exhibited in the matter was highly creditable. The Society has only been organized a short time and very little preparation could be made for the exhibition; but better things are expected in future.

Another fair for the exhibition of stock will be held in the same place on the first Wednesday in May.



Illustration of a toll-gate.

## Whitby to Scugog road tolls reduced

*Whitby Reporter: October 1853*

At a meeting of the Port Whitby and Lakes Scugog, Simcoe and Huron Road Company held on the 4th, of January, till Monday the 7th of March, 1853, the Tolls on the Road of the Port Whitby and Lakes Scugog, Simcoe and Huron Road Company, be reduced to "one-half" of the present rates.

Also resolved that the Harbor Tolls on lumber be reduced to one shilling per thousand feet, from and after the opening of navigation in 1853.

# ~ 1854 ~

## Brampton wheat challenge accepted

*Toronto Globe: February 16, 1854*

A statement recently gone the round of the city papers, copied from the Brampton Mercury, challenging any town or village in Canada to beat it, in its receipts of wheat, for one week, which, according to the some pager, are placed at 22,260 bushels.

These, Mr. Editor, are long figures, but upon reading the article, the merchants of Prince Albert, at once determined to accept the challenge.

This village is situated in the township of Reach, 15 miles north of Oshawa, and is the point, at which our merchants and millers principally derive their winter supplies. It is beautifully situated on a rise of ground, within one mile of Lake Scugog, and may be deemed the wheat depot for the townships lying in its rear. Its population does not exceed 1,000, and yet the result will show that Brampton, though a place of great importance in the estimation of the Bramptonians, has yet much to accomplish to compete successfully with its eastern and more modest neighbour.

The books of the firms doing business there, all of which have connections with our merchants and millers, have been carefully gone over, and for their correctness, I am responsible. For the week ending 29th January, they

show the following results, as the receipts of the several parties purchasing there, as follows:—

Thomas C. Foreman	11,090
George Currie,	7,613
Philander A. Hurd,	5,372
William H. Gibbs,	5,436
P. Taylor,	3,368
Total,	32,879 bus.

Within a trifle of 50 per cent over the receipts given by the Brampton Mercury. The County of Peel must wait a little longer ere it can compare with Ontario. In one item the Bramptonians bear away the palm, however, that is, the prices paid – the average being 6s. 2d. at Prince Albert, whilst at Brampton it was as high as 7s. 6d.

We return the compliment to our western neighbour, in the county of Peel, and ask him, now that he has been fairly beaten on his receipts for a week, to equal Prince Albert purchases for one day during the week alluded to, viz :-

Thomas C. Foreman	3,100
George Currie	2,213
Philander A. Hurd	1,872
William H. Gibbs,	1,626
P. Taylor,	1,163
Total,	9,974 bus.

The total purchases to the present date for the winter, reach 120,000 bushels, for which the farmers have girded home in their pockets \$ 150,000. Beat this who can—Brampton can't. Yours respectfully, Thomas N. Gibbs

## Tenders for construction of mills

*Toronto Globe: March, 1854*

The Port Perry Land Company, having determined upon at once erecting Steam, Saw and Flouring Mills in Port Perry, invite all parties desirous of tendering for the construction of the same, to forward Tenders accordingly, and without delay, to John Cameron, Esq., Toronto.

Information as to the character and extent of the mills may be obtained from Mr. Cameron, Toronto, or Messrs. Squires and A. Bowers, Port Perry.

## Young woman drowns in lake

*Ontario Reporter: May 1, 1854*

On Tuesday last as two young women, sisters, named Vaughan, belonging to Mariposa, were crossing Pleasant Bay, on Lake Scugog to Pleasant Point in a skiff. The craft upset and both were precipitated into the water.

One of them saved herself by holding fast to the skiff till relief came, but unhappily the other sunk and was drowned.

## Saw mill consumed by fire

*Toronto Globe: June 12, 1854*

The Oshawa Freeman reports that the steam and saw mill on the Nonquon river, in the township of Reach, belonging to the estate of the late Mr. Crookshanks, was totally consumed by fire on the night of the 5th inst. About 100,000 feet of lumber belonging to different parties were also burned.

## Woodman damaged in dock fire

*On The Shores of Scugog: 1854: Exact date unknown.*

The Woodman had her first major fire about 1854 as she lay at her wharf in Port Perry. She was so badly damaged that Rowe and Cotton decided to sell her.

Her new owner was George Crandell. He immediately rebuilt her and in 1854, with her relaunching, began to build what was to become one of the greatest steamboat empires on the Central Lakes.

# ~ 1855 ~

## Reach, Scugog agriculture exhibition

*Toronto Globe: March 31, 1855*

The Spring Fair of the Reach and Scugog Agricultural Society for the exhibition and sale of grain, potatoes &c., was held on Tuesday, the 20th instant. Although the day was stormy, the attendance was large, and the number of entries exceeded the most sanguine expectation of the Directors, showing conclusively the healthy, progressive state of the Society.

The premium grain, &c., was sold by auction at a high figure. After the Judges had made the awards, a large company sat down to an excellent dinner provided by Mr. William Boynton, to which it need scarcely be said they did ample justice, which is always gratifying to a generous host.

## Murder in Reach Township 14 years ago confessed

*Toronto Globe: August 3, 1855*

We learn from the *Whitby Commonwealth* that great excitement was caused in that town on Saturday last by the arrival of two constables having in charge John Buck, upon whose information Reuben Crandell, and his sons Stephen Elmore and Benjamin were arrested that morning at Borelia, on a charge of murder.

The circumstances which led to this arrest are as follow: Mr. Humphrey laid an information against John Buck, before Messrs. Hart and Gillespie, magistrates of Brock, upon his own confession, charging him with being an accomplice in the murder of Stephen Smith, a person who is well known to have disappeared about 14 years since, from Crandell's Corners in Reach, the neighbourhood in which the murkier is said to have been committed.

Having been charged in this manner, Mr. Buck then made affidavit, charging the Crandells with having committed the murder in the tavern of old Crandell, kept at a place then known as Crandell's Corners, and now known as the village of Borelia.

On this deposition they were arrested on Saturday last, and committed to the jail here last Monday. Suspicion has attached to the Crandells ever since Smith's disappearance, and Buck has more than once appeared before magistrates in Reach, for the purpose of lodging information against them, but from his very intemperate habit, no credence was attached to what he said, and his deposition would not be taken.

The trial will take place at the Whitby Assizes in October

next. It appears that the Crandells were lodged in jail at Toronto about 14 years ago on a similar charge by this same Mr. Buck, but the investigation did not result in anything.

## Crandells let out on bail

*Toronto Globe: August 11, 1855*

We mentioned recently that Mr. Reuben Crandell, and his sons Stephen Elmore and Benjamin Crandell had been committed to Whitby gaol, charged with the murder committed in Reach 14 years ago.

From the *Whitby Commonwealth*, of Thursday, we learn that a successful application for bail was made to the judges on Friday last, by Messrs. Dempsey and Smyth, solicitors of this city. Mr. Henry Brown, solicitor of Prince Albert, acting as agent.

The order made was, that each of the Crandells be admitted to bail in the small sum of £200 each, with two sureties in £100 each.



*The Toronto Gaol (Jail) 1846.*

## Reuben Crandell and sons on trial for Borelia murder

*Toronto Globe: November 26, 1855*

On Friday November 16, 1855 the Crandell murder trial took place in Whitby, putting Borelia on the front pages of the newspapers across the province. Singular murder trial.

Reuben Crandell and two of his sons, Stephen Elmore and Benjamin lived in their Borelia home, which also served as a tavern, on the north side of Queen Street, three lots immediately east of the present day Beer Store. The three Crandells were accused of murdering Stephen Smith, a pedlar.

There were two factors that made this trial bizarre, (1) there was no corpse (2) the alleged murder had taken place 14 years earlier.

The case for the Crown was based largely on the allegations of John Buck who lived on the third concession Reach Township.

Buck maintained that in October 1841 he had been sitting in a corner of the Crandell's unlit bar room when Reuben, Stephen and Benjamin entered with Smith and stabbed and killed him. Buck claimed that he remained unnoticed as they pushed Smith's body through a trap door in the floor. He said that they later returned to take the corpse to an old building that they then burned.



In the defense of the Crandells several Prince Albert personalities including George Curry and Abner Hurd gave character references for the Crandells.

For the Crown, Mary Dayton wife of Daniel Dayton, Prince Albert pioneer, claimed that she had seen Stephen Crandell wearing Smith's coat and hat shortly after the alleged murder had taken place.

When the Judge asked John Buck why this crime has not been reported earlier Buck stated, "I belonged to an association at that time that we were bound together by an oath. Old Mr. Crandell (Reuben), Stephen and Benjamin were also members and they were present when I was sworn. I was to keep their secrets."

The "association" that Buck referred to was the notorious Markham Gang, a group of thugs and hoodlums that roamed the province in the 1840s, stealing and breaking and entering. The gang members were associated with two murders, but their major crime was an highly organized horse stealing enterprise that stretched from Michigan to Vermont .

In 1845 more than 40 members of the gang were rounded up and jailed. Many gang members, including four members of the Crandell family were found guilty. They all served time in Kingston penitentiary for their crimes.

In the case of Steven Smith's alleged murder, since no corpse was found the jury quickly reached a verdict of "not guilty" and the Crandells returned to Borelia.

## Great bear hunt on Scugog

*Toronto Globe: November 30, 1855*

On Thursday the 13th instant, as the steamer Woodman, Captain McCulloch, was plying her daily route between Lindsay and Port Perry, the keen eye of the captain discovered a large black bear leisurely taking a trip by water for the benefit of his health.

It is supposed he was en route for the quiet island of Scugog, to take up his winter quarters. The captain gave chase, and when near enough, fired a couple of shots at Mr. Bruin, who, not liking such practice, turned about and made for the mainland, but steam followed in his track, and another hail from the entering rifle of the captain finished his water excursion.

Upon being hoisted on deck, skinned and dressed, he was found to weigh 375 pounds, perfectly encased in fat between two and three inches thick. He was upward of three feet in height and six feet two inches in length. He was the fattest bear we ever held.

The generous captain was literally besieged by the lovers of bear meat for cuts, until it was all given away to his friends; he did manage to reserve a splendid haunch as a present for his friend Mr. James Cotton of Toronto, who owns part of the boat. He tells us that bears are very plentiful in that section of the County of Ontario. The skin was in splendid order for dressing for a winter rob, for sleigh.

# ~ 1856 ~

## Floating Bridge over Lake Scugog to Scugog Island progressing

*County Engineers Report: June 10, 1856*

Your Engineer begs to report, that agreeably to the Report of the Standing Committee on Roads and Bridges, adopted on the 31st of January, 1856. Immediately after the adjournment of the Council in February last, he prepared plans and specifications for said Bridge, and advertised for tenders for the erection of the same.

That on the 1st of March he accepted the tender of John Bowers, of Port Perry, to construct the said Bridge for the sum of £1125, with Isaac Fralick and William White, as sureties for the fulfilment of the contract. The Municipality of Scugog having passed a By-law appropriating the sum of £125, or so much thereof as the construction of said Bridge may cost over £1000, towards the erection of said Bridge, making the amount to be paid by the County £1000 as provided by the aforesaid report.

That a Contract and Bond have been drawn up, and executed agreeably to the requirements of the said report. That the work is progressing in a most satisfactory manner, and will probably be completed early in August. That Mr. Bowers has been paid on the contract the sum of £175, and that there is now due him the sum of £300. All of which is respectfully submitted. John Shier.

# ~ 1857 ~

## Scugog floating bridge completed

*County Engineers Report: January 11, 1857*

The Standing Committee on roads and bridges, beg leave to report: That your Committee have examined that portion of County Engineer, John Shier's report, which relates to roads and bridges, and learn with pleasure that the Scugog Bridge has been completed and the contractor satisfactorily settled with, and approve of the subsequent action of the engineer in putting down additional cribs for the further security of the bridge, and recommend the



*Scugog Floating Bridge.*



1854 sketch of Scugog Village, later to become Port Perry.

approval of the same by the Council.

Your committee approve of the suggestion of the County Engineer, to appoint some competent person to take charge of the said Bridge, with authority to repair any damage which might arise to the Scugog Bridge, from ice, or other contingency, when the outlay for such purpose shall not exceed the sum of £5.

Should, at any time, a necessity arise for an outlay of a larger sum than Five Pounds that he be required to report to the County Engineer, who shall take the necessary measures to repair such damage with all possible dispatch, at the smallest cost consistent with the interests of the County.

Your committee would further recommend that Joseph Reader be appointed to take charge of said Bridge, under the conditions and restrictions before mentioned, and that the Treasurer of the County be authorized to accept and pay the order of Joseph Reader.

## Port Perry storehouse, wharf for sale

*Whitby Chronicle: February 4, 1857*

Water Lots No. 122 and 123, including the Wharf and Storehouse. These lots are directly opposite the new Grist Mill and in the very centre of the business part of the town. The frontage on Water Street is 277 feet and Queen Street 170 feet.

The Storehouse and Wharf on the property, have been rented for the past three years at £50 per annum, and with a small expenditure on the buildings, would, in future rent for £100 per annum. Apply to Robert E. & John Ham Perry

## Death in snow near the Nonquon

*Toronto Globe: March 17, 1857*

On the morning of Sunday, 8th March, the body of Charles Cameron was found dead, near the Nonquon in the middle of Simcoe road, the snow for a distance of six or seven feet being stained with blood.

Strong suspicion being thus excited that the man had been waylaid and stabbed, the body was allowed to remain undisturbed until the Coroner, Dr. W.O. Eastwood, had impanelled a jury, and taken them to view it. Then it was discovered that the death had been caused by a large wound on the posterior and outer aspect of the thigh, produced by a new axe, which he had been carrying in his coat pocket, with its sharp edge uppermost, which he had not doubt fallen upon. His money was found on his

person.

By the evidence it was established that he was, when last seen alive the night before, a little under the influence of liquor, though not to such an extent as to prevent his walking steadily. The night being a cold one, he probably died from the combined effects of loss of blood and cold.

## Navigation on Scugog lake and river

*Whitby Chronicle: April 23, 1857*

Sometime since we urged upon the inhabitants of Port Perry, the necessity for immediate action in this matter. Since then we are glad to perceive that they have bestirred themselves, and have a petition on the subject presented



1860 Tremaine map of the Scugog River.

to the Legislature.

The improved navigation of Lake Scugog is not alone a matter that deeply concerns the town of Port Perry, but is one of vast importance to the farmers along the shores, and the inhabitants of the different Ports on the Lake.

Last season the imperfect state of the navigation prevented the steamers making their regular trips. For a portion of the season of the boats was wholly confined to the waters of Sturgeon Lake, rendering trans-shipment at Lindsay of all through freight necessary.

This was caused by the lowness of the water, and the imperfect condition of the Locks and Dam at Lindsay whereby the low water was allowed to escape through from Lake Scugog.

The bar across the river below Lindsay is the greatest impediment to the free and easy navigation of the Lake, and is a constant source of the greatest vexation and annoyance. The other consequences of the combined obstruction to the navigation, are a stoppage of the numerous saw mills at Port Perry. This frequently takes place, and of course, occasions serious loss to the owners and employees, as well as inconvenience to the public.

To remedy this state of things, it is only necessary to build a good stone lock at Lindsay, and remove the present wooden one, the repairing of which is only a waste of money.

Let the bar below Lindsay be removed and the river between Sturgeon and Scugog Lakes dredged. This done, a straight passage cut through the winding river called "Devil's Elbow", and the navigation of Lake Scugog would be complete.

The cost would be trifling compared with the advantages which would be thus secured. In fact, a source of revenue would be secured to the Public Treasury.

The construction of Locks at Fenelon Falls, enabling vessels to ascend, would open up addition sources of trade North and West, and be the means of bringing to market, a large tract of public lands, which would soon be settled and improved. Nor is this all. The lumbering operations which would be carried on through this line of navigable waters, would be a rich source of benefit and importance to the country.

## Progress report on Port Perry

*Whitby Chronicle: April 23, 1857*

*The following article was written by the editor of the Whitby Chronicle and published on Thursday, April 23, 1857 in the said newspaper.*

*We now proceed to redeem a pledge give in our prospectus, of noticing the grown and manufactures of the different localities throughout this County.*

"Port Perry is certainly the most remarkable town in the County of Ontario. As well in the picturesqueness of it situation, as in the great manufacturing facilities.

The town is built upon an eminence and commands a broad view of the waters of Lake Scugog, and the country lying round about. It has a population of about six hundred inhabitants.

The manufactures of the place are very considerable. Port Perry at the present possesses four Saw Mill, having six up-right saws, and an additional gang of saws are now about being placed in each of two of the mills.

The large Grist Mill, at the edge of the lake, has four run of stones – is driven by a forty-horse-power engine, and grinds about 20,000 barrels of flour annually. It belongs to the Port Perry Land Company.

There is a Foundry, belonging to Messrs. Everest & Co., lately built, where ploughs, stoves, and all sorts of iron castings are manufactured. Besides these, there are Planing Mills and Wool Carding, Cloth-dressing, and Fulling Mills in the town.

Mr. John W. Davis has made a fortune by the manufacture of Cabinet Ware at the place. An excellent brick School House, 36'x50', two stories high, built at a cost of £800 – show the people of Port Perry to have a regard for their mental, as well as their material progress.

A new Church is being built beside the School House, by the Methodists. It is to be a superior structure.

The Whitby and Oshawa Mills get their supplies of barrels from Port Perry. "Any quantity" of building material shingles and staves may be said to be made there. For lumbering and manufacturing purposes of all kinds, the place cannot be surpassed.

During the past year more than twenty new buildings were put up in the town. Several others are now in course of erection. A new sidewalk is about being constructed by



*Looking along Water St., Port Perry in 1853.*

the Township Council the whole way from Port Perry to Borelia.

There are two good hotels in the town. The accommodation at Mason & Phillip's is not inferior to that provided at any hotel in the county. It is infinitely superior to that at a great many.

There are several dry goods and grocery stores, the principle of which is that of Mr. Joseph Bigelow. This gentleman's business, including his wheat purchases, circulates about £10,000 per annum in the town. The quantity of wheat brought last year from Lindsay and Ports on the Lake to Port Perry, averaged 40,000 bushels.

It is estimated that the steamers bring up 1,500,000 feet of lumber during the season and that about five million feet of lumber is made annually in the town.

There is a daily mail stage to and from Whitby, the distance 18 miles. During the winter a stage runs to Lindsay, a distance of 30 miles.

In the summer steamers ply between Lindsay, Fenelon Falls, Port Hoover, &c., and the town. The navigation is open from 1st May to the end of November.

The increase in the value of property has been immense. Five years ago property worth hundreds is now worth double that number of thousands. We are told by a gentleman of a property in the town containing nineteen acres, which was purchased four years ago for £900 – it is now worth £5,000!

A contrast the present Port Perry to the wild appearance of the place five years ago, when one long cabin on the margin of the Lake constituted the entire town; when travellers from the northern part of the country came up in canoe and skiffs and were obliged to camp in the woods and travel up and down through them, as best they might - to find their way to Whitby and Oshawa.

Nor was the scow of a subsequent period, which took a week or ten days to make a voyage with "freight and passengers" to Lindsay, any great improvement on the primitive mode of communication by canoe and skiff.

The present Port Perry, with its thickly settled population, handsome dwellings, Churches, Schools, Mills, Factories, Foundries, Steamers, and the thousand other

adjuncts of civilization and progress, is indeed a contrast to the Port Perry of former days.

The settlers are principally Irish, English and Scotch. On Scugog Island there is an Indian settlement. It numbers about one hundred of the "aboriginal race". Most of these have snug farms on the Island and live comfortably. They are very hospitable, and in no case is a white-man allowed to pass by the settlement without being invited to partake of their hospitality. Various trinkets are made by them which the squaws fetch in canoes across the lake and expose for sale at Port Perry.

In the summer season a visit to Port Perry must be very agreeable. The scenery all around is delightful – the air pure and healthy. The tourist will find many scenes and objects to interest him, in the vicinity of the town.

The lake abounds in fish, muskellunge and bass are taken in great numbers. There is plenty of game along the shore. The sportsman that would not bag a dozen brace of wild ducks in a couple of hours, would consider himself unsuccessful.

## "Fire Brand" released lake trips

*Whitby Chronicle: May 6, 1857*

Buell G. Whittaker, master and owner of the steamer "Fire Brand" announced he will ply between Port Perry and Fenelon Falls during the present season, calling at the different ports on the lake, on the up and downward trips each alternate day.

The present owner has repaired and fitted up the Fire Brand in a superior manner, for the accommodations of passengers and convenience of freight.

Downwards: Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays.  
Upwards: Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

## Steamboat Hotel new ownership

*Whitby Chronicle: June 25, 1857*

Mason and Phillips, proprietors of the Port Perry Steamboat Hotel, beg to state that they have fitted up the above well known first-class Hotel, in a new and suitable manner. Visitors and the travelling community will find it in every respect a comfortable hotel. Good stabling and an attentive Ostler.

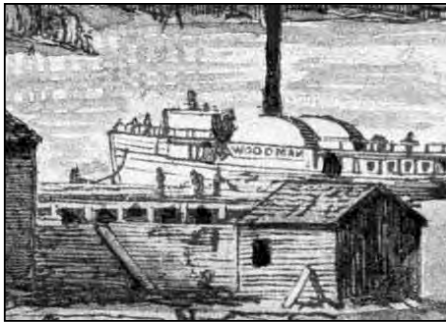


Scugog Village (Port Perry) 1854.

## Store and house for sale in Utica

*Whitby Chronicle: June 25, 1857*

The following property, situated in the Village of Utica, Township of Reach, viz., a store well fitted up, with a large back shop and good cellar. Dwelling house containing five rooms, kitchen and wood house. A pump of first-rate water on the premises. Also in the same block, a large shop well adapted for either Shoemakers, Harness Makers, Cabinet Makers, Tinsmith, &c., for all of which trades these are first rate opening, none being near. Thomas Paxton, Esq., Port Perry, Reach.



*Woodman at dock, Port Perry, 1853*

## Woodman refitted for lake travel

*Whitby Chronicle: June 30, 1857*

Buell G. Whittaker, Master of the steamer Woodman announced his summer arrangements. The Woodman leaves Port Perry at 6:30 a.m., every day to Lindsay; returning from Lindsay at 3:30 p.m. every day, Sunday's excepted. Connecting with the "Ogemah" at Fenelon Falls and sailing at different ports on the lake.

The "Woodman" was thoroughly repaired and fitted up this spring. She has plied on the lake with excellent success during the previous part of the present season. She is in ever respect a most comfortable sea-going boat, and admirably adapted for Lake Navigation.

The comfort and convenience of passengers have been well considered and provided for in making the present arrangements. Freight of all kinds taking in and loaded and discharged with cars.

Captain B.G. Whittaker is well and favourably known for his attention to his passengers, as well as his long experiences in Lake Navigation. Excursionists and tourists will find this a delightful season of the year to visit the beautiful scenery of the favoured localities of the lake.

## Good crops in both Reach and Whitby

*Toronto Globe: July 4, 1857*

In both Reach and Whitby townships, the wheat crop bears a most promising appearance, and the yield, if late, is expected to be abundant, and a full average crop.

We have seen many luxuriant fields between this town and Port Perry, fully headed. A short spell of fine warm weather, like Saturday and Sunday of last week, would do everything towards pressing forward our backward harvest.

The oats through this part of the county look well, and a good breadth has been shown. Potatoes and vegetables

will be late, but with any sort of fine weather, must be very abundant. Milk and butter were never so plentiful. Excellent fresh butter is sold at 9d per lb. in the town of Whitby.

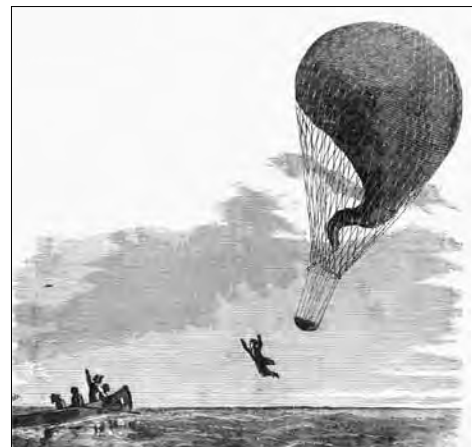
## Paxton's steam saw mill arch collapses

*Toronto Globe: July 6, 1857*

On Saturday afternoon a large arch in course of being finished, being twenty feet wide, fourteen feet high and about nine inches thick gave way, the whole structure coming down in one crash. It was being constructed over the boiler at Thomas Paxton & Company steam saw mills, at Port Perry,

At the time of the accident six persons were under it, four of whom were completely buried in the ruins. Thomas Paxton, Esq., one of the proprietors, received slight injuries about the neck and shoulders. Mr. W. King, miraculous to say, escaped unhurt.

Both of these gentlemen were under the arch when it fell; both had their hats knocked off, and for a time stood speechless among the ruins. Mr. George Drinkwater had his hip dislocated, and received, it is feared, fatal injuries in the head: his recovery is considered doubtful; he has a wife and two children.



*Prof. John Steiner jumping from his hot air balloon.*

## Man narrowly escapes from balloon

*Whitby Chronicle: July 16, 1857*

On the 4th of this month, a large sized balloon was found about 25 miles north of Whitby, in the Township of Cartwright. It is supposed to be that lost by Mr. John Steiner, of Philadelphia, on the 18th of June, and from which he had so narrow an escape. Professor Steiner was attempting to fly across Lake Erie to Canada.

It was first seen by the people of the place on the 19th June, who took it for a spark from the comet's tail, and were considerably alarmed in the consequence. After a search it was found by Mr. Morrison, on the day above mentioned.

## Lost balloon on display in Cartwright

*Whitby Chronicle: July 30, 1857*

Professor John Steiner's lost balloon was picked up at Cartwright, as formerly stated in this journal. The steamer Woodman conveyed passenger to see the curiosity on



Sunday last. In company with about 50 other, we stepped on board the steamboat at Port Perry, and arrive at "Lasher's Point," after a few hours sail.

Lasher charges a quarter dollar a head for admission to a large barn, in which it is kept. The barn is a building 30 feet by 20 feet, and quite insufficient to contain the balloon if inflated. The ingenious exhibitor, with the aid of a pair of Smiths bellows, manages to partially fill it with air, so as to give his visitors an idea of its dimensions.

He shows the car, the grappling anchor and gives a most semi-heroic, comical description of its adventures. He exhibits it in Whitby this day. Mr. Steiner is to come here to fetch it away in a few days.

## Officials take excursion to 'back lakes' to investigate navigation issues

*Whitby Chronicle: July 30, 1857*

On Thursday evening last, the Honourable Mr. Phillip M. Vankoughnet, President of the Council, arrived by the Grand Trunk Railway at the Whitby station. He was accompanied by John Cameron, Esquire, of Toronto, a banker.

Mr. Vankoughnet's arrival was known to only very few of the citizens. Those acquainted with the fact, attended at the station with carriages in which they escorted the visitors to Bryan's Hotel.

Mr. Vankoughnet's stay in Whitby was rather limited, as he desired reaching Port Perry the same night, in order to leave by the steamboat Woodman for Lindsay the next morning.

Our party left Whitby in two covered carriages, on which the rain fell the whole way. Upon arriving in Port Perry, Mason and Phillips gave us hospitable shelter that night. Mr. Cameron had a feast prepared, which he was amply provided. Late waxed the hours, or rather early broke the morn before all retired.

It was nine o'clock next morning when we found ourselves on board the "Woodman," Captain Buell G. Whittaker, for Lindsay. Mr. George Crandell, joint proprietor of the boat, was also on board and nothing appeared to be left undone, either by himself or Captain Whittaker, to render our stay on board most comfortable.

Mr. Vankoughnet had sufficient opportunity during the trip, of judging of the defective state of navigation of Lake Scugog, and it is to be hoped, that an improved state of the lake and river in this respect, which could be accomplished at a comparatively small layout - will not be lost sight of by him hereafter. We have confidence that it will not.

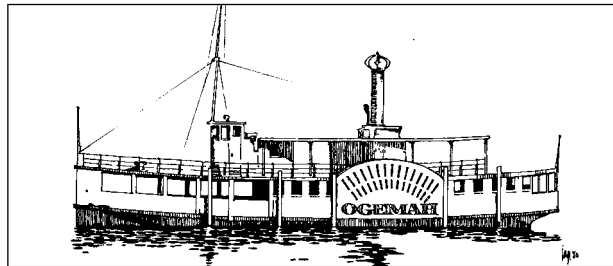
The "Woodman" passed quickly by the "Little Island," Indian village, and Port Hoover, where a short stay was made. Broad patches of "clearings" appear at each side of the lake - some were pointed out to us on which the best wheat in the Province had been cut.

Sailing around the north western extremity of Scugog Island, and crossing toward the Cartwright side of the lake, we entered Scugog River - here, for a short way, the water is deep, and the navigation is good. Up the river the bends called the "Devil's Elbow," are passed. They are short zig zag windings, at the distance of every half dozen yards. If old Honey's elbow resembles them, it is a great deal worse than his cloven foot.

Unceasingly the helmsman has to labor at the shell passing these tortuous windings. It was here that Arthur Armour perpetrated his joke - of "Woodman spare that tree!" when he saw a killed tree falling towards the steamer's bow.

After about six hours sailing we arrived a Lindsay, a distance of 30 miles. Our short stay of a few minutes, prevented our noting any particulars relating to this thriving town, which has been newly incorporated, and is now the capital of the County of Victoria.

At Lindsay we got on board the steamer "Ogemah", Captain Albro, heading for Fenelon Falls.



Steamer "Ogemah"

## Introducing the Ontario Observer

*Ontario Observer: December 12, 1857*

In introducing to our readers the first number of the "Ontario Observer," we think it necessary to state "The cause of it being established, the means of its support, the objects to which it will be devoted, and the mode in which it will be conducted."

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

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

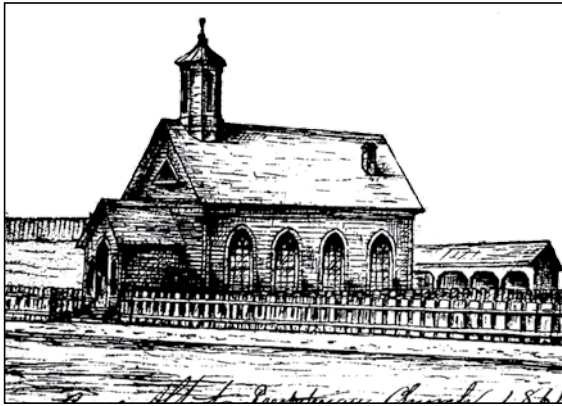
Politically, our standard will be that of Reform; all measures relating to social progress and real, substantial Reform, will receive our cordial and warmest support.

(This is just a short excerpt of the entire announcement)

## Presbyterian Church, Prince Albert

*Ontario Observer: December 12, 1857*

We beg to inform our readers at a distance, that the new church here, belonging to the United Presbyterians, was opened for public worship on Sabbath, the 8th of last month. Sermons were preached by the Rev. A. Kennedy, of Dunbarton, and the Rev. Robert Monteith, the pastor of the congregation. The collections amounted to over \$59. A public meeting was also held on the evening of Monday the 9th, when addresses were delivered by the above



Presbyterian Church, Prince Albert, 1860.

mentioned, and by the Rev. J. King, of Columbus, and the Rev. T. Sharp, of Utica.

The church is a frame one, painted white, and is seated for upwards of 300. The doors and windows are Gothic. The walls are about eighteen feet high; and from the roof in the front part, there arises an octagonal tower, measuring 25 feet. Altogether, this new church is a very excellent one, comfortably seated inside, and presenting a handsome appearance outside.

The plan was given by Silas J. Haight, and the work was superintended by Mr. White, both of Port Perry.

### Prince Albert debating society

*Ontario Observer: December 12, 1857*

A preliminary meeting was on Saturday evening last, in the Division Room, for the purpose of organizing a Debating Society.

Mr. Prosper Hurd was called to the chair and Mr. Huckstepp officiated as secretary. Saturday being an inconvenient night there was a slight attendance. A resolution was passed convening a general meeting (of which due notice will be given) when rules will be submitted and other matters connected with the Society discussed. It was resolved that the subject for discussion that night would be, "should the Sectarian Clause in the present School Act be abolished?"

### Fire levels house at Port Perry

*Ontario Observer: December 12, 1857*

On Saturday night last, between the hours of twelve and one o'clock, an empty dwelling belonging to Mr. Watson Hodgins, of the Township of Whitby, situated opposite Mr. Snyder's blacksmith shop, was discovered to be enveloped in flames.

An alarm being given, plenty of assistance was speedily on the spot, but the building could not be saved; the efforts of those present were then directed to prevent the extension of the fire to a stable in the area, and to a block of frame houses at the side of the burning building.

Fortunately, there was but little wind, and that blowing in an opposite direction to the adjacent buildings, so that no further mischief ensued. The house was entirely consumed, and the fire is supposed to have been the diabolical work of an incendiary. The occupants of the house had only left it on the previous Wednesday.

### Wesleyan Church undergoes repairs

*Ontario Observer, December 25, 1857*

The Wesleyan Church, Prince Albert, which has been undergoing repairs and enlargement was re-opened on Sunday last for Divine worship, when sermons were preached in the morning and afternoon. Each service was well attended, and collections were taken up to defray expenses attendant upon the alterations.

There is a vestry attached to the church, over which is a spacious gallery, the front part being appropriated to the use of the choir. The gallery at the other extremity will not be used for the congregation.

### Meeting of Reformers in Borelia

*Ontario Observer, December 28, 1857*

A meeting convened by public notice was held at Jewett's Hotel, Borelia, on Monday evening, the 30th ult., for the purpose of appointing delegates to a Convention to be held on the 7th inst., to nominate a candidate to contest the County at the approaching election on Reform principles.

Mr. George Currie, Reeve of the Township of Reach, was called to the chair; Mr. Thomas C. Forman officiated as secretary. The following gentlemen were chosen as delegates: Messrs. Abner Hurd, Richard Lund, Thomas Paxton and Abel W. Ewers.

The following candidates were also put in nomination, to be brought before the Convention: Messrs. A. Farewell, Oshawa; Joseph Gould, Esq., M.P.P., Uxbridge; William Powson, Manchester.

~ 1858 ~

### Nomination meeting at Borelia

*Ontario Observer: January 1, 1858*

A numerous attended meeting was held at a Sinclair's Hotel, Borelia, on Saturday evening last, for the purpose of selection candidates to be nominated to serve in the Township Council for the ensuing year.

Mr. John W. Allison was called to the chair, Mr. Joseph Bigelow acting as secretary. Persons were proposed as candidates, whose names appear in our report of the proceedings at the Municipal Election; it is therefore, unnecessary to recapitulate them here. Votes of thanks to the chairman, the secretary and the editor of the *Ontario Observer*, closed the proceedings.

### Reach Township council meeting

*Ontario Observer: January 8, 1858*

At a meeting of the Reach council the sum of £3 was voted to Mr. Wm. Powson, for time and expenses incurred in going to Toronto to give explanations of the Chief Superintendent regarding the payment of Teachers out of the government money.

A petition from the School Trustees of School Section No. 8, asking the repeal of the by-law authorizing the issue of debentures to raise money to pay for building a new School House, as there was some doubt about the legality of doing so at the time, after the assessment had been levied. The question was deferred until advice could be got from the Chief Superintendent.

Mr. Thomas C. Forman then moved that the resolution passed at a former meeting of the Council, fixing the pay of members of the council at £10, be rescinded, and the amount fixed at £6 5s; but before the motion was put, Mr. Abel W. Ewers moved to adjourn, which was carried and the council adjourned.

## Temperance ladies present Bible

*Ontario Observer: January 8, 1858*

The lady visitor of the Division, No. 342, of the Sons of Temperance, presented the members of that Division with a handsome Bible on Tuesday evening: 24th inst. The occasion was altogether a happy and appropriate one, being the evening of the celebration of the birthday of our Sovereign Lady, the Queen.

J.W. Morris, Esq., W.P., discharged the duties of the chair in a most efficient manner. Great praise is due to the Prince Albert Brass Band, who voluntarily attended on the occasion, and discoursed some most excellent music. The members of this band have gained the respect and esteem of the entire neighborhood by their manly generosity and warm devotion in every good cause, and especially that of temperance. Mrs. Shipman presented the Bible.

## Sanders Carriage factory fire

*Ontario Observer, January 1858*

The premises of Mr. James Sanders, Carriage and Cutter Manufacturer, Prince Albert narrowly escaped being consumed by fire yesterday, (Thursday) morning. It appears that a stove-pipe became loose, and the flame ignited the woodwork through which it passed to the room above. Fortunately it was discovered before the fire had made any headway, and an alarm being given, it was speedily extinguished.

## Disgraceful school house robbery

*Toronto Globe: January 26, 1858*

On Sunday night last the School House in School Section No. 1 Scugog, was entered, and the chest belonging to the Lodge of Good Templers, which had been established on the Island between three and four years, was stolen and taken down to the Lake, where it was broken up and its contents destroyed. The box contained the regales, curtains, books and minutes of the Lodge since it has been in existence.

## Contractors released from contract

*Ontario Observer: February 4, 1858*

At a meeting of the County of Ontario, received a report on of the Standing Committee of Roads and Bridges. Your committee having examined the County Engineer's report, and a communication from Silas T. Haight, stating that it was impossible for him to finish the contract for erecting cribs of the Scugog Bridge, on account of the soft nature of the soil in the lake, and requesting the Council to take the matter into consideration.

Also, the petition of Wilson Pitman, praying to be released from his contract on Scugog Bridge, and to be remunerated for work done on said contract. Your Committee made enquiry of the Engineer respecting said contracts, and are of opinion that they have already

expended what they were to receive, yet the contracts are unfinished on account of unforeseen obstacles.

Your committee would recommend that S.T. Haight be released from his contract and the amount unpaid on the contract of \$190, and \$50 for on additional contract, in all making \$240 be paid to Mr. Haight.

Your Committee would recommend that W. Pitman be released from his contract, as the amount of money and labour expended on said contract by him is \$862.66, the contract price being \$370; and considering he is a poor man, your Committee would recommend the sum of \$500 to be paid to him, he having received on account of the contract \$170.

## Two bridges across Lake Scugog

*Whitby Chronicle: May 13, 1858*

The Hon. John Simpson, of Bowmanville, we are informed, set on foot a road scheme which he expects to carry out through the assistance of Government.

It is to construct a road from Bowmanville to Point Caesarea on Scugog Lake, – bridge the lake from that point to the island and also construct a second bridge from the Island to Port Hoover, and the carry the road through Mariposa and Eldon into the new Township of Carden.

The idea of building two bridges across Lake Scugog appears certainly something very magnificent; so much so, that it would take a very magnificent sum of money annually to keep the kind of bridges which it would be necessary to build in repair beside the cost of construction.

Mr. Simpson, of course, does not contemplate constructing such bridges as would obstruct the navigation of the Lake and prevent the steamers plying up and down as they do now.

The County of Ontario has had some little experience in bridging the Scugog, and although their bridge was made across the most shallow part of the lake, it is so much affected by the weather periodically that we believe it will take as much to keep it in repair every year, as it did originally to construct it.

Mr. Simpson's proposed bridges would be much more exposed, and would consequently fare far worse. The cost of building and keeping up bridges from the points selected by Mr. Simpson – such bridges as would not impede the free navigation of the lake would be something so enormous that we apprehend the scheme must fail, from it utter impracticability.

PORT PERRY  
**GRIST MILLS!**  
THE SUBSCRIBER HAVING TAKEN  
the above Mills, is now prepared to  
take in WHEAT for GRINDING.  
The greatest attention paid to Gristing.  
Those from a distance who may patronise  
him, may depend on having their work done  
immediately.  
The Subscriber hopes, by strict attention  
to business, to give general satisfaction, and  
to merit the patronage of the Public.  
J. JOHNSON.  
Port Perry, Dec. 7, 1857. 2

*1857 advertisement for grain grinding.*

## Prince Albert busy accepting crops

*Ontario Observer: June 1858*

Prince Albert has been unusually enlivened by the arrival of an astonishing number of teams bringing in an immense quantity of wheat.

We have now no less than six extensive buyers of wheat, viz: Messrs. Geo. Currie, T. C. Forman, J. Gilchrist, two buyers who have come from Belleville, and one from Columbus. We intend next week furnishing an estimate of the greater portion of the wheat brought into Prince Albert, Borelia, and Port Perry, and thus afford our readers some idea of the extraordinarily large amount of business done in the village by our enterprising merchants .

## Scugog Bridge damaged by ice during spring break-up

*Whitby Chronicle: June 18, 1858*

Mr. Currie presented the second report of the Standing committee on roads and bridges, as follows :

1. Your Committee having under their consideration that portion of the County Engineers report referring to the Scugog Bridge, in which it is stated that in consequence of the unfinished state of the Cribs, the Bridge on the breaking up of the ice gave way and moved from its position.

From the report of County Engineer John Shier laid before this committee last January, this Committee was led to the conclusion that not only the bridge but also the additional cribs were completed, and on that conclusion recommended the payment of the contractor. Your committee are now surprised to learn that the cribs were not finished, and that no obligation or security was taken from the contractor for the fulfilment of the contract, and that the money so paid him may become a loss to the County in consequence of the want of such security.

It appears from the engineers report and verbal explanation obtained from him by this committee, that after the bridge had drifted from its position and had been partially secured again by Mr. Joseph Reader, no measures were taken by him to prevent a recurrence of the same event. In consequence the bridge was again carried away from its position and drifted a considerable distance amongst the stumps and bog on the Lake, receiving considerable damage, and involving more expense to get it back to its proper position.

Your Committee after examining the matter above



*Scugog Bridge ice damage.*

referred to are led to the conclusion that the interests of the County in this case have not been properly cared for by the County Engineer, to whom they are confided, as your Committee consider in such cases it is the duty of the Engineer to take such measures as were necessary to protect the property of the County from loss or injury.

The amount estimated by the Engineer as necessary for the repair of the cribs, bridge, abutments to the bridge, and to carry them up two feet above high water mark, is about £150, and for the repair of the embankment at the east side of the bridge, in a substantial manner, a further sum of £100.

Your Committee would recommend that the County Engineer be instructed to proceed with as little delay as possible in having the bridge, cribs and embankments repaired in the most substantial manner, baring due regard to the interests of the County in guarding against a recurrence of such contingencies as those which have made the proceeding necessary.



*Steamer "Scugog" at Lindsay.*

## The steamer Scugog days of sailing

*Ontario Observer: July 6, 1858*

Our readers will observe an advertisement, in another column, having reference to the days of sailing, &c., of the "Scugog". Parties having business to transact between Port Perry and Bridgenorth will find this route a cheap and pleasant one. The Scugog is a very fine vessel, drawing two feet of water, and is capable of running at the rate of ten miles an hour.

## Ontario Temperance demonstration

*Ontario Observer: July 6, 1858*

The Ontario Union Division, No. 342, Sons of Temperance, intend holding a Public Demonstration on Thursday, July 14th, in the Grove adjoining the village of Borelia and Port Perry. A procession will form at the Division Room, Port Perry and march through Borelia, thence back through Port Perry, headed by a brass band, to the Grove north of the brick school house, where a sumptuous Tea will be provided for the occasion.

After which the Chair will be taken, and a number of speeches will be delivered. The Committee will spare no pains in securing the best speakers of the day, and will make every preparation to entertain the visitors on the occasion who may oblige by their attendance.

Note: The following week it was announced: "Upwards of 1,000 persons were present." They endorsed the opinion that it was necessary to elect temperance men to Parliament, to stem the increasing intemperance, by enacting a stringent Prohibitory Liquor Law.

## Man drowns after canoe upsets

*Toronto Globe: November 4, 1858*

The body of a man recognized as George Goose, an Indian, was discovered floating on Scugog lake, on Friday morning last. Mr. Joseph Bigelow, of Port Perry, sends us the following particulars.

Goose was in Port Perry on Saturday, October 16th, and appeared to be intoxicated. He crossed in his canoe from Port Perry to the Island about 8 o'clock at night, and in the darkness, it is supposed that the canoe was upset.

Cries for help were heard by persons on the island, but hastened towards the spot whence the cries proceeded, but in the darkness it was impossible to discover the unfortunate man, or to render him an assistance. Intoxication, there is little doubt, was the cause of the upsetting of the canoe and to its deplorable effects must be attributed to Goose's sad fate.

## A novel incident at Boynton's Hotel

*Ontario Observer: December 2, 1858*

Considerable merriment was occasioned here in Prince Albert on Wednesday afternoon by the arrival of four sleighs bedecked with flying ribbons of every gaudy hue, containing a large wedding party from a farm in the neighborhood.

The party stayed awhile at Boynton's Hotel, and they appeared to be hilarious to no small extent, from the copious indulgence in "something to keep out the cold."

The bridegroom elect astonished a wondering crowd by the performance of an unaccountable circumambulating feat in his sleigh, which ended in the snapping of one of the shafts. This accident having been repaired, the party left, with a parting assertion to the "redactor en chef" of this journal, that to undergo a deprivation of the "hirsute appendage" to his chin, which he ranks as his chief facial adornment, would considerably add to his personal appearance.

The coldness of the season, however, rendered the charitably intentioned, but untimely recommendation, perfectly impracticable.

## Railroad meeting in Borelia

*Ontario Observer: December 1858*

A Railroad Meeting was held at Neil Sinclair's Hotel, Borelia, with one of the largest attendances ever. A. Hurd was elected chairman and Mr. R.H. Tomlinson, secretary. The proposed line would be laid down between the Manvers Station, through Prince Albert and Uxbridge to Matchell's Corner on the Northern Railroad.

~ 1859 ~

## Large quantities of wheat come in

*Ontario Observer: January 29, 1859*

Prince Albert has been unusually enlivened by the arrival of an astonishing number of teams bringing in an immense quantity of wheat. We now have no less than six extensive buyers of wheat, viz:— Messrs. George and Mark Currie, Thomas C. Forman, J. Gilchrist, two buyers now have come from Belleville, and one from Columbus.

We intend next week furnishing an estimate of the greater portion of the wheat brought into Prince Albert, Borelia and Port Perry, and thus afford our readers some idea of the extraordinarily large amount of business done in the village by our enterprising merchants.

## Finest wheat in many years

*Ontario Observer: June 1859*

We have received a beautiful sample of wheat from Duncan Christie, Esq., of Utica, which for plumpness of form and brightness of colour, is the finest we have seen for a number of years. The Township of Reach will be enabled to compete with any country or township in Upper Canada for quality and quantity of grain, especially wheat. The weevil has not been heard of in this township, our principal loss will be from effects of the frost and hail.

## The hail storm on Monday

*Ontario Observer: June 23, 1859*

A most terrific storm, from the north-west, passed over this neighborhood on Monday afternoon. The hail stones were fully as large as hickory nuts, which remained on the ground for a long time in heaps.

We are exceedingly sorry to hear that considerable damage to the grain was occasioned by this storm. On the 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th concessions of this township it raged with fearful violence, so much so, as in many cases to have utterly destroyed a large portion of the crops.

One farmer on the 8th concession, complains of having had 20 acres of prime fall wheat literally cut in pieces by the fury of the storm. The hail stones being of all manner of shapes, their sharp edges, we are afraid, have been the means of destroying considerable quantities of grain.

## The crops in North Ontario

*Ontario Observer: June, 1859*

We have taken considerable pains to ascertain, from every farmer we have come in contact with, what position the various coming crops are in, as well as the future prospects of that staple commodity, the wheat crop.

It is pretty generally known that the townships of Reach and Brock, and, indeed, we may say, the largest portion of North Ontario, has been a large wheat-growing country for a number of years, and also that the weevil has, in very few instances, been seen.

Last year the wheat sustained considerable damage



*Joseph Bigelow's Central House store in Port Perry.*



in consequence of rust. We are extremely happy to learn that it is an ascertained fact that the crops in this neighbourhood are in splendid condition; and hopes are confidently entertained that we shall be blessed with an abundant harvest.

## Attempt burglary at Bigelow's House

*Toronto Globe: August 1859*

An unsuccessful attempt at burglary was committed on the premises of Mr. Joseph Bigelow, of Port Perry, during the night of Thursday. The would be robbers had been successful in boring two large holes in the back door of the store and in five minutes longer would have removed the bar, and been safely inside the store.

But they were defeated by the young man who sleeps on the premises. It appears that the villains were armed, for upon leaving they fired off a pistol, no doubt for the purpose of intimidating the party who had been the mens of frustrating their thievish object.



*Passenger stage Ontario County 1860.*

## New line of stages to Prince Albert

*Ontario Observer: August 17, 1859*

Mr. Thomas N. Scripture announces a new line of stages, through from Whitby to Port Perry will run daily. The stages, leaving Whitby village every morning (Sunday's excepted) at eight o'clock, and calling at Brooklin, Prince Albert and Crandell's Corners. The stage will return, leaving Port Perry at three o'clock p.m., calling at the above-named places.

Passengers coming off the steamboat "America" can go north by stage next morning. Extras furnished to order on shortest notice.

## Man attempts to take his own

*Ontario Observer: September 21, 1859*

Thursday morning, between the hours of three and four o'clock an attempt of suicide took place in the Township of Cartwright, by a man named Alexander, who

had been on a visit to his sister at Cook's Mill, about 7 miles from this place.

Dr. John E. Ware, of this town (Prince Albert) was called upon to attend the sufferer, who describes his condition as truly frightful. The wretched man, who it appears, has been labouring under the effects of intemperance, first inflicted a severe wound upon his left arm with a razor, to the ulnar artery; after which he deliberately drew the razor across his throat, nearly severing the jugular vein. His case is hopeless.

## The Whitby to Port Perry railway

*Whitby Semi-Weekly Chronicle: September 6, 1859*

We are assured that his project is at length about to be realized, so far as constructing the line to Port Perry. That the Grand Trunk Company will subscribe the requisite amount of stock or will supply the rolling stock necessary, to the extent of \$60,000.

This will be welcome news to our friends of the railway. All the friends of progress and social advancement, whose opinions are not behind the age in which we live, will gladly hail the accomplishment of this much desired undertaking.

We only hope our information is correct, and that the news is not "too good to be true."

Our sanguine expectations have been so frequently deceived that we are more than half inclined to be incredulous, until we have more reliable information, and that fully confirmed. Our readers much the content to accept the facts - as they are within our knowledge - for what they are worth.

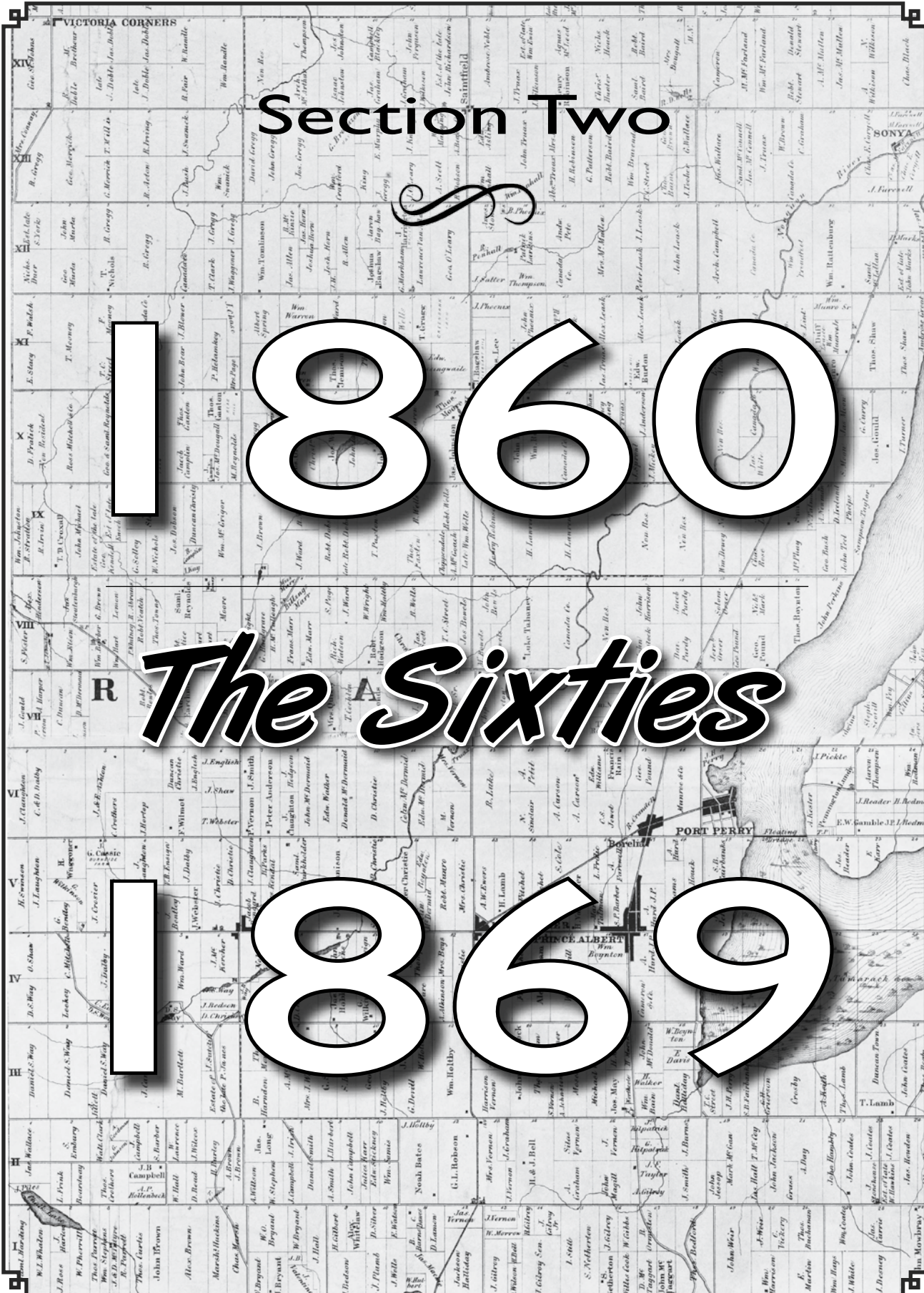
## Accident resulting in death

*Whitby Chronicle: September 21, 1859*

Mr. McEwen, of the township of Reach, met his death while on his way to Whitby with a load of wheat. He was in the act of lifting a bag of wheat that had fallen from the wagon, when the horses made a start, and precipitated him between the wheels, the wagon passing over him with its load and killing him almost instantly.



*Team of horses bringing grain sacks to market.*



George C. Tremaine's map of Reach Township, 1860.



# The Sixties

~ 1860 ~

## Reformers form North Ontario branch

*Ontario Observer: February 9, 1860*

In accordance with a public announcement, a well-attended meeting of Reformers was held on Tuesday last in the Town Hall, Manchester. Representatives from every municipality in the Riding, if we except the extreme north, were present, and entered into the business of the meeting in good earnest.

On motion, William S. Sexton, Esq., of Port Perry, was appointed chairman, and Mr. Edward Oliver, Secretary.

Joseph Gould, Esq., M.P.P., moved that an Association be now formed to be called the North Ontario Branch of the constitutional Reform Association of Canada.

Mr. Abner Hurd, Esq., of Prince Albert was appointed President of the Association for the present year, and Mr. Edward Oliver appointed Secretary for the present year.

Elected Vice-Presidents are: William Ward, Reach Twp.; M. Gillespie, Brock; C. Robinson, Thorah Twp.; John Frazer, Mara & Rama Twps.; James Vernon, Scott Twp.; John P. Plank, Uxbridge Twp. and E.W. Gamble, Scugog Twp.



*Reach Township Hall, Manchester.*

## Lumber trade with Port Hope

*Ontario Observer: May 12, 1860*

The agent for the Port Hope and Lindsay Railway was in Prince Albert on Tuesday, the 1st May. We fear that he has made arrangements with Mr. Thomas Paxton, of Port Perry, to carry lumber, as well as other merchandise, from that village to Port Hope from 10¢ to 25¢ PM cheaper than they can get it carried to Whitby.

It is reported that three steamboats are going to ply on Lake Scugog this summer between Port Perry and Lindsay. We then the day is not far distant when the traffic on this route will be considerable.

## Wheat crops good in Reach

*Ontario Observer: May 12, 1860*

While we read of the disparaging state of the wheat crop in other parts of the country, we can congratulate ourselves that we have little or no cause to complain in Prince Albert. The fall wheat in this immediately vicinity and to the north of us, looks exceedingly well, in most places.

~ 1861 ~

## Discuss fire company for Prince Albert, Borelia and Port Perry

*Ontario Observer: August 22, 1861*

Recently we have heard considerable discussion, between our merchants and others, relative to the merits and demerits of Fire engines, as applied to this vicinity. There is an idea prevalent that Prince Albert, Borelia and Port Perry would be greatly benefitted by one, or more, of the aforesaid articles, but the dimensions, quality, &c., amounts to a difference in opinion.

Some are in favor of purchasing a large engine and getting up a fire company; others say a fire company can't be raised, because there are not parties enough, who are sufficiently interested, to form one. Then there is a third party in favor of a union fire company, composed of men from the three villages – and a fourth considers each merchant of the several villages would be most benefitted in buying a small engine for himself.

Now we can't imagine any one is opposed to the idea that a fire engine would be of service in either village, but at the same time it is hard to say what kind would be the most serviceable. We are inclined to think that each village, by all means, ought to have one fire engine. A union fire company, we fear, would not answer – obvious reasons show this to be the case. But before anything is done, that may not be easily undone, it will be well to consider the matter in all its bearings.

In the first place, an ordinary sized fire engine, that would need a company to work it, will cost from \$400 to \$800 alone. In the second place, supposing an engine were purchased, similar to the one we have mentioned, it would take six months, at least, to learn how to manage it, and, during that time, unless some one in the place thoroughly understands the working of Fire-engines, the services of a person who does understand it would be required to get it in working order and keep it so.

Besides this, a fire engine cannot be kept in efficient order without considerable incidental expense – we know it to be so experimentally. Thirdly, when such an engine is procured, how is it to be supplied with water, when occasion requires its service. We have neither water tank nor reservoir; and the next idea that strikes the mind is, what would it cost to build one? The Scugog is not far away, but it would cost an immense sum to bring water even that distance. In Toronto, where the water is a good deal nearer, than it is here, they are unable to make use of it one time in twenty that it is required, so the engine could be of no service to us what ever.

We hope no one will infer from the above remarks that we wish to throw a damper on the affair, but still we are of opinion that two or three small “hand engines” are preferable to a large one. If, as has been talked of, the leading merchants of each place were to purchase a small engine for themselves, or if clubs of three or four were formed to purchase one between them, we should be in a better position to defend ourselves from the “devouring element” than if we had one large engine.

But we propose that the inhabitants petition the Council to pass a By-law, levying a sufficient tax upon the ratepayers of the villages, to enable them to purchase three or four small engines for each village, and also the necessary articles for a hook and ladder company. Three or four small engines could be purchased with less money than it would cost for a large one, and, besides, there is no expense attached to the working of small ones. We have seen more execution done with small engines, at large fires, in cities, than with large ones.

This may be questioned, but it is palpable from the fact that there is no trouble in moving them about. Two men can carry one of these to any part of a building, thus bringing the water to bear on the most essential place, and in far less time than a large engine could be got in working order.

## Progress report for Prince Albert

*Whitby Chronicle: August 29, 1861*

At Prince Albert, on Wednesday morning, I (Mr. W.H. Higgins, publisher) took a look around the village, and observed with much pleasure a great many improvements taking place.

Amongst the principal manufacturer are the carriage and wagon factory of Messrs. James Emaney and George White, the cabinet factory of Mr. David Jolly, and the Prince Albert Harness Manufactory of Messrs. Thomas Courtice and John Rolph, and the tannery of Mr. Joshua Wright.

Emaney & White do an immense business. They turn out as many as 40 large wagons in the year, buggies, “democrats” and all kinds of agricultural implements. They have a very extensive premises 80 feet x 40 feet, and are just starting another building; to fill which they have procured stuff sufficient to build 60 cutters the ensuing winter.

At Thomas Courtice & John Rolph’s Harness shop, there are some splendid specimens of workmanship to be seen – one of which is a beautifully mounted set of carriage harness, which obtained the first prize at the last exhibition of the North Ontario Agricultural Society and diploma.

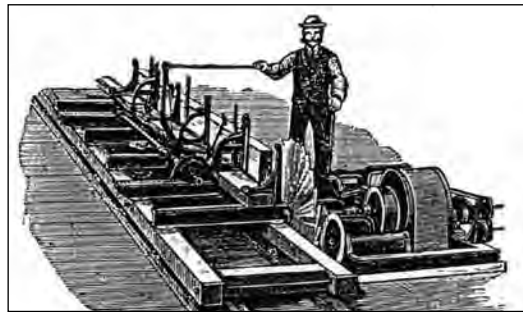
## Progress report for Port Perry

*Whitby Chronicle: August 29, 1861*

The business going on at this favourably situated point, looks healthy and well—and, notwithstanding the depression in the market, the manufacture of lumber goes on with great activity, at the celebrated saw-mills of Messrs. William S. Sexton, and Thomas Paxton & Co.

The latter contains one upright, and one circular saw – the circular so constructed, that when the log is removed, after being “slabbed” on the up right saw, it is cut up by the circular, in quick time – the log being carried backward and forward and set with great rapidity by machinery. The only manual assistance required is one man to carry away the lumber as cut up.

There is another circular saw for edging boards, and a second for cutting up slabs in the upper story, and in the lower story of the mill lathe machine is kept going, sawing up such pieces of boards, &c., as will not work into lumber to advantage.



*Equipment similar to those used in saw mills in 1860s.*

There is an immense business done at this concern, and I regret that I have not obtained the figured at hand. In Mr. Wm. Sexton’s mill there are three muley saws, one gang of about 15 saws, and three circular saws, all driven by six engines, and cutting up a huge quantity of lumber. I was told from two-and-a-half, to three million annually. The manufactured lumber now lying piled up, on hand, equals one million feet.

The gang will cut a log three feet wide into three inch plank, and it takes the greater part of the two muleys to flat the log and switch for the gang. The local trade is very large, and a surplus, after the local trade is supplied, is shipped, principally to Troy, New York state.

The other great manufactures at Port Perry are a grist mill, stave factory, cloth factory, sash and door factory, and a foundry. The grist mill, owned by the Port Perry Land Company, is a splendid structure – has four run of stones, driven by a thirty-four horse power engine, and is capable of doing a larger amount of business. The Port Perry stave factory, cloth factory, sash and door factory, are all owned by Messrs. White & Bigelow.

The machinery is driven by a fourteen-horsepower engine. There are manufactured annual from twelve to fifteen hundred thousand flour-barrel staves; from ten to twelve thousand cords of stave bolts cut up annually. These are first put into large boxes and steamed, so as to become soft by the exhaustion of steam from the engine; then taken to an iron table which works on hinges, on which they are placed and afterwards carried up and down against a largo knife.

A person being stationed behind the machine, who gathers up the staves as they are cut off and passed, and finally passing between two circular saws which cut off both ends at the same time, making every staff of an exact equal length.

After this, they are taken to the "jointer" and the edges taken off to the right shape ready to be set up in barrels, and from thence they are ready for use.

I have taken some time to describe the manufacture of staves – the process was quite new to me, and I trust that it may not prove too tedious or uninteresting. In connection with the sash and door department of Messrs. White and Bigelow's factory, there is a first class planing mill, which is kept constantly employed, placing lumber for the surrounding country. Some 15,000 lights of sash and may hundreds of doors are turned out here annually.

In the wool carding department there is a carding mating, fulling mill, shearing machine, pressing mating, power-loom &c. making the establishment, altogether very complete. Here some fourteen hands receive constant employment.

Port Perry may well be proud of its splendid manufacturers. There is also in the village a superior cabinet ware factory, where a large amount of work is done, a blacksmith's shop, a boot and shoe factory on an extensive scale, two good hotels and some excellent private buildings.

Better facilities for quick and cheap communications with the front, and the country northward are all that are needed to make Port Perry foremost amongst the rising towns in the County of Ontario.

## Borelia Catholic church dedicated

*Ontario Observer: October 17, 1861*

On Sunday last the new Roman Catholic Church in Borelia was dedicated. The building is 20'x55', finished up in Gothic style. It cost \$800 and is a very nice little church.

A sermon was preached in the morning by the Rev. Mr. O'Keefe, of Oshawa. At half-past two o'clock p.m. the Rev. Mr. Lee of Barrie delivered a sermon. Various other services were performed through the day.

Bishop Linch, of Toronto, spoke morning and evening. A great number of people were in attendance. We noticed that a large portion of the congregation were Protestants.

## Scugog council discuss Pine Point

*Ontario Observer: October 17, 1861*

Council met on Saturday, October 5th, the Reeve in the chair; members all present; minutes of previous meeting read and approved. On motion of Mr. Emerson, seconded by Mr. Joseph Reader, a By-law was introduced and finally passed establishing the Road known as the Centre Road, in the Township of Scugog, 50 feet in width.

Mr. Reader moved, seconded by Mr. Fralick, that W.E. Yarnold, Road Surveyor, be authorized to survey and stake out the Road, known as the Pine Point Road, to the width of 50 feet, commencing at the west side of Lot No. 22, said Road to be on the Centre of Lots No. 23 & 21, 20 feet off each half, to the old town line, from thence to follow the present travelled Road unless some advantage be gained thereby, to the eighth concession line, then to follow the survey made by Wm. Powson, Esq., to Pine Point, and report to this Council at its next meeting.



*Log School house circa 1860.*

## New school-house opens in Utica

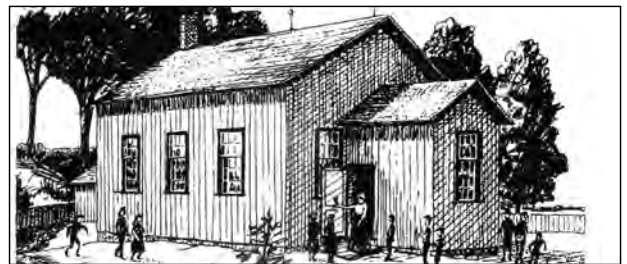
*Ontario Observer: November 21, 1861*

On Wednesday, the 13th inst., we had the pleasure of attending the opening of a new school-house, at Utica. A goodly number of people were present.

Inaugural address were delivered by the Rev. Robert Monteith, Prince Albert; James Baird, Esq., local Superintendent; and Reeve James B. Campbell, Esq.

We congratulate our friend Mr. McCrimmon, the teacher, as well as his pupils, on their being relieved from the painful necessity of being confined, for six hours a day, in a little old log school-house which was sold by public auction, the day the new school-house was opened for a sum of \$3.50.

We are aware that in the Old Home District of Upper Canada, there are tenfold worse houses than the one mentioned. We can well remember being punished in such old hovels – we can not call the school-house; they do not deserve the name. It is too bad the parents will expend their hard earned money year after year, in sending their children to school, to places that are not fit for hog pens, for fear they will be taxed a little to build suitable schools.



*Typical 1860s school house.*

## Lumber lost when ship wrecked

*Ontario Observer: December 19, 1861*

We have learned that 164,000 feet of lumber, belonging to William S. Sexton, of Port Perry was lost by the unfortunate wreck of the vessel Sorel, a sidewheel steamer, a few weeks ago, near Oswego. There was no insurance; but the lumber was shipped without any orders from Mr. Sexton, therefore he will not be the loser.

## New Superintendent of Education

*Ontario Observer: December 19, 1861*

John W. Allison, Esq., has been appointed Local Superintendent of Education for Reach, Scugog, and West Whitby, in the place of Mr. James Baird, who resigned for a more lucrative situation.

Mr. James Baird was an excellent superintendent, and we hope he may yet be appointed for the whole County; then it would remunerate him, and benefit the County. Notwithstanding, we believe this appointment will give general satisfaction.

## **A daring burglary in Borelia**

*Ontario Observer: December 19, 1861*

Mr. William Mackie's store at Borelia, was broken into last Sunday night, and somewhere in the neighborhood of \$800 worth of goods were stolen there. As soon as the theft was discovered, on Monday morning, the telegraph wires were put in operation, for the purpose of detecting the thief and a diligent search was made for the stolen goods by Mr. Mackie and the people of the village.

After searching eight or ten hours, they concluded to give it up; but through the untiring zeal of the bailiff – Edward Major Esq., the goods were found in the woods, about half a mile from the store, stowed away in grain bags.

The next step was to secure the burglar, and consequently, a good plan was laid to discover him. The goods were left where they were found, for the night, and a guard placed to watch them and to catch the fox when he came for his bait. They watched until five o'clock in the morning, and thinking the villain too cunning for them, they shouldered the goods and brought them up to the village.

They had barely got there when John Labelle, lately from the penitentiary made his appearance with Mr. Mackie's seal-skin coat upon him. Mr. Labelle was sent to jail to await his trial at the next assizes.

# **~ 1862 ~**

## **Prince Albert Rifle Company is formed**

*Ontario Observer: January 6, 1862*

Thomas C. Forman and John Billings, Esqrs., are getting up a Rifle Company in this place to be called the Prince Albert Rifle Company. This makes the third company that is organizing in our village. Certainly we are worthy of the name of Prince Albert.

## **Manchester Temperance meeting**

*Ontario Observer: June 12, 1862*

The Manchester Lodge of Good Templar held their first soiree a week ago yesterday, in a beautiful grove a short distance from the village. The day was fine, and the committee of arrangements had made every preparation, expecting a large turn out.

We are sorry to say their expectations were not met in this respect, yet, although the gathering was not so large as might have been expected, everything passed off well. All the arrangements were good. The tables were laden with provisions; and it is a pity there was not more present to partake of the good things provided.

The repast was got up by Mr. Gregory, baker, of Port Perry, for which he deserves credit. After the cloth was removed, Mr. Hepinstall took the chair, and the following speakers addressed the meeting – Rev'd Messrs. Markham, Miller, Archer, Roadhouse, and the well-

known Temperance lecturer, Mr. E. Carswell. The day's proceedings were greatly enlivened by the excellent music of the Hampton Brass Band,

## **Pine Grove Cemetery notice**

*Ontario Observer: July 22, 1862*

By order of the President of the Ontario Pine Grove Cemetery Company, Thomas C. Forman – all those claiming to have burial sections in the Grave Yard, lately the property of Abner Hurd, Esq., in Prince Albert, and now the property of the Ontario Pine Grove Cemetery Company, are requested to make immediate payment of said lots, or of any balances due on the same to Edward Major or Richard H. Tomlinson, the only parties now authorized to receive it. And on such payments being made, a deed will be given by the undersigned, and all amounts remaining unpaid on the first of October, will be placed in Court for collection, without further notice.

## **Young man steals \$20 gold piece**

*Ontario Observer: July 31, 1862*

A few days ago, Mr. George Robson, of this Township, had stolen from his safe a \$20 gold piece, but did not miss it until yesterday morning. He immediately suspected a young lad by the name of Wm. George Eastick, on account of the lad making up his mind all at once to leave his employ – the only reason he gave was, that he had heard from his mother, who resides in Uxbridge, and she wanted him to go to Toronto to learn a trade.

When the young thief was first accused of stealing the money, he denied having anything to do with it. After a good deal of pressure, he acknowledged taking it and burying it under ground for safe keeping. Mr. Robson accompanied him to the spot, and after removing a slight covering of earth, the gold coin was discovered and returned to the rightful owner. The young scamp was immediately brought before George Currie, Esq., of this place, who sent him to Whitby Jail to await his trial.

## **Resident loses fingers in accident**

*Ontario Observer: July 31, 1862*

We regret to have to chronicle a painful accident which occurred in Uxbridge, on Friday, the 18th inst., by which Mr. Geo. Robinson, formerly of this place, lost two fingers and part of his right hand. He was working at a tenon machine, in Mr. A. Thompson's shop, when one of the nuts became loose which holds the "coping head."

In endeavoring to tighten it, the wrench slipped, and his hand came in contact with the knives, which were revolving at a rapid rate. Before he could extricate it, the knives had taken off part of his hand, two fingers, and considerably lacerated a third. Drs. Joseph Bascom and Hillary were immediately summoned, who dressed the wound, and we are happy to be able to announce that, under the treatment of Dr. Bascom, he is recovering as rapidly as can be expected.

## **Ontario Agricultural Society meeting**

*Ontario Observer: July 31, 1862*

The officers and directors of the above society met at Hamilton's Hotel, Epsom, On Saturday last. The President, Mr. Spears, took the chair. Officers present – the President, Wm. Boynton Jr., Treasurer; D. Christie, Secretary;



Directors, Messrs. George Wheler, Turner, Irvine, Penhall, and Smith.

The President laid on the table a communication he had received from George Robson, Secretary of the South Ontario Agricultural Society, stating that South Ontario wished to join with North Ontario for the purpose of holding a Union Plowing Match, and that South Ontario had appropriated \$60 for that purpose. The communication was laid over for further consideration.

On motion of Mr. Boynton, a resolution was passed, ordering a number of "pens" to be made for the use of the society.

Moved by Mr. Irvine, seconded by Mr. Smith, that the sum of \$60 be appropriated to meet the apportionment of the S.O. Agricultural Society, for the purpose of forming a Union Plowing Match ; and also the appointment of a Committee to confer with the Committee appointed in South Ontario, to make all the necessary arrangements.

## Tenders for village property

*Ontario Observer: December 13, 1862*

Mr. Richard H. Tomlinson announced he would receive Tenders until Thursday, 1st January next, for the purchase of those extensive premises in the Village of Prince Albert, known as the Ontario Carriage Factory, lately owned by Messrs. James Emaney and George White.

The buildings are quiet now and are conveniently arranged for carrying on an extensive business.

The central location of Prince Albert, and the fine country surrounding, make it one of the most desirable locations in the County of Ontario for the manufacture of Farm Implements, Wagons, Carriages, &c.

His terms are, one-fourth of the purchase money will be required down and the balance in three equal annual installments, with interest.

## Covered stage to Prince Albert

*Whitby Gazette: October 28, 1862*

The subscriber begs to intimate to the travelling community that he continues to furnish a comfortable covered conveyance, between the above mentioned places, every lawful day, leaving Whitby after the arrival of the Morning Trains, and reaching Prince Albert in time to connect with the stage for Manilla and the north.

Leaves Port Perry and Prince Albert after the arrival of the Manilla Stage, and reaches Whitby in time for the early trains, east and west. Fares Reasonable. Baggage and parcels at the risk of the owner, unless booked and paid for. N. Ray, proprietor.



Covered stage from the 1800s.

~ 1863 ~

## Prince Albert Volunteer Company

*Ontario Observer: January 29, 1863*

On Tuesday evening last we had the privilege of seeing Sergeant Hardy, of the Grenadier Guards, put Prince Albert Volunteer Company through their "facings;" and must say we were agreeably surprised to see them go through their exercise so extremely well, considering the short time they have been organized. They certainly done themselves credit.

We understand that a subscription is on foot for the purpose of organizing a Military Band, under the control of the Company. Let the people of this section show their loyalty by assisting in such a noble enterprise. The members of the Company have shown their willingness to shoulder arms in defence of their country, and ought to be encouraged.



Thomas C. Forman  
Prince Albert Infantry

## Reach wants Registry Office in north

*Ontario Observer: February 5, 1863*

A meeting of the inhabitants of the Township of Reach was held in the Town Hall, Manchester, on the 31st day of January, 1863. It was called by Abner Hurd and George Currie, two of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace, in pursuance to a requisition presented to them, and signed by 12 freeholders of the said Township, for the purpose of considering the location of a Registry office in North Ontario.

It was the opinion of the meeting, that it is the intention of His Excellency the Governor General, soon to set apart the North Riding of this County for Registration purposes, and to establish a Registry Office herein.

Moved by Mr. Philander A. Hurd, seconded by George Currie, Esq., and resolved, - That in the opinion of this meeting, the locality in which the villages of Prince Albert, Port Perry, Borelia and Manchester are situated in the Township of Reach, contains a population of about 3,000 inhabitants, all within the limits of two miles square, has been and now is the principal market place for the North Riding, and from the growing importance of its manufactories and rapid increase in population, is destined as some future day, to form an important town out of several thriving villages within its circumference, and therefore in the opinion of the meeting, so a point within that location should be selected as the place for locating the Registry office for North Ontario.

The following gentlemen are to be a committee to circulate petitions, embodying the above resolution for the purpose of procuring signatures: - Abel W. Ewers, Charles McClue and G. Armstrong, Manchester; John Allison, Edward Major and John Nott, Borelia; Joseph Bigelow,

Thomas Paxton and Dr. Francis Oakley, Port Perry; Dr. George W. Jones, James Holden and Philander A. Hurd, Prince Albert.

## Reach Infantry company formed

*Ontario Observer: April 1863*

The meeting at Charles McClue's hotel, Manchester, last Saturday evening, was an entire success. The Company is to be known as the "Reach Volunteer Infantry company;" and the officers are as follows: Captain, Joshua Wright, of the Sedentary Force; Lieutenant John W. Allison, Esq.; Ensign Thomas Graham, Esq.

## Almost a fire in Prince Albert

*Ontario Observer: May 28, 1863*

On Friday our village was thrown again into a state of excitement by the dread alarm of fire, when it was found that the driving barn of the Anglo-American Hotel, Prince Albert, was in a blaze.

A great number of people were immediately on the spot and succeeded in putting a stop to the fire before it had made progress, for which Mr. John Moggridge desires as to return them his most sincere thanks, for if it had been left five minutes or longer nothing could have saved his whole premises. The fire originated from a fire cracker which some of the boys had unintentionally thrown in that direction.

## The Queen's Birthday celebrations

*Ontario Observer: May 28, 1863*

The celebration in honour of Her Majesty's (Queen Victoria) birthday came off in Prince Albert as announced in our last. The volunteers came out, and after going through a portion of their drill, until 12 o'clock, fired a "feu de joie" and then broke off for rations.

After dinner the Company repaired to the rifle range and amused themselves with target shooting the greater part of the afternoon. The Union Band was present the whole of the day and enlivened the proceeding materially. Mr. John Moggridge provided dinner for the band.

## Fatal accident at Manchester

*Ontario Observer: June 1, 1863*

A melancholy accident occurred in the neighborhood of Manchester, last Friday afternoon. A fine young man, son of Mr. Hiram Lamb, went out with the intention of shooting pigeons, and near the woods noticed a gun left by someone leaning against a fence.

He examined the piece in replacing it, with the muzzle incautiously held toward him, it was discharged, and the contents, a charge of small shot, lodged in his right side below the ribs. Dr. Niven Agnew was immediately in attendance, and Dr. Jonathan Foot sent for; but medical skill was of no avail. We regret to add that he died on Saturday night.

## Picnic excursion to Washburn Island

*Ontario Observer: July 26, 1863*

The annual Excursion and Picnic to Washburn's Island came off on Thursday last. There were between 500 and 600 persons in attendance, everything went off well, and

to the apparent satisfaction of all concerned.

The communication of Aliquis giving a full account of the proceedings of the day, was received too late for publication this week. We shall publish it in our next. The spicy description of the trip last year, by this correspondent, was read, with much interest, and his humorous delineation of the various occurrences of this day's amusement, will, we are confident be enjoyed by all our readers.

## Serious accident at Paxton mills

*Ontario Observer: July 26, 1863*

On Tuesday last while Mr. Isaac Huckins was working in the mills of Messrs. Thomas Paxton, & Co., his left hand was brought in contact with a circular saw, and three fingers were instantly severed. The hand, which was shockingly mutilated, was dressed by Dr. George W. Jones of this place, under whose skilful treatment the injured man is doing well.

## New grist mill built in Port Perry

*Toronto Globe: October 1, 1863*

Port Perry going ahead. The enterprising firm of Paxton & Co., are building a steam Grist Mill, with three run of stones, which will be a great benefit to the place and vicinity.



*Grist Mill.*

~ 1864 ~

## Navigation of the Scugog

*Toronto Globe: May 9, 1864*

Navigation on the River Scugog has commenced, two of the boats, the "Lady Ida" and "Woodman", having already made several trips; the former to and from the head of Scugog Lake, and the latter between Lindsay and Bobcaygeon and Fenelon Falls.

## Team of horses through the ice

*Ontario Observer, March 31, 1864*

Last Monday, Master Robinson, son of Mr. George Robinson, of this place, was crossing Lake Scugog above the island with a team of horses.

The ice gave away and let the horses into the water, which was at that place very deep. Some Indians who were near came to his assistance and they finally succeeded in getting the horses out.

## ~ 1865 ~

### Destructive fire at grist mill

*The Globe: May 6, 1865*

On Tuesday 1st, the grist mill of Mr. George Morris, at Port Perry, was destroyed by fire. The grist mill and the building occupied by Mr. Morris were the property of John Cameron, Esq., Ex-MPP for Victoria and we believed were not insured.

The grist mill was five stories high and was built in 1856, but has been idle for the last four years; and the other building, formerly a saw mill, was recently leased by Mr. Morris for a shingle factory, and had been running but a few days. Mr. Cameron's loss will be over twenty thousand dollars; Mr. Morris' about three or four hundred dollars.

### Wesleyan Methodist Church in Prince Albert burned to the ground

*Toronto Globe: July 2, 1865*

The Wesleyan Methodist Church in Prince Albert was burned to the ground early on Monday morning last. When first discovered (about two o'clock) the flames had made so much headway that it was impossible to subdue them.

The fire must have been the work of an incendiary, and from the manner in which it broke through the roof, was probably kindled in the gallery over the vestry, where a quantity of lumbers and other articles were stored. The loss by the fire is estimated at from \$1,200 to \$1,500 - no insurance.

A tin can containing a quantity of raw pitch and pine chips was found near the building, a portion of which was probably employed in firing the school house on the previous Monday morning.

## ~ 1866 ~

### Royal Canadian Bank opening

*Canadian Post, Lindsay, March 2, 1866*

The Royal Canadian Bank has opened an agency at Port Perry which will be a great boon to that section of the country. In appointing Joseph Bigelow, Esq., agent of the Institution, the Board of Directors made a most judicious selection.

We feel certain that the business of the agency will be conducted with care and ability under his management. Messrs. Cochrane & Cochrane, Barristers, of Whitby and Prince Albert, are the bank solicitors.

### Form home guard in Port Perry

*Ontario Observer: June 16, 1866*

The inhabitants of Port Perry seem determined that neither "Finneans," nor any other set of marauders shall desecrate the sacred soil of Canada, and have organized themselves into a Home Guard, and elected Mr. Henry Charles, captain. Mr. John Rolph, of this place has kindly offered his services as drill instructor, free of charge, which the guards have availed themselves to.

### Reach councillors express sympathy

*Port Perry Standard: August 16, 1866*

At a meeting of Reach council at the Town Hall Manchester on the 13th inst., Mr. Graham moves, that since the last regular meeting of this council, William Robinson, Editor of the *Ontario Observer*, by death, that this council acknowledging the kindly interest ever felt and manifested by Mr. Robinson in whatever tended to advance the best interests of this municipality, agree to record their deep sense of the same and the clerk be, and his is hereby requested to order the sympathy of this board to Mrs. Robinson in her early bereavement. Carried.

### Fire destroys newly erected tannery

*Port Perry Standard: August 16, 1866*

We regret that a disaster occurred in this place by fire, on the evening of the 8th inst., which resulted in the total destruction of the tannery recently erected on Perry Street, and a dwelling house in the immediate vicinity.

The occupant of the premises, Mr. Wm. Armstrong, states that he examined the building as late as between nine and ten on the evening of the conflagration, at which time there was not the least trace of fire to be seen, and before eleven o'clock the building was enveloped in flames. Every means available were used to stay its progress, but ere half the stock could be removed, the building was burned to the ground.

The house adjoining, occupied by Mr. Armstrong as a dwelling, soon fell a prey to the devouring element; and, despite the efforts put forth to save it, was soon reduced to ashes. The loss is estimated at \$1,200 - no insurance. We understand that Mr. Joseph Bigelow, the owner of the property, will build again as soon as possible.



*The new English Church, Port Perry.*

### Congregation to build English Church

*Port Perry Standard: August 16, 1866*

The building Committee for the erection of an English Church in Port Perry have decided on building of brick, instead of wood. The style to be Gothic, which when erected on the very pretty site obtained through the liberality of John H. Perry, Esq. of Whitby, will be a great acquisition to the Port and neighborhood.

The Committee in venturing to erect an edifice of a more expensive and substantial character than was at first contemplated, have rendered themselves responsible to the contractors (Messrs. May & Sons, and Jas. Good and others) for a large sum excess of the subscription list - trusting to the liberality and public spirit of the people of

the Port and neighbourhood of Lake Scugog.

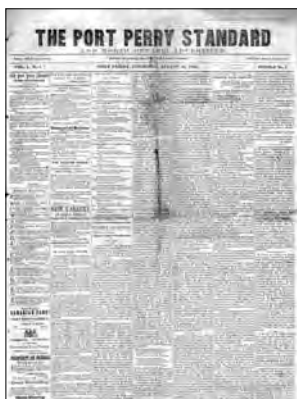
The following gentlemen, composing the Building Committee: Messrs. Joseph Reader, Harris Burnham, William J. Trounce, Henry Charles and John E. Ware, M.D.

## By-law to establish a public road

*North Ontario Observer: August 6, 1866*

The corporation of the village of Port Perry enacted a bylaw to establish as a public highway, a street across the Leonard Property. The bylaw stipulated that part of the village of Port Perry lying between Lilla Street and Bigelow Street, and composed of part of village lots 229, 250 and 251 Leonard plan shall constitute and be a public highway within the said village.

The bylaw, dated July 22, 1866 was published in the newspaper and invited any person desiring to be heard in support, or in opposition should attend a meeting of council in the Town Hall on Monday, the sixth day of September 1866 at 7:30 o'clock p.m.



*Port Perry Standard newspaper.*

## First Port Perry Standard published

*Port Perry Standard: August 16, 1866*

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

When the writer (Edward Mundy) started the "North Ontario Advocate," at Uxbridge, the political lines between the two contending parties in Canada were so distinctly drawn that it was impossible to be mistaken in them. At that time we did not hesitate to take our position, and boldly assert our rights, under the Moderate party; and while professing to be a Moderate, we totally disclaim ever having advocated the views of the Tory party of twenty years ago, asserting, as they did, that the old paths" are the paths, and that other paths are not proper to walk in.

And on the other hand, we never lent our influence to what some might misname Reform, until we were satisfied that the changes proposed would tend to the peace, progress, and prosperity of our people. This we did because we believed such a course to be consistent with the best interests of the country.

Since then, however, the political aspect of this country has entirely changed. The Honourables John A. McDonald and George Brown were driven to the conclusion, by a

series of failures, that the government of this colony could not be successfully conducted by accidental majorities of one, two, or three. (Full announcement in Port Perry Standard, August 16, 1866)

## Barn full of wheat destroyed by fire

*Port Perry Standard: August 16, 1866*

We regret having to announce that a barn, the property of widow Pound, on Lot 21, in the 9th Con. of Reach, with seven loads of Fall Wheat and the same quantity of Barley – owned by Mr. Jacob Purdy, who is Mrs. Pound's tenant – were destroyed by fire, on Sunday morning last, the 11th inst.

The last load of wheat had been drawn in late on Saturday night, and as no fire had been near the premises as much as a month before that time, it is supposed, to be the work of an incendiary.

The owners live some distance from, the property, and were not aware of the loss they had sustained till some hours after the whole was consumed. Two neighbours, Messrs. Brown and Rose, first saw the fire, and succeeded in preventing the destruction of the dwelling house, and were the parties who conveyed the information to Mr. Purdy. In addition to the above a wagon and a set of double harness, belonging to Mr. Purdy, and several farming implements, the property of Mr. P. Hurd, were also destroyed.

Note: Since writing the above, we have reason to believe the above occurrence was the result of no accident, but one of wilful incendiaries, inasmuch as an attempt was made to fire the dwelling house also, there being found in one of the rooms a stick of cord wood, and a heap of rubbish on which had been poured sufficient coal oil to saturate the whole. Coal oil was thrown upon the walls as well, in quantities sufficient to form small streams and run to the floor.

The rubbish had been set fire to, but for some reason or other did not burn, so that the house stands to tell the tale of someone's infamy. Than the incendiaries there is no more dangerous person in the community, and therefore the public should be on the lookout in order that the culprit, whoever he be, may be detected and brought to justice.

Mrs. Pound's loss is estimated at \$300, partly covered by insurance; and Mr. Purdy's is set down at the same figure, with no insurance whatever.

## First rate drill shed completed

*Ontario Observer: September, 1866*

This week we notice with much pleasure the completion of a first rate Drill Shed well fitted in every way as a drill room for our brave Volunteers, where they will



*Typical Drill Shed from the 1860s.*

have an abundance of room to go through the necessary movements, with ease and advantage, and where they may acquire such knowledge of the military art as will enable them to render the most efficient services to their country in her time of need.

The liberality of the Township Council, together with the generous contributions of parties without the village as well as of those within, have enabled the committee to erect a building every way suitable for the purpose for which it is designed. The thanks of the entire community are due to the contributors to this enterprise.

The shed is 112'x70', with 14 ft. posts. The contractor, Thos. C. Forman, Esq., has missed this item, as the building will cost him considerably more than the contract. Mr. George Robinson of this place was the builder.

## Coroner's inquest into death

*Port Perry Standard: November 29, 1866*

Last week we chronicled the death of Mr. Button DeGeer of the 12th concession of this Township by an ordinary obituary notice, but since then events have transpired which call for a more extended account of the distressing occurrence.

It appears Mr. DeGeer had been from home on the day previous, in the company of his wife, returning in the evening as well in health, to all appearance, as usual. Shortly after he retired for the night, however, he was seized with convulsions, which continued until between two and three o'clock in the morning, when death put an end to his sufferings.

Medical aid was not sought for some time after the first attack, but the increasing severity of the disorder at length induced a neighbour to go for Dr. Culling E. Knowlys, who arrived only about eight minutes before the agonized man breathed his last.

From the nature of the symptoms, and the fact that Mrs. DeGeer expressed her apprehension that she had, through mistake, given her husband a draught of water from a teacup in which she had the evening before dissolved strychnine for the purpose of making poison for rats, Dr. Knowlys deemed it his duty to bring the case to the notice of a coroner. Accordingly Dr. John E. Ware of Prince Albert proceeded at once to summon a jury, and hold an inquest.

Mrs. DeGeer was, of course, the principal witness, and her evidence was in substance – that she purchased strychnine from Dr. Langstaff of Richmond Hill, on the day before her husband's death, to poison vermin, and that in the evening she dissolved a portion of it in water which she mixed with molasses in an ordinary teacup. She put the teacup away without cleansing it and some time after her husband, not feeling well, determined to take a pill, and asked her for a draught of water. Without thinking, she carried her husband the water in the same teacup she had used in preparing the rat poison; that almost immediately her husband was seized with convulsions.

She then administered chloroform, under the influence of which she kept him for two or three hours, and which gave him temporary relief; and that she did not connect her husband's death with the water she had given him to drink until she took up the teacup to drink from herself, when the bitterness of its contents caused her to see in an instant the awful mistake she had committed.

On being questioned further she stated that she tied up

the paper of strychnine and placed it away in a cupboard; that her husband visited the cupboard during the evening, and that in the morning she found the paper of strychnine had been disturbed, the string with which she had secured it being removed. She likewise said that her husband had been addicted to the use of opium, and was subject to fits of despondency.

Dr. Richard Jones and Dr. C.E. Knowlys made a post-mortem examination and gave it as their opinion, from the rigidity of the muscles, the healthy state of the vital organs, and time general symptoms of the case, that Mr. DeGeer died of titanic convulsions, induced by some cause unknown to them, but resembling those produced by the use of strychnine.

The jury brought in the following verdict: That the deceased came to his death by poison (supposed to be strychnine) administered by his wife, through mistake, with no evil intention. We are informed that the coroner refused the verdict three times, but subsequently consented to record it.

Relatives of the deceased are dissatisfied with the proceedings, and have applied to the coroner for another inquest. Whether this will be granted remains to be seen; but it cannot be denied that the sad event is surrounded by considerable mystery, which, if possible, should be cleared up. Mrs. DeGeer is, at least, guilty of gross carelessness.

## Serious quarrel arises on lake

*Whitby Chronicle: December 24, 1866*

A serious quarrel took place on the lake (Scugog) here one day last week between two Indians and two white men. The quarrel arose about some muskrats.

All parties were on skates, except the rats, which were bare-footed. Spears and skates were used as weapons and there was some scalping done, but in this case it was the Indians that got scalped. It is said that the Indians got rather the worst of the battle and one of them is under doctor's care.

## Heavy storm damages new church

*Port Perry Standard: December 13, 1866*

We regret to state that a large portion of the brick work of the Episcopal Church, which was just ready to receive the roof, was blown down during the gale on Saturday last, entailing a heavy loss upon the society. We learn, however, that the Building Committee, with commendable perseverance, have made arrangements for repairing the damage and completing the work.

# ~ 1867 ~

## Thieves steal safe from storehouse

*Port Perry Standard: February 7, 1867*

One of the most barefaced robberies ever known in this section of the country was perpetrated at Manchester, on Saturday last. The following are the particulars, as far as we can learn them;

At about three o'clock, a.m., the storehouse occupied by Mr. T. Myers, who is buying wheat for Robert E. Perry, of Whitby, was forced open, together with the office door.

The safe was taken therefrom, carried some 200 yards around the field which the store house sands in; and, coming on the Centre Road, where a sleigh stood waiting. They place it upon the vehicle and drove about two and half miles up the road, to the thickest part of the swamp.

Here, with a large hammer, or axe, they broke open the iron chest, took the cash box and contents – about \$200 in silver, and left the safe in the snow. No clue has, as yet, been found; but it is thought that the guilty parties are living in Manchester.

## Allison unseated following election

*Port Perry Standard: February 14, 1867*

The public are doubtless aware that, during the sitting of the County Council, proceedings were instituted by Mr. Edward Major, against Mr. John Allison for the purpose of unseating him. The grounds taken were, illegal qualification – a mere technicality – Mr. Allison not having been in possession, during the election, of the store in Borelia which he previously occupied and upon which he was assessed.

Mr. Allison, supposing the law to be in his favor, decided upon testing the matter and yesterday afternoon he received word from his lawyer to the effect that the judge had given the ease against him. His election, therefore, is null and void and his seat becomes vacant.

The Reeve, we suppose, will at once issue his writ for another election. We may add, however, that Mr. Allison is now in possession of the store above referred to, which makes his qualification all the law requires; and that he will seek re-election.

Further than Mr. Major gratifying himself and his ambitious friends, what benefit is the Township to receive from this piece of chicanery? We shall soon see whether or not the Ratepayers approve of it.

## Allison election deemed illegal

*Port Perry Standard: February 21, 1867*

As intimated by us, last week, a writ from the Court of Queen's Bench, has been placed in the hands of the Reeve of this Municipality, informing him that Mr. J.W. Allison's election is illegal, and that the office of Deputy-Reeve, which he held, is vacant.

Reeve James Graham thereupon, issued his warrant instructing the Clerk to take the necessary steps to secure the election of a fit and proper person to fill the vacancy. The Clerk has named Saturday next as the day upon which the nomination is to take place. The polling is to come off on Wednesday, the 26th instant. Mr. Allison will be on hand, and we trust his friends will rally to the polls and elect him by an overwhelming majority.

## St. Agnes church for Greenbank

*North Ontario Observer: March 14, 1867*

Quite an enthusiastic meeting of churchmen, belonging to the Greenbank congregation, was held upon the 5th instant, in the Temperance Hall for, the purpose of taking measures for the erection of a church.

The Rev. R.S. Fournier began the proceedings by a few remarks upon the religious nature of the undertaking in which they were about to be engaged. His address was followed by a prayer and a hymn. Mr. Brown, of Uxbridge,



*St. Agnes Church, Greenbank.*

then addressed the meeting in an eloquent speech. Mr. Ganton followed. Dr. Knowlys executed a successful manoeuvre, from speaking to acting, by moving "that a subscription list be opened forthwith," which resolution was unanimously carried, and then forthwith carried out.

Mr. John Lanson rose and said that he would give a lot upon which to build the church. This, however, was not the extent of his liberality, for, stepping up to the table he put down his name for the handsome sum of 200 dollars. Messrs. Ganton and Tait and Dr. Knowlys followed with liberal subscriptions – others put down, lesser amounts. The whole when added up showed nearly \$400, exclusive of the ground, which is valued at \$100.

Designs which had been previously prepared by the pastor, the Rev. Mr. Forneri, were looked with much interest and favor. The structure will be of frame, boarded perpendicularly. The pointed window, roof and belfry, sufficiently indicate the character of the building.

The dimensions are – nave 40 ft., by 28 ft., chancel 14 ft. by 14 ft. This, is one of the best starts which has been made in this direction of which we are cognizant, and we trust soon to hear of the completion of the "Church of St. Agnes," as believe it to be named – bell and all, in the enterprising village of Greenbank.

## Another serious factory accident

*North Ontario Observer: March 28, 1867*

We learn with regret that an accident of a serious nature occurred at Mr. James B. Lazier's factory on Thursday, the 21st inst. Mr. Joseph Marsh, one of the workmen, while in the act of reaching under a circular saw, for the purpose of putting rosin on the belt, brought his arm in too close proximity to the way, which caught the sleeve of his coat, near the elbow, and in an instant half severed the limb.

It was feared that amputation would be necessary; but, under the skillful treatment of Dr. Richard Jones, it is now hoped this may be avoided, although it is doubtful whether he will recover the natural use of the member.

## More houses need to be erected

*North Ontario Observer: March 28, 1867*

We must again press upon the attention of the inhabitants of Port Perry the importance of erecting more dwellings. There are several persons who wish to become residents of the village and would do so at once, but for the want of house accommodation.



Many who are employed here, and others who are carrying on business, have to reside with their families in the neighboring villages, or are compelled to board at hotels, very much to their inconvenience. Twenty houses at least should be built at once, and a still greater number would find occupants within a very few days.

We notice the erection of a neat two-story frame cottage on Queen Street by Mr. George Robinson, intended as a dwelling for himself and family. That section of the village promises to become a favourite location for private houses and we should not be surprised if, within a short time, both sides of the gravel road from Port Perry to Borelia, will be thickly studded with residences.

## Tannery destroyed by late night fire

*North Ontario Observer: April 18, 1867*

We regret that a disaster occurred in the place by fire, on the evening of the 8th inst., which resulted in the total destruction of the tannery recently erected on Perry Street, and a dwelling house in the immediate vicinity.

The occupant of the premises, Mr. Wm. Armstrong, states that he examined the building as late as between nine and ten on the evening of the conflagration, at which time there was not the least trace of fire to be seen, and before eleven o'clock the building was enveloped in flames.

Every means available were used to stay its progress, but ere half the stock could be removed, the building was burned to the ground. The house adjoining, occupied by Mr. Armstrong as a dwelling, soon fell pray to the devouring element; and despite the efforts put forth to save it, was soon reduced to ashes. The loss is estimated at \$1,200 with no insurance.

We understand that Mr. Joseph Bigelow, the owner of the property, will build again as soon as possible.

## Presbyterian church to be erected

*North Ontario Observer: April 25, 1867*

The building committee of the Presbyterian Church, met on the 16th inst. Wm. S. Sexton, Esq., occupied the chair and Edward Major, Esq., was given the entire management or far-ranging for the putting up of a building.

A large portion of the amount necessary for erecting the Church has already been provided. It is to be 52 feet long by 36 feet wide, with a twenty foot ceiling, and a tower in front. The site is on the north side of Queen Street, next east of Mr. George Robinson's new residence. We wish them every success.

## Bridge from Scugog to Port Hoover

*Port Perry Standard: May 9, 1867*

For several years past considerable attention has been given the subject of building a bridge across Lake Scugog, from Port Hoover to the Northern extremity of Scugog Island, so as to form a connecting link between the Townships of Scugog and Mariposa.

There has also been something said in reference to the construction of a bridge which will extend from the southern portion of the Township of Scugog, in an easterly direction, to the Township of Cartwright.

The building of these bridges would tap large sections

of country which are now long distances from market, and would add largely to the business of the County. Outlets of this kind are sadly wanted; and unless a stir is made we shall some day regret it. There is an importance attached to these things which should command the consideration and attention of every man in the County; and we hope to see the matter taken into consideration at the June session of the County Council.

## Fresh arrival of gravel in Port Perry

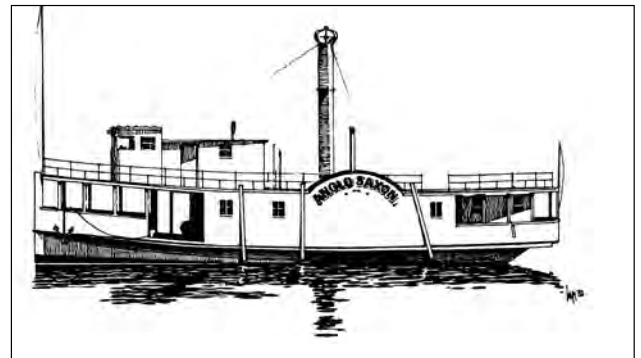
*Port Perry Standard: May 16, 1867*

The inhabitants of Port Perry were not a little astonished at the arrival, on Saturday last, of what proved to be two loads of gravel; which were safely deposited in a mud hole, on the gravel road between Perry Street and Gamble's store – an occurrence which has not taken place for some years past. Keep cool, neighbors! Things as strange have happened before; and events as startling may be repeated.

## Anglo Saxon launched a Port Hoover

*Port Perry Standard: May 16, 1867*

A new steamer was launched at Port Hoover on Tuesday last, 14th inst. The unfavorable state of the weather prevented many from being present. She was named the "Anglo Saxon." We understand that she will be towed up to Port Perry, on Saturday next, to receive her machinery.



*Steamship Anglo Saxon*

## Anglo Saxon reaches Port Perry

*Port Perry Standard: May 23, 1867*

The new steamer Anglo Saxon gently launched at Port Hoover, intending to ply between Lindsay and Port Perry, on Lake Scugog, was towed to Sexton's wharf by the "Lady Ida," on the 22nd inst.

She is rather a nice looking craft, and reflects considerable taste upon Capt. George Crandell, who constructed it. It is being equipped with a 32 h.p. engine and when completed will make very quick trips between Lindsay and Port Perry.

As soon as her machinery is in its place she will commence work. It is hoped that the owners \$4,000 value will prove to be a capital investment.

*Port Perry Standard: July 4, 1867*

The "Anglo Saxon" made her first trial trip on Thursday last; but owing to some defect in her machinery was unable to proceed any great distance.



# Queen's Birthday GAY SPORT!

The Natal Day of our Sovereign Lady the Queen will be celebrated

## IN PORT PERRY, as follows:

### RACES!

**Inn-keepers Purse** :--\$25--  
Trotting—Open to all Horses. Half-mile heats; best 3 in 5. 3 to enter; 2 to start. Entrance 10 per cent.

**Merchant's Purse** :--\$25--  
Running—Open to all horses. Half-mile heats; best 3 in 5. 3 to enter; 2 to start. Entrance 10 per cent.

**Foot Race**--\$5.—200 yards.—  
Best 2 in 3. 3 to enter; 2 to start. Entrance 10 per cent.

**Sack Race**--\$5.—100 yards.—  
Best 2 in 3, over hurdles. No hopping allowed. 3 to enter; 2 to start. Entrance 10 per cent.

**Wheel-barrow Race**--\$1—  
Blindfold. 3 to enter, and 2 to start. Entrance 10 per cent.

**Boys' Race**—12 to 16 years—  
\$1. 100 yards; 2 in 3. 3 to enter; 2 to start. Entrance 10 per cent.

**Boys' Race**—Under 12 years—  
\$1. 3 to enter; 2 to start. Entrance 10 per cent.

### GAMES!

**Quoiting** \$2.50.—Game of 21. 21 yards; 2 in 3. Entrance 10 per cent.

**3 Standing Jumps**—\$2.—  
Best 2 in 3. 3 to enter. Entrance 10 per cent.

**Running High Leap**—\$2—  
Best 2 in 3. 3 to enter. Entrance 10 per cent.

**Hop-step and Leap**—\$2—  
Best 2 in 3. 3 to enter. Entrance 10 per cent.

**Throwing Sledge**—\$1—3 to enter. Entrance 10 per cent.

**Greased Pig**—\$1.—Entries unlimited. To be caught, shouldered and brought to the judges in 10 minutes. Entrance 10 per cent.

All entries to be made with the Secretary at Shaw's Hotel, before 10 o'clock, on the morning of the 24th May.

### EXCURSION!

The steamer "Lady Ida" will leave Tronnce's wharf at 9 a. m., to convey excursionists to 7 mile Island and back.

### Fire-Works.

In the evening there will be a grand display of Fire Works.

#### COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT:

M. COCHRANE, J. SHAW, T. HAZLEHURST,  
H. GORDON, N. E. BRIGGS, D. CAMPBELL,  
J. PHILLIPPO, G. MACKENZIE.

Treasurer.

Secretary.

**"GO SAVE THE QUEEN."**

Port Perry, May 9th, 1867.

30

An overhauling, however, sets things right, and on Saturday she made Port Hoover form this point in about forty minutes, and returned again on Monday morning with equal satisfaction.

We hope she may prove to be a decided success, and that her proprietor may make a speedy return out of the outlay occasioned by her construction.

## Sudden death of child by poisoning

*Port Perry Standard: May 23, 1867*

A daughter of Mr. Alonzo Sexton, of this place died very suddenly on Sunday morning, the 19th inst., from the effects of eating an quantity of buds on an American weeping willow.

She may, unknown to anyone, have eaten something else which tended to produce death; but it is supposed her decease was brought about principally from the cause we have named. Because, shortly after complaining, she vomited a quantity of the buds referred to, and was subjected to fits, or violent spasm, until life departed.

Parents should take warning by this sad event, and caution their children against the danger which occasioned so distressing a circumstance as the one now before us.

## Port Perry enjoys Queen's Birthday

*Port Perry Standard: May 30, 1867*

For several days previous to the Queen Victoria's Birthday, the weather was excessively wet and gloomy; and most people apprehended a similar atmospheric condition on the occasion of the ever welcome anniversary.

But on the morning of the 24th, nature laid aside her clouds and old Sol shone forth in all his glory, reviving the hopes of both young and old. At an early hour crowds might be seen wending their way to the Port, whilst teams loaded with laughing boys and girls came into the village from the surrounding country. Flags were flying on several buildings, and the Port presented quite a holiday appearance.

About noon the amusements began with Sack Racing followed by the Men's Foot Race, for which there were three entries. The prize was \$5. At this stage of the proceedings Major Thomas C. Forman and his Volunteer Company made their appearance. Having paraded the principal streets, they marched to the hill on the Crandell property, and got up a sham fight; had some field practice, and then "broke off" to participate in the general amusement. The men in their new dress, have an improved appearance, and their military evolutions are very credible.

The horse racing was then called on, the first race being for the Merchant's Purse of \$25, running open to all horses; half-mile heats. The next was the Innkeeper's Purse of \$25, trotting.

Next the Boy's Foot Race and the Three Standing Jumps. Professor Cronkhite performed on a tight rope, stretched across Mr. Sexton's field. The rope was only 10 feet high unlikely if the Professor had fallen, whether he would have hurt himself, however he amused the youngsters, and not a few of the older ones.

## Baptist Church chapel opening services

*Port Perry Standard: August 15, 1867*

The Baptist Church in Port Perry intend opening their Meeting House for Divine service, on Sunday, August 25th. Sermons will be preached by Revs. W. Stewart, A.B., of Brantford; J. Dempsey, of Port Hope, and J. King, Pastor of the Church. A Collection will, as usual on such occasions, be taken up at the close of each service in aid of the building fund.



Baptist Church, Queen St., Port Perry.

On the Monday following, a Soiree

will be held, when Elder Stewart, of Brantford – late Professor of Classics in the Canadian Literary Institute – will appropriate lecture. The services of an efficient choir have been secured.

## Excursion to Washburn Island

*Port Perry Standard: July 25, 1867*

The third annual excursion on Lake Scugog from this place, which came off on Friday last, was, on the whole, a very pleasant affair. Some difficulty existed previous to the start, owing to the fact that opposition was got up by the working men, because the fare had been raised from 25c to 50c a ticket this year.

But when all got “under way” everything passed off “as merry as a marriage bell.” The Lady Ida started first, with one scow and probably 100 or 125 on board, accompanied by the Prince Albert band. She was followed by the Anglo-Saxon with two scows, and probably 300 on board, accompanied by Freeman’s and the Whitby Bands.

Nothing worthy of note transpired during the trip on either boat, other than that some passed the time in dancing, whilst others, participated in games and amusements usual to such occasions.

The Anglo-Saxon called at Port Hoover and took quite a number on board, but the Lady Ida went straight to her destination. Both boats, however, reached the Island within a few minutes of each other; and immediately after the shore was lined with the excursionists, their boxes, baskets, parcels, &c.,

Groups wended their way, here and there, each selecting a suitable spot on which to prepare the repast. Having satisfied the cravings of the inner man, a number strolled about the ‘Island’ in quest of Indian relics and curiosities, some fine specimens of which were secured. Others sang, some enjoyed swinging, some went fishing, swimming, boating &c.

Meantime the bands did their part towards making the visit agreeable. Freeman’s Band was “the admired of all admirers.” We were delighted with their performance, as so rare a musical treat is seldom in store for us. At about four o’clock the whistling of the boats indicated that the time had come for returning. All hands having safely embarked the Lady Ida barked out and started for home.

In a few minutes the Anglo-Saxon followed, giving three cheers to Messrs. Washburn, Unger, and the Islanders generally. She left her passengers at Port Hoover, and reached Port Perry at eight o’clock, just a few minutes after the Lady Ida.

## The Fishery Act and fishing

*Port Perry Standard: October 31, 1867*

That others may take warning, we are not sorry at being able to inform the public that, within the last eight or ten days, some six or eight persons have been fined, in sums varying from one to five dollars, by Mr. Wm. H. Shipman, the Overseer at this place, for violating the Fishery Act.

Although a difficult job, it would not be amiss if a closer watch could be kept upon certain persons, for there are instances where the lake, a few miles from the village, is actually studded with “light-jacks” for the purpose of spearing, and consequently, unless steps are taken

to prevent it, Lake Scugog will be without a fish worth having.

Now the Act states explicitly that, at any time, “It shall not be lawful to fish for, or kill salmon, trout of any kind, lunge, bass, pickerel, whitefish &c., by means of spear, nor by aid of torchlight, or any other artificial light,” except by Indians, at stated periods, and therefore those parties, whoever they are, ought to be punished.

We hope the public will assist the Overseer in carrying out the law, and by that means put a stop to it.

## Inquest in drowning of young boy

*Port Perry Standard: November 21, 1867*

It is our painful duty to record the death by drowning of a lad named George Buntin, a resident of this place, which occurred on Tuesday, the 19th inst. The particulars of the occurrence are as follows:

On the morning in question he started off skating on the lake, without the knowledge and consent of his parents, for the purpose of catching ducks. This he succeeded in doing, and had taken three to his Uncle’s residence on Scugog Island, about four miles from Port Perry. He then returned to the lake with a view to catching more.

Scarcely had he reached twenty rods from the shore, when the ice gave way, letting him in the water; and after vainly endeavouring to rescue himself, he sank to rise no more. Several females saw him go in, but were unable to render any assistance.

As soon as word reached Port Perry of what had happened, his uncle, A. Platten, and others, started for where the accident occurred; and, after a short search, succeeded in recovering the body, in about twenty-four feet of water. He was conveyed home to his sorrowing relatives and friends. Yesterday morning Dr. Richard Jones, Coroner, summoned a jury and held an inquest. Facts in accordance with the above were elicited, and a verdict returned of accidental drowning.

## Port Perry town improvements

*Port Perry Standard: November 28, 1867*

In making mention of the improvements of Port Perry, during the past summer, it is with pleasure that we note the general progress, both public and private, which has been effected. And not withstanding the numerous private dwelling that have been erected there is still a necessity for more dwelling houses and places of business.

Every house in the place is occupied – some with from two to four families – and the demand is on the increase. There are those in our midst able to put up dwelling and business places who should certainly take hold and do their share towards providing for the general growth, prosperity and wealth of the place.

On the property lately laid out by Messrs. Thomas Paxton, Joseph Bigelow and Wm. H. Cochrane, some sixteen dwellings have been erected, and a number more commenced. In other parts of the village we notice a large number of houses have been built, and are in course of erection.

The new Presbyterian Church, on the north side of Queen Street, is a fine building, 36’x50’, with basement story of stone, intended for Sabbath School, Lectures, &c.



*Presbyterian Church, Port Perry*

When completed it will seat 400. The tower and spire give the building a lofty appearance, which, from the base to the top is some 80 feet.

Farther on, to the west is the Baptist Church, formerly the Mechanics' Institute, which has undergone an entire change, and presents an entirely new and somewhat handsome appearance. This building is also 36'x50', with vestuary, 30'x30' in rear of the main structure. The height including tower and spire from base to vane is 99 feet.

It is tastefully painted and frescoed throughout, and is to be warmed with hot air, on the Ruttan principal. The church is also furnished with an elegant and well-toned organ. The site of this edifice is one of the most pleasant that could be desired, overlooking, as it does, the town and Scugog Lake, with the Island in the distance.

On North Street there has been erected an Episcopalian Church in the Gothic style of architecture. It is of brick, about 30'x50' and when fully completed, will be very comfortable. Such buildings as these are an ornament to any place, and a credit to the enterprise and liberality of the people.

On the corner of Queen and Cochrane streets we notice a neat and pleasantly situated cottage, with outbuildings, lately completed for Mr. William M. Cochrane. The large and commodious residences of Messrs. W. Shaw, Robins and Charles Powers, as well as that partly finished for Mr. Hogg. Only one year ago this part of the town was an open field.

In other directions extensive improvements are noticeable. A large addition has been made to Mr. Joseph Bigelow's block of stores on the south side of Queen Street. Mr. Charles premises have undergone extensive alterations, and Messrs. Wm. Sexton, John W. Davis, Jessie Ireland and others have made substantial improvements.

On the whole, the appearance of the town is particularly gratifying, because the growth is healthy, and not more than adequate to the wants of the locality.

Our merchants, manufacturers and business men generally here have conducted a larger and more prosperous business during the past season than in any former year.

Messrs. Paxton, Sexton, Bigelow, and Marsh & Trounce, have manufactured for the past season:-

- 5,700,000 feet of lumber
- 3,600,000 sawed shingles
- 650,000 sawed flour-barrel heading
- 775,000 flour-barrel staves
- 8,000 barrels of flour

The principal part of the lumber, shingles, and flour, have been shipped to Lindsay and thence by railway to Port Hope for the American market.

Messrs. Charles Marsh & Wm. J. Trounce are regular wheat buyers, and farmers may depend upon getting the highest price for their grain at all times. They have been more than ordinarily successful in their milling operations, having, in addition to shipment and gristing, disposed of a large quantity of flour for local consumption.

The Port Perry Foundry and Agricultural Implement Manufactory, now carried on by Messrs. Paxton, Tate & Co., has done a healthy business, and is to be pushed on and worked up to its full capacity, keeping employed from 30 to 50 hands.

## Full-sized wild Lynx trapped

*Port Perry Standard: December 19, 1867*

A full-sized Lynx was caught near the Nonquon, in Reach, one day last week, by Mr. Farewell. A number of sheep had been killed in the neighbourhood, when a trap was set to catch the thief, and the above piece of game was caught.

This and neighbouring municipalities have had large sums to pay recently for sheep, supposed to be killed by dogs; but this occurrence places the matter in a different light, and should therefore, be made the subject of inquiry by our local authorities.

## Fire destroys two-storey block

*Port Perry Standard: December 19, 1867*

On Monday morning, 16th inst., the inhabitants of Port Perry were roused from their slumbers at 2, a.m., by a cry of fire, the flames of which were seen issuing from the rear of a two-story building, situated on Queen street, the property of Mr. John W. Davis.

Every possible means were resorted to in order to check its progress; but, as water was scarce, the efforts were unavailing, and before three o'clock the building was burned to the ground. It was occupied by three tenants, who lost more or less of their household effects; and we are pleased to learn that steps are being taken to make good their misfortune in this respect.

The fire seemed to proceed from a stove-pipe; but how it actually originated is a mystery. The loss to Mr. Davis, with whom we sympathize, will be probably about \$1,000, partly covered by insurance.

People cannot be too careful at this season of the year, with their stoves and stove-pipes. Perhaps it would be well to overhaul them at once, and have them fixed as securely as possible. Perhaps it would be well, too, for our "City Fathers" to take into consideration the propriety of purchasing a fire engine; for in case a fire occurred in a block of buildings, there is no knowing what results might attend it.

~ 1868 ~

## Hire teachers for Grammar School

*Port Perry Standard: January 2, 1868*

At a meeting of the Port Perry Grammar and Common School Trustees, on the evening of the 30th ult., the application of J.R. Youmans, as head-master of the Grammar School department, was accepted. Mr. Youmans furnishes first class credentials, and stands high as a Grammar School Teacher. The number of applications from which the Board had to select a teacher, was 16, so that we have every reason to believe a good selection was made.

The Teacher of the Common School, Mr. W. Ebbels, holds a Normal School certificate, and is highly recommended by R.H. Sangster, Esq. Mr. H.L. Ebbels will be assisted by Miss M.A. Campbell, and Miss A. Jury, who, jointly, will make a very efficient staff of teachers.

Messrs. Bigelow, Marsh and Jewett have been entrusted with the arrangements for preparing the School House, which will be in readiness on the 13th inst., when we trust we shall have as fine a School as there is in the county.



*Example of a school house from the 1860s*

## Town looks to purchase a fire engine

*Port Perry Standard: January 9, 1868*

A meeting was held in Joseph Shaw's Hotel, on Saturday evening, the 4th inst., which was attended by a large number of ratepayer, for the purpose of taking steps to procure one or more fire engines for the town.

Wm. S. Sexton Esq., was called to the chair, and Joseph Bigelow Esq., appointed Secretary. Communications were read from several quarters, offering fire engines for sale. After some discussion, on motion of Mr. Joseph Bigelow, seconded by Thomas Paxton, Esq., Mr. W.H. Shipman was delegated to visit Toronto for the purpose of examining the fire engines offered for sale there, and to superintend their trial. He is to report at a meeting to be held in Shaw's Hotel, on Saturday evening next.

## School trustees discuss teacher salaries, school improvements

*Port Perry Standard: January 9, 1868*

The annual School Meeting, in connection with Section No. 8, of Reach, was held in the School House, on the 8th inst. Mr. James W. Gamble was called to the chair, and Mr. John W. Allison appointed Secretary. The Secretary read the annual report which was received and adopted. A.T. Corson was appointed Auditor. Joseph Bigelow, Esq., was

re-elected Trustee.

Mr. Charles Marsh presented the Auditor's report, which was received and adopted. On motion of Mr. Marsh, seconded by Mr. James Hillborn, it was resolved that, the teacher's salaries, and all incidental expenses connected with the school, should be raised by direct taxation on the rateable property in the section.

We learn from the annual report that there are in the Section 375 children between the ages of 5 and 16. The whole number of children, entered on the School Register, as having attended the school the past year, is 350, - 181 Boys and 166 Girls. There were 186 scholars in Arithmetic; 162 in Grammar; 174 in Geography; 186 in Writing and 23 in Bookkeeping.

Extensive improvements are being made in the present building, by dividing it into four separate departments, which are to be fitted up tastily and comfortable. One branch will be devoted to the Grammar School, and the other three to the use of the Common school - each teacher having his or her own department,

This is certainly an improvement, and the people of this section may congratulate themselves upon having an efficient and energetic Board of Trustees.

It is contemplated, as soon as spring opens, to build a brick tower on the south side of the building, to form entrance to all the departments. At present a temporary stairway will have to answer the purpose. The tower will extend to the full height of the building, and will be surmounted by a belfry.

Parents desiring to give their children a higher education than is usually taught, in our Common Schools, cannot, do better than send them here

## Grammar School to be opened

*Port Perry Standard: January 16, 1868*

We are happy to be able to announce that the Port Perry County Grammar School will be opened on Monday, Jan. 20th inst., under the charge of Mr. J.R. Youmans, B.A., of the University of Victoria College, Cobourg. Mr. Youmans, we understand, has had extensive experience in his profession, and as appears from the testimonials which he holds, his teaching and general management have given much satisfaction.

Among the subjects that will be taught may be mentioned the following: The Latin, Greek, French and English languages; Mathematics - including Arithmetic, Algebra; Euclid, Mensuration, &c. Trigonometry; Modern and Ancient Geography; Ancient, Modern, English, Canadian and Natural History; Natural Philosophy, Geology, Physiology and Chemistry; Writing, Drawing, Vocal Music and Military Drill.

All boys who are admitted will be required to take up either Latin or Greek as a part of their Grammar School work. To afford every possible facility for learning French, girls may, at the option of the Trustees, be admitted to any Grammar School on passing the preliminary and final entrance examinations required for the admission of boys.

Girls thus admitted will take French (and not Latin or Greek - unless they choose) and the English subjects of the classical course for boys. With a view of holding out inducements to all parents who wish to give their children a Grammar School education the Trustees have determined



that the Grammar School shall be free, both to resident and non-resident pupils. It is desirable for pupils to enter the Grammar School on the very first day of its opening, on Monday next, rather than a few days after, as there is a great advantage in all beginning at the same time.



*Paxton & Tate Company, Marsh Harvester.*

## Marsh Harvester the best harvester

*Port Perry Standard: January 16, 1868*

The public are doubtless aware that Messrs. Paxton, Tate & Co; have secured a patent, applicable to the Dominion, for the manufacture and sale of the Marsh Harvester.

If it were necessary, to acquaint the farming community with its advantages and superiority over every other machine made, we might refer to facts which are well authenticated by hundreds of farmers who have used it in the Western States; but for the present we deem it sufficient to submit a few facts which are worthy the consideration of agriculturists generally.

The manufacturers maintain that the Marsh Harvester is the cheapest, the most durable, has the lightest draft, and is the greatest labour-saving machine of the age. There is a saving of \$230 in cutting one hundred acres of grain, by using the Marsh Harvester, in preference to the combined hand rake reaper.

## Prince Albert carriage shop fire

*Port Perry Standard: February 24, 1868*

A disastrous fire broke out in Mr. George White's wagon and carriage shop, Prince Albert, during the night of the 14th inst., which resulted in the destruction of the whole premises and a two-storey dwelling house adjoining.

The house was recently occupied by Mr. Saunders, the owner, and Mr. Rose, who succeeded in saving the greater part of their furniture; but in spite of all the efforts put forth to prevent it, Mr. White's effects were nearly all destroyed. We have not heard the loss estimated, but it must be considerable.

The fire is said to have originated from a defect in stove-pipes which passed through a partition.

## Report on Port Perry's village school

*Port Perry Star: February 27, 1868*

We had the pleasure of visiting, with a number of the Trustees, our village School, on Monday last, and we have to confess ourselves very much pleased with the management and general arrangement of the whole school.

The attendance in each department is very large – there being no less than 250 names on the rolls, with an average attendance of 210 scholars – and the classes seem to be making considerable improvement.

The teachers appear to be thorough-going disciplinarians, have the confidence of their pupils, and we shall be some what surprised if their efforts are not crowned with success, and give general satisfaction.

We should like to see more apparatus, however in both the grammar and senior common school departments, by reason of the fact that the teachers would be materially aided in their explanations, on the one hand, and the pupils enabled to form more practical ideas of matters and things on the other. The trustees, we fancy, might make an investment, in this respect, which would be highly beneficial to the whole school.

## Heavy snow blocks roadways

*Port Perry Standard: February 27, 1868*

The late snow storm, one of the heaviest witnessed in this locality for some years, has had the effect of blocking up our roads, and suspending connection with all outsiders. The snow in the woods, where it is undisturbed by the wind, is now about four feet deep; and the shanty men have had to cease operations and return home.

The stages north and south of us, in consequence of the bad road, and there being no railroad communication, have quit running, and business generally in these parts is rather dull at present, We hear, however, that men are at work on the leading roads between here and the front, and that mail communication may be looked for by tomorrow.

## Farmer dies delivering cord wood

*Ontario Observer: February 28, 1868*

John Henry, farmer of the Township of Scugog was found dead on Wednesday sitting on a load of cord wood which he was in the act of taking from Scugog to Port Perry. The Coroner, Dr. John E. Ware held an inquest on the body and the jury returned a verdict: "died by the visitation of God". He leaves a wife and family to lament his sudden and unexpected departure.

## Man runs toll gates but captured

*Ontario Observer: March 12, 1868*

Mr. Obed Magnet, a resident of East Whitby tried to run the toll-gate on the Whitby and Scugog Gravel Road, but unfortunately for him the manager, who was in charge, mounted his horse and gave chase.

The exciting chase ended at Quigley's Hotel in Oshawa, where Obed was taken before the justice of the peace and fined \$5 and costs. His toll would have been four cents. Motto to gate runners - "don't be penny wise and pound foolish."

## The Whitby & Port Perry railway

*The Globe: March 16, 1868*

The friends of the three narrow gauge railways chartered at the late session of the Legislature, are losing little time in getting to work. A contemporary reports the first meeting of the Provisional Directors of the Port Whitby and Port Perry Railway Company, which was held

at Whitby, Monday last, Mr. Joseph Bigelow of Port Perry was chosen President and Sheriff Nelson G. Reynolds, of Whitby, Vice-President.

A resolution was adopted, instructing the President to confer with outsiders likely to take an interest in the road. Notice was given of by-laws for the appointment of a Secretary and Engineer for the Railway. After transacting some other business the Directors adjourned to meet at the call of President Bigelow.

## Village improvements required

*Port Perry Standard: March 26, 1868*

In this practical, matter-of-fact age, attention to neatness, order and beauty, seems to be too much overlooked in many of our towns and villages, in by far too great measure, the poetry has to give way to the prose of life.

Port Perry is by no means an exception to the general rule. We see many places, in going through our streets, where a little labor devoted to the removal of rubbish, the planting of a few shade-trees, and the construction of sidewalks, would greatly tend to improve the appearance of property, besides adding quite materially to its value.

"Cleanliness is next to godliness," and a "thing of beauty is a joy for ever." Let, then, the dirt and rubbish that have been accumulating in our streets and elsewhere during winter, be now removed; ornamental trees and shrubbery set out; front door-yards and flower-pots tastefully arranged; and neat substantial sidewalks built wherever they are needed,

If our municipality can not see fit to grant aid for

making any of these very desirable improvements, let our people themselves "have a mind to work, and every man build over against his own house," and the things required will soon be accomplished.

## Anglo-Saxon overhauled stem to stern

*Ontario Observer: April 9, 1868*


The Anglo Saxon steamer under the management of her present enterprising proprietors, Messrs. Joseph Bigelow and William J. Trounce, has been overhauled from "stem to stern" during the winter. Refitted and painted, and is now ready for work.

The cabin has been improved in every respect and a new heater is placed in the hold, so that more speed and comfort is looked for and may be expected.

She made a successful trial trip on Tuesday, and will be ready for her route in a few days. She is now as gay a little craft as floats on these lakes, and we hope she may meet with a prosperous season.



*Steamship Anglo-Saxon on Lake Scugog.*



**Steamer Anglo-Saxon**

**DAILY TRIPS**

BETWEEN PORT PERRY & LINDSAY!

ON and after the 1st of July, 1868, and until the close of navigation, the new and fast-sailing Steamer "Anglo-Saxon" will leave her wharf, at Port Perry, every day, (Sundays excepted), at 7 o'clock, A.M., for Lindsay.

Calling at Port Hoover and Cosarea! Returning will leave Lindsay every day, (Sundays excepted), at 3 o'clock, P. M., for Port Perry, calling at the above intermediate ports.

COMMERCIAL TRAVELERS, BUSINESS MEN AND TOURISTS, As well as the public generally, will find this a most pleasant route, affording a fine view of the delightful scenery around Scugog Lake.

From Oshawa and Whitby to Port Perry, there are two daily lines of Stages, and one daily line of Stages between Port Perry, Manilla, Cannington and Beaverton.

The steamer connects at Lindsay with the **PORT HOPE & LINDSAY RAILWAY** and the steamers plying on the Lakes north of Lindsay, for Fenelon Falls, Bobcaygeon, and Bridgewater.

**FARE:**

Between Port Perry and Lindsay...\$1.00.  
Return Tickets..... 1.50.  
Excursion Parties, 13 or upwards,  
Half Fare..... 50.

☛ The Anglo-Saxon has been specially fitted up for the comfort and convenience of Passengers.

T. OAKLEY,  
Captain.

Port Perry, 30th June, 1868. 48

## Attempted fire at Paxton's store

*Port Perry Standard: June 25, 1868*

Some person or persons, at present unknown, maliciously applied the torch to the store known as No. 1 on the corner, the property of Thomas Paxton, Esq., M.P.P., during the night of Wednesday, the 17th inst., but luckily without accomplishing the desired effect, in-as-much as it went out before doing any serious damage to the premises.

A letter was received by Mr. Paxton, at the Post Office, the day following, supposed to be written by a female, stating that certain offences are committed there, and threatening, if said offences do not cease, that the attempt will be repeated. Now we trust that the deluded creature, or creatures, male or female, who are guilty of the above, will proceed no further in this direction.

If an offence has been committed, let the proper steps be taken to secure redress, and the law will protect; but, if detected at incendiary the law will punish that severely.

## Little boy drowned while fishing

*Ontario Observer: July 9, 1868*

A boy about seven years of age, the son of William Spence of Port Perry, was drowned in Mr. Joseph Gould's mill pond in Uxbridge on the evening of the 2nd inst. It appears he had been fishing on a log and accidentally fell in; and after vainly struggling to regain his footing, sank to rise no more.

The body was recovered by means of grappling irons about half an hour afterwards. When the usual restorations was applied by Dr. Bolster, but without avail.

## Another steamer on Lake Scugog

*Ontario Observer: July 9, 1868*

On Tuesday last, Captain Elias Rogers made a trial trip of his new boat from Lindsay to Port Perry, which was accomplished very satisfactorily.

She is not as large as the *Anglo Saxon*, nor is she the same construction. The Captain has this time tried his hand on something new, having adopted the large stern wheel, which is driven by two powerful engines. This is similar to the boats so fashionable on the Mississippi. We are as yet unable to say whether this will be an improvement or otherwise. She is named the "Ontario" and when completed will ply between this point and Lindsay.

## Adventurous lad injured

*Ontario Observer: July 9, 1868*

The eldest son of Joseph Shaw, hotel keeper of this place, a little fellow about six years of age, met with a serious accident.

He, in company with another adventurous lad, found his way to the top of Mr. Joseph Bigelow's new block and in trying to walk over the skylight of Mr. Henry McKenzie's Gallery, broke through the glass and fell to the floor below, a distance of 13 feet.

The young lad dislocated his shoulder and fractured the arm bone. The Drs. Richard and George Jones "set" the bone and we are glad to report he is doing as well as can be expected.

## Musical treat coming to Greenbank

*Port Perry Standard: July 16, 1868*

The people of this township are to have a musical treat in a short time, such as few townships in Canada, so far from the frontier cities, have ever enjoyed. The ambitious "little city" of Greenbank, having erected an English Church, intends having a concert and "Feté Champetre", previous to the opening of the same.

The band of the "Thirteenth Hussars" will, by kind permission of Col. Jenyns and the officers of the Regiment, play during the day and at the concert in the evening. During the day the games of Aunt Sally, Croquet, Three throws a Penny, Archery and Cricket, will be played.

At the concert in the evening some of the best amateurs in the County of Ontario, assisted by many lady and gentlemen performers from Toronto, will be present.

The feté will take place on the 31st inst. The particulars will be announced shortly, in large posters. We should recommend the people of the township to look out for a good time: Mr. John Ianson is kindly erecting a Concert Hall for the occasion, capable of seating 500 people.

## Young lad trampled by horse

*Ontario Observer: July 1868*

A lad about nine years of age, the son of Mr. J. White of the 12th concession of Reach, was stepped on by a horse and had several ribs broken one day last week. The little fellow was minding a gap in one of the fields out of which grain was being drawn, and he accidentally fell asleep in the path of the horse and wagon.

## Man dies from sunstroke

*Ontario Observer, July 16, 1868*

We regret having to state that a fatal case of "sunstroke" occurred on Scugog Island on July 14th. The deceased, Robert English, was mowing on Mr. Harper's farm, when he told him he felt dizzy.

A few minutes later he fell to the ground speechless

and expired in less than an hour. The Drs. Richard and George Jones were sent for, but he was dead before they reached him.

The poor man leaves four children, in a cold indifferent world, to mourn the loss of both father and mother.

## Lindsay excursion arrives in the Port

*Port Perry Standard: August 20, 1868*

Port Perry was again visited by one of the largest excursion of the season, on Friday last. The steamers "Anglo Saxon" and "Ontario" were both employed this time, one, with a scow, not being able to afford sufficient accommodation.

As was expected, a large number of the citizens, accompanied by the Lindsay Fire Brigade, participated in the trip. They arrived here at one o'clock, and as many as could be accommodated dined at Joseph Shaw's and Neil Sinclair's, Hotels. The remainder went to James Jewett's hotel in Borelia.

After dinner the places of interest in the locality were visited, when the party started for home. The whole affair was a very pleasant one; and we hope that none will regret their visit on the occasion referred to.

# ~ 1869 ~

## Port Perry Presbyterian Church opens

*Ontario Observer: January 21, 1869*

The Port Perry Presbyterian Church held a social soiree on the 14th inst. The weather was the most favourable that could be desired, in fact had it not been for the thin coating of snow by the road sides, one might easily have compared it to an evening in May.

Scarcely had the sun got to rest when the socialists began to seek their way towards the centre of attraction, some in the aristocratic buggy, or on the bumbling wagon, while those who were "great on the cutter" might be seen trailing up the gutters, but the greets number of us plodded on in plain plebeian style.

When we arrived at the church we found it pretty well filled, while the tables in the basement, four tables all the



*Port Perry's new Presbyterian Church.*

length of the church, were closely packed round by an interesting company.

The Rev. Mr. Cantlon was the first called. His address was chiefly of a congratulator nature. He was followed by Rev. Mr. Windel, who also congratulated the pastor, his people and the villagers on their liberality and enterprise in erecting so handsome and commodious a house wherein to worship the God of their fathers. Rev. Mr. Gibbs was next called, followed by Rev. Mr. Reid and Rev. Mr. Dawson.

The supply of music was excellent; the Whitby choir sung some capital pieces. The church choir did themselves credit and added very much to the pleasure of the entertainment.

Proceeding were brought to a close by the customary votes of thanks followed by the National anthem. We should judge that there were close on 500 people present. We do not know how much was realized but it cannot be less than \$110 whatever more.

The entire cost of the building is \$2,650; to this \$1,300 has already been paid, \$150 more is provided for; the proceeds of the soiree must be about \$120, and the evening following would realize some \$30 or \$40; leaving a debt of \$750 still to provide for.

## Tax on dogs curbs nuisance pests

*Oshawa Vindicator: January 23, 1869*

The much abused dog tax act has been productive of much good. In some municipalities it has effected a radical cure of the dog pest; as for instance in the Township of Scugog, which at one time possessed its proportion of canines.

Now, according to the assessment roll (and of course assessment rolls tell the truth), it does not contain a single specimen of the dog species. The act has exterminated the race. What a delightful place that township must be for invalids and light sleepers!

## Lumber brought to Whitby

*Whitby Gazette, January 25, 1869*

Lumber is being teamed from Port Perry to Whitby – the first that has been brought down for four years.

During that period it has all been taken around by Lindsay and down to Port Hope: but the lumbermen at Port Perry are forced to bring it down, this way, on account of the high tariff on Port Hope Railway.

## Arrival of snow magic for grain

*Ontario Observer: February 15, 1869*

The recent much longed for snow has wrought like magic on the business of the country. From the dull and lifeless state which prevailed all over the country while there was no sleighing, everything sprung into fresh life and vigor with the first flakes of snow, and our village have been kept in a constant hum of sleigh-bells ever since the snow came.

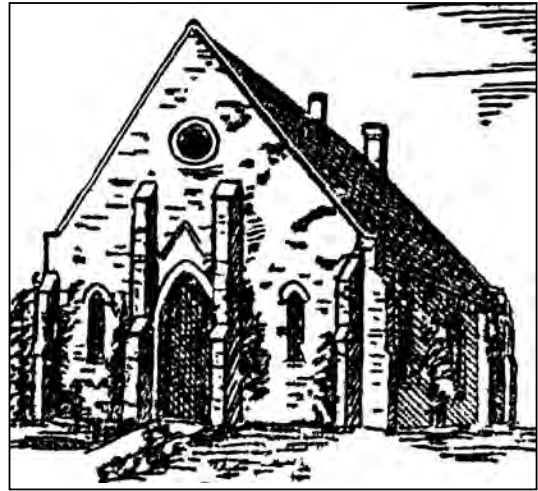
Certainly our industrious farmers have been making the very best of it, and have kept pouring in the grain, cord wood &c., till our storehouses are filled and our years supplied with cord wood.

Perhaps at no previous time in the history of these villages was there ever an equal amount of grain brought

in, in so short a time. Our Manchester friends have been literally flooded with grain, and notwithstanding their vast storage, and hurrying off grain as fast as it could be taken, there was not room enough to receive the grain that came pouring in.

Our Port Perry friends too were actively engaged in exchanging cash for grain with the busy farmers.

Our own village, Prince Albert, has been playing its part nobly in relieving the farmers of the products of their fields. We very much doubt if there is an other establishment in the country that has bought as much grain during the present season as the enterprising firm of Currie & Ross. On Tuesday his firm alone purchased over 4,000 bushels.



*English Church, North St., Port Perry.*

## Anglican Church of Ascension opens

*Ontario Observer: March 4, 1869*

The Church of Ascension – English Church, Port Perry was opened for Divine Service on Sabbath, 28th ult.

As the appointed hour approached, the worshippers began to assemble, and the comfortable little church was prepared to receive them, comfortably warmed up and looking cheerful and cosy.

The interior of the building is well arranged and can seat, we would judge, 200 people comfortably. The style is of the Gothic order, and while there is nothing approaching extravagance, everything is got up tastefully and neat. The windows are in excellent taste; the chancel window is particularly fine. The seats are plain but roomy and comfortable, and when filled up give the congregation a compact appearance from the manner in which they are arranged.

Notwithstanding the difficulty in getting through the snow-banks, a large congregation had assembled ere the hour for service approached, and now anxiously waited the arrival of those whose duty it was to lead the devotions – but owing to the unusually large snowbanks, the clergymen were unable to come in time.

About eleven o'clock the Arch-Deacon of Toronto, and the young pastor, Rev. Robert S. Fournier, entered having battled their way nobly through the snowy mountains. The tall, erect form of the Arch Deacon, his easy, graceful

carriage, combined with an air of superior intelligence, impressed one favourably toward the stranger at the very first glance.

The young pastor conducted the former part of the service, after which the Arch Deacon took the desk and gave out as text.

## **Snow storms close roads, stop mail**

*Ontario Observer: March 4, 1869*

Snow storms have been the order of the day for the past week. An old fashioned snow fall commenced early on Tuesday morning and gave us the benefit of a whole day's snow and bluster, so that when night came on it had left the roads barely passable.

Slight additions were made to the stock day after day till early on Saturday morning, when the blustering February prepared himself for a final struggle and succeeded in giving us such a north-wester as kept the most of us indoors and rendered travelling impossible, by piling up the snow from ten to twelve feet deep on many of our most important highways, thus rendering all transit out of the question.

The Queen's Mail struggled its way northward as far as Brooklin, when it gave up all idea of proceeding further and telegraphed to Prince Albert to that effect, at the same time warning the Southern Mail not to attempt to go south.

However after consideration, by hiring a lot of men to help, and securing the assistance of several teams, and passing through fields and actually carrying the stage over fences and ditches, the mail which was due at noon arrived at 6 p.m.

A variety of disasters befell several of our villagers who attempted to brave the difficulties. One of them had the benefit of a drag through the snow for a quarter of a mile, hanging to the lines. Another on his way home from Utica, where he had been at morning service in the church, had his cutter diminished in size, but increased in number, and himself left to seek his way home as best he could.

And the same party returning from church at Port Perry, in the evening, rolled over the sleigh and the sleigh rolled over him in the most genuine acrobatic style, the sleigh having the best of the encounter. Breaking shafts and destroying harness are regarded as the least of the evils by our busy mechanics.

## **Swing bridge at Lindsay**

*Toronto Globe: March 10, 1869*

A new swing bridge will soon be erected over the Scugog river, south of Lindsay. The total length will be 82 feet, with a span of 44 feet. The superstructure will run on a centre pivot and five friction rollers; and the cost will be about \$2,500.

## **Two horses die frozen in a snowbank**

*Ontario Observer: April 8, 1869*

A farmer named Thorne, residing on Lot 16, first concession of Reach, came into Prince Albert on the afternoon of Friday, 5th inst., with an excellent team of horses worth at least \$250.

When he came to town he was not overly anxious to proceed on his journey, and remained around the village

till night, when he stepped into his sleigh and made for home. He had scarcely got out of the village when he dropped his whip, and in going out to recover it the horses stepped on and left him behind, and having done so, he concluded to let them have their own way of it and let them go on their way rejoicing.

He made his way back to the village and put up for the night. The next day he remained around the village determined, that if the horses did not come and look for him, he would not go and look for them; but as night approached and they did not come, he concluded to make for home.

On arriving at home he found that the team had not yet arrived, so he went comfortably to bed. On Sabbath morning, parties went out to search for the missing team and found the horses lying in a snowbank within forty rods of their own stable, one already frozen to death and the other so far gone that he died shortly after. They had lain in the snowbank from Friday night till Sunday morning.

## **Township of Reach progress**

*Ontario Observer: April 8, 1869*

The steady, onward progress of Reach as a whole in everything which goes to make up the sum total of the well being of a community may be equalled by some township, but we very much question if it is surpassed by any township in the Dominion.

The certain proofs of her moral and intellectual culture may be found in the number and excellence of her schools; the disappearance and almost extinction of the old fashion, miserable little log school house and the erection in their room of large, commodious, comfortable frame buildings.

The rapid advancement in the number and condition of our places of worship is significant, if not of increasing piety at least of increased devotion.

The astonishing increase in the number of our mercantile establishments, and the continued extension of our manufacturing facilities prove conclusively that Reach possess a large amount of both wealth and enterprise.

But rapidly as we are increasing in intelligence, wealth, and enterprise, the amazing increase in our population throws all our other signs of progress completely into the shade.

The various school houses are being extended, added to, multiplied and packed; but still we are not able to keep pace with the rapidly increasing demand; and whole swarms of little ones have to be packed away in our Temperance Halls, Town Halls, and outhouse while additional school accommodations is being provided.

## **Two horses, man break through ice**

*Ontario Observer: April 8, 1869*

On Saturday, 3rd inst., a team in crossing the ice on Scugog lake, hauling a load of maple lumber to Mr. J.B. Lazier's factory, broke through the ice and team, load, driver and all went down. The team shot right under the ice and were both drowned.

The teamster came near being drowned. He had two Indians riding with him on the load when it went down; one of whom ran off immediately at the very top his speed, the other however, remained like a man and helped to





Team of horses hauling logs from the bush.

extricate the teamster from his perilous position. One of the horses belong to Mr. Lazier and the other to the teamster.

## Daring robbery at Port Perry

*Toronto Globe: April 19, 1869*

Some person, unknown at present, forced open the cellar door of Allison's store, apparently with a jack-screw, by putting it against the door, and resting the other end against the steps, which caused the iron staples on the inside to bend and the bar running across the door slipped out.

When they had free access to the cellar, and from thence to the store of John W. Allison, owner of the block, abstracting therefrom twenty-two dollars in silver. They then came back to the cellar again, and up to Allison & Allison's Drug Store, where they took about \$180 in silver, and succeeded in making off with their booty. The robbers did not leave a mark by which they could be followed.

## Bigelow opens new block of stores

*Ontario Observer: April 15, 1869*

The Bigelow Bros. uncovered their handsome new block the other day. This is one of the best, if not the best structure of its kind in the County. It is a substantial brick building with cast iron supports.

The ground flat contains four magnificent stores. The



Joseph Bigelow's Royal Arcade block, Port Perry.

second and third flats are occupied as bank, law and other offices. It is certainly a costly and commodious building; and is creditable to the energy and enterprise of the proprietors.

## Scugog Bridge far from being safe.

*Ontario Observer: May 20, 1869*

This structure suffered terribly in the late floods; in fact it is almost wrecked. The past winter found it in good state of repair; but it has left it in a deplorable condition, so much so that it is very far from being safe, and will require immediate attention and considerable outlay.

The principle upon which this bridge has been constructed is a huge blunder, and after the old rickety concern has cost fifty time more than it is worth, the proper mode of construction will most likely be adopted, then we shall have a proper bridge at a tenth of the expense.

## Thieves make off with valuable booty

*Ontario Observer: July 1, 1869*

A burglary of somewhat extensive character and conduct on principles of the unmitigated impudence was brought to a too successful issue at the Dry Goods establishment of Messrs. W.M. Wightman & Co., of Prince Albert sometime between Saturday and Sunday last.

The parties were evidently indebted much more to their impudence than their skill in accomplishing their work of villainy. In the first place they had gone to Hurd's Washing Machine Factory, at the opposite end of the village, after the workmen had left on Saturday evening, and having armed themselves with a two inch auger, a chisel, a screw driver, a file and a hammer, repaired to the establishment in question and set to work boring an chiseling at the east door leaving the most awkward marks and scratches.

From the stupid way in which they had gone about it, if they had not gone to the north door and succeeded in forcing an entrance by brute force, they might have been boring and chiseling away till now, plainly showing that the thieves knew nothing of the mechanic art. Once in however they new enough to empty the till and were quite expert in stealing such pieces of value and other expensive goods as contained the greatest amount of value in the space. They carried off a valuable booty.

## Two boys drown in overturned boat

*Ontario Observer: July 7, 1869*

It becomes our painful duty to record the death by drowning of two intelligent promising boys on the afternoon of the 30th ult.

The two boys were aged 10 and 7 years respectively, residents of Nonquon, the former being a son of Mr. Palmer Car, and the latter a son of Mr. Jesse Ireland. It appears that the two boys went out on the afternoon in question and had gone down to the Nonquon River, unfastened a boat and got into it, and by some means or other the boat must have upset and thrown its occupants into the water.

They had only been a short time from home, but no one saw them go, nor know of their being there. Someone passing near the place, saw the boat, bottom up,

floating upon the water and in righting it, the oars and hat of one of the boys were found beneath it. A little further from the shore the two boys were found.

A couple of days before the two little fellows were actively engaged in their Sunday School anniversary. The boys were very much thought of by the whole neighbourhood, and their untimely death has cast a gloom of sorrow over the whole locality. The funeral took place on the 2nd inst, at the same church where they had been taking part in the anniversary only four days before.

## Mother, daughter drown after being throw from boat in rough water

*Ontario Observer: July 22, 1869*

It becomes our painful duty to chronicle the death by drowning of Ann Cornish, aged 30 years and her child aged three years. It appears that on Friday last, Miss Mary Aldridge and Ann Cornish with a child of the latter attempted to cross the lake from the village of Caesarea to Scugog Island, a distance of about two miles.

A man named Gregson undertook to row them across, and all committed themselves to the treacherous trip. The lake was found to be much rougher than they expected and when about a mile from shore the women became alarmed and suddenly rose from their seats, this as a matter of course upset the boat and threw its occupants into the water.

Two men named John Watson and James Demara were in a boat near the shore at the time of the disaster, and hearing the cries coming from the capsized boat, immediately pulled for the spot. They fortunately arrived in time to rescue Miss Aldridge as she rose to the surface for the last time.

Mr. Gregson was found clinging to the bottom of the capsized boat and was rescued, but Ann Cornish and her child had disappeared under the water and were nowhere to be seen.

Had it not been for the energy displayed by Watson and Demara, the chances are that at least one additional name would have been added in the mournful catalogues of the drowned. Miss Aldridge must have perished, but for the timely relief afforded by her rescuers, and even Gregson would have had a hard struggle to get ashore alive.

## Business changes in Prince Albert

*Ontario Observer: August 19, 1869*

Our village (Prince Albert) has been the scene of more than ordinary activity and bustle during the past two or three weeks, in consequence of several of our active and enterprising merchants enlarging their premises. Mr. Joshua Wright having moved his boot and shoe business to his own large and commodious premises, opposite Scott's Hotel.

Capt. Archibald Sinclair finding that his large and steadily increasing business required a still further enlargement of his premises, had that first class store, which Mr. Wright left, thoroughly fitted up and moved his business into that establishment, where he now has decidedly one of the largest and best stocks and the best place of business of the kind in the County.

Mr. Elijah Cash, being hampered for room, to meet the requirements of his extending business took advantage



*Joshua Wright residence, Prince Albert.*

of Capt. Sinclair's removal, overhauled the premises and move his business, where he now has opened out a large and excellent stock of Groceries, Provisions, &c.

Mr. James McConnell, proprietor of the premises, is now fitting up and extending the store which Mr. Cash left, where he intends to enlarge and extend his business of Merchant Tailor, as well as his Dry Goods and Grocery establishment.

## Supper held for Palmer Bigelow

*Ontario Observer: August 19, 1869*

Palmer Bigelow, Esq., of the firm of Bigelow Bros., Port Perry, finding that the confinement incident to the life of a dry goods merchant was unsuitable to his constitution had made up his mind to leave this section of country for a time, and see in the United States a change of climate and of occupation.

On the eve of his departure, 15th inst., he was entertained by a large number of gentlemen from Manchester, Borelia, Port Perry and Prince Albert to a complimentary supper at the Royal Canadian Hotel, Port Perry.



*Palmer Bigelow*

The chair was taken at 9 o'clock and supper served up in such style as did credit to the taste and skill of Mine Host Henry Foy and his good lady.

The clothing have been removed the standing Loyal and Patriotic toasts were given with warmth and earnestness, given by Wm. M. Cochrane, Prosper A. Hurd, Hubert L. Ebbels, Drs. Richard Jones and Allison and Messers. James Emaney and George U. White.

Few young men succeed so well in gain and securing the respect and esteem of all with whom he becomes associated, as Mr. Bigelow has done. Best wishes of a very large circle of friends accompany him to the new sphere which he has selected while his removal from amounts us is a source of universal regret.

Mine Host and Hostess of the Royal Canadian – Mr. Henry Foy and his wife Almeda did themselves and their house a credit – and show that they are the right parties in the right place, by the very excellent and well got up supper furnished by them on this occasion.

## Wesleyan Church dedicated

*Ontario Observer: September 30, 1869*

The Wesleyan Church at the Indian Village, Scugog,

was dedicated to Divine Service on Sunday, 26th inst. The weather was most unfavorable and the consequence was that very many were denied the privilege of being present to take part in the pleasing exercises. As it was some 300 people assembled, but there would at least have been as many more had the day been more pleasant.

Rev. Mr. Jeffers conducted the services morning and afternoon. The services were solemn and impressive and it was particularly interest to hear the Indians sing and take an active part in the services.

The festival was held on Monday. It was still cold and disagreeable but fair; and the number from a distance was still much less than it would have been under more favorable circumstance.

The steamship "Ontario" left the wharf at Port Perry at one o'clock on a trip to the Indian Village, and took 90 to the festival. Having landed at their destination it ran across to Hoover's Landing and brought over 60 more. Teas was sever at two o'clock and the Company retired to the Church at five o'clock.

Services were opened by the Rev. Mr. Reid giving out a hymn which was afterwards read in the Indian language by Mr. Johnston, and sung by a 100 strong Indian choir in their native tongue. Indians from Mara, Snake Island, Rice Lake, Mud Lake and Alderville were among those to take part.

## Complimentary supper for Dr. Jones

*Ontario Observer: October 21, 1869*

A large number of friends and acquaintances of George W. Jones, M.D., entertained that gentleman at a public supper on the evening of the 15th inst., in the Royal Canadian Hotel, Port Perry, on the occasion of his leaving this country to take up his adobe in the Western States.

Thomas Paxton, Esq., M.P.P., occupied the chair supported on the right by the guest of the evening, and on the left by Mr. James Emaney. The part was a most comfortable one some 50 or 60 seated around such a supper as mine host of the Royal Canadian know of how to get up. The abundant justice had been done to the good things provided, the cloth was removed and the chairman gave in good style the customary loyal toasts.

Mr. William Scott of the Victoria Hotel, Prince Albert, did the honors for the army, navy and volunteers, and did them handsomely. Major Forman replied in behalf of the volunteers, Capt. Sinclair for the navy, and Mr. Emaney for the army, and Mr. White sung an appropriate song.

Dr. Jones career amongst us has been a most prosperous one. He came into this locality some years ago a perfect stranger, and unusually young for a professional man; but his superior talent and skill in his profession, his very marked success as a practitioner, his frank and courteous manner, brought him an extensive and lucrative practice.



*Dr. George W. Jones*

## Embankment a danger to travellers

*Ontario Observer: December 16, 1869*

There are few spots in the township which offer equal facilities for wholesale slaughter, to that spot on the Centre

Road nearly opposite to Beare's Mill south of Greenbank.

Should any unfortunate traveler get over the embankment, all that would be left of horse, vehicle, or driver would scarcely be worth picking up.

We have frequently called the attention of our township fathers to this spot, and described, with all the pathos of our command, the superior facilities which it offers for getting rid of the ills, or in some frightened horse to try the strength of his own and his driver's neck.

We admit that no one has gone over it so far, but this is not for want of a capital opportunity for a first rate leap. But when it does come, it will be once too often, and the corporation will be called upon to foot the bill.

## Lindsay locks and dam in bad shape

*Lindsay Expositor: December 23, 1869*

During the summer instructions were given to examine the condition of the Lindsay Lock and Dam, so as to ascertain the cost of repairing the same. It had been represented that the restoration of these works would be of great advantage to the adjacent Counties of Ontario and Victoria.

By the expenditure of \$21,000, these works can be put in good order and the navigation of the Scugog River improved. As this work is at present under the control of the Public Works of the Dominion of Canada, being a portion of the Trent Navigation works, it will be necessary before any expenditure be made, to make application to the Dominion Government for the transfer of the work, and also for the control of the Scugog River.

## Fire destroys house on Christmas Eve

*Ontario Observer: December 30, 1869*

Prince Albert had an exhibition, on Christmas Eve, of that sometimes devastating element, Fire; and the probabilities at one time were in favour of a big fire.

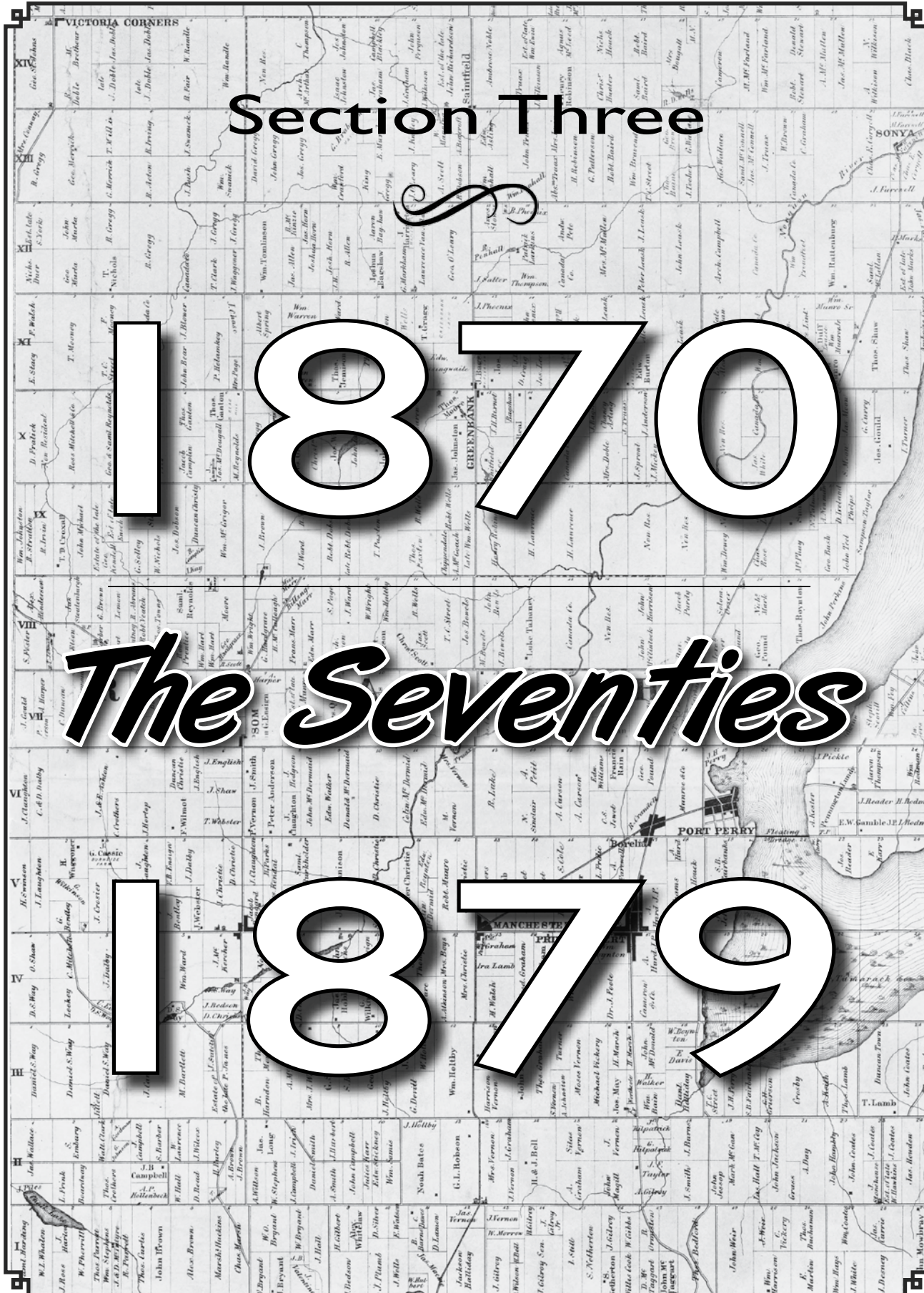
About seven o'clock in the evening, a small house on King Street, opposite the Post Office, was observed to be on fire and the doors were found to be all fast, the family having gone to visit at a neighbours house. The alarm bell soon collected the inhabitants of this and the neighbouring villages, who went to work with characteristic zeal to grapple with the devouring element and succeeded, almost miraculously in saving the fine residence of Squire Abner Hurd, and other valuable buildings.

The high estimation in which the Squire and his good lady are held throughout this whole section of country, nerved the arms of those who fought on nobly to save their residence.

The house in which the fire originated with nearly all it contained, was a heap of burning coal within a couple of hours from the time when it was first observed to be on fire. The fire is said to have originated about the stove pipe or chimney. People out to be cautious in leaving their houses with large fires in the stoves.

Amongst those who distinguished themselves by their activity and daring, the name of Mr. Liule, Borelia, deserves a prominent position. He took his position on the very peak of the building, the most exposed and dangerous position, and rendered capital service in saving the buildings.





Section Three

1870

The Seventies

1879

George C. Tremaine's map of Reach Township, 1860.

# The Seventies

~ 1870 ~

## Report on Reach Township schools

*Ontario Observer: January 27, 1870*

The schools of Reach for the half-year ending 31st December, 1869. The half year's grant to the 19 schools is \$750, appropriated to each school in proportion to the attendance.

It will be seen that Section No. 8 gets nearly one-fourth of the whole grant, an amount apparently out of all proportion, but it must be remembered that there are really four schools in that section, beside the Grammar School; so that the grant will have to be divided into four parts.

Sections No's. 5, 6, and 7 get the next larger portions of the grant, but Section 7 had two assistants, and Sections 6 and 5 had one each; the other section have only one teacher each.

We find that on every school day during the past six months there were 800 of the children of Reach in attendance at our schools.

Below are the School Sections, the Aggregate Attendance, and Amount of Apportionment:

School Section	Attendance	Apportionment
1. Chalk Lake	1694	\$13.78
2. Jas. Vernon's	2326	\$18.96
3. Cedar Creek	3436	\$28.35
4. East Settlement	2017	\$16.41
5. Utica	8267	\$67.18
6. Manchester	6165	\$66.38
7. Prince Albert	8397	\$68.28
8. Port Perry	22420	\$181.70
9. Purdy's	2678	\$21.80
10. Epsom	4478	\$36.40
11. Barber's	3196	\$26.40
12. Greenbank	5559	\$45.15
13. Shaw's	2462	\$20.02
14. Sonya	1664	\$43.53
15. Saintfield	5463	\$44.38
16. Victoria Corners	3511	\$28.97
17. Nonquon	1870	\$15.05
18. Campbell's	1053	\$8.57
19. Spring's	3485	\$28.70
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	92120	\$750.00



*Typical one-room school of the 1800s.*

There were 26 teachers employed during the past year – 19 principal teachers and 7 assistants. viz: – 3 at Port Perry, 2 at Prince Albert, 1 at Utica and 1 at Manchester. There were in all 15 males and 14 females.

Total amount of salaries for male teachers was \$4,915.00, or \$328.00 on average. Total amount of salaries for female teachers was \$1,793.00 or \$163.00 each on average.

Total cost of schools was \$8,300.00. Of this there was \$650.00 for building, so that the actual expense of running our 19 schools was \$7,650.00. The average attendance during the years was 900, consequently it cost the township \$8.50 for the education of each child who attended school during the whole year.

Had the average attendance been twice as large, it would have cost no more, because teachers are hired to teach all the children in the sections; the same amount of firewood and all other expense are required for the hall.

The unusual length and disagreeable nature of the late harvest season, acted injuriously on the attendance during the past half year, and especially is this true of the rural section.

The township of Reach has done nobly during the past year. Section No. 4 have shown their liberality by erecting a capital school house, and Sec. No. 7 have built a large and valuable addition to their school house. Sec. No. 8 took possession of an additional building and are again in want of further accommodations.

## PW & PP Railway leased

*Ontario Observer: February 12, 1870*

Mr. John Fowler, of railway notoriety, is again coming to the front in the railway matters. In a letter to the Northern Light, he states that he is about to lease the Port Whitby and Port Perry Railroad for a term of 25 years, at



an annual rent of \$15,000, paid half-yearly in advance.

The Company to put on at least \$40,000 worth of rolling stock, and have the road in running order by the 1st day of August next. The offer has not yet been acted upon by the Company, further than the appointment of a committee to confer with Mr. Fowler on the subject.

Since writing the above, we learn that a bargain has been closed with Mr. Fowler, who leases the road for \$25 years at \$16,500 per annum.

## **Request PW&PP station between Manchester and Prince Albert**

*Ontario Observer: March 17, 1870*

It will be seen, that the inhabitants of Manchester are putting forth a laudable effort to have the route of the P.W.&P.P. railway so changed as to bring it between the villages of Manchester and Prince Albert. We should judge that such a move will meet with the hearty approval of nine out of every ten of the ratepayers, while a vast majority of the stockholders must certainly regard the change with much satisfaction.

A station between Manchester and Prince Albert will accommodate all the West, the greater portion of the North, all the South, the Centre, and a large portion of the East of the township. This would be the chief station of Reach, at least for passengers, expressed goods, and the lighter description of freight. Around this would gather the grain buyers and a very large business would be done in grain.

The Port Perry station would be the lumber station, and thus the business of the road would be managed much more profitably, and with less confusion to passengers or damage to light goods. Besides it will be so much more convenient for passengers to get off at this central station that it would be to carried to Port Perry, and then have to seek their way to their destination.

Thirty thousand dollars is a handsome bonus, and it is as little as the Company can do, at least to place the line where it will best accommodate the township.

## **Snowfall closes churches to services**

*Ontario Observer: March 31, 1870*

This section of country has had another first-class snow storm. It commenced on Saturday night and by Sunday morning it had made such a mess of everything, and continued to fall so fast that going to church was entirely out of the question.

The roads were completely blocked up, and the blinding snow continued to fall so thick that one could scarcely cut his way through it. The consequence was that none of our churches was run on that day, and Monday was almost a universal holiday, so far at least as keeping within doors goes towards making a holiday.

All intercourse with the outside world was suspended and our uniformly stirring village looked somewhat melancholy in its universal white draper. It is sincerely to be hoped that our magnificent supply of snow may pass away gradually; should it leave us anything approaching the speed at which it came, precious few of our dams could bear up against the flood.

## **Reach desire change of railway route**

*Ontario Observer: March 31, 1870*

The good folks of Manchester and neighbourhood being desirous to have the route of the P.W.&P.P. Railway so changed as to bring the line between Manchester and Prince Albert, and having obtained the consent of the contractor and the acquiescence of the Directors accompanied by a pledge that the required change would be made if a line as good as the one they now have can be got. The contractor to be indemnified for any addition expense the change may occasion.

On the strength of these an attempt was made at the late meeting of the township council to get the municipally to make the survey; but the attempt not proving successful, the people of the village and neighbourhood contributed funds sufficient to cover the expense of the survey.

They next went to work and employed John Shier, Esq., C.E. to survey the line, several of the parities concerned turning out to assist, and after a week's laborious plodding through snowdrifts the line has been carefully run, and is said to be a capital one, very much better than the one now selected.

## **Man injured when thrown from buggy**

*Ontario Observer: May 19, 1870*

A somewhat serious runaway took place on Marsh's Hill, south of Prince Albert, on Monday, 16th inst. It appears that a young man named Holmes, was driving Mrs. DeGeer and her daughter, a little girl, intending to take the to the cars at Oshawa.

In going down Marsh's Hill the young man took off his hat and waved it as a signal of acknowledgement to some parties he saw standing near to Mr. Marsh's house. It being a colt he was driving, it made a bolt as he swung the hat. The young man jerked suddenly on the lines and bringing up the colt suddenly he broke one of the side straps, which caused him to give a sudden lurch to one side.

This threw the young man out, breaking one leg under the knee and factoring the ankle of the other. The next bound upset the buggy, throwing the women and child into the ditch, bruising the woman somewhat severely, but the child escaped unhurt.

The services of Dr. Francis H. Brathwaite was called in; the young man is progressing favourably.

## **Excursion on Lake Scugog**

*Ontario Observer: May 1870*

The steamboat *Ontario* and the *Anglo Saxon* with her large scow attached picked up 300 from the dock for an excursion and went steaming o'er the lake, entertained by the Port Perry Brass Band.

## **Weir's Steam Saw Mill destroyed**

*Ontario Observer: June 9, 1870*

The excellent Weir's Steam Saw Mill, on the 7th Conc. of Reach was completely destroyed by fire Friday morning last. The mill was in capital working order, the machinery was excellent, being recently renewed at considerable expense. Over \$1,000 worth of lumber also fell prey to the flames. The loss must be considerable and no insurance. Universal sympathy is felt for the enterprising proprietor.

## Drowned after falling overboard

*Toronto Globe: June 27, 1870*

A sad case of drowning occurred on Saturday, which marred the pleasure of an excursion party from Raglan that left here for Lindsay by the steamer *Anglo Saxon*. All went well until the return, when about six miles from Lindsay, two men named Richard O'Boyle and William Jamieson were drowned in the Scugog River.

They had indulged too freely and were leaning against the board closing up the gangway, they had been warned repeatedly to keep away as it was not safe, then the bolts gave way, precipitating them into the water backwards, and before any assistance could reach them they sank to rise no more.

By the time a rescue was attempted, only one remained struggling to keep above the water. After struggling for some time he also sank to rise no more.

One of the hands on the steamship jumped in and was able to recover Mr. Jamieson, but could not find O'Boyle. The body of O'Boyle was not found until the following morning.

## Cemetery requires maintenance

*Ontario Observer: August 4, 1870*

The silent homes of our Pine Grove Cemetery are being rapidly tenanted, the young the middle aged and the aged are hurrying in.

We were there on Tuesday last when two additional occupants were deposited there, one had seen the season come and go 71 times, while the other had only seen four summers. Thus two more are left in that peaceful abode where the weary are at rest; where the storms and tempests sweep over them, where no sound shall break their slumber, or strife disturb their calm repose.

A couple of days pen in trimming up this sacred spot would have a capital effect. The grass should be neatly cut, and the rapidly increasing host of profane thistles which rear aloft their impious heads should every one of them be levelled with the ground and burned up.

By cutting the long and tangled grass the appearance of the Bed Chamber of the dear departed ones will not only be much improved, but people would then see to walk on the proper paths, and not as now, stumble over the couches of the sleepers. Let the proper parties see that this is done; the silent inhabitants cannot tidy their own beds, let us do it for them; others may soon have to perform a like service for us.

## Port Perry purchased new fire engine

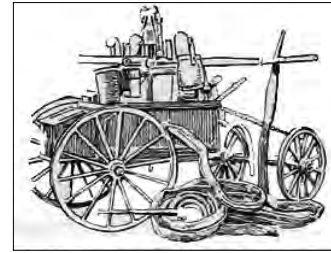
*Ontario Observer: August 25, 1870*

We are pleased to learn that the enterprising villagers of Port Perry have procured an excellent fire engine for the use of that village. This is highly creditable to the energy and liberality of the parties concerned. A fire engine is a great desideratum in any village, but indispensable to a village which is increasing and filling up as Port Perry is doing.

## Boynton's barn destroyed by fire

*Ontario Observer: September 1870*

The useful but unwelcome sound of the fire-bell again rang throughout our village on the evening of the 13th,



*Hand pump fire engine of the 1860-70s.*

and on turning out it was found that the barn of Mr. R. Boynton, half-a-mile south of the village, was already enveloped in flames. The fire busting forth in every direction and licking up everything which came within its reach.

All hands went to work with a will and notwithstanding the proximity of the two barns – being only a few feet apart – one of them was saved, but not without the utmost exertion of many willing hands.

That the fire was the work of an incendiary cannot be doubted for a moment – not a devilish one we admit, but one nearly as guilty, a foolish and reckless one who could not deny himself, even for a short time, the pleasing doors of the abominable weed tobacco. (Full report in "Fires")

## Legal decision on Scugog Bridge

*Ontario Observer: September 27, 1870*

The council of the township of Reach met on Saturday, 22 inst. The Reeve submitted the following important document from the Hon. M.C. Cameron regarding the Scugog Bridge.

Mr. Cameron's case: The Township of Reach is separated from the Township of Scugog, which latter is an Island, by Scugog Lake. The County Council of Ontario, in 1856 by by-law on condition of having the control of certain moneys provided by the Corporation of Scugog and certain private parties assumed the work of building a bridge across an arm of the lake.

The work was completed and remained under the management and control of the County council until the session of the Council held in June last, when a by-law was passed repealing the by-law of 1856 with a view of imposing the burden of maintaining the bridge upon the local municipalities.

The Township of Scugog was formed out of parts of the townships of Reach and Cartwright. Scugog was not always surrounded by water, but was nearly so, and became an Island a very great many years ago before the year 1856; and where the bridge so built now is, there was a stream or creek, which by permanent obstructions has been caused overflow its banks and make the township of Scugog and Island.

By the municipal corporations act of 1866, Section 341, as also by the municipal corporations' act consolidated statutes of Upper Canada there repealed, it is provided "that the County Council shall have exclusive jurisdiction over all roads and bridges lying within any township of the County, and which the County by-law assumes as a County work or bridge until the by-law has been repealed, and over all bridges across streams separating two townships in the County."

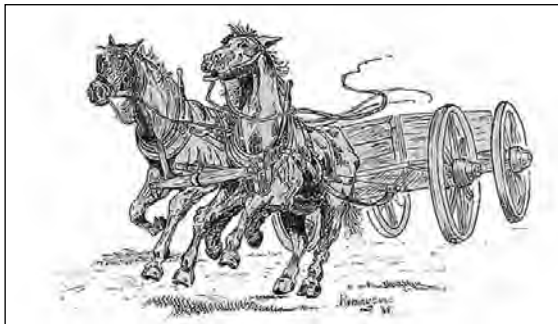
## Ontario Cty. responsible for upkeep and repairs to Scugog Bridge

*Ontario Observer: September 27, 1870*

Our readers will find in the proceedings of the Reach Council, of the session of Saturday, as given elsewhere, a copy of the written opinion of Hon. M.C. Cameron on the responsibility of the County for the maintenance of the Scugog Bridge.

The learned council states that the County Council must keep the bridge in repair and should they fail to do so, they may be indicted, so that the repudiating by-law is not worth the paper on which it is written.

This famous by-law does not even require to be quashed, it is so flagrantly illegal that it falls to pieces by its own weight. Our representatives at the County Council warned the promoters of the repudiate measure against the folly of any such attempt, but it was no use, the by-law must be launched, sink or swim, and sink it has, and that most effectually.



*Runaway horses were always a danger.*

## Young man run over by wagon dies

*Ontario Observer: October 6, 1870*

It becomes our painful duty to record the violent death of one of our most estimable young men, William Stonehouse – second son of Mrs. John Stonehouse, at an early age of 19 years.

Deceased at the time of the accident was in the act of hauling sand for the erection of a Primitive Methodist Church upon the sit of the old School House in School Section 4, Reach.

He had occasion to put a barrel on the load, and this so frightened the horses that they started to run and deceased, in endeavouring to get hold of the lines, slipped and fell and the wagon passed over him, breaking his right thigh bone in two places, while one wheel ran right across his body, just under the region of the heart.

A party driving past shortly after the accident found the young man and had him taken home to his father's house. Dr. John E. Ware of this place was immediately sent for, and arriving with all possible dispatch, did everything which medial skill could do for the youthful suffer, but no power could save him. The die was cast, death had claimed him for his want and would not let go his hold.

The accident took place between five and six in the evening and the suffer survived the accident about six hours; he was quite sensible the greater part of the time and spoke kindly to those around.

## Man shot while out duck hunting

*Ontario Observer: November 3, 1870*

We are pained to have to record the violent death of Isaac Fenton, a resident of this place. It appears that the deceased and several others had gone out on the shore of Lake Scugog for the purpose of duck shooting.

While one of the party, Mr. T. St. John was in the act of pulling the trigger upon some ducks, deceased suddenly raised himself bringing his head within range of the gun and received the shot in the left temple, which carried away the greater part of it and scatter his brains over the bank.

During an inquest, it was learned that a flock of ducks came along and Mr. Love fired first, Dr. C.E. Knowlys was next to fire and before the smoke from his gun cleared away he heard a shot to his right and saw a hat flying toward the lake.

Mr. St. John exclaimed immediately "My God I've killed Fenton," and he was seen running up and down the beach and Fenton leaning against the bank on his right side with the blood running from his left temple. Dr. Knowlys immediately examined Fenton and pronounced it at once a fatal wound.

~ **1871** ~

## Registrar wants birth, death records

*Ontario Observer: January 12, 1871*

We are instructed by Mr. Christie, Township Clerk, once more to notify all concerned, clergymen, physicians, parents, &c., who may have neglected to comply with the conditions of the Act requiring the registration of births, marriages and deaths, that if full returns be not made on or before Saturday, 14th inst., delinquents will subject themselves to penalties prescribed by law.

Mr. Christie must make up his returns to the department by Monday, 16th inst., and if parties refuse to make the necessary returns, the only course left for him, as Division Register, it to take proceedings against delinquents as the law directs.

Parties who may have neglected to return any births, marriages or deaths will do well to attend to this matter at once, and not subject themselves to the somewhat heavy fines which the law imposes and which must be inflicted if proceedings are taken. A word to the wise is sufficient.

## Wheat sales keep merchants busy

*Ontario Observer: February 16, 1871*

The grain buyers of Manchester and Prince Albert have had a busy time of it since our last report; some forty or fifty thousand bushels of wheat alone must have been purchased during that time, and at prices highly remunerative to the grower. We hope that the purchase may prove equally profitable to the buyers.

The prices for Spring hovered between \$1.30 and \$1.40, nearly touching the latter price on one or two days. There are few, if any, better grain markets in the Province, and farmers in general know this, and act accordingly.

## Fire brought under control

*Ontario Observer: March 9, 1871*

The denizens of Prince Albert and the neighbouring villages were not a little startled on Sabbath evening last, when just about the time of opening evening services, the unwelcome clatter of the fire bell rang throughout our peaceful village.

The Port Perry bell soon joined the alarm and the villagers with their accustomed energy, repaired to the spot with a moment's delay. It was found that the fire was in the loft of Mr. James Emaney's stable, convenient to his carriage factory.

Flames had already burst through the roof, but the combined effort of a number of energetic men soon subdued the flame and extinguished it, ere it had done much damage.

Had the fire gained the mastery and caught the carriage factory it would have made great destruction.

## Capt. Bigelow on the Anglo-Saxon

*Ontario Observer: March 20, 1871*

The community will be pleased to learn from Capt. Joseph Bigelow, that the gentleman has resumed command of the *Anglo Saxon* steambot, that safe and comfortable little craft. By opening of navigation she will commence her regular trips and engage in towing, carrying freight, passengers with dispatch and at moderate rates.

Capt. Palmer Bigelow requires no recommendation at our hands, his attention, promptitude and affability during the time he has been on these waters secured for him the esteem and respect of all concerned.

The traffic, passenger and freight between Port Perry, Lindsay, Bobcaygeon, Fenelon and other ports has been rapidly increasing for several seasons. We wish out little crafts a prosperous and profitable season.

## First steamer at Lindsay's new locks

*Ontario Observer, April 1871*

The first steamer passed through the new locks at Lindsay on April 20, with a large number of people watching. The work will form a most interesting and important link in the chain connecting Port Perry with the back waters.

## Should be called "Mud Street"

*Ontario Observer: April 1871*

"We found the now celebrated Scugog Bridge lying too much like a hulk which had just passed through a hurricane, its bulwarks torn, twisted and broken in



*Illustration of mud covered roads stages had to travel on.*

every conceivable way. That which had not been swept overboard, lay prostrate on the deck, partially obstructing the passage, while the rickety old timbers squeaked and grated at every step of the ponies.

On our way home we passed through Port Perry, along Water Street, but found it a fearful misnomer, unless mud and water are considered synonymous terms. We found it to be Mud Street with a vengeance, parts of this would be Water Street being from 3 to 4 feet deep, of the most abominable mud, tuft as putty, and as nasty as could be imagined.

We should judge that the mud on this street is almost as deep as the water in the lake.

Getting through Water Street and passing up the hill from Port Perry to Borelia, we found the entire hill, which had been so savagely summer-fallowed last fall, in a perfect uproar, cut up and dug in every possible way.

The bottoms of the vehicles resting on the mud had prevented the wheels from sinking completely out of sight, but the axles had dragged the mud out of its place, and gave the road much more the appearance of a gutter than a summer-fallow or a road."



*Steamship Victoria.*

## Excursion accidents on back lakes

*Toronto Globe: May 27, 1871*

Yesterday the steamer *Ogemah* ran with a very large excursion party from Peterboro through Bobcaygeon to Lindsay, returning in the evening. Owing to the quantities of smoke laying over the waters from the fires in the woods, the boat left the proper channel at a point half way between Pigeon and Chemong Lakes and grounded with about three hundred excursionists on board.

In endeavouring to put out an anchor to draw here off the windlass, one of the boat hands named Andrew Ray was drowned by the upsetting of the small boat in which he, with another man went out with the anchor.

The steams was hauled off at six o'clock in the morning by the steamer *Victoria* and proceeded to Bridgewater with the party. The steamer *Champion*, from Fenelon Falls to Lindsay, with excursionist spring a leak in Sturgeon Lake. Her passengers were transferred to the steamer *Commodore* from Bobcaygeon, also with excursionists, and it is no reported that the *Champion* has sunk to her promenade deck at Sturgeon Point. Ray's body has not yet been recovered.

## Steamer Victoria burned at Lindsay

*Toronto Globe: June 27, 1871*

The steamer *Victoria* was burned last Saturday evening

at the lower railroad wharf in the town of Lindsay. The origin of the fire is unknown. Considerable personal property belonging to the captain and hands was lost. The loss is estimated at from \$10,000 to \$12,000. The steamer is owned by Mr. N. Shaw of Peterboro and was in charge of Capt. Ross.

## Man drowns swimming across lake

*Toronto Globe: June 27, 1871*

A man named Powers, bricklayer, was drowned in the Scugog river on Saturday afternoon last. The deceased attempted to swim across the river in order to reach home, but was drowned in the attempt. His body was recovered Saturday morning.

## Lucky to escape injury in accident

*Ontario Observer: July 6, 1871*

One of our most respected townsmen, Mr. Thomas Martin, had a narrow escape from death on Monday last. In the performance of his statue labour he was sent to draw gravel from the pit on the Centre Road on the hill north of Manchester.

He had just turned in his wagon and commenced to load when the overhanging bank gave way and came down with a fearful crash chiefly on the hind-end of the wagon. Fortunately Mr. Martin happened to be at the forward end at the time, so that though knocked down by the falling earth and held fast for a time, he was not materially injured; but the wag was crushed beneath the ponderous weight.

The two hind wheels and the nigh fore one were literally crushed to pieces, and the hind iron axel broken. The township ought to indemnify Mr. Martin for the loss of his wagon. He lost his wagon and came nearly losing his life, but it was no fault of his.

## Orangemen and circus in town

*Toronto Globe, July 12, 1871*

The celebration pointing to the memory of the momentous events which closed with this day 181 years ago, was held a Port Perry, in which most of the lodges in the Reach District took part.

Several members from lodges outside of the District were also present; but after all, the number present was far from being large, but they made a fine appearance as they arrived, and one was led to expect a pleasant time.

The martial sounds of the fife and drum, mingling with more stately music of the Reach Band, and also that of the Port Perry Band, together with the dashing colors and the crowded streets, seemed all to promise that the glorious memories of this important day were about to receive a becoming celebration.

The villagers had done their part nobly in lending éclat to the occasion. Several beautiful arches had been erected, large number of appropriate banners were fluttering in the morning breeze; the colors of the day and that flag to which all take off their hats – the Union Jack – were floating side by side in all direction., and the village had on its best attire.

Nature too was lavish in her offerings; for the day was one of the finest which could be desired—but here we have said all; for the day was a failure, an

absolute failure as far as a genuine, profitable Orange demonstration is concerned. It were better, we should judge, that no attempt had been made.

Shortly after coming into the village the various lodges broke up and every attempt at again mustering the forces failed though many of the officers, did their very best to accomplish it.

A circus party learning of the celebration came to the village on the same day and irretrievably broke up the celebration and deprived the Brethern and others of the very essence of such a day.

That pleasant, enjoyment – sailing on the lake – was in full blast. The *Anglo Saxon* has now become a household word in this entire section of the country; and one who takes a trip once with Capt. Joseph Bigelow, is anxious to repeat it at the earliest opportunity.

This was a gala day with shows and their surroundings, ginger beer and lemonade men, whose sweet voices mingled with the harmonious notes of the roaring throng. What with men and serpents, little women 23 lbs. weight, and boys of 14 years 350 lbs., legless and handless men and hairy women, the follower of the big Circus were rather formidable.

The combination Circus and Menagerie were very good - the circus performance was capital, the bare-back riding was decidedly the best we ever saw.

## Woman trampled by cow

*Ontario Observer: July 12, 1871*

In the early part of last week, Mrs. Masters, Manchester, one of our most thrifty and industrious inhabitants met with a very serious – at one time thought fatal.

It appears that she went out about five in the morning to milk her cows and before commencing gave them something to eat, and while she was milking a great hog came along and sought to drive the cow from her feed. In the contest Mrs. Masters was thrown down and the cow – a large animal – trampled upon her with all her weight bruising her badly in many places and fracturing several of her ribs, the splinters entering her lungs.

Her husband hearing the confusion hastened to her rescue, found her unconscious and the cow standing, with her two fore feet on her breast. She was immediately carried into the house and Dr. Martin being brought with all possible speed, did all that skill could do for his then unconscious patient.



*Orange Celebration ad July 1871.*



On examination be found that several of her ribs were badly broken and dangerous bruises sustained on other parts of the body. Superior skill and unremitting attention have so far succeeded in warding off fatal results and the patient is now as well as could be expected. Her improved condition is a source of thankfulness by her family and causes a feeling of satisfaction throughout the entire neighborhood.

## First steam engine for Prince Albert

*Ontario Observer: August 1, 1871*

The village of Prince Albert is regarded by the most competent judges to be one of the most pleasantly situated, healthful villages in the Province, and a most desirable place for a residence; but it lacks in one important particular – manufacturing facilities.

Heretofore we have never had a steam engine within the precincts of the village, and the necessity for more extended manufactures was beginning, to make itself felt when one of our enterprising townsmen, Joshua Wright, Esq., stepped forward and got us a noble example by putting up in his set the first steam engine ever put up in the village.

Mr. Wright has got a capital engine, twenty horse power boiler, will be found a desirable acquisition to business and we have no doubt but that his enterprise will meet with a suitable recompense.

We hope that his worthy example will soon be followed by others until the cheerful, though not over musical whistle, be heard all around our village.

## Young boy injured in fall from timbers

*Ontario Observer: August 8, 1872*

We regret to learn that Robert Moggridge, and active intelligent boy of about eight years of age, and only son of Mrs. Moggridge, of the Anglo-American Hotel, Prince Albert, met with a severe accident on the afternoon of the 6th inst.

It appears that this boy in company with several others were playing around the timbers and boards behind Mr. George Currie's store when slipping on the timbers he fell breaking his thigh bone badly. Dr. J.E. Ware was immediately called and attended to the young sufferer setting the limb and otherwise administering to his case.

## Prince Albert drill shed under attack

*Ontario Observer: August 22, 1872*

One of the most glaring acts of vandalism ever attempted, since low noon of the Dark Ages was commenced in the intelligent, peaceable village of Prince Albert on Monday morning last. A party passing early in the morning observed a number of workmen busily engaged for tearing the shingles off one of our public buildings – the Drill Shed.

Some of the inhabitants of the village were notified of the fact, and in going to the spot found, to their surprise, several men shoveling away the shingles.

Squire Thomas Forman was at once notified and hurrying to the spot arrested the work of destruction by compelling the parties to come down from the roof; and on being asked by whose orders they were thus acting, replied that Captain Billings had given them a job of



*Illustration of a typical Drill Shed.*

removal to Port Perry.

A messenger was immediately despatched to Capt. Billings who denied all knowledge of the matter and stated that Mr. Joseph Bigelow was the party who had the moving of the building, and that he (Billings) had got permission from headquarters to move his headquarters to Port Perry, and he understood that to include the Drill Shed.

The Capt. made himself scarce however and the workmen returned to the Port; but soon came back armed with a constable clothed with all the power that John W. Allison could afford him. Parties were prepared for them this time however and the work of demolition could not be renewed.

Squire Forman informed them that the first hand laid on the building would cause the arrest of the party. At this time Adam Gordon Esq., Reeve of the municipality, drove up and advised the parties to go home, assuring them that he would swear in every man in the village as special constables to protect the building from being taken down in any such way; and if Col. Dennis, or any other Col., or even the government order its removal it will not be done till after parties had had an opportunity of being heard in the in the proper quarter. The workmen again returned to Port Perry and here the matter rests.

## Two young boys drown on Scugog

*Toronto Globe: September 22, 1871*

An sad accident occurred at Port Perry on Sunday last, by which two young men, E. Pringle and J. Todd, lost their lives.

It appears that they, in company with three boys, R. Foy, A. Sinclair and T. Eck, went out in the afternoon for a sail on the lake. When about two miles down they commenced "fooling" in consequence of with the boat capsized. They shouted for help and endeavored to keep themselves up by clinging to the boat.

Finding that their united weight was too much for the boat to sustain, Todd started to swim ashore, but failed. Pringle soon relaxed his hold and sank. Foy managed to obtain a seat on the boat and held up his companions.

In the meantime their cries attracted the attention of some men on shore, and the boat put out to their rescue.

They were brought to Thompson's hotel in the last stage of exhaustion from exertion and exposure. Medical aid was summoned and they were soon resuscitated. The bodies of the drowned men have not yet been discovered.

## Valuable horse falls into well

*Toronto Globe: October 2, 1871*

We learn that Mr. Weir, near Manchester, lost a valuable farm horse last Sabbath. It appears that some mischievous boys were playing with the animal immediately in the neighborhood of a well, that had been left defectively covered, and the horse in endeavoring to escape from his tormentors, kept backing until he backed right into the well.

A windlass was obtained from Port Perry as soon as possible, and the rope lowered and attached to the animal; but there was so much hurry and excitement that a proper connection was not made, and in bringing him to the surface, his foreleg was so drawn against the windpipe that he choked to death.

He belonged to a matched span of general purpose horses, and was valued at over two hundred dollars. So much for the pranks of reckless young Sabbath breakers' carelessness, and want of right presences of mind.

## Corner stone laid for M.E. church

*Ontario Observer: October 12, 1871*

The Port Perry Methodist Episcopal Church, with a praiseworthy energy and liberality for which that body has long been distinguished, had the pleasing and imposing ceremony performed of laying the foundation stone of their new brick church on Tuesday last.

The edifice about to be erected will be an ornament to the locality, a credit to its promoters and a comfort to the many thousand devout worshippers who shall assemble there.

## Captain Sinclair testimonial dinner

*Ontario Observer: October 12, 1871*

A few of the friends of Capt. Archibald Sinclair treated that gentleman to a complimentary supper on Tuesday evening last, on the occasion of his leaving Prince Albert to take up his residence in the town of Lindsay.

We have taken part in many complimentary suppers, but on no previous occasion have we witness a more general and sincere manifestation of regret at parting with a townsman. The many and well merited compliments paid to the Captain, the highly esteemed partner of his life, and his interesting family were expressed with an earnestness and candour which could not fail in being grateful to the Captain.

The Captain and his family have the best wishes of their entire neighbourhood for their future comfort and happiness, amongst those whom they are about to take up their residences.

## Young woman a prize winner

*Ontario Observer: October 26, 1871*

We learn from the *Parkhill Gazette* that one of Reach's fair daughters has been carrying off quite a number of prizes at the North Middlesex Agricultural Fall Show held a couple of weeks ago. We find that Miss Rosanna P. Nott, late of Borelia, has succeeded in obtaining some half-dozen prizes.



*Illustration of a barn fire.*

## Barn and contents destroyed by fire

*Ontario Observer: November 2, 1871*

During the thunder storm of Thursday last, 26th ult., one of Mr. Neil Wilkinson's barns on lot 23, in the 14th concession of Reach, was struck by lightning, which set fire to it and in a very brief space, his two barns, stables and driving shed, with all the contents of the barns were reduced to a few smoking ashes.

At the time of the fire, the barns contained the season's crops; some 400 or 500 bushels of wheat, 200 bushels of barley, 300 or 400 bushels of oats, about 30 bushels of peas, with the entire hay crop of 15 acres.

The more valuable implements were got out of the driving shed. The loss is a heavy one. All the hay and straw having been consumed he is obliged to sell his stock for want of feed. Mr. Wilkinson is one of our industrious enterprising farmers, and we sympathize with him in his loss. He has an insurance of \$1,600 in the Ontario Farmers' Mutual.

~ 1872 ~

## Port Perry splits from Reach Township

*Ontario Observer: January 4, 1872*

The municipality of Reach sets out on a New Year's career under greatly altered circumstances. She is no longer the Reach of 1871. She has undergone a pretty severe dismemberment, her boundaries have been curtailed, she has been bereft of a large portion of her former wealth and her eldest daughter has set up housekeeping on her own account.

Reach having lost Port Perry will for a considerable time feel out of balance and may not be able to sail steadily for a time at least; like a bird having one wing clipped, she may make some rather awkward attempts at flying ere she gets used to it.

So far from having the counsel, the backing and the material assistance of Port Perry as a portion of the township, we have her now as a rival of a somewhat formidable nature. In future our interests no longer identical, will to a certain extent run parallel, and it may be cross once in a while.



Joseph Bigelow, first Reeve of the Village of Port Perry.

## Joseph Bigelow elected to be the village of Port Perry's first Reeve

*North Ontario Observer: January 18, 1872*

The members elect of the municipal council of the Corporation of the Village of Port Perry, met at the Fireman's Hall, on Monday, 15th inst. Harris Burnham, Esq., took the chair.

Having read the state of the polls taken on the 1st inst., declared Joseph Bigelow Reeve, and Messrs. William Tate, John

Phillipo, William Sexton and Caleb Crandell, councillors for the new Corporation of Port Perry for the present year.

Having administered the necessary declaration to the members elect, he declared the council organized, and withdrew when the Reeve took the chair.

Mr. Crandell moved for leave to introduce a by-law to appoint a Clerk for the corporation, and Mr. Sexton moved the name of Duncan Mc Kercher, which was carried.

## Reach holds first council meeting after township separates from Port Perry

*North Ontario Observer: January 18, 1872*

The members elect of the Council of the municipal corporation of Reach met at the Town Hall, Manchester, on Monday 15th inst. The secretary took the chair at 1 p.m. with all members present.



Adam Gordon, first Reeve of the new Reach Twp.

The Secretary read the state of the poll at the close of the late elections, and declared Adam Gordon, Esq., duly elected Reeve. Messrs. Noah Bates and James Holman Deputy Reeves. Messrs. D. Purdy and Mead councillors; after which the council elect signed the necessary declarations and took their seats.

The Reeve briefly addressed the council. He said the council had now met for the first time under the new regime, the township and the village of Port Perry being now separated for municipal purposes.

The cutting off of Port Perry, he said, takes about one sixth of the ratepayers and one sixth of the assessed value of the whole, but at least one third of the labour to both assessor and collector were in Port Perry, so that in appointing officers a corresponding reduction should be made in salaries.

## Almost a fire in school house

*Ontario Observer: February 15, 1872*

The School House of School Section No 8, Port Perry,

came nearly being consumed by fire on Monday morning 12th inst. The fire originated in the drum heater in the second story. Had it not been that the fire was discovered in time and willing hands exerted themselves to the utmost in the rescue, the speedy destruction of the house at least was inevitable.

The greater praise is due to the energy and efforts of those to whom the section is indebted for the protection of their property from the fact that the miserable old well refused to furnish a drop of water and a supply had to be brought at quite a distance from the building.

The energetic fire brigade were on hand on short notice, but what of it? They had the satisfaction of dragging the engine to the spot and standing looking at her without a cupful of water to feed her. They must have felt like kicking the old thing down the hill. We understand the damage sustained will require from \$50 to \$100 to repair it.



Schoolhouse in Saintfield, Ontario.

## New schoolhouse opens in Saintfield

*Ontario Observer: February 15, 1872*

The new School House in Saintfield has been completed and is now occupied. Until the old house has been removed and the grounds fixed around, little can be said of the exterior appearance of the building, but the interior is decidedly the best school room in the township, aye in North Ontario.

It is a credit to all concerned; it evinces much good taste and enterprise in the trustees and liberality of the section. It is 32'x45' and 14 feet between the floor and ceiling. It is cheerful, healthful, and convenient and cannot fail in producing an increased attachment for school in the minds of the pupils.

The excellent house can not fail in recommending Mr. Beacroft, the contractor, as a successful, skillful building. We wish the section all the success which its enterprise deserves.

## Postpone Town Hall construction

*Ontario Observer - March 14, 1872*

Benjamin Crandell, speaking to council about the numerous duties to be performed in connection with the new corporation, considered it would be wise to postpone further action regarding the Town Hall until the corporation was in a proper position.

He said that the many things claiming the immediate attention of the council, among the improvements required was the street improvements, water tanks, a fire

engine and caretaker for the fire engine, which all had to be provided during the present year.

Reeve Joseph Bigelow remarked that the erudition of the Town Hall would not materially increase the taxes of the ratepayers as debentures could be issued for 10 years for the amount.

Later in the meeting a committee consisting of councillor John Phillipo, Benjamin Crandell and William Sexton was appointed to ascertain how much it would cost the corporation to purchase the fire engine, hose, and engine house and to report to the next meeting of council.

At the meeting, Messrs., Wm. Sexton and John Phillipo were appointed a committee to obtain plans, probable cost of a suitable Town Hall and report to the next meeting of the council, on the first Tuesday of April, 1872.



Sktech of an grist mill from the 1870s.

## Manchester grist and oatmeal mill

*Ontario Observer: May 16, 1872*

A first class miller is about to lease the mills a little west of Manchester. This will be good news to the inhabitants of a large section of country, who, as in days gone by will find it exceedingly convenient to go there for their gristing, and supply themselves with first quality oatmeal.

These mills have given abundant proof in the past of the excellency of the work they are capable of doing, and the present leasee being a first class practical miller will have everything put into the best of order, so that parties may have the utmost confidence in patronizing these mills.

## Utica church ornament to the village

*Ontario Observer: June 13, 1872*

We were much pleased to observe in passing through the village of Utica the other day that the new Brick church erected there by the Wesleyan Methodist body was entirely completed as far as the mason and carpenter work is concerned. This is decidedly a handsome church and built upon one of the finest sites that could, be selected in the province.

It stands on a beautiful elevation, high and dry, clean and healthy, easy of access with ample accommodation around. The church is a handsome structure 50'x32' as near as we could judge. It is built of stone and brick, the basement story being of stone. The design is in good taste and the workmanship excellent

Mr. Pierson did the mason work and has done himself credit by the job, one seldom sees plastering equal to that

done upon this building.

Mr. Humphrey did the carpenter work and we had an opportunity of examining it as it came from his hand ere yet the painter's brush had passed over it, and we do no more than justice to the workmen in saying their work does them the highest credit.

The church is seated for 250 with a neat, comfortable gallery, the ceiling is high and arched. The Church is to be heated with hot air or steam. Altogether this is one of the most tidy looking churches and beautiful sites that we know of. It is an ornament to the village of Utica, and to the township.

## Reach man buried under gravel

*Ontario Observer: June 27, 1872*

We regret exceeding to state that our respected townsman, Mr. George Kilpatrick, 2nd con. Reach, met with a serious and almost fatal accident yesterday afternoon. It appears that Mr. Kilpatrick and others were performing their statute labor and while filling a load of gravel at the pit on the front of the 2nd con., at a place where the bank rose perpendicularly about 10 feet, suddenly the bank gave way falling upon Mr. Kilpatrick and burying him all over.

His legs got twisted in the fall and when taken out, which was only the work of a few minutes, it was found that his left leg was broken in two or three places at the thigh, his left arm badly bruised, also his right leg, in fact all his body.

The professional skill of Dr. Francis H. Braithwaite was immediately called into requisition, which soon had the fractures set and the injuries of the patient attended to.

## Last stage to Prince Albert

*The Oshawa Vindicator: July 11, 1872*

On Saturday the last mail stage to Prince Albert was run. Thirty-six years ago Mr. William Thomas took the contract to carry the mail from Oshawa to Prince Albert. During these 36 years he has continued to hold the contract, and faithfully perform its requirements.

He began by carrying mail bags on horse-back, but as the business increased, and the route extended to Manilla, then to Woodville, and then to Beaverton, a four horse stage was necessary to do the work.

As the roads became better the force was reduced, and except at very bad seasons, two horses have done the work.

It is Mr. Thomas's boast that while he drove himself he never missed a day, and that during the whole 36 years the mail was carried on all but two days, a few winters ago, when the drifts reached such an astounding height. Another honourable boast is that during these years nothing every happened to the mail while under his charge.

We shall regret the old stage. Henceforth the mails to Prince Albert are conveyed by the Port Perry and Port Whitby railway.

## Utica Wesleyan Church dedicated

*Ontario Observer: July 11, 1872*

The Utica Wesleyan Methodist new brick church was dedicated to the service of God on Sabbath, 7th inst. There



Wesleyan Methodist Church, Utica.

were three services – morning, afternoon and evening. The morning services were conducted by Dr. Taylor, who preached to a large and attentive audience, so large in fact that one half could not get into the church.

The entire cost of the church was \$2,970. To meet this \$1,700 had been subscribed; the Sunday collections amounted to \$80; the proceeds of Monday's dinner and tea amounted to \$134 making in all \$191, which leaves a balance to be provided for of \$1,065. This however was as nothing in the hands of the congregation; for within half an hour after the reading of the statement every cent of the debt was wiped off and an additional \$100 or so provided for an instrument. The bare mention of the fact speaks volumes for the generosity and liberality of the bountiful contributors.

## Prince Albert, Manchester railway stations in miserable condition

*Ontario Observer: July 27, 1872*

In going to Whitby by rail, on Saturday last we found that the miserable condition of the Prince Albert station had been somewhat ameliorated, so far at least as to the removing of the old break neck fence and cutting two deep ravines in the clay hill so that wagons may creep up the gullies and get a little nearer the track.

This is a step in the right direction and we hope the improvement will go on until a good plank walk has been laid from the fence to the station platform.

On this occasion, as is generally the case, if we accept the dead heads, much the larger number of passengers hailed from Prince Albert. Besides a well loaded passenger car there were, we should judge, in the neighbourhood of 80,000 feet of lumber on, and even with all this load, "Jemmy" Dryden though he grunted considerably, had little difficulty in whirling us on to the Manchester station.

A halt was made here and several passengers taken on. This station has a hard appearance, the bare look of the miserable little 4'x6' hut which has been under course of erection for the past half a dozen of years sits looking black and piteously on passers by. This is dignified with the little station house, but which from all appearance will be rotted down with very age, ere it gets enclosed.

Talk about the Tower of Babel: why there was neither one-half the delay nor one-tenth the confusion at the erection of that tower that has been in putting up a few century boxes as loopholes through which the company may escape the conditions of the Bonus By-law which specifies that "station houses shall be built and maintained" at the places indicated.

The trip down was tolerably pleasant, and good time was made. The number of passengers had largely

increased on our return trip nearly all of whom took tickets for Prince Albert. With all "Jemmy's" snoring, puffing and blowing, and his hollow pretensions to cuteness and dexterity he is only a blustering brute, and in passing between Myrtle and Manchester he gave abundant proof that as a shepherd he is far from being a success.

This is an oft repeated proposition which says: The flock and not the fleece ought to be the object of the shepherd's care"; but the unmerciful Jemmy appears to disregard both the flock and the fleece, for in racing with a flock of some dozen or so all of them were to swift for him except one, and he had to show his mean revenge by running her down and completely disorganizing her. If Jemmy begins to take to mutton, it will be necessary either to muzzle him or bring a dog tax to bear upon him.

## The Port Perry \$10,000 by-Law

*North Ontario Observer: August 15, 1872*

Several of our Port Perry readers have during the past week, been quipping regarding the manner and extent of the payments of the debentures about to be issued by the corporation with the view to raising \$10,000 to pay off the amount allowed to Reach by the award of the arbitrators on the matter of settlement between Reach and Port Perry; for organizing a fire department, including the purchase of an engine and building water tanks; to purchasing site and building Town Hall and for school purposes.

The by-law proposes raising \$10,000 payable at the end of 10 years with interest at 6 per cent, per annum, paid semi-annually; and it also proposes to provide a sinking fund of \$1,000 per annum to meet the payment of said debentures when they become due.

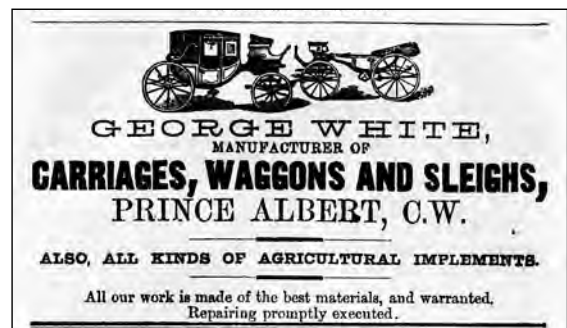
## Port Perry Carriage Factory destroyed

*Ontario Observer: September 12, 1872*

On Tuesday, 10 inst., the unseemly, clatter of the Port Perry fire bell grating forth its unpleasant sounds about 6:30 a.m., warned the denizens to prepare to fight, the thousand, tongued demon which had made its appearance in their midst.

It appears that Mr. George White, of the Port Perry Carriage Factory, being pretty well driven with business started work with all his hands at five o'clock of the morning of the fire and after having wrought about an hour and a half went off to breakfast. About this time the foreman of the wood work department, in going upstairs to his work perceived fire around forge chimney and immediately gave the alarm.

The fire bell was rung and a general turn out of the



George White Carriage advertisement, 1866.

\*Jemmy was the name given to the train engine "James Dryden".



male and partly of the female inhabitants was the result; but from the combustible materials of the second flat, paints, oils, shaving, moss &c., the fire in a few minutes gained complete mastery of the building.

For some time previous the fire engine had not been in a proper condition for work. Mr. Caleb Crandell had a few days previous called the attention of the caretaker of the engine to the fact and advised him to have it repaired, and at this time the engine had been turned up with a view to undergoing the required repairs so that it was in a bad condition for active service.

But it must be brought to the scratch and in a surprisingly short time it was brought up to the most convenient tank, but the absence of the necessary feeders, the water had to be supplied to the engine with pails; and crippled and as it was, it did noble service saving many thousand dollars worth of property. Now the fight fairly begins, the firemen on their part struggling with the monster, while the villagers each one in his own way, joins in the struggle, each one working like a bear.

But nothing could stay the progress of the fire fiend, he had already got full control of the building and threatened those on the opposite side of the street. When the paint on the buildings on the opposite side of the street began to darken and smoke, the firemen at this time playing on Mr. White's lumber with a fair prospect to saving it, had to leave the lumber to its fate and go and protect the building and they succeeded in saving them.

Fortunately for the engine and tank, the fire would doubtless have consumed property to the value of at least \$20,000 or \$30,000 more. The supply of water in the tank held out till its work was done. All the wells in the neighbourhood were exhausted by those, who as skirmishers fought the fire.

Within an hour from the time that the fire was first seen, the Carriage Factory and Mr. Warriner's Boot and Shoe establishment were nothing but a heap of ashes. The fire is supposed to have been caused by sparks from the forge chimney lodging in a joint in the floor of the second story and setting fire to the downy stuff which had collected there from the moss and carriage trimmings.

Mr. White estimates his loss at \$6,000, this includes a very large stock of paints, oils, seasoned lumber, carriages. He is insured for \$2,650.

## Reach upset with railway service to Prince Albert and Manchester

*Ontario Observer: October 10, 1872*

The tricky and blustering "Jemmy" Dryden played off one of his modest pranks at the Prince Albert station on Monday evening October 7th. On his return from Whitby on that evening, as usual, his musical snorting was heard in the distance and a number of his Prince Albert friends hastened to the station in order to rescue from his internal grasp any of their property or friends which unfortunately might have fallen into his clutches.

Only think of it! When the insolent monster neared the station he gave two of his fiendish yells and passed on bearing away our precious treasures. The people were furious, some asserted that Jemmy was "tight" while others pronounced him crazy; we maintained that he was stark

*\* "Jemmy" and "Scugog" names of train engines.*

mad, and so he was.

But drunk or daft it is a piece of unvarnished insolence in this company carrying the Prince Albert goods to the Port Perry station and causing parties to go there for them. A gentle pressure applied to the official pocket would have a salutary influence. It is enough that this company should insult and hoodwink the township of Reach in everything pertaining to this road from the concocting of the By-law to the present.

First selecting, through the purchased connivance of hirelings, the most awkward route which could be selected; then locating the stations for Prince Albert and Manchester in such positions as to render them utterly worthless for any good, and purposely leaving these stations without a switch or any possible convenience with a view to the destruction of the trade of these villages.

Then so manipulated the expense as to make the people of Reach to whom the road has proved a sham, pay the whole of the debentures, some \$34,000, and let Port Perry, which has gained everything by it, off without paying anything worth mentioning. And in the face of this our Railway magnets allow our goods to be carried past the station to Port Perry and make us trot down alter them.

If the corporation of Reach is prepared to stand this any longer, if they are willing to be dragged further at the chariot wheels of an unscrupulous company and their tools, they may do so and go to \_\_\_\_\_, well guess! Why not force the Company to adhere to the conditions of the by-law to the very letter; it is bad enough at its best, dear knows, without having the miserable rag ridden over rough-shod.

It is high time that the conditions of the Railway By-law were tested to see whether Reach is bound to do all the paying and begging while the company insolently laugh at the few conditions which the allowed to be put into the by-law binding them. The famous arbitration is also a fit subject for trial. If Reach have any rights to defend or anyone to defend them, it is time it were known.

## Team of horses frightened by carcass

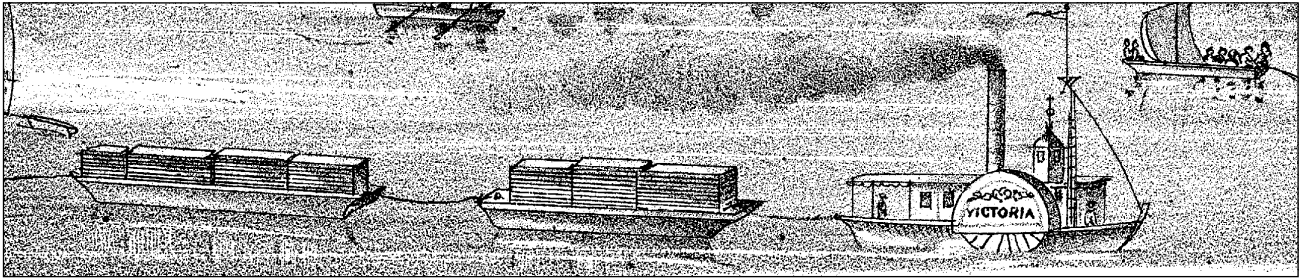
*Ontario Observer: November 7, 1872*

As Mrs. Bunker one of her sons were driving a high spirited team north of the Centre road from Manchester towards Greenbank on the evening of the 4th last., at a short distance north of Manchester, there was a dead horse lying by the side of the road which someone, for convenience, had left there.

When the team approached the spot they became excited and difficult to control. By some means one of the inside tugs slipped out of the catch; the young man gave his mother the lines and proceeded to hook the tug, and while he was in the act of fixing it and hanging over the pole between the two horses they again began to plunge and ran off with the young man between them holding on by the pole and whiffletrees.

From this he was soon dislodged, thrown heavily to the ground, the carriage passed over him bruising him considerably and severely injuring his right arm. The horses set off, Mrs. Bunker being still in the carriage; a sudden lurch of the horses detached the seat, and seat and occupant were thrown over the back of the carriage.

Mrs. Bunker was badly stunned, considerably bruised; but, we are happy to learn, not materially injured. If the



1877 sketch shows the steamship Victoria, hauling two scows filled with lumber.

party who thus left the carcass of the horse exposed would take the trouble to bury him it may be the means of saving a few more funerals, and, what is of less consequence, his own purse. Let it be removed forthwith.

## Collision on Whitby, Port Perry railway

*Ontario Observer: November 21, 1872*

On Wednesday, the 25th inst., September, a collision took place on the Port Whitby and Port Perry railway road, which fortunately was not attended with very serious consequences, but this was more by chance than good management.

It appears that at the Whitby station of this line, there are generally a number of flat cars left standing on the main line, the switch being now principally used while the station-house is being erected.

About 8 o'clock on the above evening as the passenger train for the north approached the junction of the switch with the main line, the driver perceived when within about two rods of the junction, something on the track and immediately reversed the engine, but the next minute he went bang into a flat car. Fortunately it hurt no one but doing considerable damage to the engine, the flat car and the track.

Poor \*Jemmy was thrown off the track and lay grunting by the station in a somewhat disorganized condition; and not being able to come to time, lady \*Scugog was telegraphed for and hastened to his relief by taking charge of his passengers. The inconvenience to the public resulting from his accident was not great, the derangement in our mails being the chief.



Accidents on the railway were common.

## Port Perry M.E. Church dedicated

*Ontario Observer: November 21, 1872*

The new Methodist Episcopal Church, Port Perry was dedicated to the service of God on Sabbath last, 17th inst. By 10:30 a.m., this handsome sanctuary was filled beyond

its accommodating capacity, but by the introduction of benches into the passes all got comfortably seated.

The Rev. Mr. Gardener commenced the services by reading the introduction to the Dedicatory Services, showing the priority of such services and the benefits certain to result from them when performed in a proper spirit.

This fine building is a very important addition to the public buildings of the that prosperous village. The external appearance, capital proportions, handsome spire, and tidy get-up are much ahead of any church in the village. The interior is comfortably arranged while everything bordering on extravagance has been carefully avoided.

The seats are plain and inexpensive, but very comfortable and well arranged. The passages are roomy and convenient. The desk and platform look business-like. The tapestry behind the desk is perhaps a little too narrow and runs too high for the width of the platform and height of the desk. The stained windows are quite ornamental though it does look a little odd to parties unaccustomed to see a congregation with variegated coloured faces, one half red and the other green, or perhaps one part coloured and the other natural; but people may get accustomed to it.

But all in all, taking the structure externally and internally, it affords unmistakable proof of the superior skill of the workmen who erected it; is highly creditable to the whole locality and the generous liberality and devotion of those who have undertaken to finance for this large and comfortable addition to our church accommodations are worthy of the highest commendation.

## Father forbids sale of property by son

*Ontario Observer: December 16, 1872 (advertisement)*

Christopher Sheehy forbids any person from purchasing from his son, George Sheehy, his property at Borelia in the Township of Reach, namely; "my old Tavern stand, being part of Lot number 13 in said village, also Lot 12 and Lot 88, all north of said Tavern, as I hold the Title of these Lots in Fee Simple – George Sheehy only acting as my age to collect the rents for me, but he not paying me, I was compelled to sue him for the rents he converted to his own use.

Also I forbid any person purchasing from the said George Sheehy, the Cottage with five acres of land attached thereto (my late residence in said village), being the south-east corner of Lot 16, in the 6th concession of the Township of Reach. I having a just claim against said property; should an person after this date purchase said property from him, I will dispute his Title."

# ~ 1873 ~

## Dr. Brathwaite moves to Port Perry

*Ontario Observer: January 30, 1873*

From a letter in another column of this paper it will be seen that Dr. Francis H. Brathwaite is about to remove his office and residence from Prince Albert to Port Perry. Though the community will not be deprived of the doctors valuable professional services, seeing that the distance to which he is removing is not great, still his removal will leave a blank in our social circle which cannot fail in being keenly felt.

Dr. Brathwaite's nine years residence in our midst, his uniform, upright and honourable dealings, his kindly manner, and highly successful practice have endeared him to the entire community both as a professional man and a neighbour; but while his removal will be regretted here, we congratulate the good folks of Port Perry on this important addition to their excelling medical staff which has been reduced of late by the removal of two of their number.

The Doctor will leave Prince Albert the first week of February and will reside in that bluish colored house four doors to the north of the house recently vacated by Dr. Martin. His office will be in the centre of the business portion of the village.

## Scows transport lumber to Port Perry

*Toronto Globe: February 7, 1873*

From present appearances, says the Lindsay Post, a more extensive transport of lumber will ensue this coming season on the river Scugog than in past years. With a view of facilitation this trade, Messrs. Paxton, Bigelow and Trounce, of Port Perry, have under headway the construction of four scows, with are fast approaching completion. Their capacity is equal to that of any heretofore built in this section.

## Census for 1871 released

*Ontario Observer: March 13, 1873*

The first volume of the census of 1871 is now before us. It contains 455 pages packed full of important matter; the evincing a large amount of labour.

The Township of Reach is credited with 6,809 inhabitants and nearly 10 acres for every inhabitant. There are 117 more males than females. There are 2,128 married people, with 76 widowers and twice as many widows. Of English decent there are 3,484; Irish 1,599; Scotch 1074; Germans 379; French 145; various 160.

## The disastrous state of Reach bridges

*Ontario Observer: March 13, 1873*

In passing from Prince Albert to Manchester one might almost be led, from the battered and broken condition of the bridges, to imagine that he is passing over a country recently devastated by a hostile invasion. The railings of the bridges are entirely carried away and the bridges left not only in a disgraceful broken up condition but unsafe for travel especially in the dark. The pathmaster of the beat, whoever he may be, had better bring the depredators to time or he may be called upon for a new

leg of neck of some unfortunate, who may go over and get broken in the fall.

## Dewart's Hotel devoured by fire

*Ontario Observer: March 27 1873*

Dewart's Hotel, Nonquon, with nearly all its contents was destroyed by fire on Sabbath 22nd inst. Mr. James Dewart was on his way home about one o'clock in the day and while yet a considerable distance from the house he observed, to his no small alarm, that his premises were on fire.

Ere he reached the building the fire had made such progress as precluded all idea of saving the buildings, he accordingly turned his attention to saving his chattels, but could not do a grew deal in that, and all speedily fell a prey of the devouring element.

By sawing the shed in two halves, the shed and stable and barn attached were saved. Dewart's loss in chattels amount to some \$400, of which \$300 is covered by insurance.

## Fire lays drug store into ashes

*Toronto Globe: April 2, 1873*

A fire broke out in the upper storey of Willcox's drug store, Simcoe Street at 11 o'clock on the night of April 1, and within three hours from its first being discovered it had laid in ashes Mr. Willcox's drug and grocery store, Mr. Wright's book and shoe establishment, Mr. Wightman's dry good establishment and the Masonic Hall.

The block destroyed was two stories high, front on Simcoe Street 100 feet and on King Street 100 feet. The loss cannot, so far, be exactly ascertained, but the value of the real estate and personal property will exceed \$15,000, about two thirds of which is covered by insurance. The origin of the first is unknown.

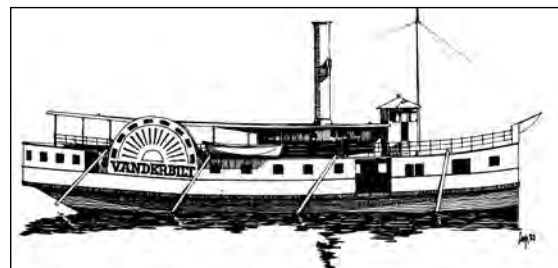
## Excursion to Scugog and back lakes

*Toronto Globe: August 16, 1873*

On Thursday morning last, a large party, numbering between 20 and 40, assembled at Union Station on their way to make a trip on the Port Whitby and Port Perry Railway to which they had been invited by Mr. James Austin, the President of the Company.

The plan of the route was to proceed upon the P.W.&P.P. railway to Port Perry, there to embark on a steamer, traverse Lake Scugog and river, and thence across Sturgeon Lake to Bobcaygeon, which was to be the terminus of the excursion.

Our small holiday train passed on rapidly by Brooklin and Myrtle station and over the summit, calculated to be over 600 feet above the lake level, after which was a down



*Sketch of the Vanderbilt steamship on Lake Scugog.*

grade. In a little more than half an hour Port Perry was reached. Here a substantial breakfast was discussed with sharpened appetites.

As soon after breakfast as the party could be moved, they were conducted on board the steamer *Commodore*, and pushed out upon the waters of Lake Scugog. This sheet of water, about 18 miles in length.

Scugog Island is ten miles long, and is formed into a distinct municipality. Running along its shore we passed Pleasant Point, Indian Village, which looks rather deserted, Port Hoover, a saw mill station and Caesarea, a village of some lumbering interest.

We pass on and in due time entering the Scugog River where the little steamer, following its curves is steered so skillfully. At Devil's Elbow, however, we touched ground, when competent navigator immediately pushed the boat off with a pike pole.

The travelling was slow but we reached Lindsay at last, when we see the first locks, where no delay occurred in transshipping the company to the *Vanderbilt*, a very trim little steamer, with neatly fitted saloon and promenade deck, covered with an awning. The vessel is commanded by Mr. Crandell, the owner who took them through to Bobcaygeon.

It was late when they returned to Lindsay where the Company had to thank Mr. Michie for being provided with beds in several very excellent hotels. By noon the following day we reached Port Perry, our home path, and here we parted with Mr. Joseph Bigelow and Mr. Wm. Trounce. Port Perry itself has the position and the men to make it a place of considerable importance.

Down the railroad to Whitby for dinner, which was set out in the Royal Hotel in a style of lavish display.

## Complimentary supper for Wm. Scott

*Ontario Observer: May 29, 1873*

William Scott, Esq., proprietor and occupant of the Victoria Hotel, Prince Albert, having leased the Lockhart House (Hinds' Hotel), King St., Oshawa, and being about to move thither, was entertained at a public supper in the Anglo-American Hotel, Prince Albert, on the evening of Friday last.

James Emaney, Esq., of the Ontario Carriage Works, Prince Albert, occupied the chair supported on the right by the guest of the evening and on the left by J. Adams, Esq., broker, Port Perry. Major Thomas Forman occupied the vice-chair, supported on the right by Dr. John E. Ware and on the left by Henry Foy, Esq., of the Railroad House, Port Perry. Around the table were a strong representation of farmers, mechanics, merchants and medical and legal professions, all assembled to do honor to the worthy guest of the evening.

A toast was proposed by chairman Mr. James Emaney in a manner of repressive of the high esteem by the entire section of country, and referring to him in flattering terms to his energy and zeal in promoting the general prosperity of the village. The chairman wound up his remarks by expressing the sincere and general regret felt at Mr. Scott and his families removal from the community.

## New Lodge formed in Port Perry

*Ontario Observer: June 10, 1873*

On the evening of the 8th inst., the highly interesting and important ceremony to form a new lodge of L.Y.B., and installing the officers took place in the Orange Hall, Bigelow's Block, Port Perry. A.M. W.G.M. from Toronto assisted by Bro. Milligan of Uxbridge installed the officers as follows: Bro. Wm. Kennedy, M.; Bro Geo. Gardner, D.M.; Bro. R. Foy, Secretary; Bro. Wm. Hiscocks, Treasurer.

This Lodge opens under the most favorable circumstances. Forty-two, including officers, active, intelligent young men with every prospect of a healthy increase of numbers. This organization cannot fail in being productive of much good in the locality.



*Horse and wagon accidents occurred often.*

## Horse bolts injuring woman passenger

*Ontario Observer: July 17, 1873*

On Friday last as Mr. Lang, farmer, 8th Con. Reach, in company with Mrs. Lang, was driving through this village towards home, when near the residence of Aaron Ross, Esq., the horse which is young, fiery animal, suddenly shied at a cow which was laying on the side of the road and the road being hinge in the centre the buggy was upset, throwing Mrs. Lang heavily forward on her hands breaking both arms near the wrists.

The sufferer was at once taken to one of our hotels and the services of Dr. John E. Ware obtained, who speedily set both arms and otherwise attended to the patient. Mrs. Lang is a heavy woman and well advance in years. We are pleased to learn that the patient is progressing most satisfactorily.

## Grand excursion to Washburn Island

*North Ontario Observer: August 1873*

About 250 people enjoyed the Grand Excursion of the Presbyterian Sabbath School. A special train arriving from Whitby brought excursionists from points all along the way. Here they boarded the steamer *Ontario*, accompanied by two large flat boats and made their way to Washburn Island for a grand day.

## Ontario Observer moves to Port Perry

*Ontario Observer: August 28, 1873*

A combination of circumstances over some of which we have no control, has indicated three changes in the future of the *Observer* - as necessary, if not indispensable.

The first change of headquarters. This is rendered necessary from the altered condition of our village, owing

to the concentration of the greater part of the business of the township in the village of Port Perry and a newspaper above all things, in order to be profitable, and convenient must have its headquarters as near as possible to the business centre of the locality in which it is published.

Parties go to the business centre to transact their other business, and it is asking a little too much of them to have them go a couple of miles out of their way to get their print done should they prefer getting it done with us.

The second change rendered necessary is the size of the paper. This change is rendered necessary by the generosity of our patrons advertising patronage.

The third change is in the price of the *Observer*. Our subscription in the past has been \$1.50 per annum, but in the future it will be only \$1 when paid in advance, but if not so paid the \$1.50 will be adhered to.

Our next issue will be the commencement the new regime. We intend moving our office to Warriner's block, immediately west of the Post Office, Port Perry, during the present week; where we will be happy to wait on all who require anything in the printing line.

Note: Following the move, in the first edition published from Port Perry on September 11, 1873, the newspaper was renamed "*North Ontario Observer*".

## Town Hall 1873 rapidly rising

*North Ontario Observer - September 11, 1873*

The editor of the local newspaper, in a Port Perry progress reported on eight buildings in the course of erection in the village, including the Town Hall.

He wrote, "The work on the Town Hall is in the hands of first class men who will leave us a building creditable to themselves and in keeping with this rapidly rising town.

A week later, council authorized a payment of \$200 to Mr. William Spence in part for his contract on the masonry work on the Town Hall.

They also authorized a payment of \$100 to Mr. Cossitt for his contract for woodwork in the hall.

## Telegraph Co. sets up office in village

*North Ontario Observer: September 11, 1873*

We are pleased to notice and our readers will be equally pleased to learn, that the Dominion Telegraph Company have established an office in Port Perry and placed it under the care of Mr. Wm. H. McCaw, of the Royal Arcade, Bigelow's Block. The company have been fortunate in the selection of an agent, who while carefully guarding their interests will be equally mindful of the interest and accommodation of the public. This company are extending and establish their business throughout the length and breadth of the land and have proven themselves worthy of the large share of public confidence placed in them.

## Joshua Wright moves to Port Perry

*North Ontario Observer: September 11, 1873*

Joshua Wright has moved his Boot & Shoe store to the village of Port Perry, opposite White's Carriage Factory, and has purchased and fitted up the premises necessary for conducting an extensive business.

Mr. Wright promises to devote his personal attention to this branch of his business, and is determined that no

expense shall be spared to furnish the public with articles of his own manufacture, the best and most fashionable. He believes that the Boot and Shoe business should be done by trade, and not by Dry Goods men.

## Tenders for Wesleyan Methodist church

*North Ontario Observer: September 18, 1873*

Tenders have been let for the erection of a Wesleyan Methodist Brick Church in Port Perry. Tenders will be received by George Currie up to the 2nd day of October next. The brick and stone will be furnished by the Building Committee; all other materials to be furnished by the contractors.

Parties may tender for masonry and wood work separately, or for the whole job. Plan and specifications may be seen and terms made known at the office of George Currie after the 24th inst.

## Respectable farmer takes his life

*Port Perry Standard: October 7, 1873*

The *Standard* regrets to learn that a respectable farmer, named George Patterson, who lived in Reach near the village of Saintfield, committed suicide last Tuesday night. First by shooting himself in the head with a pistol, then stabbing himself with a bayonet and subsequently tried to knock his brains out with an axe. He was a man of easy circumstances, about 65 years of age, and no cause is assigned for his rashness.

## Steamer Victoria visit to Port Perry

*North Ontario Observer: October 23, 1873*

The Port Perry harbour was favoured, on Tuesday last, with a visit from the excellent steamer *Victoria*. This was the first time this capital craft has been in Port Perry waters and we offer her a hearty welcome, thank her for her visit and ask many returns of the favour. The *Victoria* is a tidy looking craft and owned by Mr. Shaw of Peterboro.

## Station master constructing new home

*North Ontario Observer: October 23, 1873*

Our enterprising young townsman, Mr. Isaac Davis, station master here of the Port Whitby & Port Perry Railway, is building a very handsome residence on an excellent lot, immediately north of the English Church. This tidy building is an additional ornament to that portion of our town, a credit to the good taste and liberality of the owner and the skill and workmanship of the builder.

## Anglo-American Hotel leased

*North Ontario Observer: October 30, 1873*

All who have enjoyed the substantial comforts provided for the travelling public on all occasions at the Anglo American Hotel, Prince Albert, will regret exceedingly to learn that the worthy and high esteemed hostess, Mrs. J. Moggridge, having made up her mind to retire from the business, has leased the premises and is about moving to the city of Toronto.

We feel satisfied that we can echo the sentiments of everyone who has patronized this excellent, well kept house, when we assert that a more orderly or better conducted Hotel was not be found within the bounds of the Province; that the hotel was a credit not only to



the careful attentive hostess, but also to the community at large. It was a model of comfort; good order and everything desirable in the transitory home such as our best hotels out to furnish.

Mr. William Badgerow has leased the Anglo American and has commenced business. From what we can learn the new host we have little doubt that he will be a worthy successor of the late hostess; and that the Anglo American Hotel, Prince Albert, will continue to be sought after by travellers and others for its comfortable and desirable accommodations.



*Steamer Victoria at the new constructed railway wharf.*

## **New wharf being built on lakefront**

*North Ontario Observer: November 13, 1873*

The Port Whitby and Port Perry Railway Company continue to manifest a spirit of activity and enterprise highly creditable to the company and beneficial in a high degree to this whole section of the country, and not to the section of country alone, but to all places doing business with the road.

The work to which we refer is an excellent new wharf which they are building at Port Perry, along which they intend to run the cars and to which the boats will come right up where they may either receive their cargo from the cars or deliver their cargo on the cars. This work is being pushed with the utmost energy and an excellent permanent job is being done here.

Large numbers of hands are at work and it is interesting to witness the activity, and stir all around. When this work has been completed it will have wrought a complete transformation on this part of our active prosperous village. A few years ago along the lake shore here was only a bed of mud, water and nasty rubbish, disagreeable to look at and injurious to the health of the inhabitants. Now, however, when this work shall have been finished it will be as cleanly, healthful, tidy as looking spot as is to be found.

The wharf now being built is 320 feet long and when completed an area of 320 feet by at least 300 feet will have been transformed from a disagreeable, sickly looking puddle to a clean, comfortable, valuable yard and most convenient wharf. The mode of construction is at once safe and permanent. A breastwork of timbers is constructed at a considerable way into the lake; the space between these timbers and the shore partly filled in with brush, the dredger is now set to work outside the timbers and the dirt taken out is thrown upon the brush, and thus a permanent

work is at once constructed and raised just as high as desired.

Thus a comfortable, highly valuable esplanade will have been constructed where only a mud hole previously existed. Mr. B.R. Kimball, the energetic General Superintendent of the road, is head and hand in this matter.

## **Reach school house burned**

*Ontario Observer: December 4, 1873*

We feel exceedingly sorry to have to record the destruction by fire of the excellent and comparatively new School House of School Section No. 4, (east settlement), Reach.

About midnight on Tuesday last, Mr. Wm. Coates whose residence is convenient to the school house, saw a light issuing from the roof and at once hurried to the spot and running into the school house had barely times to save the clock and some maps.

They had but lately got a capital supply of new maps. In fact, the section deserves much credit for their generous efforts in sustaining not only a good school but a comfortable, well furnished house.

The house has been only a few years built at a cost of \$500; the loss however, must be considerably more than that. There is an insurance of \$300 on the whole.

The section is very small and the cost of the house and furniture will be a heavy burden on the few ratepayers on whom the weight of the section rests.

The Educational Department fought by all means to make up the loss to a section which has just lately got through paying for the house which has just been destroyed

The loss of the winter school will be severely felt by the pupils."

## **Fire Engine thrown out of doors**

*Ontario Observer: December 4, 1873*

Councillor A.W. Roberts asked the Reeve Joseph Bigelow why it is that the fire engine has been thrown out of doors and is being kicked around the street". He considered it a rather awkward matter that the fire engine should be allowed to stand outdoors exposed to the severity of the weather, a frozen mass, utterly worthless in the event of a fire taking place.

The Reeve said that he was very much surprised when he learned that the engine was standing out doors, as when it was taken out of the old house it had been put into Mr. James Emaney's Carriage Factory and that Mr. Emaney had consented to allow it to stand there until a place could be got for it and he (the Reeve) could not understand why Emaney had put it out.

Mr. Samuel Platten, the keeper of the engine, said that something must be done at once, for in the event of a fire no use could be made of the engine as it now is. It was finally agreed that immediate steps be taken to secure a temporary shelter till the basement of the Town Hall is prepared to receive it.

## **Six men assault young girl**

*Lindsay Post: December 11, 1873*

An application was made last week to Judge Joseph

C. Morrison to admit the six young men to bail who were committed for the outrage on the young girl Sheehy, in Port Perry, on the 30th of September.

Judge Morrison admitted three of them to bail, but refused the application in the case of the others. Their counsel said a petition praying for their release, and certifying to their good character, had been signed by the Reeve and all the leading citizen of Port Perry.

The inflexible Judge said the petitioners might have saved themselves the trouble, as they must wait their trial in gaol.

## Council accepts offer from Emaney

*Ontario Observer: December 11, 1873*

The Reeve read a communication from Mr. James Emaney, offering to give the corporation a receipt in full for the ground rent of the fire engine house for the past year, for \$5.70 being the amount of tax due by him to the corporation. Mr. Emaney's proposition was accepted.

On a motion of Mr. Caleb Crandell, the sum of \$600 was ordered to be paid to Mr. Cossitt to account of contract on Town Hall. On a motion of Mr. George White, the building committee – Reeve Bigelow and Messrs. Caleb Crandell and A.W. Roberts, were instructed to provide the necessary seats for the Town Hall and a suitable chair and desk.

~ 1874 ~

## Contractor expects to be paid

*Ontario Observer: January 1, 1874*

The Reeve read communication from Mr. William Marsh, contractor for the glazing of the Town Hall, setting forth that when he contracted for the glazing of the said hall it was only conditional; before taking the contract he had been assured by the architect that the description of glass required could be purchased at 20¢ a foot; and he contracted on condition that the description of the glass required could be purchased at 20¢ a foot.

But he had tried all markets and could not get such as was required under 37.5¢ per foot, that he had bought 400 lbs. of such glass making in all \$150, or \$70 more than it would have cost at 20 cents, and he expects this additional amount be paid to him by the council.

The council did not demur, but considered that action might well be deferred.

## Dr. Mallory to leave Port Perry

*North Ontario Observer: January 1, 1874*

In our advertising columns of today will be found a notice of the dissolution of the partnership of Drs. Jones and Mallory of this place. This firm is having an extensive and highly successful practice, they stand high in the estimation of the public both as skillful practitioners, active and useful member of society and good citizens.

All will regret to learn that Dr. Mallory is about to move from this section of the country and thus sever a mutual tie of friendship which binds the Doctor to a whole host of warm friends. And with this entire locality will regret the doctors removal still their best wishes will follow him to his new sphere of usefulness.

We congratulate the good folks of Percy on this important acquisition to their numbers; and we feel that we only echo the sentiments of the neighborhood in wishing that goodness and mercy may follow the Dr. Mallory wherever he goes.

## Candidates for reeve and council

*North Ontario Observer: January 1, 1874*

The aspirants for the offices of Reeve and Councilor for the village of Port Perry met the electors in James Dewart's Hall on the evening of Tuesday, 30th let. The meeting was a good one and certainly the most orderly and business like we have seen in the village.

We regret exceedingly that want of space prevents us giving an outline of the proceedings. Those who had the misfortune to be absent will be pleased to learn that all the speakers got a fair hearing and the Messrs. Bigelow, Sexton, Adams, Dr. Jones, Roberts, White, Davis, Crandell, Nott and Shaw all addressed the meeting claiming the suffrages of the electors. Mr. Ross was not present but his mover assured the meeting he would run.

The council have refused to accept the resignation of Mr. Nott, as tavern inspector, prevents that gentleman from standing for council, so that Mr. Nott won't go to the polls.

## Thief steals furs from Bigelow's store

*North Ontario Observer: January 22, 1874*

Some party or parties unknown as yet displayed their buglaristic propensities by making a forcible entrance into Mr. Joseph Bigelow's store sometime between Saturday night and Sunday morning last.

The burglar broke the glass of the door and putting in his arm unbolted the door, walked in and picked up such articles as appeared to come in his way; and doubtless being admonished by the coldness of the night, he went strongly into the fur trade. He may have picked up some \$500 or \$600 worth.

A vigilant and unsuccessful hunt had been made after the thief and we hope the rascal may be caught. We are pleased to learn that part of the stolen property, including Mr. Lark's horse, has been traced to Toronto and there secured.

## Epsom Winter Races a great success

*North Ontario Observer: February 26, 1874*

The Epsom Winter Races came off at the ice on Friday, 20th inst. The day was splendid and a large crowd mustered to witness the sports. The ice was found too weak for its burden and the racing had to be transferred to a field close by.

This necessary change of base so far changed the program that the matched race did not come off. The other races however were indulged in and if as good time was not kept as might have been wished the races were not devoid of sport.

Five horses started but it was no use trying to get ahead of Port Perry for "Grey Billy" came in a capital lead, and if Bentley's "Bay Jack" had not trotted quite so fast Mr. James Dewart's "Port Perry Boy," another Port Perry horse, would have been a good second. But as it was a Port Perry horse took off the first and third money.

Everything went off pleasantly and they may have

better ice next year; they could not expect the ice to stand the blazing temperature of the late election times.

## Council orders seats for hall

*North Ontario Observer - March 5, 1874*

Reeve Joseph Bigelow reported on behalf of the committee appointed to procure tenders for seats for the Town Hall. The committee had applied to all the principal establishments in this part of the province, including Oshawa and Toronto.

Tenders were received from the Oshawa Cabinet Company at 55¢ per foot; Luke & Bros. at 40¢ per foot and the Bowmanville Factory at 35¢ per foot. Total cost for the seating furnished for the Town Hall amounted to \$276.

On a motion of councillor John W. Davis, the tender of the Bowmanville Factory was accepted and Reeve Bigelow was instructed to communicate with said company, and order 75 such seats as the sample seat sent by the company.

Mr. A.W. Roberts introduced and carried through a by-law appropriating the \$2 per head of the 1,500 accepted as population of the now corporation of Port Perry in 1871, to the completing of the Town Hall and discharging and debts in connection with the same. The by-law was passed, signed and sealed.

## Inspector of Chimneys council report

*North Ontario Observer: March 5, 1874*

The council of the corporation of Port Perry met at the chambers on Tuesday 3rd inst., the Reeve in the chair.

Mr. Daniel Rose, Inspector of Chimneys, brought in his report setting forth that he had thoroughly inspected every chimney and house where fire is used within the corporation; that the total number of chimneys inspected by him is 295 and of these 275 are in a safe condition and up to the requirement of the by-law and that 20 of them were in an unsafe condition and that he had directed the necessary repairs to be proceeded with at once. That he had again visited these 20, some of whom he found had made the necessary repairs and those who had not had promised to do so without delay and he would see that they do it.

Of those chimneys that were found unsafe, was that of Prof. Samuel Stout. Mr. Stout, he said, had repaired his chimney and made it safe, and notwithstanding that the smoke still issued from the place where the pipe entered the chimney, there was not the slightest danger, the smoke was occasioned by the pipe being so much smaller than the hole in the chimney that one can stick his head in between them, and the cause of the smoke, as the Professor asserted to him (the Inspector) was that "she would not draw."

## Fire at the residence of W.J. Trounce

*North Ontario Observer: March 12, 1874*

A lady in passing the residence of William J. Trounce, Esq., about nine o'clock last evening observed fire issuing from around the chimney on the back kitchen. She immediately gave the alarm and a general rush was made for the spot and as quick as a flash each man rushed in to do battle with the foe.

Pails were lying in all directions and the house top

soon bristled with active hands, whose noble exertions succeeded in confining the fiend to the rear building.

In the meantime other parties when in search of the "Fire Bell" and after a long and painful search succeeded in discovering it hid away amongst the snow and scrap-iron in Mr. White's back yard. After digging out his bellship half a dozen went at it with stones and pelted way till they fairly sweat, and by their combined efforts succeeded in letting the sound be heard 100 yards distance.

The men who had gone in search of the Fire Engine found they were too late, she had retired for the night and for safe keeping the doors were barricaded inside. It required a large expenditure of time and force to storm her castle, but after repeated attacks the doors were smashed in and the sleepy engine dragged from her retreat. She succeeded in arriving at the spot in time to see the naked rafters fall.



*Port Perry's new Union School.*

## New school building opened to public

*North Ontario Observer: March 12, 1874*

Our new and magnificent school buildings having been sufficiently advanced to admit the pupils, was taken possession of by some of the higher division.

In order to celebrate in some way an event of so much importance, the gushing youthful spirits determined on having a public entertainment, to which the public were invited. This took place on Friday evening and the invitation was responded to with a generosity in keeping with the spirit in which it was given, for twice as many attended as could be accommodated in the large room.

Note: On April 2, 1874 the following notice was published: "The villagers will be glad to learn that a capital new bell has been hung in the belfry of the school buildings. This will play an important part in the discipline of the schools, as to time. The bell was furnished by Mr. William T. Parrish, the energetic hardware merchant of this place.

## Major Hodgson new fishery Inspector

*North Ontario Observer: March 26, 1874*

Major Hodgson has received the appointment of Fishery Inspector for Scugog and adjoining waters. That the appointment is a judicious one no one will attempt

to dispute. The Major is in every way fitted for the office, and while no tyrant, he at the same time knows how to discharge his duty with efficiency.

We have not the slightest doubt but that he will discharge the duties of his new office with zeal and ability which won him his spurs in the militia department and secured his elevation to the rank of Major. We would admonish all inclined to illegal fishing on these waters that it is their duty and they will find it to their interest not to try it. There is no escaping the penalty.

## Manufacturer offers clock for hall

*North Ontario Observer - April 9, 1874*

Reeve Bigelow read a communication from a Montreal Clock manufacturer regarding a town clock, offering to furnish the corporation with a suitable clock for the tower on the Town Hall. The dial to be five feet in diameter and either brass or transparent, at a cost of \$350, with one or more additional dials if so required at from \$80 to \$100.

## Town Hall caretaker appointed

*North Ontario Observer - April 16, 1874*

Mr. David J. Adams introduced and carried through the second reading of a by-law to appoint a caretaker of the Town Hall, grounds and Fire Engine and hose to define his duties and name his salary. Mr. John F. Mincks was appointed the caretaker with a salary of \$150 per annum.

The matter of defining the duties was then entered upon with considerable spirit, and if anything which mortal man could be asked to do was omitted, we would like to know where it is.

His duties are: to ring the town bell, when one is installed, at least four times every day, being 7 a.m., at noon, at 1 and 6 p.m., and oftener if required.

He is to keep the town buildings and grounds in good order, keep the hall clean and tidy, attend to the hall at all times when in use; to set the fires, put out the lights and lock-up the hall when business is over.

To keep the fire engine and hose always in proper order, and in cold weather to maintain the temperature of the engine room night and day, so that the water will not freeze in the engine.

## Progress continues along lakefront

*North Ontario Observer: April 16, 1874*

The opening Spring has again brought an army of busy, active workmen around our Port Perry wharf. The Railway Company, with commendable enterprise and have purchased the grounds on which Messrs. Bigelow & Trounce's Woolen Factory, Shingle Factory and Planing Mill and Sash and Door Factory stood.

The proprietors having moved their works, part to the vicinity of the Grist Mill, and part near the Foundry.

This additional space will be of vast importance to the Company and a great convenience to the parties sending freight by the road. Once this space has been perfectly brought in and fitted up as the company intend, it will make the Port Perry terminus one of the most convenient that could be desired.

The foundations of the factory buildings were removed on Monday last and the ground is now ready for the Railway Company to operate on. In every direction

there is bustle and activity, the ringing of the hammers, the rumbling of wheels and the cheering hum of active workmen, give to the scene the most encouraging proofs of vigorous prosperity.

Lots of railway hands are engaged in trimming up and preparing for the approaching rush of business in the timber and lumber traffic. The clumsy, but useful dredger, is preparing for an active campaign in cleaning out and deepening our waters at the wharfs. The impatient steamers lie smoldering in their moorings, only waiting the word "go!"

## Grain elevator, new homes underway

*North Ontario Observer: April 16, 1874*

Cedars and other timbers are being laid down preparatory to the erection of a large grain store-house and elevator capable of holding from 50,000 to 60,000 bushels for George Currie, Esq. This will be a great acquisition to our grain market, inasmuch as it will largely increase our storage capacity and facilitate the sending off the grain.

Messrs. Heard and Reynolds are about erecting a large Blacksmith and Carriage Factory a little north of Mr. Currie's store.

The new brick church for the Wesleyan Methodists is already underway, the preliminaries are being proceeded with. The large number of private residences being built and about to be built this spring and summer will add largely to the business activity of the village and will leave it at the close of 1874 much larger than it was at its beginning. The demand for additional building sites is on the increase and the value of property is increasing in proportion.

The Union Avenue Company, in a spirit of commendable liberality and enterprise, instead of holding on to their lots till prices rise still higher, have determined to sell by Auction on the 5th day of May next, some 70 of their best building lots all of which will doubtless be bought with much avidity.

The number of new houses springing up in this quarter of the town plainly indicate the direction of the future extension of the town.

## The magnificent new Town Hall

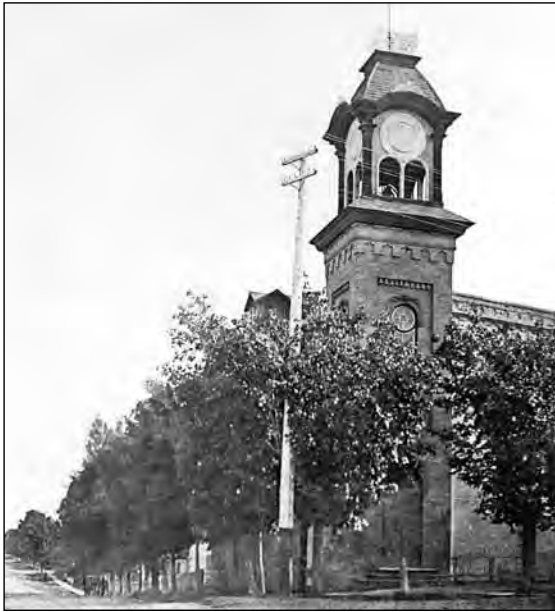
*North Ontario Observer: April 23, 1874*

The nominations were held in the Town Hall and really it is magnificent. It is the very best Town Hall we know of and all concerned have done themselves much credit; the corporation for their large hearted liberality, the village council for giving effect to the desires of the people and securing the completion of so fine a building; and the contractors for the skillful manner in which they have filled the contracts.

The plastering, both the plain and ornamental part of it, reflects the highest praise on the skill of the workmen. The council has shown both economy and good taste in the seats.

The chandeliers are miserable things, some half dozen wretched apologies hung to the ceiling by dog chains. Why not introduce a grease pan with a burning rag in it!

Everything within the hall is tidy and clean, and though during the short time the meeting lasted there were no



Port Perry's new Town Hall, about 1900.

lack of tobacco spits of enormous dimensions scattered over the floor, this may be avoided in the future.

It may be however that the extra duty on the weed will tend either to lessen the number of spits in a given time or decrease their dimensions.

## Town Hall centre of entertainment

*North Ontario Observer: May 7, 1874*

The new Town Hall, Port Perry has, since its completion, been the grand centre of attraction, for pleasure seekers, and they have been supplied with a rich and varied supply, the entertainments following each other in quick succession. Since our last we have had Bordwell's pleasant and high entreating exhibition.

On Monday evening we had a Grand Concert of vocal and instrumental music before the house of about four hundred. The principle performers were from a distance, the others, besides the Episcopal Church choir, were residents of the village.

The house spoke approvingly of the several efforts, so much so in fact, that after one or two pieces every performance received a boisterous "encore" sent home with at "tramp" which seemed to say "come back or we'll fetch you."

## Town Hall requires improvements

*North Ontario Observer: May 7, 1874*

Our Town Hall is certainly a credit to the mechanical skill of the contractors and liberality of those who had to foot the bill. However more light would have been most desirable; the little lamp placed on a chair on the platform on Monday evening, did not look well, neither was it quite safe; something much less than an earthquake could have upset that toppling lamp and there is no saying what the results might have been in such a case.

Four more lights in each chandelier would produce magnificent light, and parties would have no further occasion to run around with hand lamps. That the platform is not right must have been obvious to all who were

present at the concert on Monday evening. The florals of the rooms at the ends of the platform should by all means have been raised to a level with the platform both for appearance, comfort and sound. All that is necessary is to run the platform out to each side, and thus make the floor of the rooms on the level with the platform.

## Progress of Reach Township

*North Ontario Observer: May 14, 1874*

Every friend of this fair township will read with pleasure the result of the late assessing tour of the two assessors of the township whose labour have been brought to a successful termination as exhibited by the assessment roll which they returned some time ago, and which now only waits the action of the Court of Revision for its final confirmation.

The wealth and material progress of this township must be interesting to all concerned in the welfare of our noble country, for while Reach is prospering so rapidly other townships are by no means standing still. They too are advancing in every department of moral, intellectual and material progress.

The following are totals as taken from the assessment roll of Reach for 1874. Total value of Real Estate, \$1,509,711; of Personal Property, \$90,985; of Taxable Income, \$1,500. Total value of taxable property, including income, in the township \$1,602,196.

Number of days Statue Labour, 5,5:9; Horses 2,050; Cattle 4,308, Sheep 4,913; Hogs 1,353, Dogs 411, Bitches 11. Setting the population at 6,000 which is more than it really is, we have every man, mown and child on an average worth of \$267.

## Bridge near mill stream dangerous.

*North Ontario Observer: May 21, 1874*

There is no spot in the County offering a better opportunity for breaking the neck of a man or beast, than that bridge in the western extremity of Queen St., Port Perry. The bridge we refer to is over the old mill creek in the west of Borelia on the road to Manchester.

The bridge is much narrower than the road and at the north-east corner of the bridge there is nothing to prevent anyone from falling, or driving over, and it would not be worth while picking up anything left of man or beast who might take this fatal leap, as the fall would be some 15' or 16' perpendicular to the rocks below. At neither end of the bridge are there proper guards placed for the protection of the lives and limbs of the traveling public; but at the particular corner we refer to there is nothing at all to prevent anyone from falling or driving over.

Two or three dollars of an outlay would render the approaches perfectly safe, while a few days longer neglect may entail damages amounting to thousands of dollars.

## Streets of Port Perry require repairs

*North Ontario Observer: May 21, 1874*

Parties who many have occasion to pass along almost any of the streets in Port Perry will do well first to take the precaution of insuring against broken limbs or death. There are several splendid pitfalls offering a capital opportunity for getting rid of the cares of life, or lying on ones back during the summer waiting till a broken limb



should knit.

These pitfalls are neither few nor far between. There is a capital one opposite the Post Office, on a street bearing the respected title of Bigelow. While on his way to business, this Thursday morning, his horse, cart and himself fell into an open culvert damaging the whole considerably and nearly breaking the man's legs.

We hope our council don't mean to repeat the comedy of errors this year again. What is being done with our streets?

## Cluttered streets cause of accidents

*North Ontario Observer: May 28, 1874*

We regret to state that W. S. Sexton, Esq., one of our most worthy and highly esteemed townsmen, met with a very serious accident yesterday, 27th inst. Mr. Sexton was driving north along Water St., Port Perry, and had got near where the railway crosses the street when the 2:30 p.m. train was about starting.

Mr. Ireland's team which was going for a load of sand was coming south on, Water St. at the same time, the team became frightened at the train and reared and plunged badly, and the street being blocked up with ties, stovewood and all sorts of rubbish having scarcely room for a single carriage to pass along.

Mr. Sexton had not room to drive past the team which plunged right on him, driving the wagon tongue into his horse, upsetting the buggy and bruising Mr. Sexton badly, breaking his right arm near the shoulder and the small bone of his left leg near the ankle.

The professional services of Dr. Jones were speedily secured and we are glad to learn that Mr. Sexton rested tolerably during the night.

This is a serious accident and is entirely attributable to the worse than criminal negligence of our blundering Village Council whose repeated and persistent, blunders become everyday more unbearable. Had the street been clear of the infernal rubbish which is piled up on both sides of it, the accident would not have happened. Mr. Sexton could have passed had the street been clear.

## Young man caught in saw mill belt

*North Ontario Observer: May 28, 1874*

On this Thursday morning, a young man named James Smith, employed in Sexton's Saw Mills, Port Perry, was for some purpose or another working around the main driving belt when he got caught and carried round the drum and so bruised that though active when we got to press, he can't possibly live.

Dr. Francis H. Brathwaite who was immediately on the spot pronounced the case a hopeless one. Drs. John E. Ware, Francis H. Brathwaite and Philip are in attendance. The young man is about 23 years and leaves a young widow to lament his loss. No blame can attach to the mill owners. There is a party employed whose duty it is to attend to the belts and there is no danger to parties who know how to handle the belts.

## Report on happenings in Port Perry

*North Ontario Observer: May 28, 1874*

RUNNING IT UP – The Wesleyan Methodist brick church in Port Perry, is being pushed with vigor and is making



*Dr. Richard Jones residence, Queen St., Port Perry.*

most satisfactory progress. Comfort and durability no less than good taste appear to be largely consulted in the erection so far as it has proceeded.

AT IT WITH VIGOR – An active staff of workmen have been set to work on our streets under the efficient directions of Mr. Kennedy, and from the manner in which things are being made to skip we expect that the reproach of disgraceful streets will soon be removed from the consciences of our village fathers.

The streets are to be fairly graded and the sidewalks brought to the common level. So that in future parties passing along our sidewalks won't require to ascend or descend a ladder every couple of roads. The council have begun the work and doubtless they will put it through until our streets shall in some degree correspond with the energy and enterprise of the villagers.

AN OVERHAUL – The excellent residence on Queen St., Port Perry, lately purchased by Dr. Richard Jones is undergoing a thorough repair which will add greatly both to its comfort and appearance. Considerable attention is being devoted to the thorough draining of the cellar. This the proper spot to commence repairs. It matters little how large and costly a residence may be, it is only a nursery of disease if its cellar is damp, musty and badly drained.

PLANTING SHOW TREES – The goodly number of show trees being planted out in some of the principal streets of Port Perry promise at no far distant day to add largely both to the comfort and appearance of the streets. The vandal who would wantonly injure one of these trees, is out to get the penitentiary for his pains.



*Town Hall tower.*

## Tower erected on new town hall

*North Ontario Observer: June 11, 1874*

The *Observer* editor reported, "Our handsome Town Hall is being completed with the erection of the tower. All that was wanted to complete the structure." The hall is estimated to have cost the village about \$6,000.

## Body of drowned man recovered

*Toronto Globe: June 3, 1874*

The corpse of young Mr. Brown, who was drowned on Monday this week in Scugog Lake, with Fred Hopkins, was found today by a searching party on the Steamer Victoria. The remains, which were much discolored, were brought down this evening.

## Dr. J.E. Ware moves to Port Perry

*North Ontario Observer: June 11, 1874*

Yielding to the earnest solicitations of friends, and for the greater convenience of his patrons and the public generally, Dr. John E. Ware has moved his office to Port Perry, and gone into partnership with Dr. Francis H. Brathwaite.

A large number of those requiring the doctor's professional services will find it more convenient to call at his office at Port Perry; and being now situated at the business centre of this section of country his services may be more readily obtained by the public at large.

That Dr. Ware is an important acquisition to the village will be admitted by all who know him, either as a professional man, or a citizen.

We need add nothing as to the Doctor's worth, his eminent success as a skillful, medical practitioner, and his many years successful practice in this section of country place his reputation as a thoroughly reliable medical adviser on a sure foundation. His uniform, careful attention to his patients, his excellent success in restoring them to health, his thorough knowledge of the healing art, with his upright, honorable dealing as a fellow citizen, render him a valuable addition to any community.

Note: September 17, 1874 - The partnership hitherto existing between Drs. John E. Ware and Francis H. Brathwaite has been dissolved by mutual consent. Dr. Ware found he could not devote the attention to his country practice it demanded; he has withdrawn from his Port Perry office and will devote his time to his Prince Albert office practice.

## Currie's elevator a valuable structure

*North Ontario Observer: June 18, 1874*

Mr. George Currie's Grain storehouse and elevator in the course of erection at the railway terminus at Port Perry has advanced its first stage. The size of the timbers and



*George Currie's new grain elevator at lakefront.*

the plan on which it is constructed will secure uncommon strength. In fact it appears as if no amount of weight could effect it. This erection, when completed, will be one of the most valuable buildings in town, at least one of the most important. p

This will form a very important addition to our grain storage, and will therefore be of advantage to all having grain to sell. When storage is scant, or become filled up, buyers as a matter of course become indifferent, or may be for the time, unable to buy any more until their stock gets diminished; and thus parties may be interrupted in the delivery of their grain.

But with this large additional store room, and the facilities which the elevator will offer for sending off grain, a block will be next to impossible, as the large amount of store room and the facilities for forwarding will be more than a match for all that can be brought in.

## Port Perry considers sites for a suitable new fair grounds

*North Ontario Observer: June 18, 1874*

For a couple of years past there has been considerable bluster over the idea of securing the County Shows at Port Perry and suitable grounds were to be secured immediately; but the word suitable has considerable latitude and in this case appears to have been understood as suitable to the pocket of the Reeve (Bigelow) of the village.

In the first place, he considered suitable a miserable little patch which he had to sell somewhere away north in the woods and which was scarcely large enough for a kitchen garden, and when that would not take, he has pitched upon another spot which he has to sell away in the rice beds in the swamps of Scugog, which is scarcely firm enough at low water to bear a cat.

By all means let the village buy this at a handsome price and let the agricultural society furnish boats for navigating the rice puddle and build a bridge to get into it. No fence will be required, some eight or ten feet of mud and weeds will form an impenetrable barrier to anything which cannot swim in mud. We warn the villagers against investing in a rice swamp, for the society won't be foolish enough to countenance any such location.

## Fair ground site dangerous for public

*North Ontario Observer: July 9, 1874*

We are pleased to observe that the proposed mad-cap purchase of 12 acres, near the rice-beds on Scugog, for Show Ground purposes is meeting that reception which it deserves. The only merit the scheme ever had was the facilities it offered for getting rid of the cares of life, in crossing the railway track in passing to and from the grounds. It would scarcely be possible to hold a show without killing both people and stock.

If this is the way the famous \$7,000 are to be invested, we will wish our village fathers much luck when they get the ratepayers to be foolish enough to vote for ti. The villagers, we hope, are not quite so easily ridden.

## Should be called "Saw Dust Street"

*North Ontario Observer: July 9, 1874*

In passing along what used to be called Water Street the other day, we found that the name was a sad misnomer. It should be called Saw Dust Street.

We pitied the poor teams struggling knee deep, with the vehicles over the hubs in unmitigated saw dust, striving to get along over this misnamed street. Travelers over this street must be possessed of much more patience than ordinary mortals, or they would at once indict for a nuisance, the party or parties, who are throwing this rubbish on the public street and thus obstructing travel.

## Ireland offers a new fair ground

*North Ontario Observer: July 3, 1874*

At the meeting of Port Perry council at the Town Hall on Monday evening 27th inst., councillor David J. Adams announced that Mr. Jessie Ireland was in the hall and had something to communicate to the council.

Mr. Ireland said he purchase from 10 to 12 acres of suitable ground within the corporation, would fence it around with a close board fence 8 ft. high, would erect a building within, suitable for a floral hall, 60'x100' and lease said grounds to the corporation for a period of ten years, for the purpose of holding County shows and village shows, on condition that the corporation give him a bonus of \$600.

Mr. Ireland was instructed to make out his proposition in writing and present it at the next meeting of council, which will be held on Wednesday evening next.

## Accept offer for new fair ground site

*North Ontario Observer: August 6, 1874*

At the meeting of Port Perry council at the Town Hall on Thursday evening 30th inst., the matter of the fair grounds again came up for discussion. Mr. Jesse Ireland appeared at the council board and made the following offer.

That he (Ireland) would purchase 10 or 12 acres in the north-east corner of the 5th concession of Reach, that he would fence it round with a close board fence eight feet high. That he would level and properly prepare the grounds for the purposes of Agricultural shows, and that he would build a hall suitable for a floral hall 60'x100' with raised floor, 10 feet wide running along the length of the hall on two sides, proper tables running up the centre and a gallery at each end.

And he would lease the whole to the Corporation for a period of 10 years for the purposes of agricultural shows and stock fairs. the number of day so used by the Corporation not exceed seven in any one year; the Corporation to pay an annual rent of \$75, with the addition of any and all other sums granted by the N.O.E.D. Agricultural Society to the Corporation towards paying for the use of the fair grounds or for assisting in fitting them up. On motion of Mr. Adams, Mr. Ireland's offer was accepted.

## Port Perry council news

*North Ontario Observer: July 30, 1874*

At the meeting of council in the Town Hall, on motion of Mr. David J. Adams, the Reeve and Mr. Mark Currie were appointed a committee to procure three hand-fire

engines for the use of the corporation with such hooks and ladders as may be necessary in fighting fires, and also 100 feet of hose suitable for No. 2 Engine.

One of the three new engines is to be station at Borelia.

## Wm. Sexton sues corporation

*North Ontario Observer: August 27, 1874*

The Corporation of Port Perry has retained R.A. Harrison, Esq., Q.C. with the solicitor of the corporation to define the corporation in a suit instituted by William S. Sexton, Esq., against the corporation claiming damages to the extend of \$20,000 of the corporation for injuries received in consequence of the blockading of Water Street.

The plaintiff has retained Cameron & McMichael, Esq., Q.C. with Philander A. Hurd, Esq., to conduct the suit.

The Reeve's lot selling, and railway switches, will get a ripping ere this suite is over. Personally guilty should be made personally liable. Why should the ratepayers be called upon to pay a cent of damages while the closing up of the street was a deliberated act of buying and selling.

## Work slows down on town hall tower

*North Ontario Observer - September 10, 1874*

At a regular meeting of the council of Port Perry, councillor John W. Adams asked why it was that the contractor was not proceeding with the bell tower of the town hall. Reeve J. Bigelow stated that the clerk, by his instruction, had written Mr. Tripp and that he had promised the work would be completed without further interruption.

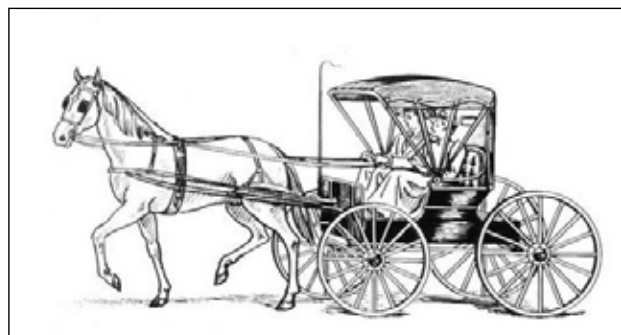
A Mr. Jones of Markham offers to supply a bell for the Town Hall on a trail. If satisfactory as to tone and power, the cost would be \$120. No action was taken.

## Pork packaging plant to open

*Port Perry Standard: September 29, 1874*

We learn with pleasure that Messrs. J.H. Brown & Aaron Ross of this place, have purchased a lot near the foundry for the express purpose of erecting thereon, at once, a large pork packaging establishment.

To insure success in that branch of the business, Mr. Britton is to have charge of curing and packing department, and they estimate that they will be able to put up, during the coming season, some 8,000 to 10,000 hogs. In connection therewith, they also propose slaughtering beef, to be shipped fresh to the English market during the winter. Once in operation it will add very materially to the interest of the place.



*Horse and wagons were a main method of transportaion.*

## Wagon upsets severely injuring two

*North Ontario Observer: October 1, 1874*

We regret exceedingly to have to record a painful accident which befell two of our most worthy and highly esteemed neighbours, Joseph Reader, Esq., and Rebecca, the beloved partner of his life.

On Friday last while the old gentleman and his lady were driving along at the funeral of their deceased respected townsman, Solomon Fralick, Esq. Mr. Horace Foster was coming up behind driving a team of spirited young horses, when a boy on horseback came and attempted to pass.

This startled Mr. Foster's team, and with a view to avoiding any damage to others he at once turned his team toward the fence; but by a sudden jerk the tongue of the wagon was broken. The wagon upset and the horses ran off dashing right into Mr. Reader's buggy and Mr. and Mrs. Reader were thrown out with such force that Mr. Reader got badly bruised and stunned so much so that it was at first feared that he had sustained fatal internal injuries. Mrs. Reader had her right side completely broken in, her collar bone and shoulder blade broken in two places, and three or four ribs all badly broken, with other severe injuries.

The services of Dr. Richard Jones were secured with the utmost dispatch and all that medical skill could do for the sufferers was done with the utmost promptitude; the sufferers are doing as well as is possible under the circumstances. Mr. Reader has so far recovered from the shock and good hopes are entertained of his recover. Mrs. Reader is 72 years of age and so terribly injured that little can now be said as to her chances.

## Construction rushing for winter

*North Ontario Observer: October 15, 1874*

A large number of buildings, now in course of erection in Port Perry, are being pushed with the utmost energy, determined to get the inside track on Mr. Frost.

On Mr. Ross' handsome new block the bricks are being laid with rapidity. Mr. Davis building is being hastened on; Mr. Courtice's fine new harness shop will soon be ready for occupation; the new store of Mr. Leonard is in course of being completed. Messrs. Paxton, Bigelow & Trounce's

extensive new Woolen Factory will soon have steam up. The new Pork Packing Factory for Messrs. Brown & Ross is in the hands of energetic and skilful contractors.

## Rail siding at Manchester station

*North Ontario Observer: October 15, 1874*

Through the energy and liberality of Samuel H. Christian, Esq., merchant, Manchester Station of the Port Whitby & Port Perry Railway has been furnished with a rail siding which cannot fail in being of the utmost importance to all doing business at the station.

The Railway Co. agreement contained a clause securing the erection and maintenance of regular stations at Prince Albert and Manchester, this of course was supposed to include siding; but they said the letter of the law did not bind them to give the siding. Of course a station without a siding was of little or no use to merchants dealing in grain or other bulky commodities.

Mr. Christian determined to remedy the evil, addressing



*S.H. Christian's railway siding, for loading wheat.*

himself to the Company, placing aside every objection and finally secured his object – at his own expense graded the siding, procuring and laying the ties, while the Company provided and laid down the iron. Now thanks to Mr. Christian, the village of Manchester and all central Reach can boast of a station with its necessary appendage – a proper siding.

While Mr. Christian ought not to have been called upon to pay a dollar for grading or ties, his cash and energy have been the means of securing this advantage. The benefit will by no means be confined to himself, it will do good to the whole village and in fact to every farmer doing business at Manchester.

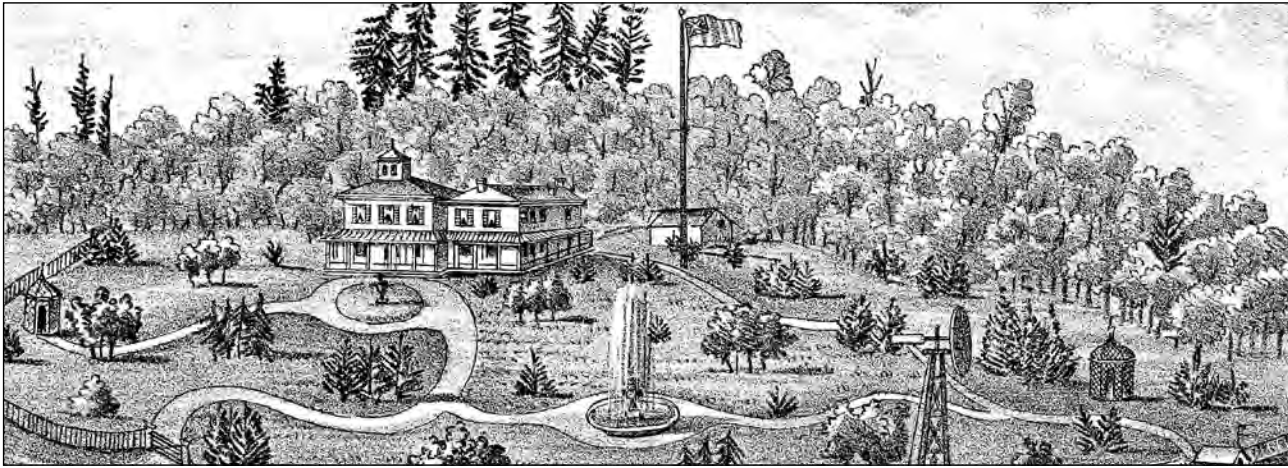


*New Methodist Church, John St., Port Perry.*

## New Port Perry Methodist Church packed for dedication services

*North Ontario Observer: October 22, 1874*

The important services connected with the Opening and Dedication of the new Methodist Church, Port Perry took place on Sabbath and Monday last. At 10 a.m. on Sabbath, 18th inst., the seats, passes and the gallery were all full. Rev. Mr. Wood raised to read the introduction to the dedicatory services. In the afternoon a service by Rev.



*Dr. Sangster's Beechenhurst homes in Port Perry.*

Mr. Jno. McDonald, and in the evening by Rev. Mr. Bredin of Bowmanville.

The splendid new brick church built by the Methodists of the locality and now fully completed at a cost of upwards of \$7,000. This splendid edifice which is no less an ornament to the locality than a proof of the large hearted generosity and all of those whose generosity and exertion it owes its existence, is really a credit to this whole section of the country.

Mr. Edwards of Whitby did the mason work, Messrs. Row & Whetter the carpenter work and Mr. Marsh the painting. The workmanship is highly creditable to the several contractors.

The building is 38'x68' and 21 feet from floor to ceiling with a large well lighted and comfortable basement; one of the finest basement we have seen. The church, we should judge, will hold 400 comfortably seated. In the entire absence of any attempt at display the whole has a neat comfortable and really handsome appearance.

The spire is in keeping with the rest of the building, neat and in good taste and stand 135 feet high from the basement.

A tea meeting followed on Monday evening which was largely attended; addresses were delivered by Rev. Mr. Bredin, and Rev. W.H. Lord of Oshawa, and several of the resident ministers, which were interspersed with vocal music by amateurs and anthems by the choir.

The gathering was highly successful. The sum of \$2,500 was raised by collection and subscriptions in addition to \$2,000 previously subscribed. The building is a very handsome structure with a stone basement and will cost \$7,000. It is calculated to hold five hundred persons.

## **Vandals make dangerous trap on road**

*North Ontario Observer: November 3, 1874*

Some parties, there must at least have been three, between Saturday evening and Sunday morning last set a trap of the most deadly nature on the road leading east of Prince Albert to the Prince Albert station of the Port Whitby & Port Perry Railway.

Three tall posts were set up resting upon each other at their upper ends and the lower ends so placed that the trap would stand until some one should trike against either of the posts, when the whole would fall on the man, horse or carriage which should strike against either of the posts.

The night being very dark it would be almost impossible for anyone to see the trap before he got into ti, when the disaster would be secure and smashed buggies, broken limbs, or lost lives of both persons and horses would be sure to follow. But in order to make the destruction more sure, a large log was placed across the road a few yards from the trap so that if anything escape total destruction from the trap, the log would make sure work of it.

We would very much rather keep silent on this matter, indeed we are ashamed to have to state that such an act of vandalism was acted in our midst. Fortunately no one passed the road that night and on Sunday morning the dead fall was seen and removed.

## **Dr. J.H. Sangster moves to Port Perry**

*North Ontario Observer: November 12, 1874*

Our readers will learn with pleasure that Dr. John Herbert Sangster has become a resident of Port Perry; he has opened an office here and gone into the practice of his profession.

That Dr. Sangster is an important acquisition to any section of the country will be readily admitted by all who know anything of his superior abilities, whether as an educationalist, lecturer or medical practitioner. The Doctor has come amongst us for the practice of medicine.

Dr. Sangster having been so prominent as one of Canada's leading educationists has caused him to be better known as an educationist than as a physician; but he is well known to be a thoroughly trained and practical medical man and has had for many years superior advantages in the practice of his profession. He was also for several years a prominent member of the Board of Examiners in one of our best medical colleges, and held the important position of lecturer in another.

## **Steamers stop running for the season**

*Toronto Globe: November 27, 1874*

Navigation on the inland lakes for the season is over. Weeks before last the steamer *Ontario* was stopped by ice on the Buckhorn Narrows from going to Bridgenorth with the mails, and the *Vanderbilt* had to cut the ice all through the Lindsay River.

The steamers *Victoria*, *Ogemah*, and *Novelty*, are



already up at Lindsay. The *Anglo Saxon* has put up for the winter at her old quarters in Port Perry.

## James Graham purchases 800 acre Springwater Farm on Scugog Island

*North Ontario Observer: November 26, 1874*

William S. Sexton, Esq., Port Perry has sold to James Graham, Esq., the worthy and esteemed Reeve of the Township of Reach, 800 acres of his Springwater Farm on Scugog Island. In consequence of which Mr. Sexton will shortly sell by public auction, the whole of his immense stock of choice horses, cattle, &c. In all, over 100 head, together with a large quantity of farming utensils, hay and other produce.

Mr. Sexton also will offer at the same time nearly 200 acres of choice farmland in the same locality.

We wish our esteemed and enterprising friend, Mr. Graham, much comfort and prosperity in his extensive purchase. We have little doubt but Mr. Graham will make this great farm a source of much interest and profit to himself, and much advantage to the country at large in the improvement of our stock of cattle, sheep, &c.



*Springwater Farm, Scugog Island, 1877.*

## Walker new owner of Royal Hotel

*North Ontario Observer: December 3, 1874*

We are pleased to see that Mr. Thomas Walker has become proprietor of the Royal Hotel, Port Perry, formerly owned by Mr. Daniel Ireland. He has taken possession and got the house fitted up in a style which would credit to any town or city in the province. The comfort of the guests much more than display being manifest throughout the whole of the establishment.

This house is calculated to do a large business and furnish accommodation for a large number of guests. From the cellar to the attic, order, cleanliness and unmistakable tokens of comfort prevail and go far to prove the good taste of the active host. The spacious dining room can accommodate over one hundred; the several sitting rooms are all got up in a fine style and there are nearly fifty comfortable bedrooms.

Mr. Walker's reputation and thorough experience in the business is a sufficient guarantee for the care and attention he will give to the comfort of his guests.

~ 1875 ~

## Sad gloom over men's deaths

*Toronto Globe: January 5, 1875*

A sad gloom has been cast over this place by the sudden death on 2nd January of Mr. Charles Paxton; also Mr. Daniel Ireland having on New Year's Day accidentally shot himself so seriously as to leave little hope of his recovery. Both gentlemen were much respected and their respective families have the sympathy of the community.

## Man wounded seriously by rifle shot

*North Ontario Observer: January 7, 1875*

Mr. Daniel Ireland, late of the Royal Hotel, Port Perry, met with a serious and as nearly as possible, fatal accident on New Year's day.

Mr. Ireland and some others had been out shooting and returning home about five in the afternoon he was riding on his sleigh and his loaded rifle laid across his lap. While passing along, the rifle slipped and while pulling it back the trigger struck the edge of the sleigh and discharged the shot into his right side, grazing his ribs.

The services of Dr. Richard Jones were at once secured, the charge extracted as far as possible and the patient cared for generally and left in a much better condition than one might expect from the serious nature of the wound. We are pleased to know that the wound though very severe is not considered fatal; but it is almost impossible now to tell the extent of the injury.

## Recommends easy access fire bell

*North Ontario Observer: March 4, 1875*

The village of Port Perry since Monday last, has had very much the appearance of a town in a state of siege. Parties come driving into this village as they have been accustomed to do, expecting the usual abundant and comfortable shed accommodation, but in attempting to drive into any of the sheds they find all closed.

They then turn in despair, hitch their steaming horses to the first post they can find on the street, much to the discomfort, as well as the no small risk of the valuable animals, and here the poor horses must stand shivering until the parties have done their business and are prepared to leave the village.

Then again the half-frozen unfed horses must set out on their homeward run rather dissatisfied with the cold cheer, while the hungry and dissatisfied driver whispers through his chattering teeth that he won't visit again soon.

## Park purchases Anglo-American Hotel

*North Ontario Observer: May 6, 1875*

Mr. William H. Park of this place became the purchaser of the Anglo-American Hotel, Prince Albert, on Monday last and we understand he is about to get possession of it at once and enter on the business.

Mr. Park and his esteemed family have been long residents of the locality and have always been useful, good, order loving citizens and we have every confidence that Mr. park will keep such a hotel as will be a credit to himself and of advantage to the locality. There are lots of repairs to make but they have fallen into good hands.



James Emaney's Ontario Carriage Works.

## Changing locations in Port Perry

*North Ontario Observer: May 6, 1875*

Mr. James Emaney has sold his Queen St. blacksmithing establishment to John Nott, Esq., who is about to convert it into a Cabinet Factory.

Mr. Emaney will in future concentrate all his business at his Ontario Carriage Works, Perry Street, and thus the whole being under his more immediate attention will be pushed with even grater vigor than in the past; every department will be pushed. It will also be noticed that his Perry Street works being, fully stocked with tools, lumber, &c., he intends to selling by auction.

We congratulate Mr. Nott on the excellent business position he has thus secured. There is no more suitable location in town, an outlay of a few hundred dollars will convert these premises into a convenient and excellent Cabinet Factory as could be desired.

## Steamer Maple Leaf on Lake Scugog

*North Ontario Observer: May 20, 1875*

The steamer *Maple Leaf*, built at Hovers by its enterprising owner, Mr. Isaac Finley, is now having her engine put in at the wharf in Port Perry. She is a handsome little craft and we doubt not, will prove of the great importance as a means of regular, rapid and convenient carriage both for goods and passengers.

This safe and fast steamer is being completed and prepared for her summer's work, she will go into her regular service on Monday, 24 inst., Queen's Birthday.

This steamer will be a great acquisition to this section of country furnishing as it will, a pleasant, rapid and cheap means of traveling and conveying light freight between Lindsay and Port Perry and from these by connecting with other means of convenience the greater part of the province may be easily reached.

The people of Lindsay, Port Perry and of the several stations and calling places on the route ought to put forth an effort at first to secure for the steamer as large a trade



Steamer *Maple Leaf*.

as possible. Doubtless this rapid sailing little craft will soon secure for herself a large and profitable trade. Capt. Finley is well known in this section of country, he will prove a careful and obliging Captain.

## County report on roads and bridges

*North Ontario Observer: June 4, 1875*

Your committee beg to report as follows. 1. Your committee have been informed that the Scugog Bridge is used for the purpose of fastening rafts of sawlogs or timber thereto, that the bridge has heretofore been injured thereby, and is liable at any time to receive serious damages so long as it is used for such purpose.

Your committee recommend that the caretaker, Joseph Reader, Esq., be instructed to prohibit any person or persons from fastening any raft, scow or anything whatsoever that could injure said bridge, and to prosecute any party that will not comply with his instructions.



Timber lined up for shipment at Port Perry Railway station.

## Port Perry railway very busy carrying timber and lumber to market

*North Ontario Observer: June 17, 1875*

The almost constant whistle of passing cars proves that the P.W & P.P. Railway has got its hands full. From the rising of the sun 'till, well into the night, the now familiar and cheering whistle "clear the track" is almost of hourly occurrence while the far stretching trains of heavily loaded cars show the vast amount of traffic now passing over the road.

The great quantity of timber and lumber now being moved over this lines is astonishing and we congratulate the company for the large amount of business they have thus secured. The Port Perry wharfs present a picture of thrift and activity.

## Lindsay excursion will have two bands

*North Ontario Observer: June 17, 1875*

A great treat in the way of an excursion to Lindsay and return is being prepared for all who relish a pleasant and invigorating sail amidst the beautiful scenery of the Scugog Lake. The comfortable steamer *Ogemah*, Capt. Clement Dawes, has been chartered for a pleasure excursion on Friday, tomorrow, 11th inst.

In the matter of music preparation on a large scale have been made. The Cartwright Brass Band and Munro's Quadrille Band are both secured for the occasion and every preparation in the way of scows and other necessaries for the comfort and convenience of the guests



Steamship "Ogemah".

have been prepared and a pleasant time may be relied on. The steamer will leave the Port Perry wharf at five o'clock tomorrow morning, sharp.

## Ogemah, Vanderbilt offer tours on Lake Scugog for Dominion day

*North Ontario Observer: June 24, 1875*

The fine steamer *Ogemah*, Capt. Clement Dawes, has announced for a series of two hour trip on Lake Scugog on Dominion Day. Dancing is to be one of the attractions on the scows of the *Ogemah* and for this purpose a first-class quadrille band has been secured.

Thus with the great accommodations offered by the Presbyterian Church, managers on board the splendid *Vanderbilt*, with her hourly excursion offering every facility and encouragement for pleasant, healthful and cheap enjoyment and the *Ogemah* with her two-hour excursion will render the Scugog a scene of unusual interest and encouragement.

The superior inducements on Lake Scugog alone ought to be sufficient to draw a rousing assemblage of Port Perry on that day, and doubtless we shall have the largest gathering we have ever had.

## New owner at Anglo-American hotel

*North Ontario Observer: June 24, 1875*

The Anglo-American Hotel, Prince Albert, since falling into the hands of Mr. William H. Park., its present proprietor, has been refitted, renewed, painted, papered and furnished in first rate style,

He has made it a fitting and comfortable transitory home or resting place for the travelling public, while the casual visitor will find the table and bar constantly supplied with the choice of the market.

We congratulate the good people of the village and locality on the fact of Mr. Park becoming owner and occupier of this excellent and well located hotel, believing that he will keep such a house as will be creditable to himself and advantageous to the locality.

## Beautiful streets lined with weeds

*North Ontario Observer: June 24, 1875*

The principal street of Port Perry, whether as to street or sidewalks, will compare favorable with any city or town we know of with a single exception, that is the abominable weeds which are allowed to grow into luxuriant dimension on not a few offer principal streets.

Here the dock, the burdock, carpenter's weed, black

heart and nettle are allowed unmolested to vie with each other in the luxuriance of their growth along the sides of Queen, Perry and other principal streets. Whose duty is it to keep down the rubbish? We care not whose it is, but the nuisance must be got rid of and doubtless our town fathers will see to it and got rid of the nuisance at once.

## Lake Scugog for Dominion day

*North Ontario Observer: June 24, 1875*

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The superior inducements on Lake Scugog alone ought to be sufficient to draw a rousing assemblage of Port Perry on that day, and doubtless we shall have the largest gathering we have ever had.

*North Ontario Observer: July 1 1875*

The celebration of the 12th of July in Port Perry attracted about 2,500 to the Show Hall at the agricultural grounds to take place in the celebrations. About 1,100 excursionists arrived by train and Capt. Dawes provided excursions on his steamer "Ogemah."

*North Ontario Observer: August 1875*

Excursion to Washburn Island on the holiday Monday with the *Ogemah* towing one flat boat, followed by the *Victoria* with two flat boats making their way up the lake with about 900 valued denizens aboard for the regatta and picnic.

## Man falls to cellar while building barn

*North Ontario Observer: July 8, 1875*

On Friday night at the raising of a barn for Mr. O'Leary, about a mile north of Greenbank, a young man named McMillen was standing one of the plates and by some means or other lost his balance and fell within the building.

In his fall he caught at a young man near him and came near to taking him with him in his fall, but the young man caught by a brace and McMillen fell right through and either driving aside the boards, which covered the cellar, or breaking one of them by his weight, he fell plumb through to the bottom of the cellar head first and was taken up to all appearance dead.

Dr. Nathan McClinton was immediately called and everything possible was done for the sufferer but he remained unconscious till the following morning when he rallied a little and was able to speak. We are glad to learn that the young man is improving satisfactorily.

## Temperance Festival in Manchester

*North Ontario Observer: July 8, 1875*

The Manchester Temperance Festival, under the auspices of the Manchester Division 245 Sons of

Temperance, was held in the Town Hall, Manchester on Tuesday evening. The handsome hall with its comfortable fill, if not a crowd, had a gay appearance, all looked trim and orderly.

A more wet and disagreeable afternoon in the month of July is but seldom experienced and this militated very much against the prospects of the evening which was muddy and grim. However as the time approached parties began to arrive from a distance, from Greenbank, Utica, Prince Albert and Port Perry; this had a reassuring effect and that which at one time appeared to offer so poor prospects turned out to be quite an agreeable, pleasant time after all. There were about 100 tickets taken at the door.

John Christie was called to the chair, and amongst the speakers were Adam Gordon, Esq., M.P.; Rev. Mr. Addison; Primitive Methodist Minister Mr. Cragg of Greenbank, and Mr. Bettes, Manchester. The addresser were judicious both in manner, matter and extent. Unflinching, uncompromising abstinence was advocated throughout, ever sort of extravagance and wild assertion were avoided and the principles advocated on their own merits.

## Prompt action saves men drowning

*North Ontario Observer: July 15, 1875*

Amongst the multitude of small boats, sail boats and steamers which ply on our waters during holiday times, it is pleasing to reflect how seldom anything approaching to danger is experienced.

On the twelfth however, two small row boats almost proved an exception from the rule. One containing two young men was upset and it would most likely have proved fatal to one of them had it not been for the prompt and energetic action of Capt. C. Dawes, who observed from the deck of his steamer *Ogemah*, the upset boat and the man clinging to the boat. He at once ordered all speed possible to be put on and bore down on the drowning man and happily was in time to save him.

The other boat was in a sinking condition and could not possibly have reached shore. Capt. Dawes deserves praise for his prompt action in this matter. In boating as in all other undertakings there are two things indispensable to comfort and safety – first a safe outfit and then its proper management.

## Bible Christian Church re-opens

*North Ontario Observer: August 12, 1875*

The Bible Christian Church, Prince Albert, having undergone a thorough repair was re-opened on Sabbath last, Rev. Mr. Roberts conducting the services morning and afternoon and Rev. Mr. Philip in the evening.

Large congregations on each occasion showed by their presence, their sympathy with the occasion while the undivided interest of these packed congregations showed that the subjects treated of were interesting and were handled in such a way as to thoroughly secure the attention of houses packed in every corner.

This now handsome church is creditable alike to the enterprise and good taste of the minister and congregation and to the skill of the painter, whose brush was wrought so great a change both externally and internally. This was a handsome church when new, its back walnut pulpit and otherwise trim appearance were

in good taste, but the pulpit had faded, the walls had become somewhat dingy and both exterior and interior craved a repletion of the painter's skill.

Now the oaken pulpit and seats, the snowy ceiling and ashlar walls, with the beautiful new chandeliers and other necessary internal repairs, and the outside painting and general fixing make this handsome little church one of the finest in the locality.

## Street blocked with huge boulders

*North Ontario Observer: August 12, 1875*

The parties who collect the rocks and laid them down on the main street, Borelia, will find some still larger on the sides of the road a little further west. Those now on the street are no larger than a potash kettle. Could someone not bring on a dozen or two somewhat larger and make a complete blockade of it?

In cannot be that our street commissioner is unaware that one of our main streets is nearly blocked by huge boulders ever here and their along the street. If they are not to be broken or removed by all means, let them be blasted. Corporations no more than individuals relish the luxury of paying for damages.

## Christian builds new grain elevator at Manchester railway station

*North Ontario Observer: August 19, 1875*

Friday last was a day of considerable stir at Manchester Station of the P.W. & P.P. Railway. Some 90 or 100 men lending a willing hand in assisting at the raising of Mr. Samuel H. Christian's new elevator.

Hitherto the vast amount of grain purchased by Mr. Christian had to be handled at considerable expense and disadvantage and it would almost appear at one time that the difficulties were insurmountable, and that no grain could be shipped at that station. There was neither Store House, nor cars, nor apparently any means of getting either as there was no switch and the railway company wouldn't make one. But where there is a will, there is a way, and Mr. Christian's persevering energy and activity met and overcame the difficulties one after another.

He first goes to work and builds a switch, the Company only supplying and laying the iron and agreeing to furnish cars. He next builds a Store House at the station and this was a vast improvement on the arrangement. In place of grain being stored at Manchester as formerly, it was now stored at the station and at convenient times cars were switched off and loaded at the Store House. Thus matters went on for a year or so.



*Christian's grain elevator, left, at the Manchester railway station.*

But as one step in the upward and onward progress leads to another, the Store House system was found to be slow, laborious and costly, and in order to perfect the arrangement Mr. Christian, heedless of expense, removes the Store House and is now erecting an elevator in its place.

This will make matters complete. Farmers will now be able to unload with the least possible trouble, in fact there will be no trouble in unloading and the loading of the cars will be the most simple, inexpensive operation imaginable, simply opening the spout and allowing the grain to run into the car.

Mr. Christian has shown an energy and enterprise in the conduct and extension of his business worthy of the highest commendation, while forwarding his own interests he has been doing much to forward the interests of the entire locality.

## Dafoe House owner took his life

*North Ontario Observer: September 2, 1875*

It becomes our painful duty to record the death, by shooting, of Mr. William J. Dafoe, proprietor of the Dafoe House, Port Perry.

Deceased had been in the habit of handling a loaded revolver and that the revolver was not reliable as it would sometimes go off half-cocked. On Tuesday about noon, deceased when up to his room and he had not been there more than five minutes when a girl who happened to be in an adjoining room stepped in and found deceased stretched on the floor shot through the head.

Dr. Richard Jones, coroner, held an inquest on the body and the verdict of the jury was to the effect that in a fit of temporary insanity deceased died by his own hand. Doubtless the jury gave such a verdict as they considered and evidence warranted; but additional evidence has since come to light and an attempt was made to have the case reopened but without avail.

## Dangerous fire in Prince Albert

*North Ontario Observer: September 16, 1875*

About 12:30 on Sunday last the discordant clatter of the Prince Albert fire bell announced the presence in our midst of the fire fiend who appears to have a preference for Prince Albert above any other village and shows that preference in the most decided manner by clearing off one or two of our best buildings annually.

On this occasion it was the residence of Mr. W.H. Hayes which was consumed. This was a good house immediately south of the Victoria Hotel. The fire first developed itself from under the shingles not the roof of the kitchen.

Had the fire taken the stables the greater part of the village must have gone. The had fire engines supplied by Elija Cash and Mr. Hilborn were of the greatest service and did much towards confounding the fire to the one building. (Full details in Fire section)

## Man stabbed to death during scuffle

*North Ontario Observer: September 30, 1875*

We regret exceedingly to have to chronicle the death by stabbing of Mr. Wm. Boulton, well known through this township from his long residence in Epsom.

It appears that deceased had been engaged in a scuffle

with some parties at the County Show yesterday, but nothing unusual as to results was observed 'till about 12 o'clock at night when some parties going along, found a man lying on the street, and on examination it was found to be Mr. Boulton quite dead, having been stabbed in the abdomen.

## Salem Church re-opens

*North Ontario Observer: October 7, 1875*

The congregation worshipping in the Salem B.C. Church, at Marks' Corners, Reach, have tidied up and repaired their church in a very tasteful manner and have succeeded in giving it a handsome, though not showy, appearance both externally and internally.

The walls and ceiling are pure white and the seats are white with walnut coloured moulding; the pulpit is grained oak and the floor around is yellow. Altogether the church has a tidy, comfortable appearance and reflects credit on the energy and enterprise of the worshippers.

Having been closed for some time, while undergoing repairs, it was re-opened on Sabbath last. Services were held in the morning and the afternoon.

## Young boy attacked by boar pig

*North Ontario Observer: October 7, 1875*

A dreadful attack was made on a dear child, about four years old, son of Mr. James Jackson, Scugog. The child was in the act of crossing the road from his father's place to where Mr. Stephens was plowing on Friday last, when he was attacked by a boar pig, owned by one Dunn. The pig caught the boy by the side, tearing out one of his ribs, laying bare part of his bowels, and exposing one of his lungs and otherwise tearing him.

Mr. Stephens hearing the screams of the child ran to the rescue, he had no weapon in his hand and he tried to drive off the boar with a switch but the brute made for the man, tearing one of his hands badly and giving him a couple of fearful gashes on the thigh, which soon rendered him unconscious. Other men came and the infuriated animal showed fight to three of them.

Medical skill was procured with all haste and everything possible done for the young sufferer.

## Prince Albert Methodist re-opens

*North Ontario Observer: October 14, 1875*

The services in connection with the re-opening of the Methodist Church, Prince Albert took place on the Sabbath and Monday last.

The church had laid aside its dusty rags and donned a



*Prince Albert Methodist (United) Church.*



handsome new dress, externally and internally. It is now decked with much grace without glitter and display, but handsome and becoming.

The alterations made in the seats has wrought a wonderful improvement and removal of the tombstones from the ends of the seats is a change very much for the better; this changes the dreary monotony of rows of "wooden tomb stones" for an agreeable, pleasant-looking series of curves which gives the church not only a pleasant, sharp appearance, but it even looks larger for having these projections removed.

The change in the lighting apparatus looks very well, but we question whether it may be found to serve as good a purpose as four respectable chandeliers would have done.

The painting is in very good taste and if the walls be a little too dark, it will give the house a more cosy appearance during the winter months. The wood work is well done and is highly creditable; the wainscoting, pulpit and seats being grained as oak, white mouldings on the seats in black walnut adds much to their appearance.

The front of the gallery looks very handsome with its massive white mouldings under the fine oak breast. The church as it now stands is a credit to the locality and is without exception the finest church in this whole section of country.

## **Dr. G.W. Jones returns to Port Perry**

*North Ontario Observer: October 14, 1875*

The large circle of friends and acquaintances of Dr. G.W. Jones had the pleasure of greeting that gentleman on his return amongst us at the close of last week, being on a short visit to his relations here.

The principal object of this present visit was to attend professionally on his brother Dr. Richard Jones, the condition of whose health was regarded his family as somewhat critical. We are pleased to know the doctors health has greatly improved since the arrival of his brother.

Dr. Jones numerous friends are gratified to see him return hale and hearty after an absence of six years. He left and extensive and lucrative practice here and we learn with pleasure that he is doing well in his comfortable city home in the United States.

# ~ 1876 ~

## **More factories rising in Port Perry**

*North Ontario Observer: January 6, 1876*

Messrs. D.W. Taylor, Charles Powers and Robert Breathwaite are erecting a substantial and excellent building on Lilla Street for a Planing Mill, Door and Sash Factory, &c. The building is 34 feet high and 54'x64'.

The very best description of machinery is ordered with all the latest improvements. It is expected to be ready to go to work by the 1st of March, and from the activity, perseverance and mechanical skill of the proprietors, this additional factory cannot fail in proving of much advantage, not only to Port Perry, but to all builders and others within a large section of surrounding country requiring planed lumber, doors, sash, or any other

manufacture of such an establishment.

All will hail this additional venture as a further indication of the still increasing prosperity of the village.

Note:- On March 1, 1876, the owners of the new "Dominion Planing Mills" announced there were now open and in "full blast". Their address is, the corner of Lilly (Lilla) and Kellett Street, directly west of the Foundry and south of the Tannery.

## **Council sets fees for Town Hall**

*North Ontario Observer: February 10, 1876*

At the regular meeting of council, a by-law was passed regulating the tariff of prices for use of the Town Hall, as follows: For balls, assemblies, dances &c., from \$10 to \$12 per night. For concerts, shows, exhibitions or any such public entertainment \$7 for one night and \$12 for two nights.

For public entertainments, concerts, lectures &c., under the auspices of any of the churches within the village, or for charity or in the cause of Temperance \$3 per night. Agricultural or Municipal purposes and all public meetings called by the Reeve, Abel Ewers, no charge made.

## **"Fair Ones" march on council with 457 signature petition**

*North Ontario Observer - February 26, 1876*

The Town Hall was brilliant as an illumination for the regular meeting of Port Perry council on February 22, 1876, and the moment one entered he could see at a glance that something unusual was about to take place. The hall was tidy as a palace, the Throne, the head table and seats for the Privy Council were perched on the elevation at the further end of the hall with the flag of old England displaying its folds over the seat of wisdom.

The gathering throng of unusual visitors added increasing interest to the scene. Honorable members began to drop in and showed by their every move that there were breakers ahead.

At half-past seven, Reeve Joseph Bigelow ascended the throne and honourable members took their seats, but the uneasy movements and repeated shifting proved that many thorns, log and sharp, were on those seats, while the furtive glances cast towards the door on every movement proved that something awful was threatened.

The Reeve called the council to order and proceeding were commenced. While this was going on the door flew open and in marched, two by two, some hundred or so of the fair ones of the village; escorted and marshalled by many of the male inhabitants. The ladies occupied the centre of the hall, the gentlemen, the right and left wings.

When all had got seated, the hall and its surrounding had a magnificent appearance, the centre filled with the aged, the young, the fair, and the gay, the mothers and daughters of the village, while the less attractive but no less useful fathers and sons flanked them on the right and left, while honourable members, for some reason or another, sat perched upon a platform a little less than ten feet high.

A document was placed in the hands of the Reeve which appeared to put him on his mettle. This was a request that Mrs. Shipman might be heard on behalf of the ladies of the village. Leave being granted Mrs.

Shipman stepped forward and in a few introductory remarks which we could not hear distinctly, place in the hands of the council a petition signed by 457 of the ladies and ratepayers of the village praying the council not to grant any shop liquor licenses for the present year and to reduce the number of hotel licenses to four.

## Scugog Bridge should be covered

*North Ontario Observer: March 2, 1876*

James Graham, the Reeve of Scugog has introduced a new departure regarding the Scugog Bridge, which from its inception has proved expensive, unsatisfactory and a bone of contention between the County councils and the minor municipalities concerned.

The old shaky concern has only hung in its place by the grace of the winds and floods, which might at any moment have cleaned it out and cut off all further communication between Scugog and Reach, except by boat.

To maintain the rickety concern as it was, caused an annual drain on the exchequer of the County, which made our County fathers fairly groan and every now and again seep to repudiate. But it was of no use, the law held them fast and they had only to grin and bear it year after year with the expectation staring them in the face of being called upon at any moment to build an entire new structure, the old one having been swept away.

It remained for Mr. Graham, the active Reeve of Scugog to suggest and bring about a new departure as to the future of this bridge and with a view to this object the County Council at its late session granted him a Committee to investigate the matter and advise accordingly.

About the close of last week, the Warden of the county, the first Deputy Reeve of Brock and the Reeve of Scugog met at Port Perry, went and examined the Bridge and determined on an entire change of structure, to replace the present tottering, expensive, unreliable concern with a permanent structure at as early a day as possible.

The result was that a committee consisting of Messrs.

James Graham and Joseph Bigelow was appointed to secure the proper brushing and covering of a length of 600 feet on the west end of the bridge, which proved a long step in the way of a permanent, inexpensive structure.

## Tenders for brushing and covering

*North Ontario Observer: March 2, 1876*

Tenders wanted for brushing and covering. Sealed tenders will be received by James Graham and Joseph Bigelow up till noon on Saturday, march 4, 1876 for Brushing, 600

feet long, 25 feet wide and 5 feet deep of the West end of Scugog Bridge. And also for covering the same with Earth or Sawdust, 18 feet wide and 2 feet deep.

Parties may Tender for the whole job, or for the Brushing or Covering alone, or for one-half of either.

## Smash up on the PW & PP Railroad

*North Ontario Observer, March 6, 1876*

On the morning of Friday last, 3rd inst., the train which leaves Port Perry at 6:30 had a pretty bad break-up near the Manchester station caused by the breaking of a piece out of one of the small wheels of the locomotive, the "James Austin". Every evolution of the shell broke the rail and the consequence was that the third car ran off the track and all cars coming after that followed its example.

The train consisted first of the engine and tender, followed by four cars loaded with cord wood, next a car loaded with tanbark, then two cars loaded with grain, and these were followed with the baggage-van and passenger car. The grain cars were left wrong-side up and the grain scattered all around; the baggage van and the passenger car got over on their sides, the latter nearly on top of the former; the passenger car is completely destroyed, one side being fairly driven in.

There were only some five or six people on the passenger car and fortunately not one of them was injured in the slightest degree. Messrs. Aaron Ross, one of the Directors of the company and I. J. Davis, station master in Port Perry and others were in the van. Both of these gentlemen got injured but not severely. The brakesman was the only other party injured. The loss will be considerable.

## Man clears snow from sidewalks

*North Ontario Observer, March 23, 1876*

It is seldom one witnesses a more direct and pleasing illustration of the difference between "go" and "come" than was witnessed in the streets of Prince Albert on the morning of Tuesday last week.

The previous night's snow had blocked up the sidewalks to such an extent that no one could get along, especially the ladies and children, and it would be next to impossible for little children to get to school. Thanks to the ingenuity and tact of Mr. John McDonald, all complaint about snow removal was obviated and the people were angled to pass along the streets in comfort and even the youngest of the children could go to school.

Mr. McDonald made a serviceable snow plow and with his excellent implement drawn by one horse, he very soon had the principal sidewalks clear of snow, clean and comfortable. He deserves the thanks of the community not only for the generous act, but for the useful example he set. If our village fathers were to take a leaf out of Mr. McDonald's book we would have comfortable walks and less growling over accumulated snows.

## Chimney fire in Borelia

*North Ontario Observer: March 23, 1876*

What might have been a destructive fire startled the inhabitants of that portion of Port Perry called Borelia on Saturday last.

When the gale was at its fiercest one of the chimney's

**TENDERS  
WANTED**

FOR  
**BRUSHING AND COVERING!**

SEALED TENDERS will be received by the undersigned up till Noon on  
Saturday, March 4th, 1876.

For  
**BRUSHING**  
600 feet long, 25 feet wide and 5 feet deep of the West end of  
**Scugog Bridge,**  
Also for covering the same with  
**EARTH OR SAWDUST**  
18 feet wide and 2 feet deep.

Tenders may Tender for the whole job, or for the Brushing or Covering alone, or for one-half of either.

Sealed Tenders marked "TENDER" addressed to the undersigned and left at the above time, Port Perry, will be attended to.

N.B. The undersigned do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

JAMES GRAHAM,  
JOSEPH BIGELOW,  
Port Perry, Feb. 26, 1876. 12.17

February 26, 1876 Tender.

on the residence of John Nott, Esq., caught fire and burned so fiercely that the flame burst through the brickwork and set fire to the wooden surroundings, and it not been for the active exertions of the neighbors the building certainly would have been destroyed, and had that building been destroyed there was no means of saving the neighboring buildings which must have fallen prey to the flames.

From the direction of the wind Mr. James Jewett's fine block of buildings must have all gone. We are glad to learn that the damage done to Mr. Nott's property is not great.

## Robert McKnight hired by town

*North Ontario Observer: March 23, 1876*

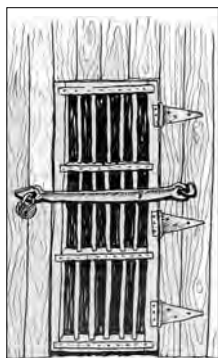
Mr. Robert McKnight asked the council whether they were desirous for retaining his services for the ensuing year, and thereupon an informal discussion took place and it was decided to retain Mr. McKnight at the same salary as paid last year; but at the same time requiring him to perform additional services such as Chimney Inspector, Collector of Licenses, etc.

Mr. Enoch D. Rogers handed in an offer to perform the duties of Clerk, Road Commissioner, Caretaker of Town Hall, Ringing Bell, Fire Inspector, Care of Fire Engine with any variations for the sum of \$125 per annum.

## Town Hall lock-up considered

*North Ontario Observer - April 6, 1876*

Council appointed a committee to see to the construction of a Lock-up and the cost of it not to exceed \$75. Councillor Caleb Crandell did not oppose the motion but considered that \$75 is more than is necessary for making of said Lock-up and he moved an amendment at \$50 be the extent of the appropriation.



*Town Hall jail cell.*

Reeve Joseph Bigelow said he was not aware that the council had the authority to erect such a Lock-up as they please and considers it would be wise to ascertain if council has the power to confine any prisoner without the inspection of the Sheriff, lest it

bring the corporation into trouble.

Council later authorized that the closet, under the front stairs of the Town Hall, be converted into a lock-up for prisoners at a cost not to exceed \$25.

## Port Perry well supplied with good hotels and accommodations

*North Ontario Observer, April 28, 1876*

The Walker House, Port Perry, changed proprietors on Monday last. Mr. William B. McGaw, late of Oshawa, purchased the lease and goodwill of Mr. Thomas Walker and took possession on Monday last. This is decidedly one of the best hotels in the province, and under Mr. Walker's management was one of the best kept hotels.

Much is expected from Mr. McGaw, the new proprietor. He comes with a splendid reputation for activity, careful

attention to business, and for every quality requisite in a thorough going, successful host, one both able and willing to sustain the well merited reputation of the Walker House.

There are but few villages so fully supplied with comfortable hotel accommodation as Port Perry. Contiguous to the Walker House we have the Port Perry House, occupied by Mr. James V. Thompson, a gentleman who thoroughly understands his business and provides all the necessary accommodations for the comfort and convenience of his guests.

Extensive and comfortable accommodations are provided for the traveling public; while the stable and shed accommodation would do credit to any city or town in the province. These offer any amount of the most comfortable shelter for the rigs and stabling for the horses.

## Council purchases fire appliances

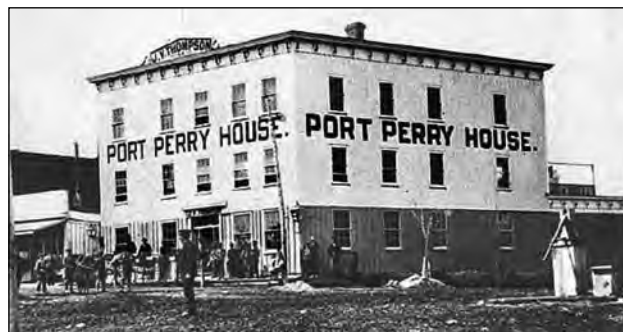
*Ontario Observer: May 18, 1876*

Mr. Caleb Crandell moved that Mr. John Rolph be instructed to purchase 10 feet of hose and a nozzle suitable for the same, to apply to a small fire engine on the West end of town, and that the Reeve grant his order on the treasurer for the amount as soon as procured.

The Clerk read a communication from Mr. Charles Powers, on behalf of the Brass Band, asking to be refunded a portion of the amount charged for the Town Hall concerts. Mr. Crandell moved that the Band be refunded \$10 out of \$14 charged for two nights use of the Town Hall.

Mr. Edward Worthington moved that Mr. Robert McKnight be instructed to purchase one dozen brass keys for the outside door of the basement of the Town Hall and that the same be distributed to different parties in town.

Mr. George Currie moved that Mr. McKnight be instructed to get the windows in the Town Hall so repaired as to allow for their being opened and closed.



*Port Perry House, Queen and Water Streets.*

## Port Perry House undergoes renovations and decorations

*North Ontario Observer, May 18, 1876*

Mr. James V. Thompson's "Port Perry House" hotel has just undergone a complete renovation and decoration at no small expense; but the outlay has been a judicious one, money well invested.

The skillful hand of Mr. William Spence has been at work and has left the House much the better for his visit, he has put in several fine centre pieces and otherwise

decorated the building which add very much to the appearance of the rooms. The painter and paper hanger too have done their parts well in contributing to make the Port Perry House one of the most comfortable retreats which could be desired for the traveling public, and for parties coming to do business in the village.

Mine host, Thompson, his good lady and their active staff of assistants spare no pains in securing the comfort of their numerous guests; while the stables, the sheds and the yard are all that could be desired, and being under the care of an active and efficient Ostler, secures the proper attention to horses and after of rigs.

## Reach temperance demonstration

*Toronto Globe: June 23, 1876*

The Grand Union Temperance demonstration of the County of Ontario was held in Mr. Stubbs' beautiful grove in Manchester on June 21, under the auspices of the Manchester, Myrtle, Utica, Greenbank, Port Perry, Uxbridge, Zephyr and Leaskdale divisions of Sons of Temperance, and Victoria Corners, Saintfield and Prince Albert Lodges of I.O.G.T. which arrived on the grounds in full regalia.

The procession was nearly a mile long, and was headed by the Uxbridge brass band. Mr. Archelaus D. Weeks, of Uxbridge, occupied the chair. Stirring addresses were delivered by Mrs. Youmans, Mr. St. John, and Revs. Lobb, Gillson, Douglas, Dowling and Pattison.

This was the grandest temperance demonstration ever held in this county, nearly 2,000 being present. The whole concluded with a concert in the Manchester Town hall, which was filled to overflowing, many having to stand outside.

## Young woman goes missing

*North Ontario Observer, June 29, 1876*

A highly respectable young woman, wife of Mr. Alex Mitchie, left her home in Port Perry on the morning of Saturday 24th inst., and notwithstanding that every effort has been made, so far no trace of her has been found.

She is about 23 years of age, 5 feet 6 inches high, slightly built, of light complexion with dark hair. She wore a second morning checked dress, had no bonnet or shawl.

Any party seeing the lost one, or hearing anything of her will confer a favour on the disconsolate husband by leaving any information at this office.

## Plans for Dominion Day celebrations

*North Ontario Observer, June 29, 1876*

Port Perry always takes the lead on Dominion Day, but on this occasion she is making is big push the attractions offered are more numerous, more varied and more extensive than on any previous occasion.

First we have what may be teamed the big show consisting of a variety of Horse Races, Foot Races, and Boat Races with a great variety of other sports. We have then the side-shows, consisting of a series of pleasant and healthful excursions on Lake Scugog.

Messrs. Oke & Holt have chartered the *Ogemah* for the season and will give a series of Excursions on Dominion Day. An abundance of Scow accommodation will be provided and parties favouring the Light fantastic will have

an abundance of such. They call special attention to their Moonlight Excursion which leaves the wharf, Port Perry, at 7 o'clock, p.m., Dominion Day. There will be a choice Quadrille Band on board.

The steamer *Vanderbilt* will also go on a series of excursions and picnics on Dominion Day when the Committee will put forth every effort to secure for their patrons all that could be desired in way of an enjoyable, invigorating, healthful time, at the lowest possible figure.

## Lightning strike devours two barns

*North Ontario Observer, June 29, 1876*

We regret exceedingly to learn that during the thunderstorm on Thursday morning last, about 3 o'clock a.m. one of the barns belonging to Messrs. D. & A. Munro, Lot 8, 9th Conc. Reach, was struck by lightning and set fire. The fire soon caught their other barn which stood contiguous to the one struck and very soon both barns with all their contents were reduced to ashes, or destroyed.

They were good frame barns, one 40'x50' and the other 30'x60 feet. The barns contained a good buggy, three pair of sleighs, fifteen tons of hay, fifty bushels of wheat and considerable other property.

Nothing but the dwelling escaped the devouring element and that caught fire frequently, but thanks to the energy and activity of kind neighbours the dwelling was almost miraculously saved.

## Pork packaging plant for sale

*Toronto Globe: July 11, 1876*

Pork Packaging House in the thriving village of Port Perry. One and a half stories high, 30' x 60'; good stone cellar, whole size of building; also brick smoke houses, together with fixtures and one-half-acre of land convenient to boat and railway; will be sold cheap and on reasonable terms. Brown & Ross, Port Perry.

## Report on births, marriages, deaths

*North Ontario Observer: July 17, 1876*

The clerk, village of Port Perry, presented a receipt from the Inspector of Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths. Within the corporation for the first half of the present year the births were 22; the marriages nine; and deaths 19.

Mr. Davis looked even more solemn than usual at the paucity in the number of deaths, only 19 in half a year. The miserable small number of nine marriages did not appear to strongly effect anyone present, except one of the council who looked rather ashamed at the result he being partly to blame for it.

## Two cows killed on railway crossing

*North Ontario Observer, July 27, 1876*

On Friday last as the mail train from Whitby had passed the Prince Albert station and the locomotive had been detached from the train and run forward to get on the "turntable", two cows were on the crossing of the Nonquon Road, and not withstanding all the whistling and screaming of the steam whistle their "bossyships" would not leave the crossing until the locomotive came thundering down on them, killing them on the spot and

so injuring the other that the owner had her taken away and killed and buried.

There ought to be some means of providing against accidents of this nature. When the locomotive is detached from the train and on a downgrade, the only means of arresting its progress is by reversing the motion, but in this instance this cannot be done for the train which is following at a short distance and the receding engine and train would run into each other, so that the cure would be worse than the disease.

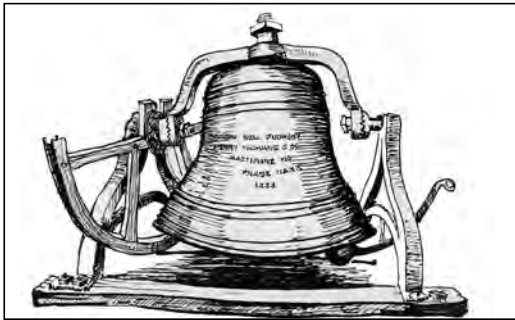
Under the best circumstances railway crossing are not the most safe spots, but the danger is increased when a locomotive comes thundering along detached from the train which is rapidly following.

## Revere House undergoes renovations

*North Ontario Observer, August 3, 1876*

Mr. George Houck, mine host of the Revere House, Manchester, is making important changes in his premises. He has removed the buildings which lay to the east of his hotel and is making an excellent enclosed yard on the site with an abundance of shed room.

This will prove an important addition to the outside accommodations of this excellent house, and as such accommodations are highly desirable for travellers and the public generally, parties will go some distance to secure good accommodations. We expect a large increase of business will prove to the enterprising host that the investment was a profitable one.



Town Hall bell.

## Too much bell clatter in village

*North Ontario Observer: August 13, 1876*

The universally and proverbially pious inhabitants of Port Perry were somewhat startled in their devotions on Sunday evening last; the worshippers in the several churches were proceeding with their accustomed zeal in the services; and were chanting the noble song of praise and prayer, when all of a sudden the discordant clatter of what appeared to be an overgrown cowbell was heard all over the village.

The sweet and melodious notes of the organ and the sweeter and most melodious voice of the fair ones in our church choirs were interspersed with the obnoxious rattle of this cracked grid iron and all wondered from whence the awful notes proceeded.

On enquiry it was found that our impious Town Hall bell was on a rampage and had obtruded its unhallowed racket during the sacred hours of prayer.

It is bad enough to have to endure the quizzed barking of this excuse for a bell during ordinary days, but when it begins to put its sacrilegious clatter amongst our devotional exercises on Sunday, it is high time the thing was silenced, have its rusty old clapper extracted and a wooden one substituted so that if it should try its pranks another Sunday, it will be as good as muzzled.

## Port Perry's new fire brigade

*North Ontario Observer: August 13, 1876*

Our new Fire Brigade, the first we ever had in the village deserving the name, having got thoroughly organized, fully equipped and prepared for action, and should a fire occur in our midst – which we hope may be far distant – the Brigade will give a good account of themselves and be found to be an important acquisition to the village.

They will make their debut in a public capacity on Monday next when they intend giving a public excursion on board the steamer *Victoria* to Lindsay and return on which occasion they solicit the countenance and support of the public.

The position of fireman is know to be fraught with danger to life and limb and our brigade are adopting this means of providing a fund to meet any contingency of the kind. They are certainly acting wisely and with commendable fore thought and deserve the encouragement of all who wish to see an efficient and active defence against fire sustained in the village.

The Brigade have wisely determined that not a cent of such fund can be appropriated to any other purpose than assisting the members who may be injured while fighting fire. All will doubtless patronize them.

## Widow charged with serving liquor

*North Ontario Observer, August 24, 1876*

On Saturday last week a liquor case was held at Port Perry, lodged against the lady who keeps the temperance house at Borelia who was alleged to have a stock of liquors on the premises and that she did sell liquors without having a license.

The Case: Here is a respectable widow lady in a strange place without either relation or many acquaintances. She was doing a good business in a thriving locality in another county, but was induced to come to Port Perry and open a hotel where she would do a splendid business.

She purchased the Commercial Hotel, Borelia, but had it only a few months when the new liquor license law came in force and license was refused to her house. What could the lone widow do? Her all was invested in the house and she could not remove, and her premises were good for nothing but a house of public entertainment.

So, she went into keeping a temperance house and kept a quiet respectable place, no fault being found with her until the above trumped up case which certainly is not credit to the parties concerned. Here is a man, pretending to be a public officer, laying a snare for a lone, unprotected, unsuspecting widow. He gave a young man twenty-five cents with a view to getting the lady to violate the law and have her fined.

The widow pled "not guilty" and a trial ensued. No



evidence could possibly have secured a conviction for their was no violation of the law proved.

## Lumber, scow burned to water line

*North Ontario Observer, August 31, 1876*

On Friday last the steamer *Champion* was on her way to Port Perry, having in tow several scows loaded with lumber to be forwarded by the PW & PP Extension Railway to the Whitby Harbour. Shortly after getting out of the Scugog River, it was observed that one of the scow loads of lumber was on fire, and so rapidly did the fire spread that the lumber on the scow was soon a solid mass of flame and soon both lumber and scow were consumed as far as at least the water would let the scow consume.

The steamer belonged to Capt. George Crandell, the scow to the Railway Company and the lumber to Mr. Benedict. The loss in lumber is set at \$600, and the scow at \$900, making in all \$1,500. The cause of the fire was sparks from the engine. We are not aware whether there was any insurance. This so far as know is the first burning we have on our waters.

## New construction on Scugog Bridge

*North Ontario Observer: September 7, 1876*

*Ontario Observer* editor James Baird wrote the following article about work underway to improve the floating bridge.

"The new bridge over the Scugog now goes bravely on, Mr. Nicholas S. Dyer is within forty feet of the limit of his contract with the laying of logs and slabs and the work of earthing is now progressing favourably. There can be no comparison between the new bridge and the old; the new bridge will be a permanent roadway, which once finished may be maintained in good repair at the smallest trifle of cost.

The pine logs and slabs being under water will be permanent while the surface being covered with two feet of earth and nine inches of gravel over that will constitute a first class permanent roadway which compared with the old floating concern which it is replacing will form a striking contrast.

The old floating bridge was unreliable, unsatisfactory and expensive. Every spring it was threatened with destruction and it took a world of expense to keep it in order. The new Scugog Bridge will be a permanent monument to the intelligence and enterprise of the County Council of Ontario for 1876. The county will find that this has been a profitable investment; it is true that the present outlay may be considered a little steep but the little expense now will save ten times more in future.

When the Scugog Bridge is completed the new 23 foot wide roadway will be maintained at a nominal expense in place of an old rickety apology for a bridge about 12 feet wide."

## Boards form Teacher's Association

*North Ontario Observer, September 21, 1876*

Pursuant to notice a meeting of the School Teachers of Reach, Port Perry and Scugog was held in the school house Manchester, for the purpose of taking into consideration the advisability of forming a Teachers' Association for the above named municipalities.

A motion in favour of such an Association being carried unanimously those present at once proceeded to organize by electing Mr. Dugald McBride, B. A., Head Master of the Port Perry High School, President; Mr. John Langdon, Prince Albert, first Vice-Pres.; Mr. Laughlin, second Vice-Pres.; Mr. J.E. Armstrong, Treasurer.; and Mr. W.H. Rose, Secretary.

The object of the Association is the mutual improvement of teachers by discussions on matters pertaining to the teaching professions such as the best mode of teaching the various branches required to be taught in our Public Schools.

A highly interesting and profitable meeting was held in the school house, Manchester, on Saturday 9th inst. when the second class arithmetic was taken up by Mr. Langdon and ably discussed. The next meeting of the Association, will be held in the High School building, Port Perry, on Saturday September 23rd at 2 p.m. when interesting and profitable discussions, on various subjects of importance to teachers may be expected.

Mr. Armstrong will take up the subject of the best method of teaching decimals to beginners, and Mr. Rose will discuss the second class grammar paper. It will be much to the advantage of all our teachers, male and female, to join the Association at once and attend regularly upon its sessions.

## Fire on Ogemah while docked

*North Ontario Observer, November 6, 1876*

The inhabitants of Port Perry and vicinity were not a little startled at hearing the melodious sounds of the fire-bell at 2 a.m., of Tuesday, 7th inst.

The *Anglo Saxon* and the *Ogemah* were docked beside each other at the Port Perry waterfront for the winter of 1876-77. Mr. Asa Lebare, a night watchman at the waterfront mill, while on his nightly rounds, discovered fire on the *Ogemah* at 2 o'clock in the morning.

Mr. Joseph Bigelow, after sounding the alarm on the bell, rushed back to the boat and with the aid of the hands on the *Anglo Saxon* soon put all idea of fire out of the question, he had so drenched the boat and everyone within his reach that the entire surroundings had much more the appearance of a flood than of a fire.

The damage sustained by the steamer is comparatively light but had it not been for the vigilance of Mr. Lebare



*Travel on muddy streets was very difficult.*

and the active exertions of Mr. Bigelow and the crew of the *Anglo Saxon* the results might have been disastrous.

## Muddy streets near impassible

*North Ontario Observer: November 23, 1876*

To state that our chief thoroughfares are in a fearful condition with mud would be but feebly describing the interminable bottomless ocean of mud, of the most inveterate description, to designate that mile and a half of clay slime between Manchester and Utica a road.

The Oshawa road from Port Perry out is impassible to anything which cannot travel through the mud deeper than six feet, in fact all our leading roads would be considered impassible if we could help ourselves. The roads leading to Port Perry are particularly bad.

Under the circumstances no one can be blamed for this disagreeable condition of things but the next year's council will deserve to be indicted for nuisances if our roads be found next fall as they are this.

~ 1877 ~

## 1876 census numbers for Port Perry

*North Ontario Observer: January 11, 1877*

Mr. Enoch D. Rogers having been commissioned by the village council to take the complete census of the village at the close of last year presented the following report to the council on December 29, 1876.

"I have divided the Corporation into four division for census purposes. Queen St. being the dividing line east and west and Lilla and Ontario Streets being the dividing line north and south, the Town Hall being the common centre.

Division No. 1, being east and south; Division No. 2, west and south; Division No. 3, west and north; Division No. 4, east and north. I must say that the population of the village is less at this, than at any other season of the year, as many otherwise permanent residents are at this season of year back in the lumbering districts.

The population for 1876, of the several division are as follow: No. 1, 567; No. 2, 539; No. 3, 605; No. 4, 322. Total population 2,033. The total populations in December 1875 was 1,872, so that the increase in the past year has been 161.

Number of families in each Division: No. 1, 98; No. 2, 113; No. 3, 109; No. 4, 50. Total families 370. Averaging nearly 5 1/2 in each family.

## Six hundred feet of Scugog Bridge rebuilt as a permanent roadway

*County Engineers Report: January 24, 1877*

William E. Yarnold, having been appointed by the County of Ontario to superintendent the work done by Nicholas S. Dyer, the contractor for sinking six hundred feet of the west end of the Scugog Bridge, and to construct a permanent roadway there, report as follows:

That before commencing the work, the Bridge was placed in a proper position, so as to be in a straight line with the roads at each end, (although part of it on which the work was done, was somewhat displaced by the



*The Scugog Bridge after being made permanent.*

pressure of a large number of saw logs driven against it by a strong north-east wind, and which could not be brought back to place, by the united power of two steam tugs, made fast to it for that purpose).

The Bridge was then sunk, in a horizontal position, by cross timbers placed thereon, twenty-five feet in length, and from two to three feet in depth, forming a good and sufficient foundation upon which to build the upper part of the roadway.

On the cross timbers was piled pine slabs and edgings, laid in different directions in order to bind them more firmly together to a height of four or five feet as circumstances required. On these were placed cedar cross pieces, twenty-nine feet, in length, and eight feet apart, on which to erect the fence.

On this structure was deposited two feet of earth, twenty-three feet in width, then gravel was put on twelve feet wide, and a foot or more deep, thereby furnishing a good and substantial Roadway twenty-three feet wide between the fences, and the top of which was four feet above the water in the lowest place, when the work was accepted from the hands of the contractor.

In addition to the contract price, that Mr. Dyer received for the work in question, he was paid for extras that were necessary, the sum of \$171.40, made up in the following manner:

4,800 ft. 2 inch plank for bottom boards of fence at \$11 per 1000 – \$52.80

400 feet of plank used in making approach at east end of the Roadway to Bridge – \$6.60

100 lbs. of nails – \$7.00

Capt. Dawes Steam Tug to replace Bridge – \$5.00

In conclusion I must say the work was completed to my satisfaction.

Wm. E. Yarnold, P.L.S., Prince Albert, Jan. 24th, 1877.

## Seagrave to open Methodist Church

*North Ontario Observer: January 25, 1877*

Our Methodist Episcopal friends in Seagrave and vicinity have done themselves an honor and manifested a spirit of enterprise, liberality and zeal for the most noble of all causes, by raising another tower on the walls of Zion.

They have erected a tidy, comfortable Church and are about to have it dedicated to the worship of Him to whose honor it has been raised. The Dedication services will be held on Sabbath, 28th inst., when services will be held morning, afternoon and evening.

The Feast of the Dedication will be held on Monday,

29th isn't., when the ladies will have a choice Tea prepared for all who come to take part. The supply of music will be generous and choice, this will be supplied by Shaw's Church choir.

The movers in this noble enterprise deserve well of the entire community, both Church-goers and otherwise, for a well sustained Church in any locality is a bulwark of strength, morally intellectually and religiously.

## Runaway horses spills lady driver

*North Ontario Observer: March 8, 1877*

Mrs. Ware, wife of Dr. John E. Ware, Prince Albert was driving her carriage from Port Perry toward home on Tuesday last, when passing the school buildings the bell rang for taking up school in the morning. The team took fright and dashed off at a fearful rate towards Prince Albert. The lady held on nobly guiding the now furious animals stately past all obstacles in the way.

Passing through Prince Albert the horses shied to one side upsetting the phaeton and throwing the lady out, dragging her a considerably distance but fortunately not injuring her much, if any.

The carriage was considerably damaged, but the horses were none the worse for their fracas. The young man name Steel, met the horses and succeeded in driving them into the deep snow and catching them. All this considered, it is surprising that the carriage was so little damaged, that the lady escaped unhurt and that the team got off without scratch.



*Runaway horses always a danger for riders.*

## Special meeting about incorporation

*North Ontario Observer: March 29, 1877*

A meeting of the inhabitants of Port Perry was held in the Town hall, on Wednesday evening 20th isn't., for the purpose of discussing the advisability of the village taking another step in an upward direction; passing from that of a village to a town.

Mr. George Currie was called to the chair and several gentlemen present spoke to the question. There was also a small deputation from Prince Albert present. There was nothing decisive done, but a generous and manly feeling was manifest throughout.

Reeve Joshua Wright and Mr. Wm. M. Jones were the only members of the Council present, but several others spoke on the subject. Mr. Joseph Bigelow's remarks were open and straight-forward, he treated the

subject with fairness and generosity creditable to him – discountenancing and condemning any attempt at forcing Prince Albert or any portion of it to join the incorporation and recommending an amicable agreement if the matter is to be gone into at all.

Mr. J.B. Campbell, Mr. John Rolph and in fact all who took part, recommended an amicable agreement, or no action. A mass meeting is to be called at an early day when the subject will be fully discussed.

## There are Belles and there are Bells

*North Ontario Observer: May 12, 1877*

The town of Port Perry, though abundantly supplied with magnificent "Belles," has up to recently been but poorly supplied with "Bells". Not so much in point of numbers as in value; the thing we have had are in no way creditable to us.

It remained for our enterprising foundry proprietors to set a worthy example by placing on their works a bell worthy of the name, at least very far in advance of anything heretofore in town, in the line of bells.

Someone for a lark, we supposed, had lately placed a lucifer match box, with a cow bell in it, on the top of one of our factory buildings which created quite a snicker when it first began to clank.

Now that the foundry proprietors have supplied a pretty fair bell, would it not be wise to silence all the other things; or might not the drone on the school house, the old pan on the Town Hall and the cow bell on the factory be broken up and cast over again were it only for the fun of the thing to see what sort of mongrel they would produce.

By all means in the future, the foundry bell do duty whenever bellling is required, and let us forget and forgive our bell performance in the past. But let them forever after cease their clatter.

## Port Perry still moving forward

*North Ontario Observer: May 12, 1877*

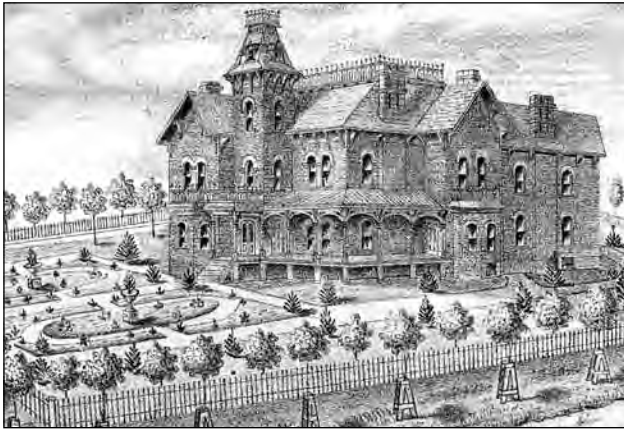
Joseph Bigelow, Esq., has commenced the erection of a magnificent residence on that handsome rising ground north east of the School building, facing on Cochrane St.

Mr. Bigelow never does things by halves and there can be no doubt but that the residence he will build will be creditable to himself and an ornament to the Village. The foundations now being prepared gives promise of a sightly structure. This is a move in the right direction. It is expected to be completed before fall.

Another building is underway by Dr. Richard Jones, who is having a goodly sized building erected convenient to his residence, for office, consulting room, waiting room, &c. The building is all right as far as workmanship and all such, but the situation is the most undesirable which could be selected.

It destroys the appearance of his own handsome residence and also of the residence west of it. In fact, it is a blot on the appearance of the whole street, and certainly should have been place at the east end of his dwelling and not further south than the main building.

Mr. William M. Cochrane, Esq., is having his residence and lot much improved. He is having his dwelling raised another story, his lot newly fenced and otherwise



Joseph Bigelow's new house on Cochrane Street.

improved. This is decidedly one of the best lots in the village and when the improvements are completed will be one of the tidiest looking, best located residences in town.

Pushing forward – John W. Davis & Sons are adding an important addition to their Cabinet Factory. It is refreshing to see our factories extending even in these hard times, but the superiority of the work turned out of the establishment so increases the demand for their manufacture that they find it necessary to enlarge their premises.

Mr. James V. Thompson of the Port Perry House is still improving. He is having that excellent and comfortable Hotel thoroughly overhauled and much altered in its internal arrangements, while a large addition is being made to accommodation for guests.

The enterprising proprietor seeks the comfort and convenience of his guests and spares neither labour, nor expense in securing these. The alterations are under the direction of Mr. William Spence, whose thoroughly established reputation is a sufficient guarantee for the excellence of the work.

## Men crushed in a gravel pit

*North Ontario Observer: June 21, 1877*

On Saturday last, as a number of men were engaged at the gravel pit belonging to the Whitby, Port Perry and Lindsay Railway Company, while in the act of loading a car, the bank gave way falling some half a dozen of the men and to add to the misfortune, the car too crushed in upon the unfortunates.

Several of the men were badly bruised and some got bad breaks, but we are glad to learn that no fatal results are looked for.

## Dr. J.E. Ware moves to Port Perry

*North Ontario Observer: June 28, 1877*

An opening presented by the removal of Dr. Francis H. Brathwaite from Port Perry, brought Dr. John E. Ware to the conclusion that it was favourable for him, in a professional point of view, to avail himself of the opportunity and he has moved to the office lately occupied by Dr. Brathwaite. His office is opposite the Town Hall, Port Perry, where he will be happy to wait on all his old patrons and on all others requiring medical services.

Dr. Ware bets to state that in future, by night as well as

by day, he will be found at his new residence on Queen St., opposite the Town Hall.

## Advancement in Manchester the Capital of Reach Township

*North Ontario Observer: July 12, 1877*

Manchester, the capital of Reach, has undergone very important improvements of late, and is assuming a position no way discreditable to so wealthy and influential a municipality as Reach.

The Town Hall and its surroundings are a credit to the township, thanks to the energy of the Township Clerk, the dingy, gloomy looking fence which disgraced the building has been painted up and now looks bright and cheerful.

Mr. Thomas Graham, the Pathmaster, with the aid of a few of the villagers, has built one of the best and most enduring sidewalks in the Country right through the village. This is a vast improvement to the village, highly creditable, and was a job very much required as well for the safety as for the comfort of passers.

## Headquarters being moved to Lindsay

*North Ontario Observer: July 26, 1877*

The announcement of the removal of the norther headquarters for the Whitby, Port Perry & Lindsay railway, from Port Perry to Lindsay will necessitate the removal from our midst of two deservedly esteemed townsmen, Mr. S.K. McCaw and Mr. J.D. Hunter.

The town would not willing part with either. Except during a brief interval, Mr. McCaw has held the highly responsible position of conductor on this railway from its first opening and by strict attention to duty and an obliging, affable manner to all passengers, has secured the respect and esteem of all who travel by that line. While we regret his removal of his residence to Lindsay, we congratulate our Lindsay friends on the acquisition.

Mr. Hunter is the station master here, and while he has not been more than one year amongst us, he has been long enough to establish a good reputation both as an obliging station master, and a highly desired townsman.

## Lindsay railway extension opened

*Toronto Globe: August 1, 1877*

The formal opening of the extension of what has hitherto been known as the Whitby and Port Perry Railway to Lindsay took place yesterday on which occasion the first regular passenger train was run over the road.

The construction of the line from Port Perry to Lindsay was begun in August of last year, and has just been completed. Owing to the fact that the road for nearly its whole length passes over what is as nearly as possible a dead level, and to the absence of bridges and culverts, the cost and the time of its construction were reduced to a minimum; and, the line is so straight that scarcely a curve occurs in its entire length.

The track appears to have been well laid; the rolling stock is substantial, and ample for all the purposes of the road for some time to come, the new first-class passenger cars being models of comfort and elegance; while the station-houses that dot the line are built in a style which indicates the expectation of the Company that the road



*Lindsay Grand Trunk Railway Station.*

will be a paying one from the start. The only one which is not yet completed is the one at Lindsay, and that will shortly be ready for occupation. The stations between Port Perry and Lindsay are Seagrave, Sonya, Manilla, Mariposa, and Ops. The length of the extension is 26 miles, and the entire distance from Whitby to Lindsay 45 miles.

The present officers of the Company are: James Austin, president; James Michie, vice-president; A.T. Fulton, James Holden, Aaron Ross, Wm. Mulock, John Dryden, directors. William Mulock, solicitor; James Holden, managing director; J.J. Ross, secretary-treasurer. Consulting Engineer, Francis Shanley.

Those from Toronto who took part in the opening proceedings left in a Northern railway Parlour Car, and a special Grand Trunk car attached to the Express. On reaching Whitby these were made part of the first regular train which passed over the road. The train, which was gaily decked for the occasion, was drawn by the new engine "James Michie".

A large number of the residents of Whitby and the surrounding country took part in the celebration, while every station along the line furnished a goodly addition to the party. The station buildings and platforms were all decorated with flags and evergreens, and at some of them arches spanned the track.

Following a warm welcome from Thomas M. Poole, Lindsay mayor, and speeches by a number of dignitaries the train returned to Whitby, where dinner awaited them at Hopkins Hall.

## Impound animals running at large

*North Ontario Observer: August 23, 1877*

The council of the corporation of Port Perry met at the Town Hall on Tuesday 21st. inst. On a motion of Mr. Jones, the Street Commissioner was instructed to impound all horses, swine and geese running at large on the streets of the municipality.

Why should ratepayers be called on to pay for building sidewalks if a procession of old horses are allowed to walk along and break them down when it so pleases them? As for the service of the porkers as natural plows, the streets of a village is not exactly their field of usefulness. It is sometimes hard to tell were certain animals were designed for but there is no trouble in coming to the conclusion that the streets are not the sphere of their "hogships".

The removal of geese will deprives of the many practical illustrations of the truth of Artismus Ward's axiom. That when people are going down hill in wordily matters everything is greased for the occasion. We have

seen several graceful sit-downs by parties coming down hill where the geese had been rendezvousing during the preceding night.

## Body of man found in Nonquon

*North Ontario Observer: August 23, 1877*

It will be remembered that Mr. John McCreight, a highly respectable, well to do farmer, near Wick, had either on the night of the 12th or the morning of the 13th got out of bed and left his residence unknown to anyone.

The family did what they could to find him during Wednesday, but hearing no tidings of him the neighbourhood was informed of the singular circumstances and a strict search was at once instituted in ever direction by over one hundred of the neighbours.

The search was keep up till Sunday when it was abandoned. But on the following day, Monday 7th inst., Mr. Peter Holt of the Dafoe House, Port Perry, and another gentleman were out shooting on Scugog when dinner time came. They paddled up the Nonquon intending to go to Griffin's Hotel, Seagrave, for dinner, and in passing along they discovered the body of a man in the water

They gave the alarm, assistance came and the body removed from the water and identified as that of poor Mr. John McCreight. An attempt was made to get a Coroner's inquest but failed; as the body would keep no longer, the friends were obliged to inter it.

The people of the neighbourhood exerted themselves manfully doing all the could to comfort the relatives and attend the interment of the body. Mr. Griffin, of the Seagrave hotel was most active, attentive and liberal throughout all the painful proceedings. Deceased was somewhere in the neighbourhood of 55 years old.

The inquest will be held. Mr. McCreight is supposed to have been insane.



*Digging up the remains of an old horse.*

## Rumour of human remains found

*North Ontario Observer: September 17, 1877*

One of the strangest events ever to be reported was when a gruesome discovery was made on the newly acquired property of William Byam, near Greenbank.

Mr. Byams had been clearing their land of stumps in preparation for the planting, when one large stump attracted his attention. The stump had been inverted and stood out somewhat notably from all the others.

When they began to investigate the stump, in order to find a spot to apply leverage to move it, they discovered a glimpse of a human bone. With a little further



investigation, it appeared that the bones were part of a whole corpse. The poor victim appeared to be a red-headed young man.

They quickly covered up their grisly discovery and rapidly made their way to Manchester to gather all the appropriate authorities and bring them to the site. The local undertaker was summoned and he immediately suggested that they all return to the site of the poor victim.

With the aid of lanterns and firebrand, they made their way through the field in silence, and arrived at the stump. While the crowd circled the stump, the volunteer with his spade gently and carefully removed one small clump of soil at a time.

A deathly hush pervaded the scene until hair and skin began to appear. A gasp! An exclamation of horror and disgust! A few more shovel fulls and there stretched before them, in all its serenity lay the remains of a used up horse, grinning back at them and seemingly somewhat annoyed at being disturbed.

At that point the entire crowd, sensing the embarrassment and the potential for ridicule at their gullibility, quickly disappeared.

## Draining of the Scugog swamp

*Toronto Globe: November 17, 1877*

With reference to the draining of Lake Scugog, the *Observer* says it is all but useless for the purposes of commerce or manufactures, the railway having absorbed all the traffic which was wont to come by water, while the enormous quantity of valuable land restored to the purpose of cultivation will be worth thousands of dollars to the county every year.

When the waters of Scugog have been drawn off the drainage of the great Nonquon Swamp will be a simple and cheap process; and here again many thousand acres of valuable, fruitful land will be redeemed and rendered a source of much profit to the count and to all concerned.

The advantages of such a work are almost incalculable, while at the same time it would add to the health of the climate of the entire locality.

Let the lake be drawn off on the approach of the first frost of winter, thus exposing it to the purifying influences of a long winter's frost, which will prevent any injury arising from the extent of muddy land being exposed to evaporation in its newly reclaimed and wet condition.

The purifying influences of a winter's frost would to a large extent, if not entirely, obviate any injurious effects which might otherwise arise from suddenly exposing so large a surface of such land to the evaporating influences of a warm atmosphere.

## Death on Lake Scugog

*Toronto Globe: December 8, 1877*

On the afternoon of Saturday, 8th inst., T. Elliott, an Indian, belonging to Scugog Island, starting from Port Perry to skate home on the ice on Lake Scugog, had succeeded in getting as far as the Nonquon current, when the ice gave way and he was drowned.

His cries for help were heard on both shores, but after a fierce struggle he was compelled to yield before assistance could reach him. Deceased was a sober, industrious young man – a member of the Christian Methodist Church,

belonged to the Mississauga Good Templars, and was buried under their auspices, on Tuesday last. This should be a warning to parties against venturing on the ice too soon.

## Lake Scugog and reclaim lands

*Toronto Globe: December 12, 1877*

The proposed draining of Lake Scugog is creating just now no small amount of load discussion. The so-called lake is in reality an expansion of the Scugog River, which at this part of its course divides into two streams, enclosing Scugog Island.

In other words, the Island occupies a very large part of the lake, the widest portion of which lies on the northeast, or Lindsay side of the Island. The river and lake from Port Perry to Lindsay have been rendered navigable by the construction of a public dam at the latter place, and the discussion thus partakes of a manifold character.

The removal of the dam would at once render the river unnavigable, and destroy a considerable amount of valuable water power in the vicinity of Lindsay; while it is also contended that the draining away of the water would leave the bottom of the lake a hotbed of malaria, and render the surrounding country more subject to drought.

Those who advocate the lowering of the Lindsay Dam, point to the completion of the Whitby and Port Perry Railway to Lindsay as a sufficient answer to the argument, drawn from the loss of navigation on the river, and maintain that the 50,000 acres of reclaimed land could be sold for enough to buy up all vested rights, and leave a large surplus to the Provincial treasury.

They also affirm that the liability to marsh fever, ague and other diseases of that kind would be less instead of greater if the land were cleared of water, thoroughly drained, and brought under cultivation. The people residing in the immediate vicinity of the lake seem to be as divided in sentiment as those to the north and the south.

The feeling at Port Perry is of course strongly opposed to any such experiment.

## Talk of draining Scugog continue

*Toronto Globe: December 22, 1877*

The proposed draining of Lake Scugog continues to be a fruitful subject of local agitation.

It appears that the removal of the Lindsay dam would only lower the water of the lake something like four feet, and that in order to drain it dry, the dam a Bobcaygeon would have to be removed, and the channel of the Scugog River deepened.

Two smaller projects are talked of as more feasible. One is to erect solid causeways between Scugog Island and the shore, on opposite sides and the drain that portion of the lake lying south and west of the embankment, and keep it pumped dry by means of windmill or steam power.

The other is to drain the swamps of the township or Reach, now flooded by the waters of a tributary lake.

## Committee recommends changes to Port Perry's fire company

*North Ontario Observer: December 27, 1877*

A special committee was appointed by the Council

of Port Perry to investigate the extent and reliability of the fire extinguishing apparatus of the corporation. They reported that they had checked out the fire company and found to their disappointment that it required fifteen minutes from when the bell had sounded the alarm, before a sufficient number of the company could be got together to move the engine.

That the first trial of the engine showed it to be in good working order, but at the same time was not sufficiently powerful to force water to any great distance or to send a stream of any consequence to the top of the highest buildings. The quality of the hose is not equal to the necessary pressure and that delays are occasioned by the bursting of the hose when sufficient pressure is put on, besides the supply of hose is not sufficient.

The committee inspected the water tanks and found quantities of water varying from 8 to 24 feet in several tanks, and that of the 24 wells and tanks the average quantity of water is 15 feet.

The committee recommended an additional 300 feet of hose be procured for the present engine; and they would further recommend the formation and equipment of a Hook and Ladder Company.

The committee further recommend the purchase of a steam fire engine or the erection of such suitable waterworks as are necessary for the protection of the village against fire: but they are not now in a position to advise as to which sort should be adopted.

## ~ 1878 ~

### Draining Scugog impracticable

*Toronto Globe: January 2, 1878*

Mr. Mossom Boyd of Bobcaygeon, the well known lumberer suggests the draining of Lake Scugog should be considered, first with regard to its practicability, and next with regard to the results.

He says, Scugog and all the other lakes forming the chain of the Trent waters are formed by hollows or basins of considerable area, into which the surrounding country is drained, and at the lowest of their points of discharge are bars of a hard substratum, generally rock.

To view the Scugog as an artificial reservoirs is a mistake. This large basin was no doubt at one time a clear water lake, but in the process of time it became filled up with vegetable matter and loam washing from the rich soils of the surrounding country.

Nothing can be more fallacious than to suppose that the removal of the dam at Lindsay will drain Scugog Lake. The removal of the dam could not reduce the level lower than the rock bottom, some five feet at the most, which extends for several miles both above and below Lindsay, and there would still be left in many places a depth of 20 feet of liquid mud.

This stagnant mass of decaying vegetable matter would probably be highly injurious to health, and it could only be drained and dried by one of two methods, either by reduced level of Sturgeon Lake, or by excavating a drain tunnel from Scugog to Ontario.

Both these methods, Mr. Boyd believes, to be quite impracticable, and anything less would result only in the

production of a dismal quagmire on the land and of a dangerous malaria in the atmosphere.

### Fire Company organized for village

*Port Perry Standard: January 31, 1878*

At a meeting of the Port Perry council on Tuesday evening, the Fire Company was thoroughly organized. The fire company is to consist of 25 men with Mr. Mark Currie as chief engineer. The company is to meet at least once a month, each man is to be allowed 25 cents for each time he attends. When on duty at a fire, if the time employed be less than one hour, each man receives 50 cents, and for one hour or more each man receives one dollar.

Proprietors of the Chatham Steam Fire Engine company will attend the Town Hall on Friday evening this week to discuss the subject of protection against fire.

### Request to purchase town hall lot

*North Ontario Observer - February 14, 1878*

At the monthly meeting of council, held in the Town Hall, Mr. John Rolph stated for the information of the council, that Col. James Wallace had lately paid a visit to Port Perry for the purpose of securing suitable grounds on which to erect a drill shed for the use of the volunteers.

It is the intention of the Government to remove the drill shed from Prince Albert to Port Perry. Mr. Rolph suggests that the lot belonging to this corporation west of the Town Hall would be suitable for the purpose. He said it would be necessary to deed the lot on which the building stands to the Government.

After a further discussion in which Reeve Joshua Wright and Messrs. Mark Currie and Clement Dawes took part, the matter was dropped.

In other council business - On a motion of Mr. John Rolph, the use of the Town Hall was granted to the Odd Fellows, free of charge, for the purpose of holding a benevolent concert.

### Defeat purchase of steam fire engine

*Port Perry Standard: March 14, 1878*

The By-law for raising \$4,000 for the purchase of a steam fire engine was submitted to the electors of Port Perry on Monday 11th inst., and defeated by a majority of 52, out of an entire vote of some 150, or two nays for every one yea.

No one will suppose for a moment that investing \$4,000 in a steam fire engine would have ended the matter. A considerable amount more would have been required ere the \$4,000 could be of an avail to the great part of the incorporation; a fire engine with a sufficient supply of water is only a sham and a delusion.

A large additional amounts would have to be expended in providing reservoirs in the west and south of the corporation, so that over \$5,000 may be reckoned on as the smallest sum likely to secure the necessary protection to all parts of the village.

### Mass grave found on farmers property

*North Ontario Observer: March 21, 1878*

On Friday, March 15, 1878 Mr. Joseph Baird, was out gathering sap in the woods on his Seagrave area farm, at Lot 17, Conc. 14, Reach Twp., when he discovered a large



*Illustration of an Ossuary mass burial.*

depression in the surface of the ground.

It was circular in dimension, resembling the mouth of an old well, but when he began to probe the area, he came upon what appeared to be a burial site in which had been interred the remains of an estimated 150 bodies.

Excavation found the circular pit was about eight feet in diameter and perhaps seven feet or more in depth. In the pit, all the bodies had been laid face downwards with their heads towards the outside of the burial pit.

The discovery was reported in the newspaper and the man who came across the site wrote: "when I saw the place it presented the most ghastly sight I ever witnessed. The mouth of the pit was bordered with about 100 skulls while the bottom of the hole presented literally one mass of bones."

It is supposed that an Indian battle had been fought here and that the bones found are the remains of the slain.

## **Elevator accident takes life of man**

*Port Perry Standard: March 21, 1878*

Last Friday afternoon a lamented occurrence took place in Currie's Elevator, being no less than the sudden and unexpected demise of one of the employees working there.

The hands were loading the cars with barley at the time, and all at once the grain stopped running. One of the men reaching up the spout, was surprised to find the passage blocked, by what he took to be a man's boot. The thought at once flashed across his mind that something was wrong, and saying so to the other employees, they got to the top of the bin as speedily as possible.

After scooping away several feet of barley, they came to the head and shoulders - in an erect position, of a man, which were soon recognized to be those of Charlie Evans - cold and in the embrace of death. A rope was adjusted under the arms and by that means the body was brought to the surface immediately. Dr. John H. Sangster tried to restore respiration, but it was too late, and every effort failed.

The deceased appears to have gone to the bin to do some sweeping, as he had a broom with him used for that purpose, but the actual cause of his death is a mystery. The action of sliding grain may have drawn him under it; though a man of his strength and intelligence under ordinary circumstances would be able to keep above

it by tramping. A fit or a fall are the only natural causes supposed to be likely to render him helpless.

## **Seriously injured in buggy accident**

*North Ontario Observer: March 21, 1878*

Aaron Ross, Esq., met with a serious accident on the evening of Monday 25th inst. In driving from his place of business in Port Perry, to his residence, Prince Albert about six in the evening, while passing along Simcoe St., his horse shied and the roads being rough and hard, the sudden jerk sprung the hind wheel which went to pieces.

This threw Mr. Ross out with much violence on the hard road, tearing off a large portion of the scalp, bruising him badly and otherwise injuring the system, especially the brain. There are no bones broken and the skull is not injured. Dr. John E. Ware and Dr. John H. Sangster were at once summoned and everything possible done for the patient. The horse ran off dragging the buggy which was soon broken into pieces.

A universal feeling of sympathy is felt over the entire locality for the sufferer in his painful position.

## **Man injured seriously in barn fall**

*North Ontario Observer: March 28, 1878.*

We regret to learn that John Ianson, Esq., met with a serious accident on Friday last. Mr. Ianson was up on his barns loft at Greenbank, putting down some hay for his horses. In coming down he slipped on the ladder and after falling on a board, a splinter pierced his side but not as the thought, to any serious depth.

Coming to Manchester on the afternoon of the same day, while alighting from his spring-board, he stumbled and fell again injuring his side to such an extent that serious apprehensions were entertained of his recovery. His injured side swelling up to an alarming extent. Medical aid was procured as rapidly as possible. It was found that he could not be taken to his home in Greenbank so he was taken to a friend's house near by to recover.

## **Lady Ida first to arrive in Port Perry**

*North Ontario Observer: April 4, 1878*

The first inward bound vessel of the season camping into the Port Perry harbour on Monday, April 1st. This was the fast sailing steaming *Lady Ida* Captain Dyer Nicholas S. commanding.

The lake was unusually calm for the season of the year. There was not a ripple on the mightily waters; they stretched out far as the eye could look, like a sea of molten glass, clear as crystal to the distant north.

That the parties who a couple of years ago gave \$20,000 to drive the steamers off the lake did not accomplish, all is manifest from the presence of the tidy little *Lady Ida* still plying on our waters.

## **Severe storm causes considerable damage throughout village**

*North Ontario Observer: April 25, 1878*

The village of Port Perry was visited on the afternoon of the 24th inst., by one of the most severe rain and wind storms experience in the section of the country for a long time. The morning and forenoon had been pleasant and balmy, with a gentle shower now and then. About

two o'clock dark and threatening clouds marshalled themselves in the north and west as the storm gathered.

About three o'clock an ordinary thunderstorm, accompanied by heavy rain, burst over the village; this increased in severity the wind rising almost to a hurricane from the south, tearing and shaking up things in general and carrying off all that were loose and prostrating all that were shaky. The storm lasted till about 3:30 and when the elemental war had ceased it was found to have created quite a wreck.

The large hall and fence on the Agricultural Show Grounds were badly disorganized. A new house in course of erection by Mr. Charles Powers, and which had got pretty well enclosed was blown to pieces and no trace of it left further than the debris.

Next in course was the C.M. Church with a steeple pointing heavenward to the height of some 80 feet. This was twisted off, thrown to the ground and dashed in pieces. The iron railing round the flag staff on the Town Hall was blown to one side and was only prevented by the bottom of the staff from being hurled to the ground.

The pecuniary loss was very considerable, hovering round a thousand dollars. Fortunately no one was injured, the top rigging of the Church spire buried itself in the ground about six inches from the sidewalk, but the storm had already driven all from the sidewalks.



Baseball team from the 1870s.

## Group forms a base ball club

*North Ontario Observer: May 7, 1878*

A meeting was held at the Son's Hall, Bigelow's Block, on the evening of the 29th inst., for the purpose of organizing a Base Ball Club. The meeting was opened by appointing Mr. William Hiscocks chairman and J.E. Abbott, secretary.

The following ere elected officers for the season: President, Wm. Hiscocks; Vice-President, Lafayette F. Richardson; Secretary, Frank M. Yarnold; Treasurer, L. Richardson; Field Captain Wm. Letcher; Directors, B. Elford, J.A. Sangster and H. Johnson. We are pleased to see our youth betaking themselves to the healthful, invigorating exercise of Base Ball.

## Two boys died from arsenic poisoning

*North Ontario Observer: May 7, 1878*

Two boys named Latimer, sons of Mr. J. Latimer,

Cadmus, had been complaining of not feeling quite well, and the mother, supposing that they were annoyed by worms administered some worm powder.

But it appears she had also some arsenic in the house, which she had been in the habit of using to poison rats, and by a fatal mistake she got the poison and administered it in place of the worm powder. The consequence was that within twenty minutes from the time the poison was given, both boys died.

When the mother discovered her mistake, she was almost frantic. All was confusion, and nothing was done; in fact there was not time to do anything after the mistake had been discovered. The disconsolant parents and mourning relatives have the heartfelt sympathy of all. Such a frightful mistake ought to prove a warning to all.

## Port Perry busy with construction

*North Ontario Observer: May 25, 1878*

In whichever direction one turns within the corporation of Port Perry, groups of busy workmen may be seen rearing new buildings or repairing and extending the old. The cheerful sound of the carpenters saw, the mason's trowel, or the less noisy but no less important whisper of the painter's brush makes a pleasant concert and shows a real vitality, highly encouraging.

Mr. Charles Hiscocks has just got into his handsome new store which from its fine appearance, choice stock and tasteful arrangement is a credit to the proprietor and an ornament to the village. The workmanship has been executed with a neatness and disputed highly creditable to the builders, Mr. Widden and Charles Powers.

Mr. Thomas S. Corrigan's splendid residence is being pushed forward with all speed. Mr. John H. Brown's fine building is progressing rapidly. Mr. James V. Thompson's handsome new structure is being pushed and will prove an ornament to that portion of town. Mr. Joshua Wright, the Reeve of the corporation, is having erected one of the best appointed, most commodious and advantageously located tanneries in the province. The outlay will be large but the returns will be proportionate. Common private residences are springing up in every direction.

## Seagrave has more improvements

*North Ontario Observer: May 30, 1878*

The village of Seagrave is certainly picking up. Its appearance is much changed for the better, there is an evident air of activity and push about it and between building and repairing the prospect is encouraging.

The fine hotel there is undergoing a thorough repair. New floors, new sheds and general repairs throughout. Mr. Daniel B. Dennison is proprietor and parties may rely on every comfort and convenience in the Nonquon House. Mr. Miller is building a fine residence and the recently built church and its new shed and other new buildings and repairs give to this pleasantly located village a lively appearance a fairly sets it on its forward march.

## Businesses close shops at 7:30 p.m

*North Ontario Observer: June 20, 1878.*

The merchants of Port Perry with is unanimity and generosity worthy of them have determined to close their establishments at 7:30 each evening, except Saturday. This

is a move in the right direction and will largely contribute to their own comfort as well as to the physical and intellectual health of their young men.

Customers have something to do in rendering such arrangements successful and permanent. No one ever expects to purchase goods on a Sunday. In a similar manner could not purchasers accustom themselves to make their purchases before seven every evening, after which hour the time would soon come that no one would ever think of going to a store, thus relieving the merchant and helpers of the profitless and exhausting hang on for two or three unnecessary hours every evening.

Thanks to our merchants for the step thus taken which is far in the right direction, and we hope that other villages will follow the laudable example.

## Location for annual muster of militia

*North Ontario Observer: June 20, 1878*

We congratulate the people of Port Perry and vicinity on the honour conferred on them by the militia authorities of the 34th Battalion in selecting Port Perry as the location for the annual drill for the present year.

In the name of the entire community we acknowledge the obligation, express our thanks and offer a hearty and united welcome to this fine battalion, its officers commissioned and non-commissioned, and men and hope that their season of drill may prove pleasant and profitable in a military point of view and that their sojourn amongst us may be satisfactory and agreeable to all.

The worthy Colonel Wallace and his staff are displaying a highly commendable zeal for the prosperity of the battalion and in the interest of a patriotic and military spirit in the county by bringing the annual drill back from the frontier, and this at a great inconvenience to most of the chief officers of the battalion.

The Agricultural grounds at Whitby are infinitely more suitable in every particular for this annual muster than any place that can be obtained at Port Perry or any other where in the county out of Whitby, but the authorities have not hesitated to forego the many superior advantages of Whitby and come north with their annual muster.

## Tender for Scugog Bridge construction

*North Ontario Observer: July 1, 1878*

Saturday last, being the day appointed for opening the Tenders for the construction of 600 feet of permanent roadway on the east end of Scugog Bridge, the Commissioners, Joshua Wright, George Wheler and James Graham met at the Town Hall at 2 p.m. and opened the tenders.

It was found that Mr. Nicholas S. Dyer had tendered at \$4,300, another party \$3,700, Mr. William E. Yarnold \$2,500 and Mr. Jessie Ireland \$2,350. The contract was awarded to Mr. Yarnold, who proceeds at once with the work and is bound to have it done within a couple of months. Mr. Yarnold is an experienced engineer and will doubtless make good work.

## Fire! Fire! Fire!

*North Ontario Observer: July 11, 1878.*

The ever startling alarm of Fire! Fire! echoed from all quarters of Port Perry about 10:30 p.m., of the 10th inst., this was soon joined by the unmusical clatter of the town bell, and presently the internal yelling of the steam whistles joined the concert making a noise hideous enough and loud enough almost to awaken the dead.

There was no trouble in discovering where the fire was though. It was the last place where fire might be expected, it was found burning forth in every direction from about the centre of Mrs. Adam Gordon's elevator opposite the railway station. The Fire Company were promptly on the spot within an hour after the alarm was given and the many tongues of the fire fiend were playing in unrestrained luxuriance up to the very heavens.

The tardiness of the fire company, however, made no difference, for from the word "go" the fire appeared at its maturity, had the upper, centre part of the building completely under control and was roving about like a giant.

From the first alarm had there even been a steam fire engine on the spot it could not have saved the property, so magnificent a start did the fire get. If a steam engine could not have saved it what could be expected from the town apparatus which has not power enough to extinguish a lucifer match. So much dry timber made a majestic blaze towering to the heavens in all its grandeur, but it soon went down. Of course the burning of the grain within was a slow process but the blaze was spent before an hour.

It is no easy matter to get at the loss, but the total amount of insurance is \$15,500, all in the Royal. On the building \$800, on the machinery, scales &c, \$700, and on the grain \$14,000. The building, machinery &c., belonged to Mrs. Adam Gordon and the grain to Mr. George Currie.

The destruction of the property is doubtless to be regretted, but the disaster is not so great as it might have been. This elevator has always been a losing concern to the proprietor. The very suspicious, unpromising condition of the grain market takes much of the sting out of the grain consumption. The origin of the fire will likely remain a mystery.

## Scugog Indian church anniversary

*Toronto Globe: July 4, 1878*

The anniversary of the Indians of Scugog Island was only a partial success, owing to the small attendance, occasioned by the wet weather, and consequently not a few of them were quite disappointed.

Chief John Johnson occupied the chair, and addresses were delivered by Revs. A. Madden, C.A. Simpson and Mr. James W. Squelch.

An adjournment was then effected until the following Monday, in the hope that the attendance would be better and the weather more propitious; but when Monday came there was very little improvement in either respect.

In the absence of Big Canoe and Joe Etund, Messrs. Marsden, Johnson and Sandy, were good enough to address the audience, which with the singing of the Indian choir, made the occasion pleasing and profitable. The proceeds amounted to \$14.65.



*Currie's Block, corner Perry & Queen St., 1870s.*

## Port Perry in a construction boom

*North Ontario Observer: July 25, 1878*

Perhaps at no time in the previous history of Port Perry have the tokens of substantial progress and future development been so marked as they are now, every interest is being pushed with at energy and zeal no less cheerful than assuring.

Mr. Joshua Wright, the worthy Reeve of the village, is hurrying to completion and at a large cost one of the finest, most substantial and best appointed Tanneries is the Dominion. Mr. Wright having purchased William Sexton's saw mill property containing some six or seven acres on the lake shore has gone to work, regardless of expense, and improved the property, removed the mill and its gearing, and erected a new Tannery on the premises with facilities for employing one hundred and fifty men.

The building is of the most substantial character with all the modern improvements to facilitate the work and secure the greatest perfection in the manufacture of leather. All wish the enterprising proprietor much success in his new new premises.

Mr. John Irvin's extensive, new Pump Factory apposite the Foundry is about completed. This is an extensive establishment for a Pump Factory and will afford facilities for the manufacture of a vast number of pumps, but Irvin's reputation as pump manufacturer is so well established that he will have all he can do to fill the orders.

Mr. James Swan whose reputation as a first-class Blacksmith, especially in the horse-shoeing department, extends over this entire section of country, has also moved his business to his new premises opposite the Foundry where he will be glad to wait on his customers and hopes that the change may be mutually beneficial.

Mr. James V. Thompson's magnificent new brick block is progressing finely and when finished will be a credit to the locality, and while it will doubtless be a costly structure the money will be well invested. The building is creditable alike to the liberality of the proprietor and the skill of the builder, Mr. William Spence. While the premises may not be fit for occupation for some time they have all been well rented.

Mr. Thomas S. Corrigan's handsome new brick residence is fast assuming its proportions and no expense is being spared either in the quality of the material or excellence of the workmanship.

Mr. W.J. Trounce has just completed the erection of a comfortable residence and convenient out buildings to the

south east of Mr. Corrigan's and from present appearances that section of the town will make pretensions to lead.

Mr. John H. Brown's stately new brick residence is being pushed to completion. Mr. John Irvin's comfortable new residence is making rapid progress. The fact that the carpenter work is in the hands of Messrs. Richard Widden and Charles Powers is a sufficient guarantee as well for the dispatch as for the first class quality of the work.

Mr. Wm. Spence, the contractor, is pressing forward the erection of Morgan's new brick boot and shoe store. The Dafoe House here has been leased and undergoing extensive repairs – we would almost say a complete renewal. Mr. Wm. Spence has got the contract.

## Fire in Prince Albert destroys barn

*North Ontario Observer: August 1, 1878*

The barn and stables of Mr. Hayes, Prince Albert, were burned to the ground on Friday morning, 24th inst. The fire was first discovered by the proprietor about 3:30 a.m. By that time the flame had all its own way and was dancing through the roof.

As saving the buildings was now entirely out of the question, Mr. Hayes and the two or three that were with him – scarcely anyone knew of it – confounded their efforts to saving the contents and succeeded in nearly saving all that was of any consequence. The loss is comparatively light and is fully covered by insurance. The origin of the fire is unknown.

## Lightning strikes during storm

*North Ontario Observer: August 8, 1878*

During the somewhat brief thunder storm which passed over the part on Sunday last, in one instance the lightning struck uncomfortably near the residence of Mr. Joshua Wright, Prince Albert. In fact, by some means or other, it entered one room of the building, prostrated Mrs. Wright's uncle who was in the room at the time, rendering him unconscious for 20 minutes; filling the room with the fluid, and scorching the window sill as it escaped, but did no damage to the property. The old gentleman still feels a disagreeable numbness, but is otherwise all right. It was at first feared that he had been killed.

In another incident, during the severe storm, lightning struck Mr. James Woon's barn in the 12th conc. of Reach and within a few minutes from the time it was struck the barn, stables and their contents were destroyed.

The loss will be considerable, Mr. Woon had his hay crop and a few loads of barley in the barn with some valuable farming implements and machines. His stables contained three valuable horses, some pigs and other property, all of which was consumed. Total insurance we learn is \$1,600.

## Disastrous fire destroys barn

*North Ontario Observer: October 31, 1878*

We regret to learn that Mr. Robert Howsam, Lot 1, in the 4th con. of Reach, had his barn with all its contents destroyed by fire on the night of Saturday, 26th inst. The barn contained over 600 bushels of unthrashed oats, 140 bushels of unthrashed peas, 100 bushels of wheat and 50 bushels of barley, and all were consumed.

The livestock, of which he had a fine lot, were all saved



as also his machines and implements. Mr. Howsam's loss will exceed \$1,000 only \$300 of which are covered by insurance, viz. \$200 on the barn and \$100 on the contents.

The fire took place about 10 p.m. and must have been the work of an incendiary or the culpable carelessness of some party who took refuge in the barn, for no one of the family had any fire near the barn, and no one who knows Mr. Howsam would injure him in any way. He is deservedly esteemed by all who know him. He is an honest upright man with a highly estimable family and all sympathise with them in their loss.



*Greenbank Presbyterian Church.*

## **Greenbank Presbyterians hold dedication services**

*North Ontario Observer: November 14, 1878*

We very much question of there is another village in the Dominion with a population no greater than that of Greenbank, which contains so many churches. The Church of England has a handsome little church there, the Primitive Methodists have a fine brick church, the Methodist Church of Canada has a church there and now the Presbyterians have erected a handsome, substantial brick church there, which reflects the utmost credit on the liberality and enterprise of its promoters.

The architecture, workmanship and fitting up are highly creditable to all concerned and will be a source of satisfaction to the promoters and the entire locality.

Sunday last was Dedication Day of this new church and the many hundreds of people who assembled to take part in the dedicatory services showed a warm sympathy on the part of the community in the noble effort put forth by those generous builders of Zion's walls.

Services were held on the Sabbath at 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The turnout in the afternoon was so large that it was found necessary to have services in the body of the church and in the basement at the same time. The Union Choir of Greenbank filled their part nobly in their generous supply of capital music.

## **By-law passed to prevent disreputable establishments in the village**

*North Ontario Observer: November 14, 1878*

Port Perry Council met in special session at the Clerk's office on Saturday, 9th inst. Mr. John Rolph reminded council that this Corporation had not yet passed a by-law for the prevention or suppression of disreputable houses,

and as such establishments are apt to find their way into our best municipalities.

Mr. Mark Currie said that it was not only the duty, but the interest of the council to prevent the introduction of any nuisance or suppress any nuisance that may be introduced into the corporation.

The enacting class of the by-law is to the following effect: "That any party or parties keeping, aiding or abetting in keeping a House of Ill Fame within the limits of this corporation. after the passing of this by-law, shall upon conviction before any one or more of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace, in and for the County of Ontario, be liable to a fine of not less than five dollars nor more than fifty dollars, and in default of payment thereof shall be imprisoned in the County Jail for a term not exceeding twenty-one days."

The by-law was read a second time. On motion of the Reeve, the committee arose and reported the by-law. The report was received and adopted and the by-law read a third time and passed, signed and sealed.

## **Application to construct two embankments across Lake Scugog**

*North Ontario Observer: November 21, 1878*

An application was to be made to the Parliament of Ontario for an act to construct an Embankment, or Solid Roadway, from a point on the shore of Lake Scugog at the south of, and near to Port Perry, in Reach Township, to the opposite shore at some point opposite to the place of commencement in the Township of Scugog.

Also to construct a similar Embankment, or Solid Roadway from some point on the shore of the said Lake Scugog south of, and near to Caesarea, in the Township of Cartwright, to the opposite shore or some point opposite to the place of commencement in the Township of Scugog.

To drain the part, or portion of the said Lake Scugog, so to be cut off lying to the south of the said Embankment, and to vest all the lands reclaimed thereby in the said, Metcalfe Thwaite, Joseph Fisher Eby, Patrick George Close and William Murdock, their heirs and assigns forever.

## **Christie barn, stables destroyed by fire**

*North Ontario Observer: December 5, 1878*

We are sorry to learn that Mr. Duncan Christie, south of Utica, had his barn and stables destroyed by fire on the evening of Friday 29th ult.

Mr. Christie left home on the evening referred to, leaving as he thought everything safe and secure. He came over to Port Perry to the celebration of St. Andrew's Festival. It went pleasantly with him but on his return home he found to his surprise and sorrow that during his absence of a few hours, this barn and all its contents, his stable and a good span of horses had all been burned.

There was no one on the premises during his absence, the housekeeper having gone to visit. The loss of barn, stable, horses, feed, implements &c., must be severely felt at this season of the year. We understand that some \$1,400 of the loss is covered by insurance.

# ~ 1879 ~

## Dominion Planing Mills for sale

*North Ontario Observer: January 2, 1879*

The owners of the Dominion Planning Mills, Messrs. Taylor, Powers and Brathwaite, have listed their valuable property for sale, including all machinery and a dwelling house in Port Perry. The mill is situated on Lot 262, on Lilla Street is 54 feet by 64 feet in size and two stories in height. Machinery inside includes a 20 horse power engine and a 30 horse power boiler; planer and matcher, four-sided sticker, power mortise machine, scowl saw, turning lathe, circular saws and everything requisite for a first-class Planning Factory business.

There has been a large business carried on in this establishment since its commencement. To a suitable party with sufficient capital, one-half of the business would be retained by one of the existing partners if desirable.

## Open Port Perry skating rink

*North Ontario Observer: January 9, 1879*

The enterprising young men, who at considerable risk and much labour, have succeeded in preparing and fitting up a Skating Rink for the accommodation of all, deserve the support of the public their enterprise. This is a splendid rink and got up for the accommodation of all, especially for the young folks of this and the surrounding municipalities.

They have thus furnished an opportunity to all of enjoying the most healthful and invigoration exercise during the cold season a means of proper, fine and agreeable enjoyment especially for the young men and fair daughters of the whole neighborhood.

The rink is finely lighted up every evening (Sundays excepted). The strictest order is maintained, the proprietors will under no circumstances allow any impropriety, so that no one, either male or female, need fear annoyance of any kind.

The energy and enterprise of the proprietors deserve recognition and parties should patronize the rink; the season ticket is only \$1.

## Ice-house will store 200 tons of ice

*North Ontario Observer: January 9, 1879*

We are please to notice that our enterprising merchant Mr. John L. Watkis, is erecting a large and properly constructed Ice-House capable of holding 200 tons, where only pure ice will be stored. Parties will find it to be to their profit and advantage to contract with him for their



*Cutting ice block from a lake, 1870s.*

summer supply.

It is all very well at this time, with icicles hanging to one's beard, to think lightly of a supply of ice, but we must not forget that there is a hot summer ahead when ice becomes a valuable commodity.

## Lorne Skating Rink highly successful

*North Ontario Observer: January 9, 1879*

The Lorne Skating Rink has so far proved highly successful as well for numbers in attendance, the pleasure of the entertainments and the capital order maintained throughout. The large numbers of ladies and gentlemen who patronize the rink, speak highly of the enterprise and the young men who thus furnish a means of healthful enjoyable recreation in a season which such recreation is most needed. The carnival on Friday last was a success.



*Ice skating, 1870s.*

## Five cars roll over on railway line

*North Ontario Observer: March 6, 1879*

On Tuesday morning the mail train coming north, came near meeting with disaster. On passing the "big dump," a high embankment about three miles south of Manchester station, they encountered a broken rail which threw the express car and four other cars off the track, and over the embankment. The coupling gave way and the other cars, including the passenger car were left upon the track. Had the passenger car gone over the loss of life must have been serious.

As it was three young men had a miraculous escape, McCaw, the conductor, Trenouth, the express messenger, and Higgins, the mail agent all happened to be in the express car at the time of the accident. They went over with it rolling over the heavy safe, the coal stove full of fire and the three men got mixed up rolling and tumbling together. Strange to say the men all escaped with nothing more serious than ugly wounds and bruises.

The five cars which took the leap were pretty much demolished, but no one cares for that, there are lots of material to make more and plenty of hands which have little else do.

## Town purchases a road scraper

*North Ontario Observer: May 9, 1879*

Messrs. Edward Major and Stewart Bruce, the committee of the Port Perry council on street improvements, have brought out a valuable implement for repairing our streets. It is a scraper, so constructed that by once passing over the street, the raised portions are taken down and the holes filled, so that the street becomes perfectly level by once passing over it. With this scraper, a man and team can do as much work in one hour as a half dozen men could do in a full day.



Road scraper from the 1800s.

## Candidates gather at Manchester hall

*Toronto Globe: June 5, 1879*

The campaign in the southern part of this Riding was brought to a close this evening by a meeting held in the Town Hall at Manchester, in the township of Reach, to hear an address from Mr. A.H. Dymond in the interest of Mr. Paxton, the Ministerial candidate.

The hall was crowded, Mr. Norman F. Paterson barrister, of this village, appeared for Dr. Gillespie. Mr. Dymond spoke at considerable length, his speech being listened to with great attention and loudly applauded.

In his reply to Mr. Paterson's effort to make out a case against the Government, Mr. Dymond completely turned the tables on his assailant, each point made being received apparently with great satisfaction by the large portion of those present.

The meeting broke up at midnight with cheers for the Mowat administration and the Queen. A meeting attended by the same gentlemen, was held at Scugog Island during the afternoon.

## County recommends making west side of Scugog Bridge permanent

*Report to County Council: June 13, 1879*

To the Council of the Corporation of the County of Ontario. The standing committee on roads and bridges beg to report :—

First, your committee according to instructions have examined Scugog Bridge, and find that it is in a dangerous condition, the floating part being much broken and displaced, and recommend that it be straightened and such temporary repairs made as will be necessary for present use.

Second, your committee also recommend the filling up and making a permanent roadway of the remaining portion of the said bridge, as soon as practicable; and that Messrs. John Adams, Mark Currie, Joshua Wright, reeve of Port Perry, John Miller chairman of the standing committee on Finance and Assessment, and Robert Rowland chairman of the standing committee on roads and bridges, be commissioners for advertising, letting and overseeing such work.

It shall be the duty of said commissioners to see that the work is carried out in a good workmanlike manner, and to see that good sound material is used and that such logs or timber as may be placed beneath the brush and earth work do not be laid across each other for the purpose of filling up, and to see that the roadway is raised to a proper height above high water mark.

Third, it is the opinion of your committee that if cedar piles not less than twelve inches at the top, end, were driven eight feet apart on each side of said road to be built in the work, and to be sufficiently high to form a guard, and to have cedar timber flatted on three sides placed on the inside of each row of piles, to reach from the top of the brush to about one foot above the gravel for the purpose of protecting the earth from being washed away by the water that it would be an improvement on the work already done on said bridge.

Adopted, June 13, 1879, Robert Rowland, Chairman.

## Revere House improvements

*North Ontario Observer: June 26, 1879*

The active host and hostess of this finely located, well arranged hotel have done themselves credit, and the public, especially the travelling public owe them a debt of gratitude for the very excellent accommodations provided for all guests.

This now comfortable hotel has been undergoing a constant and steady repair and improvement ever since the present proprietor, Mr. Philip Houck entered it and now it may be said to be complete and a credit to the township. The interior and exterior, including stables, sheds and yards have undergone a thorough repair, large extension and vast improvement, and are a credit to the good taste and enterprising proprietor.

## Stray horse causes buggy to overturn injuring occupants

*North Ontario Observer: July 3, 1879*

Mr. William Tate, of the firm of Paxton & Tate of the Port Perry foundry, was returning from visiting his mother on last Sunday afternoon accompanied by his wife, Hannah, when near the village of Utica they met with a stray horse running on the road. It ran towards Mr. Tate's horse which was a high spirited animal.

Mr. Tate's attention was engaged in keeping off the stray horse while his own made a plunge to the side of the road turning over the buggy, throwing both Mr. and Mrs. Tate heavily to the ground, injuring both of them very considerably. Mrs. Tate was hurt so seriously that not a little anxiety was felt for her recovery. We are pleased to learn, however that Mr. Tate is so much improved as to be able to be around and Mrs. Tate is improving.

The owner of that, or any other horse allowed to stray on the public highways, ought to be severely fined. If the owner of the horse in question be asked to pay a couple of hundred dollars damage it will cure him for all time of allowing his horse to run at large.

## Popular doctor found dead

*Toronto Globe: July 16, 1879*

Dr. Francis H. Brathwaite was found dead in his surgery at nine o'clock this morning. The 38 year old doctor had apparently laid down on the lounge for rest and died in his sleep. An inquest is being held by Dr. Richard Jones, coroner.

A notice of his death, in the local newspaper reported: "Deceased had been in the habit of taking advantage of the soothing influences of chloroform, to cool down a somewhat excitable, over wrought brain. And as much

depends upon the present state of the system for the effects of this narcotic, his having taken it when alone with no one to attend to him, was doubtless the cause of the fatal effects."

## Swimmer tangled in weeds drowns

*North Ontario Observer: July 17, 1879*

The death of Arthur H. Shaw, 27 years old, by drowning has cast a gloom of sorry over the entire locality. Mr. Shaw was with five friends on board the yacht *Tempest* at the Queen Street wharf, Port Perry on Saturday last. Getting near the shore, Mr. Shaw and one of the party went in to have a swim, and in attempting to swim ashore he got entangled in the weeds and could not extricate himself.

He called on his friend for help, saying he was drowning, but his friend too had got into the weeds and was so fatigued with battling them that he was fairly exhausted and could do nothing, and the poor young man got drowned within a few feet of land.

There were boats at no distance off, but in the confusion and alarm nothing was done to save the life of Mr. Shaw. Had he been got out forty or fifty minutes after he went down, he might have been resuscitated, but so much confusion was there amongst those on the water that the exact place where he went down was not known and it was six o'clock of the following morning ere the body was found in an erect position, the head only a foot or two from the surface.

## Daring burglary in Prince Albert

*North Ontario Observer: August 7, 1879*

A cool but daring burglary was perpetrated on the residence of James Squelch, Esq., merchant, Prince Albert between the evening of the 29th and the morning of the 30th inst.

Master and Mistress Squelch retired about the usual hour, between ten and eleven, on the night of the 29th leaving a lamp burning on a table in the bedroom, the doors and windows were all fast, the pantry window was raised a little but the venetian outside was fastened.

The burglar or burglars in order to gain an entrance broke the bottom slats of the venetian and putting in their hand unfastened the blind, raised the window and passed through the pantry into the bedroom in which Mr. and Mrs. Squelch were sleeping, took Mr. Squelch's pants from the bedside, extinguished the lamp, took the pocket book from his pants pocket, threw down the pants in the pantry and made their escape in the same manner as they entered.

The pocket book contained a \$4 bill, a \$1 and about \$6 in silver, quite a number of notes, receipts and other papers. Before retiring Mr. Squelch took \$50 out of his pocket book and laid it away, otherwise that too would have been gone.

It is the duty and interest of all wishing well to society to make it a personal matter to endeavour to discover and bring to punishment the perpetrators of so daring an act. No man's property is safe while such characters are at large.

## Tenders received for bridge

*North Ontario Observer: August 7, 1879*

Tenders received by the Commissioners up to the time

given for putting in the same: – Thomas Deverell \$11,200; Duncan McMillan \$10,300; James V. Thompson \$10,200; Thomas Graham \$9,700; Joseph Bigelow \$9,640; Jesse Ireland \$9,489; S. Griffin \$9,300; Samuel H. Christian \$9,000; William E. Yarnold \$9,000; Henry Gordon \$8,800 and Nicholas S. Dyer \$6,850.

On July 23rd William Trennman tendered at \$7,300. On July 24th James Montgomery tendered at \$6,820. The following tenders were put in on July 23, D. McMillan \$9,990; James V. Thompson \$9,800; James V. Thompson \$7,495. On the 29th Thomas Deverell tendered at \$9,800.

On the 28th day of July the tender of Wm. Trennman, of the town of Peterboro, was accepted and an agreement entered into between the said contractor and the corporation of the County of Ontario binding, said contractor to have the work completed according to the specification, on or before October 1, 1880.

The sum of \$4,900 is to be paid when the material has been placed in a proper position on the said roadway. The contractor is bound to furnish all the material.

The commissioners are not bound to accept of the work before October 1, 1880 but the timber work must be done not later than July 1st and the gravel work not later than September 1st. The contractor is further bound not to interrupt public travel in way of driving or riding for a longer period than two weeks during the construction of said work and that foot passengers will always be provided with a safe means of crossing.

## Fire destroys barn and stables

*North Ontario Observer: August 14, 1879*

About two o'clock on the morning of the 13th inst., the startling sound Fire! Fire! roused the peaceful slumberers of the entire village, in fact the hideous shouts and incessant clatter of bells could not fail in awakening all who might be expected ever to be awoken.

People had no sooner opened their eyes than the glare of light told them there was hot work somewhere. Mr. Prince's barns and stables, on the highest point of the village were found to be in a blaze. Our fire brigade hastened to the spot but they were powerless for two reasons; first, the fire had already got such hold of the premises as ensured their destruction and second, had there been a chance, there was no water.

There were any number of spectators, but all were powerless and barns, stables and their contents were soon reduced to smoking embers. The loss will be considerable; one of the barns was but lately erected. The contents consisted of a large quantity of hay, this year's crop, oat sheaves, plows, wagon and large numbers of smaller articles.

The origin of the fire is a mystery, as no fire of any kind had been on the premises for a number of days. The family retired somewhat early in the night and knew nothing of the fire till awakened by a neighbour, when the fire was coming through the building.

## Large, dangerous Lynx killed

*North Ontario Observer: August 14, 1879*

On Friday 15th inst., as Mr. Joseph Vickery and his little boy were in the harvest field on lot 8, near the town line between Whitby and Reach. Their dog appeared annoyed, running round and barking up an adjacent pine

tree. Mr. Vickery went to see what was disturbing the dog and looking up into the tree he caught the fierce eye of a large lynx about thirty feet up the tree.

Fortunately Mr. Vickery had his rifle with him. He said to his boy "here is a lynx, I will try to shoot him, but if I miss him he may bother us;" the boy at once caught hold of a pitch fork and stood by his father ready to act in case of emergency. Mr. Vickery now fired, the bullet taking his "Lynxship" right under the lower jaw, came out the top of his head killing him instantly.

The brute measured over three feet in length and over two feet and a half high, powerfully built with a formidable set of teeth and claws. He was a savage looking animal and capable of a world of mischief amongst poultry, sheep, and even young cattle. Bounties are given for the destruction of wolves and why should not bounties be given for the destruction of lynxes or wild cats more destructive than wolves.

Mr. Vickery deserves the thanks of all for ridding the locality of so formidable an enemy to our sheep and lambs. In fact human life is in danger in an locality which these brutes are found.



Hayes home near Prince Albert.

## Construction booming in Port Perry

*North Ontario Observer: September 18, 1879*

Perhaps the most interesting concert in any municipality is that produced by the ringing implements and tools of the thrifty mechanics and artisans. The ringing trowel of the mason and the rattling hammer of the carpenter may now be heard in every direction adding house to house and increasing the taxable property of the corporation.

The hastening winter acts as a spur to the busy artisans and in every direction magnificent structures present themselves. The exterior of Mr. Hayes' fine new residence has been completed, so has Mr. Andrew Harringtons, Mr. Croziers, Mr. William Tates', Mr. Addison Richardsons' and Mr. Bonds' handsome new structures are not so far on and may not be completed this season. When completed these fine buildings will not only prove important ornaments to the town, but will prove a very considerable addition to the taxable property of the corporation.

There are other new residences in course of erection in various parts of the town. The smaller residences, if not quite so costly, are no less welcome than the more splendid buildings. The very life and hope of a town consist hugely in the numerous, cosy little dwellings of the toiling ones, upon whose efforts and enterprise the prosperity of the community very much depend.

## New bridge at west end of village

*North Ontario Observer: September 18, 1879*

A new bridge has just been erected over the creek on the gravel road at the western boundary of Port Perry. The work looks substantial and durable but it lacks protection on the sides for the purpose of preventing the earth from washing away.

This was the cause of the early giving way of the structure which preceded it. The earth is allowed to wash away from the sides of the bridge, the washing away soon extends to the approaches and they become undermined and the bridge soon gives way and becomes dangerous. Bridges which would otherwise last twelve or fifteen years become disabled and require to be renewed every five or six years, so that for a saving of two or three dollars for fixing a cedar stick along each side of the bridge the whole bridge is allowed to go to destruction. Very many of our bridges are neglected in this particular.

## A scorching night of three properties

*North Ontario Observer: October 30, 1879*

Friday, 24th inst. was an unfortunate night in this neighborhood for destructive fires. The splendid brick resident of Mr. John May, Scugog, was burned to the ground with almost all its contents on that evening. The fire was discovered about 10 p.m. and in a comparatively short time the whole was destroyed.

The loss must be at least \$4,000. The origin of the fire is unknown.

On the same night and at the same time, the dwelling house, barn and other farm buildings on Major Thomas C. Forman's farm at Utica, were totally destroyed by fire. Mr. Jacob Dafoe had the place rented and had in the barn all the crop of the farm and also all the grain he had raised on his farm in Uxbridge.

The whole was consumed. There was no insurance on either buildings or contents. The Major's loss will be about \$1,200. Mr. Dafoe's loss must be heavy but we do not know the extent. The origin of the fire is unknown and unaccountable as there was no fire near.

At Ashburn on the same day, the hotel and store adjoining were completely destroyed by fire.

## Port Perry railway station important shipping depot for the north

*North Ontario Observer: November 6, 1879*

The large quantities of the most valuable products of our country are being shipped from the Port Perry railway station. To the large quantities of fine grain of various kinds, and the numerous superior cattle and sheep shipped, may be added the no less important shipment of fine horses being shipped from here.

All these shipments are of the greatest importance to the entire farming community. The very best friends of our farms are those men who are prepared to take their products, whether the produce of the dairy, grain, horses, cattle, sheep or swine and give them an equivalent in cash.

If a little more enterprise were manifested by most of our breeders, it would pay them handsomely – place our livestock at a premium in the foreign markets, and add



hundreds of thousands of dollars to the wealth of our dominion.

## Dangerous crossing of lake on the ice

*North Ontario Observer: November 6, 1879*

On the morning of Wednesday, 5th inst., one of the pupils of our High School walked across the Lake from Scugog Island to Port Perry on the ice. A rather daring adventure, but he succeeded. Parties who may have no relish for exploring the bottom of the lake, had better cross on the bridge for some little longer.

## J.V. Thomson purchases Greenbank Cottage hotel

*North Ontario Observer: November 27, 1879*

Mr. James V. Thompson, proprietor of the Port Perry House hotel, having made up his mind to retire, for a time at least, from the hurry of business connected with so extensively patronized a hotel, and having leased the premises to Mr. John Ruddy of Brock, gave up possession on the morning of the 25th inst.

On the evening previous to his giving up the hotel, a large number of friends with a view of manifesting their respect for Mr. and Mrs. Thompson and family, entertained them to a complimentary supper. The tables in the large dining hall could not accommodate nearly all who came.

The Thompsons have moved to Greenbank to secure a relaxation from the rush of business. The condition of Mr. Thompson's health rendered advisable to retire, He has moved to the Cottage Hotel in Greenbank.

**GREENBANK.**

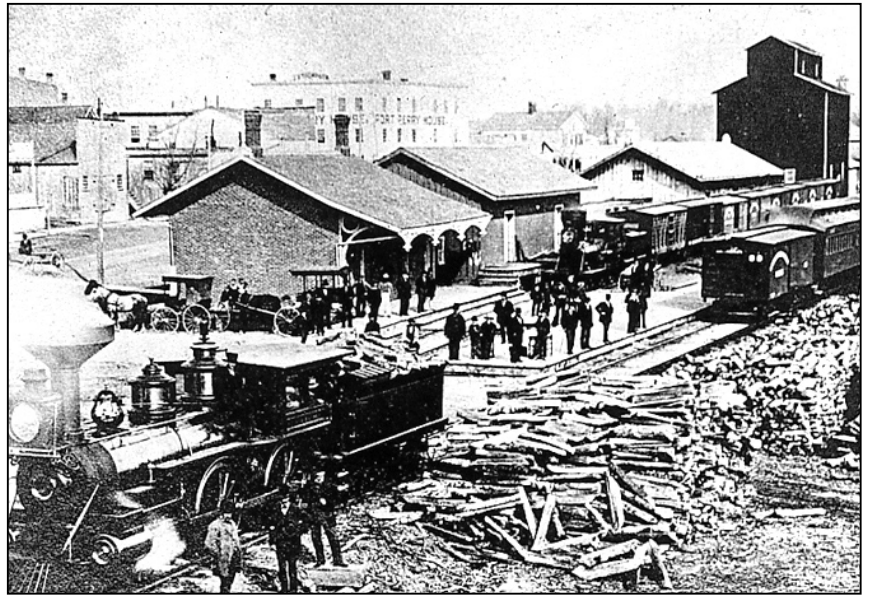
**T**HE undersigned would inform the public that he has rented for a term of years the premises formerly known as the  
**Cottage Hotel,**  
Greenbank, and having thoroughly renovated the same he is now prepared to receive guests.

**GOOD OPENING.**

There is a splendid opening in Greenbank for an enterprising man to open the Furniture and Undertaking Business. A first class Shoemaker would find Greenbank a good opening for his business. The village is situated on the Center Road, about 7 miles from Port Perry and about the same distance from Uxbridge village, and 9 miles from Sunderland. It is in the centre of a Splendid Agricultural district

**J. V. THOMPSON.**

Greenbank, May 3rd, 1880



*Port Perry Railway station about 1879.*

## Two large ice skating rinks ready to open in village

*North Ontario Observer: December 11, 1879*

Mr. Daniel Ireland has provided an abundance of accommodation at the Lorne Skating Rink at the Floral Hall, on the Agricultural Grounds, Port Perry. For the most enjoyable winter sports, protected from the inclemency of the weather where ladies and gentlemen may enjoy the healthful and pleasing winter sports without risk or exposure.

Every part of the hall has been flooded so that the extent of the ice has greatly increased over that of last year. Three comfortable waiting rooms with stoves have been attached to the hall and sheds for horses have been erected. The strictest order will at all times be preserved and lady patrons may rely on the manager that nothing offensive to them will be allowed. Season tickets, gents \$1.25, lady and gentleman \$2 and family \$2.50. A grand opening of the rink will take place in a few days.

The Port Perry Skating Rink, operated by Mr. W. H. Letcher, will be ready in a few days and a grand opening will be expected. This commodious rink is located on the ice at the foot of Queen Street. This excellent skating rink is being rapidly pushed to completion and will form one of the finest rinks anywhere to be found.

This large and convenient rink will furnish lots of accommodation for magnificent carnivals and other healthful winter sports. The proprietor is determined that nothing shall be wanting to make the Port Perry Skating Rink worthy of the patronage of all. Perfect order will always be maintained and the comfort of patrons secured.

## Fire destroys house of widow

*North Ontario Observer: December 11, 1879*

The residence of widow Quackenbush on the corner of Perry and Shanley Streets, Port Perry was destroyed by fire on Monday last. It is not known how the fire originated, it was observed about 2 o'clock p.m., and in a very short time the building and portion of the contents were reduced to ashes. The loss will exceed \$500 and no insurance.



**LORNE SKATING RINK!**

THE proprietor at much expense and labor has fitted up the  
**FLORAL HALL**

On the Agricultural Show Grounds, Port Perry, as a large and every way suitable skating Rink where Ladies and Gentlemen may enjoy the healthful and pleasing winter sports without risk or exposure to the inclemency of the weather.

Every part of the Hall has been flooded so that the extent of the ice has been greatly increased over that of last year.

Three comfortable waiting rooms with stoves in them have been attached to the hall and sheds for horses have been erected. The strictest order will at all times be preserved and Lady patrons may rely on the Manager that nothing offensive to them will be allowed.

SEASON TICKETS.—Gent's \$1.25; Lady and Gent \$2; Family \$2.50.

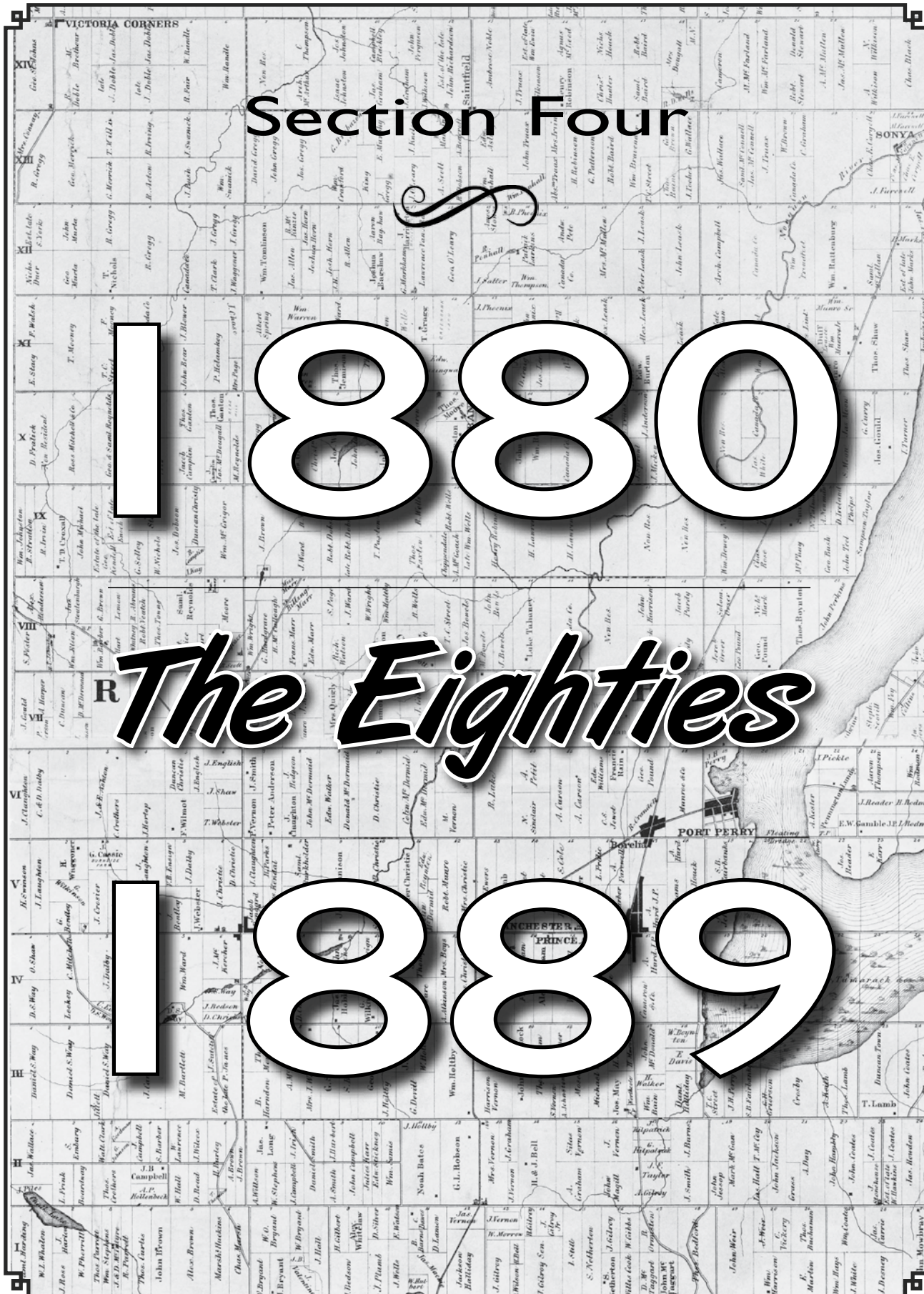
The Rink will be open in a few days.

I. D. IRELAND,  
Manager.

Port Perry, Dec 15, 1879.

*Lorne Skating Rink advertisement*





Section Four

1880

The Eighties

1889

George C. Tremaine's map of Reach Township, 1860.

# The Eighties

~ 1880 ~

## Generous offer to church debt

*North Ontario Observer: January 22, 1880*

A debt of nearly \$1,000 hung like an incubus over the Port Perry Presbyterian Church and created a feeling of uneasiness and discontent. The congregation was willing, but scarcely able to grapple with the debt particularly with its immediate payment and the mortgage was becoming troublesome.

A lady belong to the congregation, Mrs. Dorthea McGill, widow of the late John McGill, Esq., who in his life had been a worthy Elder of the congregation, came nobly forward and offered the queenly donation of \$500 towards paying off the debt, on condition that the balance be made up at once.

The generous offer of the lady was at once agreed to and a number of the congregation contributed the balance amongst themselves and adding this to the lady's \$500 wiped off every dollar of debt of the church, which is now free and clear from all incumbrance and may thus go on her way rejoicing.

## Trotting races on Scugog a success

*North Ontario Observer: January 22, 1880*

A regular trotting tournament took place on the ice at Port Perry, on Wednesday and Thursday of last week. The weather was magnificent, the ice in first class order and a lot of fast horses were on hand to contest prizes. As might be expected vast numbers of people crowded in from all directions to witness the races.

In the first, or Green Race, six good animals came to the scratch and dashed off in fine order but though there were several good horses on the track, it soon became obvious that McKenzie's "Bird" was too fast for them and she came



*Ice trotting races on Lake Scugog 1880s.*

in a dashing fast in three straight heats.

The 2:35 race followed. This was a fine trot, many fast horses were on the ice but only five faced the music. These were all capital horses, amongst others Honest Billy, Toronto Chief, Erin Chid and Little Frank.

The first heat was a fast one, Billy never showed to better advantage, he glided over the ice like a shadow from the word "go" and came in a handsome first. Toronto Chief came in a splendid second. The Chief is well known and much admired for his many good qualities, he's a great favorite and deserved it.

On the sidelines, some five or six spontaneous liquor dealers had started the wholesale liquor business on the ice during the races, and did a racing business while it lasted. But the day of retribution came and some half dozen of them were invited to a reception at the office of the magistrate. Four of them faced the music and contributed \$25 each to the general fund for selling liquor with a license. Others are wanted.

## Fire destroys harness maker stable

*North Ontario Observer: February 5, 1880*

Our lively and energetic town was made a little too lively and little too hot as well on the morning of Monday last. About 10 a.m. the always disagreeable shout, Fire! Fire! was heard in our streets and it was soon found that fire had in some way or another caught in the stable of Mr. Daniel T. Eck, harness maker, Lilla Street. In and incredibly short space of time it had extended its field of operation to the dwelling and harness shop and these it claimed as its own and which there was no possibility of saving.

It soon extended to dwelling owned by Mr. Dunn with the near prospect of getting hold of a fine residence to the north of that, but our active and intrepid firemen were on their track and by their energy and activity confined the devourer to its present bounds.

Eck's property was insured at \$700 which will fully cover the damage. Dunn had \$300 insurance on his house, but this will not cover the loss.

The origin of the fire is a mystery but its confinement to the narrow sphere of operation was most creditable to all concerned. Our active fire brigade did nobly and their engines did all that could be expect of them.

Our active brigade feared neither the fire nor water for drenched as wet as water could make them, they met and drove back the fire at every point. The dashing fellows deserve the thanks of all.



## Winter sports at Port Perry

*North Ontario Observer: February 5, 1880*

The Port Perry Trotting Association will hold their second and best meeting on the ice of Lake Scugog on Tuesday and Wednesday, 17th and 18th inst., when trotting as it should be may be expected, and a time of usual interest will be experienced by all admirers of the racing of that noble animal, the horse.

On land, something grand is in store for all who attend the Lorne Skating Rink tomorrow evening. A Carnival of unusual attractions will be held on that occasion when all present whether amongst the skaters, or onlookers, may expect a rare treat. Don't fail to be present. The Uxbridge Brass Band will be in attendance. Mr. Ireland will secure the comfort of all.

## Revere House hotel owner change

*North Ontario Observer: February 12, 1880*

Mr. Thomas Bennett has purchased and taken possession of the Revere House, Manchester, the late host Mr. Philip Houck has for the present at least retired from the business.

We believe that all who have had occasion to call at the Revere House while in possession of Mr. Houck, agree with us in stating that a more accommodating, obliging and attentive landlord was not to be found in the Province, and the Revere House under the direction of Mr. Houck and his good lady, Mary, was all that could be required as a house of public entertainment and transitory home.

All wish the worthy host and hostess much success wherever they go. It is to be hoped that the Revere House under its new host and hostess will continue to be a desirable place of call and be sought after by the traveling public.

## Young man drowns in Nonquon creek

*North Ontario Observer: March 4, 1880*

It becomes our painful duty to record the death by drowning of Francis Huckins, a young man of 18 years of age, son of Mr. D. Huckins, 11th conc. of the township of Reach. About six o'clock on the evening of Monday, March 1st, deceased went to the woods to bring home a cross-cut saw, and while crossing the Nonquon Creek the ice gave way and there being no assistance at hand the young man was drowned.

Deceased not returning as expected, the family became alarmed and a search was instated, but the body was not found till the following morning. Much sympathy is felt for the disconsolate family and mourning relatives.

## Bible Christian parsonage reduced to ashes in late night fire

*North Ontario Observer: March 18, 1880*

The Village of Prince Albert, one of the most pleasant and healthful locations in the province, seldom meets with anything to disturb the even tenor of her way, but we are sorry to state that the disturbing element of fire declared itself there on the 16th inst.

About 11 o'clock a.m. the Bible Christian Parsonage was discovered to be on fire and not withstanding the most prompt, active and persistent exertions, the devourer

held on to his prey till that fine, comfortable residence was reduced to a few smoking embers. (see full report in Fires).

## Brutal murder of wife by husband

*Toronto Globe: March 27, 1880*

For some weeks the County Crown Attorney has been seeking evidence in the murder case which took place near Port Perry.

Saturday last, he received such important information that he drove to Claremont, after examining Mrs. Mary Strutt, of that place, the mother of the deceased woman, and on Sunday having secured the assistance of S.J. Holden, J.P. who issued a warrant to arrest the person charged. He drove back to Whitby and placed the warrant in the hands of Constable Tripp, who immediately went to Port Perry.

Having got Constables McKnight and Harrington to assist him, they proceeded to the house of Thomas Cooper, situated about one mile from Port Perry.

Const. Tripp showed Cooper the warrant and proceeded to execute it, putting the prisoner into his buggy and drove him to Whitby and lodged him in the hands of gaoler Martin at 3 a.m. Monday.

From what we hear, the married life of the prisoner and the unfortunate deceased was a most miserable one, he being in the constant habit of abusing and starving her and his seven children.

In the middle or end of October last he found fault with her because some seed beans were not pulled, and on her saying that she had pulled all that were ripe, he struck her a savage blow on the face with his fist, and followed up with a fearful kick on her left side, knocking her down instantly.

The woman at the time, being within three months of her confinement. She managed to crawl out of doors and called murder; he rushed out, knelt heavily on her body and seizing her throat compressed it with such force that the blood gushed from her nose and mouth.

She told him then that he had given her death blow, when he made a brutal reply and walked off. She was confined the last week in December, the child being dead and in an advanced state of putrefaction, and on the 2nd January she died. The cause of death in the Registrar's books being blood poisoning.

The prisoner, Thomas Cooper, was taken before Mayor Harper and M. O'Donovan, J.P., and charged with the wilful murder of his wife Mary Jane Cooper.

Mr. Cooper is a very tall, powerfully built man, of about 45 years of age; stands over six feet and we hear was a member of the London, Metropolitan Police Force, from which he was discharged some years ago.

An inquest was begun on Wednesday, 24th March, at Prince Albert before Coroner Dr. John E. Ware, on the body of the deceased, which had been exhumed for that purpose. From the evidence of the mother and sister of the deceased at the inquest, the fact of the ill treatment of his wife by the prisoner are substantiated.

## Inquest held in death of woman

*Whitby Chronicle: April 1, 1880*

The inquest on the body of Mrs. Jane Cooper was held

at Prince Albert, on Wednesday last before Dr. John E. Ware, cornier. The principal witnesses were the mother and daughter of the deceased, whose evidence went to show that the unfortunate woman had been beaten by her husband in October last, and that she had sat on her death-bed that she felt herself to be dying from the effects of the injuries inflicted.

The verdict was as follows:

We, the Jurors, summoned to investigate the cause of the death of Mary Jane Cooper, late of the Township of Reach, who died about the first of January, 1880, beg leave to report, that after carefully listening to the evidence adduced, we are of the opinion that the said Mary Jane Cooper came to her death, by injuries received fro her husband, Thomas Cooper, some time in October last.

The prisoner is held for trial on the charge of manslaughter.

## Shooting match held at Port Perry

*North Ontario Observer: April 8, 1880*

A number of the sports of Port Perry and surroundings having determined to hold a professional shooting match succeeded on Tuesday, 6th inst., in having a capital muster of nearly all the shots worth naming in this section of country. We very much regretted absence of some from a greater distance who style themselves "big guns" who certainly would have had the starch taken out of them had they been present on this occasion, ordinary shots had no business there.

The match came off on the lakeshore opposite the Railway House, Port Perry and the committee of management had everything right up to the latest established rules governing such matches; and all the proceedings were characterized by that order and regularity which are always found to prevail where intelligent marksmen meet to test their skill in the use of the rifle.

There was a large number of sportsmen present and quite a crowd of spectators. The following is the score of one sweepstake match and the other matches may be judged by it. J. Bowerman; J. Paxton, 12; J. Blong, 0; J. Dewart, 3 ; W. Minty, 4; A. Whitlaw, 8; A. Chayney, 12; R. Hunt, 9; C. Lattimor, 9; J. Ruddy, 6; P. Holt, 6.

Paxton and Chayney shot off for First prize and Paxton came off victorious and carried off first prize; Chayney got 2nd; and R. Hunt 3rd prize.

## Lumber floated to Scugog Lake

*North Ontario Observer: April 15, 1880*

Times are better and still improving but whether all the improvement may be attributed to the N.P. (National Policy) we leave to other to determine. Certainly no one will dispute the fact that between the N.P. and the altered reign at Ottawa, a change for the better has been secured.

Mr. Mossom M. Boyd, of Bobcaygeon, floated some hundreds of thousands of feet of squared timber into Scugog Lake about the time that the Mackenzie Party was at their height three years before they got their discharge. Here the timbers lay in the water, the proprietor did not know what to do with them. He did not like to give them away and there was then little other use for them and

there they lay and tumbled around year after year.

But after the defeat of the Mackenzie Government and the Sir John Government had got fairly underway, times began to improve and the value of all our materials to increase. Mr. Boyd began to look after his timbers and now some sixteen or twenty men are busily engaged rescuing these timbers from a watery grave, putting them aboard the cars here, hurrying them on to market and obtaining a capital price for them.

## Cooper found "not guilty" of death of his wife by manslaughter

*Whitby Chronicle: April 15, 1880*

Friday afternoon, April 9th, inst., the trial of Thomas Cooper for the murder of Mary Jane Cooper, his wife, was commenced. The prisoner is an Englishman, and an ex-member of the London Police fore. He has rather a good face, with sandy side-whiskers, and although poorly clad, there is nothing in his appearance that would indicate the ruffian wife-beater and murder. Mr. Thomas Hodgins, Q.C., appeared fro the Crown and Mr. Norman F. Paterson for the defence.

Mary Strutt, mother of the deceased, was the first witness called. She said when here daughter Mary Jane Cooper died on January 2nd last, she was present. "When I got there I found her in a dreadful sate. She was very weak. She kissed me and said, "Oh mother I am dying. It is through a kick from Thomas".

Following a lengthy hearing, His Lordship ruled that there was nothing to show, beyond the opinion of the deceased, that death was caused by a click or blow, that there, in fact, was no evidence to connect the blow eight the death.

A verdict of "Not Guilty" was ordered to be recorded. The prisoner remains in custody to answer a charge of assault on a woman in pregnancy.

## Coryell House, Seagrave lost to fire

*North Ontario Observer: April 27, 1880*

The village of Seagrave had a thrilling display of the power of unquenchable fire on the morning of Tuesday last. It took hold of the large hotel (Coryell House) there and in an incredible short time had licked up the hotel and outbuildings and everything within hail. The loss much have been considerable.

## Local buyers ship cattle to market

*North Ontario Observer: May 10, 1880*

On the latter part of last week our enterprising cattle buyer, Mr. E.J. Wheeler, shipped from this port three loads of as fine cattle as the province can produce, and the first of the three carloads was certainly one of the finest we ever saw. Seven head of them came from the farm of Mr. Andrew Ross, Reach. The seven head cost \$700 and they were good value for the money for they were beauties. The average weight of five of them was 1,900 lbs each. Mr. George Jackson had some fine cattle in the lot.

Nothing could be more encouraging than the present condition of our stock market. Every possible encouragement is given to the raising of superior cattle and certainly, we have in the locality some of the most liberal buyers anywhere to be found so that our farmers



Unloading cattle for market.

have every encouragement to go on with the raising of choice stock for our buyers.

The Messrs. Bongard and Elliot shipped six car loads of splendid cattle from this port on Wednesday. They were exceeding fine cattle and were bought at high figures,.

On Wednesday buyers shipped 15 car loads of about as fine cattle as one could wish to see and they paid well for them, they paid \$22,000 for the lot.

The commodious and comfortable stable room provided for cattle in the yards of the Port Perry House hotel, and the obliging manner of the proprietor, Mr. Ruddy, prove of much benefit to both buyers and sellers of stock. Sixty head of cattle can be comfortably lodged in Mr. John Ruddy's stable, and an attentive and obliging hostler keep the years in good order.

## Farmers want Lindsay dam lowered

*North Ontario Observer: May 13, 1880*

It is said that several farmers owning lands on the banks of the Scugog below Lindsay, are greatly annoyed by having much of their lands drowned by the waters of that lake and steps are about to be taken to remedy the evil by lowering the dam.

Lower it! By all means lower it, demolish the dam entirely and thus redeem thousands of acres of valuable lands which are now submerged under water, wasting land, creating disease and serving no good purpose,

Can it be possible that this costly burlesque is to be tolerated much longer, that thousands of acres of valuable land are to be lost to the municipalities so that a mill wheel in Lindsay may be kept running.

## A sad and fatal accidental death

*North Ontario Observer: May 20, 1880*

On Friday morning, 14th inst., Mr. Robert Henry, lot 11, 5th concession of Cartwright, with his wife, a son and daughter, was driving towards Port Perry. Mr. Henry had on a load of grain for market and the family were on the load, Mrs. Henry was bringing in some eggs.

In coming along the Oshawa road, when about two miles from Port Perry, the wagon gave a sudden lurch from one of the wheels sinking into a hole. This threw Mrs. Henry off and falling between the wheels, the nigh hind

wheel passed over her body.

Mr. Henry made all possible speed to Port Perry and secured the services of Dr. Anderson who was on the spot in a very short time, but ere he reached the spot her vital spark had fled, her sufferings were ended. Very likely however the momentary sensation of the passing of the wagon wheel was all the suffering she had.

Very frequently the subjects of such accidents give evidence of great pain and anguish while they are really unconscious of it all. There may be great nervous and muscular disturbance while the connecting link between the point of disturbance and the centre of sensation is shut off.

Deceased was a loving wife, a devoted mother, an obliging neighbor and kind friend, and much sympathy is felt for the disconsolate husband, bereaved family and mourning friends.

## Merchants close doors at 7 o'clock

*North Ontario Observer: May 22, 1880*

We are pleased to learn that the merchants of Port Perry with a promptitude worthy of their intelligence and enterprise, have come to the unanimous conclusion to close their places of business at 7 o'clock p.m. (Saturdays excepted).

This is certainly a move in the right direction and speaks well for the good judgement of our merchants. In all conscience seven o'clock is quite late enough for either the merchants or employees to remain in their business establishments during the summer months.

If the ladies would reflect for a moment on the benefits conferred on merchants and their employees, by having them closed at 7 o'clock, not one of them would be found attempting to do any shopping after that hour.

## Large barn raised near Manchester

*North Ontario Observer: May 27, 1880*

The raising of Mr. Richard Harper's fine new barn on his farm near Manchester, took place on Tuesday last and it certainly was no light job as may be gathered from the fact that the building is over a 100 feet long by 56 feet wide and of a height in full proportion to its other dimensions and the timbers all of the same solid nature.

But strong arms and willing minds overcome all difficulties and the timbers of the great structure were put in position in a short time for such a building. This is partly to be attributed to the accurate framing of Mr. W. Worden, the builder, who is without doubt one of the most skillful



Barn raising near Port Perry.

builders is the country.

The barns he has erected throughout this section of country are not only creditable to his energy and skill as a builder but creditable to the localities in which they are placed. Mr. Worden adopts a particular mode of construction in every way preferable to the common mode, cheaper, more durable and vastly more convenient. Parties who have seen Worden's barns prefer them to all others. The barn he is now building for Mr. Harper will be a fine one.

## **Lots of new yachts, boats on Scugog**

*North Ontario Observer: May 27, 1880*

The Port Perry fleet is rapidly increasing in numbers and quality. Old yachts are being abandoned and replaced by new and much improved successors.

Mr. G.B. McDermott had his magnificent new yacht afloat on the Queen's Birthday, and had her christened "Irene". She is a beauty and will, we think, make it hot for anything that comes into her track.

The "Tempest" owned by Messrs. Mark Currie and Morecraft is a fine yacht and has undergone some important improvements since last year. There is a perfect legion of row boats and good ones too, as fine little craft as one could wish to see.

Who lives to see the Dominion day and the weather prove favorable will witness one of the finest aquatic displays ever witnessed except it may be on our city dwellers. There will doubtless be such a time as Port Perry never saw before as there will assuredly be some fast racing as well by yachts and row boats. Large numbers of competitors are expected from a distance.

Almost every family in town has now got a boat, so if we don't improve in navigation it is not for lack of opportunity. Those that have no boat can be supplied on short notice and on low charge by mine host James Dewart, who has lots of boats for hire.

We have also in our midst two first-class boat builders, Mr. Mallett and Mr. Hazard, who will soon supply any who want.

## **Merchants painting their stores black**

*North Ontario Observer: May 27, 1880*

The firm of Brown & Currie at the commencement of the present season set out other business establishments a worthy example and we are much pleased to see that many of our merchants are following in the wake. That firm in the early spring had the wood work in front of their business establishment painted black, very much improving the appearance of the establishment and giving a fine effect to the display in the show windows.

But the best proof of the fine effect lies in the fact that so many of our merchants followed suit. Mr. Allison at once snapped at the bait and on the shortest possible notice had his entire front shinning like a black diamond. Messrs. Lang & Meharry, Thomas Forman & Son and Mr. Pearce soon came out in black, a change which added greatly to the appearance of these establishments.

Mr. Joseph Bigelow, Mr. C.C. McGlashan and Mr. William McCaw, have also adopted the improvement of having the wood work in the fronts of their establishment painted black and with capita! result. Graining is not the

thing for exposed positions, wood work exposed to the sun and weather require a better protection than graining. The black fronts prove a decided improvement and once the improvements have been completed, they will have a good effect on the appearance of the town.

## **Queen's birthday at Prince Albert**

*North Ontario Observer: May 27, 1880*

Prince Albert was the centre of attraction in this locality in the celebration of the anniversary of the national day of our beloved Sovereign and while these celebrations are from year to year changing their character and may be keeping pace with the advancing years of her whom all delight to honour, the enthusiasm is certainly none of the less sincere, though it is certainly less boisterous than in days gone by.

The Village of Prince Albert, the name is a significant one – has always been famous not alone for its exhibitions of loyalty but for its devotion and allegiance to the person and rule of our beloved Queen.

True to their instincts of days gone by, the anniversary just past was celebrated there with a vim and whole heartedness in keeping with their past record. The athletic games were the chief attractions, but the fireworks in the evening were very good.

## **Cooper found guilty of assault of wife**

*Whitby Chronicle: June 17, 1880*

At the County Court and Session of the Peace, Whitby, Thursday June 10th, 1880. The Queen vs Thomas Cooper of Reach, labourer, indicted for having on the 30th of October last at the township of Reach, unlawfully assaulted his wife, Mary Jane Cooper, thereby occasioning her grievous body injury. Mr. Farewell appeared to prosecute; Mr. Norman F. Patterson to defend. Prisoner pleaded not guilty.

Following the trial, after hearing evidence from Mary Strutt, mother of the deceased; Mary Smith and Mary Jane Cooper, daughters of the deceased, and neighbours, the Judge summed up and the jury returned a verdict of guilty.

Prisoner was sentenced on Saturday last, before the rising of the court, to two years hard labour in the penitentiary at Kingston.

## **Lightning strikes at Manchester**

*North Ontario Observer: June 17, 1880*

During the thunder storm which visited this locality on Tuesday last, Mr. Malone, book keeper for Mr. Samuel Christian, Manchester, had a narrow escape. Mr. Malone was at his desk when the lightning struck the telegraph wire connected with the instrument standing in the office. It passed along the wire leaving its trace, when coming to a non-conductor the fluid bounded off like a flaming rifle bullet, between Mr. Malone's face and the desk on which he was writing.

Mr. Malone was stunned at seeing the flaming ball pass his face and hearing the hissing sound, he could not account for it, but supposed that someone had fired at him from the adjoining room. Mr. Christian, brother of the proprietor was at the time standing behind one of the show cases and felt the shock, but knew were it had struck.



What might have proved fatal to an amiable young man, passed off without harm or loss.

## Churches undergo renovation, repairs

*North Ontario Observer: June 17, 1880*

Port Perry which is universally admitted to be one of the most active, successful, business marts of its size anywhere to be found, is by no means neglectful of its higher interests; its educational requirements; secular and religious are being abundantly provided for.

The Presbyterian Church has just undergone a thorough renovation and repair and is now a credit not only to the enterprise and liberality of the congregation but to the entire village.

The Church of England too is undergoing a complete renovation and important alterations, greatly improving the church and so changing and improving the grounds as to give the entire surroundings.

The alterations will prove a decided public benefit. Unsightly grounds, rough risings and ugly hollows have been converted into handsomely graded slops, pleasant to look on and comfortable to walk over. A neat new fence now surrounds the grounds. When a variety of trees have been planted, the Church of England grounds will certainly be one of the most handsome spots in this locality.

## Drain Nonquon flats near Seagrave

*North Ontario Observer: July 15, 1880*

The Reach council met at the Town Hall, Manchester on Monday, 12th with Reeve Peter Christie in the chair. The only matter of interest brought before the council was the drainage of the Nonquon flats.

Mr. J.B. Campbell brought in a petition signed by all the proprietors of the land concerned praying the council to pass a by-law in compliance with the Drainage Act to have the bar in the Nonquon River, near Seagrave removed for the purpose of draining said lands as far, at least, as the removal of said bar will effect that purpose.

A by-law as accordingly passed and Mr. William E. Yarnold was appointed to make the necessary survey and valuation.

This is a step far in the right direction and must result greatly to the profit and advantage of the owners of said lands; but really the corporation will gain more in the matter of roads and increased taxes on the property redeemed than the entire cost of the work.

Note: On October 14, Mr. Yarnold reported to council the extent of the work required and probable cost connected with the drainage of the Nonquon swamp. He estimated about 3,000 acres will be improved to a greater extent and the total cost of the work is estimated at about \$8,000, of which the township is expected to pay \$1,200 on account of the benefit the roads will receive from the drainage.

## Work close to starting on reclaiming marsh lands south of Scugog bridge

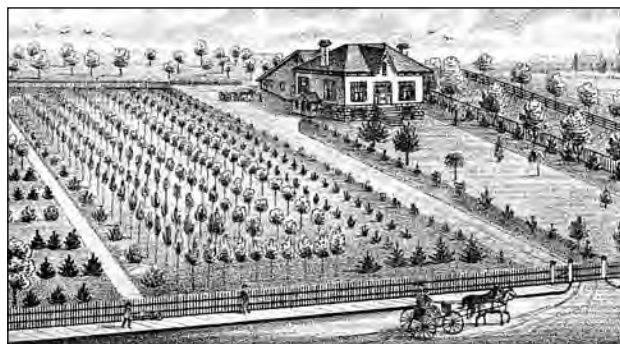
*North Ontario Observer: July 15, 1880*

A rumour, that the Scugog Marsh Reclaiming Company are about to proceed with the work for which they obtained a charter. English Capital is being brought into

the enterprise and steps are being taken to proceed with the work without delay.

We understand that it is the intention of the company, if satisfactory arrangements can be made with the present contractor, to take the contract of the building of the Scugog Bridge off his hands and go on with the work as a whole. They would then build the new part and repair the old in the most permanent manner, and so as to suit their purpose in the matter of draining the marsh.

All will be pleased that the company is going forward with this important work, it will save much valuable land, be of great advantage to the entire surroundings and secure a permanent and convenient roadway between Cartwright and Port Perry. We wish the enterprise every possible success.



*Residence and nursery grounds of C.C. Kellett.*

## Local nursery's apple trees for sale

*North Ontario Observer: August 5, 1880*

The public will be greatly pleased to learn that Mr. Charles C. Kellett's "Port Perry Nurseries" has one hundred thousand standard apple trees for sale, with other valuable nursery stock.

This is a valuable opportunity for securing the produce of a home nursery. Mr. Kellett's long experience and well known ability in the nursery business, his honorable and reliable mode of doing business, are a sufficient guarantee for the quality of his stock and that whatever he sells will be true to name for whatever he recommends it to be.

This is a rare chance for securing reliable trees and whatever other nursery stock may be wanted at prices which cannot be undersold.

## Local businesses working full-blast

*North Ontario Observer: August 5, 1880*

The good effects of the N.P. (National Policy) are manifesting themselves, broadcasting over this town and neighborhood.

Mr. Samuel Graham lately erected, and has now in full blast, a blacksmith establishment on Queen Street. Mr. Mann has just completed a large extension to his carriage building and blacksmithing establishment.

Paxton Tate & Co.'s Foundry has all it can do to fill orders which are coming in from all direction. The reputation of their Turbine Water Wheels is so thoroughly established that they are sought after far and wide, and their manufacture forms a large portion of the work of the establishment. The company's "Gang Plows" can not be

manufactured with sufficient rapidity to meet the demand the work is being driven to its utmost capacity.

Bigelow & Trounce are driving business with much spirit and success. In the manufacture of lumber they have every facility that the best and latest improvement in machinery can give, an unlimited supply of choice material, skillful workmen with judicious and able management.

Their flouring mill too has all it can do and here also the good effects of the most approved machinery, first-class workmen and able management are manifest in the excellence of the manufacture and the general anxiety to get the flour manufactured there.

Mr. Adam Gordon's flouring mill too is being driven to its utmost. Here too the happy effects of the best description of machinery, skillful workmen and wise and thorough management are obvious as well in the readiness with which sales of the flour are made as the high figures that are paid for it and all that it can manufacture is readily retaken.

## Runaway horse damages property

*North Ontario Observer: August 12, 1880*

On the afternoon of the 9th inst., while Mr. Wm. Jamieson was delivering goods throughout the town, he came to residence of Mr. H.S. Campbell, Queen Street, and leaving his horse standing on the street while he delivered a parcel, something started the horse and away he went at the top of his speed.

He proceeded along Queen street and on going up the hill turned off on the sidewalk and so close to the new picket fence on the property belonging to Mr. Richard Lund, that the light wagon stripped off a number of pickets; and passing further the wagon came in contact with Mr. Prince's fence.

Mr. Prince's posts were too many for it and the rig got badly broken up, but the horse continued his mad career, breaking the harness and extricating himself from the wagon, and continued his course till he was caught and taken to his stable uninjured. The still undelivered goods were scattered all over and the damage to the fence adds considerably to the loss.

## Hotel destroyed by fire in Borelia

*North Ontario Observer: September 2, 1880*

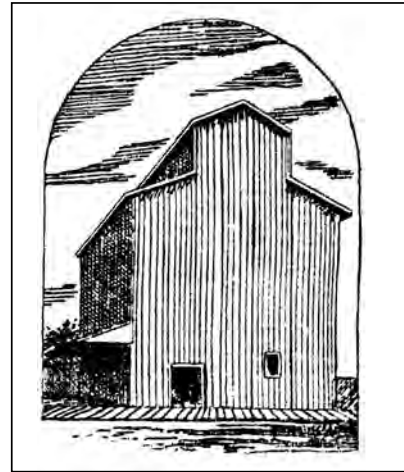
The late village of Borelia, now the western suburb of Port Perry, is somewhat notorious of late not only for the frequency of its conflagrations but for the vast amount of damage done. Now it is a private residence, next it is a hotel, and so on with too much regularity and frequency.

The town fathers at a late session of the council decreed that the smaller of the two fire engines with which the corporation is supplied should be located in the western suburbs, but from present appearances the large one too will have to be located in that quarter at least to the close of the burning season.

About midnight of the 31st, fire was discovered in that large hotel on the corner of Queen and Simcoe Streets. The property was owned by Mr. Christopher Sheehy and had been lately undergoing a thorough overhaul, it was uninhabited and we may add uninhabitable, but the renovating hand of the proprietor was making itself viable

in the new doors and windows. We are not aware that Mr. Sheehy meant to do with the building.

That the fire was the work of incendiary can scarcely be doubted, but the trouble is to find the guilty party. We have no idea of the amount of loss and should suppose there was no insurance.



*Port Perry Grain Elevator sketch, 1886.*

## Joshua Wright leases grain elevator

*North Ontario Observer: September 16, 1880*

Farmers will be pleased to learn that Mr. Joshua Wright has leased and taken possession of the Port Perry Grain Elevator and has gone into grain buying in right good earnest. This will be good news not only to farmers but to the town, which has severely felt the absence of a regular, active and liberal buyer since Mr. George Currie left.

Of course our millers here have been buying somewhat extensively and pay good prices but their purchases were only for flouring purposes and were necessarily too limited to secure of themselves an active and attractive market.

However Mr. Wright's entering the market will make things lively in the grain market here. Large means with the superior facilities for handling grain in his commodious elevator will make Mr. Wright a very important acquisition to this market.

Manchester for many years enjoyed one of the best grain markets in the Province and while for the past two years Mr. Samuel Christian has been the only buyer there, that market has fully sustained its reputation as one of the best and most active markets in the Province as well for fair dealing, prime attention and good prices.

## Reach, Port Perry grain markets busy

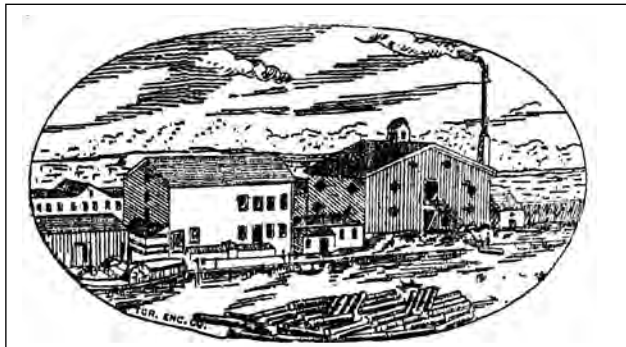
*North Ontario Observer: September 23, 1880*

The Grain Markets of Manchester and Port Perry have been at a glowing heat during the past week. This is nothing new for the Manchester market. It is always ready, active and leading, prepared to treat sellers in a spirit of honour and liberality, taking all that they have got to sell, and giving the highest figure the market can afford. Farmers know such to be the fact and that market is deservedly popular.

The Port Perry market has been resurrected. The total want of any liberal, regular buyer and run it into the ground, had it not been for the presence of the millers

who bought all they required and gave good prices, not a pound of grain would have entered our market.

Mr. Wright's entrance on the market and taking possession of the Grain Elevator at once kindled the flames of a grain war, prices at once took a start and ran right up. News spread all over that Port Perry market had been brought to life again. That Mr. Wright was on the market buying all before him, grain came rushing in and as the supply increased. Mr. Wright put on additional buyers and still the supply increased until the principal streets of our town were fairly thronged with loads of grain passing to the elevator, while the large and active staff of buyers and their "hands full" in examining the large quantities arriving. The rushes being kept up from day to day.



*Bigelow & Trounce Union Mills, Port Perry.*

## Bigelow, Trounce shipping huge amounts of lumber to market

*North Ontario Observer: October 7, 1880*

Messrs. Joseph Bigelow and William J. Trounce, of Port Perry, occupy an important position in the lumber market, as well for the extent and quality of their manufacture. This firm shipped at Whitby Harbour on the 6th inst., 500,000 feet on the schooner *Bently* for Oswego. This perhaps the heaviest load which ever left this harbour on board a schooner. The same firm are now loading 140,000 feet on the *Blakely* and 150,000 feet on the *Areadne*.

## J. Nott appointed Police Magistrate

*Toronto Globe: November 8, 1880*

The *Port Perry Standard* which ordinarily supports the Ontario Government, has been affording the enemy some much-needed comfort by attacking, the recent appointment of Mr. John Nott as Police Magistrate of that thriving town. What the animus prompting the attack may be is a matter of consequence so long as the appointment is a good one, as it certainly is.

There is no salary attached to the office, and all that the Government really have done is to clothe with some additional powers, a man who has long held Her Majesty's commission.

Mr. Nott, since he has been created an ordinary justice of the peace, has tried 184 cases, only two of which have been appealed, and of these appeals only one – in a liquor case – was successful. For five or six years past, more cases have been disposed of by him than by all the other magistrates of the locality put together.

This is the best possible indication of the esteem in which he is held by the public, and when the question of appointing a police magistrate arose, to have selected another without offering the post to Mr. Nott would have been to perpetrate an injustice.

## Post Master has serious accident

*North Ontario Observer: November 11, 1880*

We regret to be called upon to report a serious accident which occurred on Monday 8th. Henry Gordon, Esq., Post Master of Port Perry, while on his farm north of town, assisting some hands in improving the grounds was climbing over a picket fence to get a crow bar, his boots were outside of his pant legs, the strap of his boot caught on the top of the picket and held on when he leaped down, breaking his leg in two places between the knee and ankle – the fractures being only three inches apart.

Surgery skill was at once secured, the injured limb properly attended to and the sufferer made as easy as possible.

Mr. Gordon is a particularly active business man, fills many important offices and performs his duties in efficient manner. He is Post Master, Town Treasurer and holds other important offices but unfortunately he has got a charge which will cripple his energies for the next three months.

## Horse and wagon crash through ice

*North Ontario Observer: December 2, 1880*

On the 30th, as Mr. Staley's team of horses was crossing the ice of Lake Scugog, coming from the Island to Port Perry with a load of cordwood, when about the middle of the lake the ice gave way when team and load went through.

Parties soon came to his assistance and the team was extricated with much labor. The ice is good, but the wagon was on a crack.

## Trotting races on Lake Scugog

*North Ontario Observer: December 23, 1880*

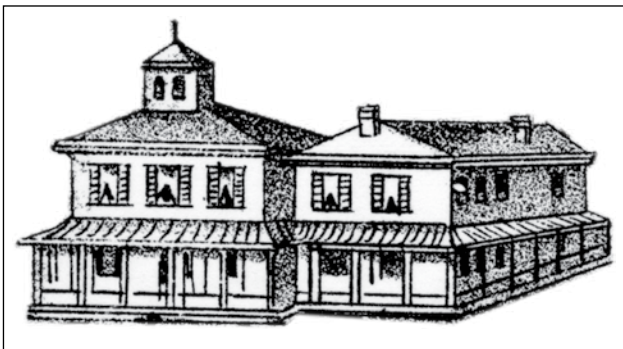
The Port Perry Trotting Association will hold their second and best meeting on the ice of Lake Scugog, on Tuesday and Wednesday, 17th and 18th inst., when trotting as it should be may be expected and a time of unusual interest will be experienced by all admirers of the proper development of the noble animal, the horse. Arrangements are being made for a time of unusual sport and parties may expect the presence of many fine trotters.

## All to the Lorne Skating Rink

*North Ontario Observer: December 23, 1880*

Something grand is in store for all who attend the Lorne Skating Rink, tomorrow, Friday evening. A carnival of unusual attractions will be held on that occasion when all present whether amongst the skaters or onlookers may expect a rare treat. Don't fail to be present, it will be a grand time. The Uxbridge Brass Band will be in attendance. Our friend, Daniel Ireland, will secure the comfort of it all.

~ 1881 ~



*Beechenhurst home of Dr. John H. Sangster.*

## Dr. Sangster's magnificent home destroyed in late night fire

*North Ontario Observer: March 10, 1881*

On Monday, 7th inst., Port Perry was again visited by the unwelcome intruder, Fire, by which the residence of Dr. John H. Sangster, on the northern boundary of the town was burned to the ground. The fire is supposed to have caught from the furnace.

It was discovered about 4 a.m. and was at first thought not to be serious, but it baffled every effort to extinguish it and within four hours the fire had completed the destruction of the building.

On short notice after the alarm was given, lots of willing hands and the fire engine were promptly on the spot but as there was no water the services of the engine could not be made available and the fire had advanced so far that nothing further could be done than to save the furniture.

We are not aware of the figure at which Dr. Sangster placed on the damage. The Tuesday's *Toronto Globe* in its wild way placed the damage at \$18,000. It is almost a wonder that it did not add another cipher and make it \$180,000. We understand there was an insurance of \$7,500.

## Bad week for fires in Port Perry and Prince Albert

*North Ontario Observer: March 10, 1881*

The fire fiend has been nibbling around our town for some days past. On Tuesday morning, the 8th inst., at an early hour, fire was observed flickering over the fence of the School Grounds. It was observed that the fence had caught fire from an ash box. This was soon extinguished.

Also on the 8th inst., we learn that fire caught in the residence of James Squelch, Esq., Prince Albert. We are pleased that the damage was light, thanks to the energy of those present.

We much regret to report that the school house of School Section No. 2, Reach, Vernon's School House, was destroyed by fire the morning of the 9th inst. We are not aware how it caught fire.

Of course the building was insured as the law make it imperative on school trustees to insure the building and if they neglect to do so, and the house gets burned, they can be made personally liable for the damages. The actual

loss the section will be about \$100.

On the evening of Monday, 11th inst., the residence of Mr. Wheeler, Prince Albert, took fire about six o'clock and in spite of every effort to stay the devourer it continue its work till the dwelling was reduced to ashes. The furniture was partly saved but still a lot of property was consumed. The fire was first discovered upstairs. We understand there was no insurance. All sympathize with the family in their loss.

On Saturday, the 12th inst., about 8 a.m., Dr. Richard Jones' surgery building was observed to be on fire and as people were around, it was soon attacked and extinguished with slight damage.

On Sunday morning at an early hour fire was discovered in the residence of Mr. Lafayette F. Richardson. The inmates were unconscious of the fact and had to be aroused, and a young person who slept upstairs had to be rescued. A large part of the furniture and other property was destroyed and the building was soon burned to the ground.

It was a handsome and very superior building and comparatively new. We learn that there was an insurance of \$1,000 but that won't cover half the loss. We sympathize with the young man on the large amount of loss and inconvenience occasioned by the fire.

## Drainage of Nonquon swamp

*North Ontario Observer: March 17, 1881*

At the regular meeting of Port Perry council at the Town Hall, Mr. William E. Yarnold came before council asking whether it was the intention of the council to proceed with the drainage of the Nonquon swamp during the coming season. If so he considered that both time and money would be saved to the parties concerned by running the lines while the ice is on the creek, as if the ice were off he would require a boat and he would have to cross the creek a great many times which would be a slow and disagreeable process.

On a motion by Mr. Leonard Burnett, Mr. Wm. E. Yarnold was instructed to run the lines for the four of the largest cuts on the Nonquon Creek, as represented by the plan furnished by Mr. Yarnold.

## Mother, daughter jailed for murder

*Toronto Globe: March 22, 1881*

On Friday last Mrs. Mina Eddy and her daughter Mary, were arrested at their home in Prince Albert village, by Government Detective John W. Murray, charged with murder.

The facts of the case are as follows: On the 6th of March a young girl named Mary Eddy, residing with her widowed mother at Prince Albert, gave birth to a male child. Dr. John E. Weir, who was in attendance, told Mrs. Eddy it was a fine healthy child and to take good care of it, for he said, any accident to the child would arouse suspicion.

The doctor called again the following Saturday and asked how Miss Eddy was and Mrs. Eddy replied "Mary's well but the baby is dead." On examination of the baby, the Doctor was of the opinion that proper nourishment had not been administered.

Port Perry corner Dr. Richard Jones arrived that evening

and he summed a jury. When asked where they could find the body of the infant Mrs. Eddy said that she knew nothing about it.

Detective Murray was instructed to look into the case and he came with constables and made a diligent search throughout the house, even to digging up the clay in the cellar, but found not trace of the child. Detective Murray arrested Mrs. Eddy and her daughter on a charge of murder.

## Eddys released from jail

*Toronto Globe: March 29, 1881*

Mrs. Mina and Miss Mary Eddy, of Prince Albert, who were arrested on the charge of murdering the young woman's child, have been discharged by the magistrates. Instruction have, however, been given to indict them for concealment of the body of the dead infant.

## Still another fire in town

*North Ontario Observer: April 21, 1881*

Our town was again startled with the alarming sound "Fire" about 11:40 last evening. It was soon found that the destroyer had caught a neat and a desirable residence in the south-east quarter of the town, the property of James V. Thompson, Esq.

The fire made short work of the building, a good frame, which was completely licked up on short notice. The house and grounds were undergoing repairs, had just been rented at \$70 a year and the tenant was about to move in.

The origin of the fire is a mystery. There was an insurance of \$300 on the premises but that won't cover one third of the loss. Everything possible was done to save the building; the firemen fought like heroes, the engine behaved admirably and certainly our fire company and their apparatus never appeared to better advantage.

## Bigelow and Trounce dissolve partnership, split mills

*North Ontario Observer: April 21, 1881*

The partnership existing between Messrs. Joseph Bigelow & William Trounce have lately been dissolved by mutual consent. Part of the settlement was that Mr. Bigelow should take the south mills and Mr. Trounce the north, including the flouring mill.

The first rate business ability of both men is beyond all question and we may look for both mills being run to their utmost capacity with every known improvement to perfect the manufacture, increase the production, economize the material and diminish the cost.

Mr. Trounce is having his mill thoroughly overhauled and is introducing several labour saving improvements in handling logs and carrying away the lumber. A successful season in the manufacture of lumber is looked for at both mills during the present season. They have a magnificent supply of logs.



*Scugog Sea Monster sketch.*

## Lake Scugog sea-monster?

*Toronto Globe: April 30, 1881*

The *Port Perry Standard* tells the following storey about a marine monster, upon authority of Daniel Ireland, William Harper and P. Brown of that town.

On Monday last they were out shooting at the Beaver Meadow Creek, when they suddenly heard a loud splashing of the water. They started at once for the object, and when within about 15 feet distance, they discovered to their horror and dismay, that they were confronted by a sea-monster of huge dimensions.

It was estimated that it was a full 20 feet long and its head as large as a tub. It's eyes were reported being as large as saucers, and its legs as large around as a man's thigh and about two feet long. The body was as big around as a flour barrel, and it would weight over 500 pounds.

Mr. Ireland fired four times at the brute, but the shot did not have the desired effect, for on the last shot being fired, it disappeared in the water, and did not show up again, nor could any trace of it be found.

There were many skeptics and the men were questioned as to how the monster made its way into Lake Scugog. Many of residents who heard the story felt that the trio had tipped the "bottle" a little too often while out in the Scugog swamps.

Mr. Ireland, determined to keep his reputation returned to hunt for the beast, but no trace of the sea-monster could be found and it was never seen again. The question now suggests itself – When and how did this monster make its way up our lake?

## Prince Albert ready to celebrate Queen Victoria's birthday

*North Ontario Observer: May 5, 1881*

The celebration of the Queen's Birthday in Prince Albert is looked forward to with much interest. The subscription list has swelled to a round sum and to wind up the sports of the day fireworks will be displayed in the evening.

The Anglo-American Hotel is undergoing a thorough repair, it is being re-painted and thoroughly overhauled. This is one of the most tidy and best kept hotels, and host Mr. William H. Park and his good lady deserve the thanks of the community for the choice hotel accommodations supplied to the public.

Will our dear Mr. John Heard take a promenade along the east side of Simcoe Street past Mr. Henry Graham's



boot and shoe factory and Mrs. Charles Hiscox's Bakery and contemplate the ruins of the sidewalk which was in fine order when he became pathmaster.

Let him ponder over fractured limbs and broken necks and consider whether it would not be better to get a grant from the council to make the necessary repairs than have damages running up to thousands entered against the corporation.

## Lady Ida brings first load of bricks

*North Ontario Observer: May 12, 1881*

We are much pleased to learn that the prospects of our lake traffic for the present season are most encouraging. The *Lady Ida* has been thoroughly trimmed and fitted for a big season's work.

Capt. Nicolas S. Dyer is well known and much respected as an energetic and obliging Captain and all having any freighting by lake will certainly patronize his craft the *Lady Ida*.

The "*Lady*" arrived in port the other day on her first trip and had in tow her full quantity of scows loaded with brick for Port Perry. The quantity of brick required at this port during the present season will keep the *Lady* busy for some time. Quite a number of brick and bricked residences are going up here during the present season.

Amongst other we may mention the names of Messrs. Addison Richardson, James Dryden, Richard Harper, George Harrington and others whose very extensive buildings will require large quantities of the brick. The "*Lady*" is also much wanted in the lower lakes for towing purposes and we hope that she may reap a rich harvest on the lakes during the present season.

## Treasurer Henry Gordon dismissed

*North Ontario Observer: May 12, 1881*

Mr. Henry Gordon, treasurer of this municipality from its birth up until the meeting of the council on the 11th inst., when he was dismissed, has served the corporation with honesty, integrity and zeal.

In his feeble days of infancy, when its exchequer was less elastic than it is now, when financially it had not yet acquired sufficient strength, Mr. Gordon's fostering hand was ever around it and stretched forth for its protection until the corporation has become vigorous and strong.

We don't claim for Mr. Gordon more than he deserves, but it can not be denied that the corporation is much indebted to him for his long and faithful service and these services ought not to soon be forgotten.

## Ball season opens in Port Perry

*North Ontario Observer: May 21, 1881*

The baseball clubs of Port Perry and Manchester met on the tented field – the Port Perry show grounds. On Saturday last and after a spirited contest, in which some good play was shown, especially for the first game of the season and considering the condition of the ground.

The game had not proceeded far when the superiority of the Manchester club began to manifest itself and the best efforts of the Port Perry club, which showed considerable game, could not turn the fortunes of the day, they were a beaten community and they could not prevent it.

After the game the players sat down to the comfortable supper at the Mansion House, Port Perry. The Manchester club were the guests of the Port Perry club.

## Another blaze in downtown

*North Ontario Observer: June 30, 1881*

Some time near 2 a.m., Mr. James Dewart, of the Railway Hotel, observed a light under the southeast corner of Mr. Charles Block on the corner of Queen and Water streets. The block contained Mr. Charles grocery and liquor store, Mr. Sutherland's grocery store, Messrs. Johnston's implement warehouse and Mrs. Smith's residence in the rear of the stores.

On first seeing the fire, Mr. Dewart gave the alarm and then ran to awaken the inmates. The fire was right under Mr. Sutherland's bed, he has slept in a room at the back of his store, and in order to get him up quickly, Dewart broke in the window with a cord stick and Sutherland had only time to put on his pants and run, leaving all the flames.

Mr. Charles too had to make a hasty escape and leave all behind. By this time the devourer had full control of the premises. Lots of help were soon at work but little more could be done than protract the surrounding buildings. Scarcely anything within the block was saved.

The prevention of the destruction of a large portion of the town is doubtless due to the efforts of Mr. Ruddy, of the Port Perry House, who with his hand fire engine braved the almost unbearable heat, stood and kept a constant stream of water playing on the front of the hotel which was being fairly roasted by the opposite flame.

The origin of the fire is unknown.

## Seagrave grain facility lost to fire

*North Ontario Observer: July 21, 1881*

The Grain Warehouse and store houses at Seagrave station of the W.P.P.&L. Railway, were destroyed by fire on the afternoon of Monday the 18th inst. The loss will most likely be confined to the buildings as it is not at all likely that there was any grain on the premises.

The property belongs to the railway company and doubtless was insured for all it was worth. Mr. Arthur Miller owned one of the warehouses.

## Reach Cheese Factory sales

*North Ontario Observer: July 28, 1881*

The Reach Cheese Factory Co'y has just made a sale at a good figure of all its June production. Mr. S.H. Christian, merchant, Manchester, bought the whole and is now shipping it at the Port Perry Station of the W.P.P.&L. Railway.

The importance of an active, enterprising, liberal buyer in any locality, cannot well be over estimated. Farmers may raise crops and breed stock, butter and cheese may be produced no matter how fine the quality, but the combined efforts of all would only go a very short way without the aid of the enterprising buyer who furnishes the sinews of war, the means of removing the produce, converting into cash the labors of the husbandman, the fruit of the soil, the produce of the dairy and the increase of stock. We are much pleased to know that the cheese produced at the Reach Factory is unsurpassed by that of any other factory in the province.



James Emaney's Ontario Carriage Works, Port Perry.

## Ontario Carriage Works for sale

*North Ontario Observer: August 4, 1881*

Mr. James Emaney of the Ontario Carriage Works, Port Perry, having determined to move from this locality, offers for sale his workshops, residence – the entire premises in fact, with all the tools, stock, household furniture &c.

It certainly will be a long time ere such another opportunity presents itself to any party wishing to go into the carriage business in one of the best locations in the Province.

The workshops are all first-class bricked structures, roomy, healthful and finely located; and it is now universally admitted that Port Perry is one of the most active and prosperous business centres in the province. The residence is in the same block with the workshops and is convenient, commodious and pleasant.

Parties wishing to purchase the premises without tools or furniture may do so, and these latter will be sold in lots. He also offers for sale a park lot of seven acres within the corporation of Port Perry and a comfortable residence on Union Avenue.

## C.M. Church repair beloved tower

*North Ontario Observer: August 11, 1881*

We see that our Port Perry Christian Methodist Church friends are going to work with energy in the repairing of the tower of beloved church, and it is not a day too soon for it dilapidated condition strongly reminded one of the ruined Temples of old, which made the patriotic Israelites shed tears.

The step now taken is in the right direction. Mr. Gardner has been entrusted with the repairs in the mason work and that department will soon be straightened up.



Port Perry Methodist Church.

## Lazier's factory destroyed by fire

*North Ontario Observer: August 11, 1881*

We regret much to state that James Lazier's Factory, 7th conc. of Reach, just beyond the northern boundary of the corporation of Port Perry, was with its contents completely destroyed by fire about midnight on the 5th inst.

During the severe thunder storm of that night the lighting struck the smoke stack and passing down into the factory set it on fire. Mr. Lazier and his family were in bed and owing to the combustible nature of the contents the devourer soon had command of the premises.

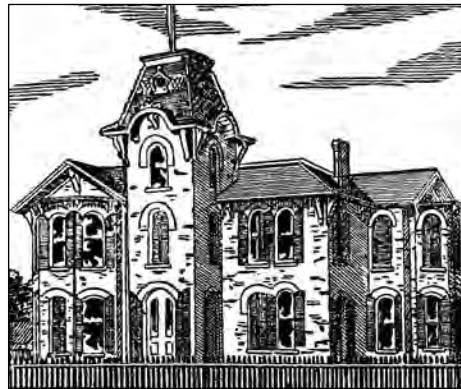
The family residence was only saved by almost superhuman efforts and was badly damaged. Mr. Lazier places the loss, including building, machinery and stock at between seven and eight thousand dollars.

## Improvements in Port Perry

*North Ontario Observer: August 25, 1881*

Mr. Warriner is having his block, west of the Post Office, completely transformed by having it fitted up for two comfortable dwellings. It will be most suitable for a couple of small families as well for its location as for this convenience to the business centre of town.

Mr. George W. Harrington is having the outworks and surroundings of his new building completed in good taste.



Addison Richardson's new home

Mr. Addison Richardson's handsome new residence, opposite the town hall, is hastening to completion and will prove very much of an ornament to that portion of the town. Mr. Spence has the contract of the mason work and is doing himself credit by the workmanship and general skilful and satisfactory manner in which the work is executed. Mr. Richardson's energy and enterprise are worthy of commendation.

Mr. Aaron Ross is using the skill of the carpenter and painter on his handsome residence to which he has lately removed. Comfort and convenience no less than ornament are the objects aimed at, and he is succeeding admirably in securing them all. It really is a handsome residence and the surroundings are in fine taste.

Mr. A.W. Roberts' fine residence has just received the finishing touch of its thorough overhaul. It has also been painted to much advantage and with fine effect. This is a neat and handsome property and adds an additional attraction to our main street.

## Town streets in first-class condition

*North Ontario Observer: August 25, 1881*

The care and attention which is being devoted to the maintenance of our streets in the first-class condition of repair is highly creditable to our town fathers who guard the public funds with a jealous care and thus have always sufficient to devote to the work of improvement and repair.

The public money is being expended to excellent purpose, the repairs are neat and substantial and go far to prove the energy, industry and good judgement of Mr. Robert McKnight, the town overseer.

The condition of our streets in an honor to the town, comfort to all who visit it, worthy of its wealth, intelligence and location, as being one of the most important business centres anywhere to be found.

## Improve appearance of ugly gutter

*North Ontario Observer: August 25, 1881*

There is still one spot in our midst to which we would call the attention of town authorities and which ought not be allowed to remain on day longer than is necessary to remove it. It is a blot on our fair town, is unpleasant to look at, unsafe in a sanitary point of view, a discomfort to the surroundings, unworthy of the enterprise of the town and an absolute financial sacrifice to the proprietors of the property concerned.

We refer to the gutter which worms its way through town entering at the southern portion of the corporation and creeping along or standing on the go-as-you-please principle, through the very centre of the town.

It turns when it arrives at the Post Office and oozes it way in a north-easterly direction till it gets to the lake, that is if it does not become so thick to flow ere it reaches the lake. This slimy serpent-like gutter is not only an eyesore, but it is a dangerous neighbor and a costly tenant. It wastes the ground and pays no rent.

If a proper drain were dug as direct as possible and of the proper size and depth, it would cure the evil at once, it would improve the appearance of the entire surroundings, prevent stagnant water whose presence is always offensive and dangerous and quit an amount of otherwise valuable now rendered useless, would be deemed and become both useful and ornamental and in keeping with the rest of the village.

Of course the owners of the property (including the corporation) to be benefited by such drainage would have



Map shows creek (gutter) running through town.

to foot the bill, but it would be well invested money.

The whole cost of the work, and that need not be a great deal, would be divided up amongst all the proprietors of the property improved by the work, in proportion to the benefit received; and the payment of this may be divided over a number, of say ten years.

This is a work which is not only recommendable in point of appearance, economy and comfort but it is absolutely necessary in a sanitary point of view. Our town fathers will do well to take the matter under their considerations. At first some may shy at the cost, but it need not be great and no better investment could possibly be made.

## Trounce mill saved from fire

*North Ontario Observer: September 15, 1881*

About 6:30 on the evening of the 14th inst., the unwelcome sound of the fire alarm was heard throughout the town and a general rush was made for Trounce's saw mill, the location of the fire.

The protection against fire from the barrels of water constantly kept on the top of the buildings and with the crowd of active, willing hands, the fire was extinguished ere much damage was done. Had the fire been allowed to spread the loss to the town would have been great.

## Serious accident at saw-mill

*North Ontario Observer: September 15, 1881*

We regret to state that Charles Brown, an active, intelligent and promising young man of 19 years, eldest son of Mr. Perry Brown, Port Perry, met with a very serious accident on Monday last.

The young man was employed in Mr. Trounce's saw mill here and while attending the gang-saw got his left leg caught between the carriage and a projection stick. He was caught a little below the knee joint, the bone was fractured and the knee joint badly injured.

The leg would certainly have been torn asunder had not a party promptly stopped the saw. It was a first doubted whether amputation would not have been resorted to. The medical attendants think if inflammation can be kept down that the limb may be save.

## Market busy purchasing crops

*North Ontario Observer: September 22, 1881*

It is many years since the Port Perry market exhibited the life and vigor it now displays. The constant stream of laded teams which pour into our town from day to day, keep up a constant business rush and thousands upon thousands of bushels of the splendid crop of the present season are being converted into cash. The industrious farmer pockets the cash and the enterprising grain buyer takes the grain.

Farmers from long distances are seen daily in our streets and in such numbers as have not been seen in Port Perry for years. It certainly would not have been seen this year had Mr. Joshua Wright not been on the market and prepare to give farmers all that their grain is worth, as much as the market will allow.

Had not Mr. Wright, or some such buyer been on the market, ours would certainly be a one horse concern. The great capacity of Mr. Wright's elevator, the ease with

which grain can be handled and a willingness to give farmers the full worth of their produce contribute to make him a popular buyer and give the market an impetus the results of which are most satisfactory all round.

Since the opening of the market for the present season, Mr. Wright has bought 25,000 bushels of wheat and 45,000 bushels of barley and has paid into the hands of farmers no less a sum than \$69,000.

## ~ 1882 ~

### Cheese factory hires manager

*North Ontario Observer: March 5, 1882*

Friends and patrons of the Reach Cheese Factory will be pleased to learn that the directors have succeeded in securing the services of Miss Paddon to conduct the factory for the coming season.

This is a matter of congratulation to the directors, the stockholders, the patrons, aye, and the public for a skillful, successful cheese maker is of much importance to any such factory. There are but comparatively few really good cheese makers and when such can be secured it proves an advantage to all concerned.

Miss Paddon has already thoroughly established her reputation as a first-class, energetic and successful cheese maker, as well in the Reach cheese Factory as elsewhere, and all are much pleased and join in welcoming the young lady back to Manchester.



*Ontario Bank, Brown & Ross about 1882.*

### Businesses on the move

*North Ontario Observer: March 16, 1882*

Mr. G.B. McDermot having purchased that fine new brick store, one door east of the Ontario Bank, Queen Street, Port Perry, intends moving into his new premises on the 25 inst. He has made an excellent purchase and secured a valuable, well located block at a low rate for such a building.

His extensive purchases for his new premises are arriving daily; the stock is usually large, the freshest and best. G.B. is always good for big bargains, but he is now giving such bargains as make all remember the removal.

William H. Marsh, finding his present premises too

small for his greatly increased business has leased the paint shop in connection with the Ontario Carriage Works, Port Perry. Here the public will find him prepared to execute all orders for painting to the satisfaction of his patrons.

### Careless shooting a danger

*North Ontario Observer: March 5, 1882*

There is much careless shooting being carried on daily in and around Prince Albert, of late several narrow escapes have been made. A few days ago a party was splitting wood at his own door when a shot was fired from near the Walker place, behind the cemetery, and the buckshot came rattling on the shingles over the head of the man splitting wood.

Again a few days ago when the school children were at play in the yard, some mischief was done by a bullet which came amongst the children striking the fence. The necessary steps must be taken to bring to justice and severe punishment to parties indulging in so dangerous practices.

### Came near to having a fire

*North Ontario Observer: April 22, 1882*

Our town narrowly escaped having a rather serious fire on the evening of the 18th inst. Sparks from the furnace in the Paxton Tate & Co's. foundry had caught in the roof of the eastern wing of the moulding department and had it not been for the number, and activity of the willing hands who rushed to the rescue, and the well directed and efficient efforts of the fire brigade, not a building on the premises would have been left standing.

But where there is a will there is always a way and the activity of the fire fighters confined the fire to the roof in which it first caught. The damage was light. The company is deservedly popular and all wrought with a will.

### Township clerk injured in accident

*North Ontario Observer: April 27, 1882*

We only express the feeling of the whole community in expressing our sorrow at the very severe accident with which John Christie, Esq., the worthy Clerk of the Township of Reach met on the afternoon of the 24th inst. His left leg was badly fractured in two places and his back injured to greater or less extents.

He was assisting in taking down an old barn on the Dundrennan farm near Manchester. The men were hauling down one bent, with he and other pulling on the ropes, but as that bent gave way the other bents, four or five in number, came tumbling down with a thunder crash. The men flew back and with the exception of Mr. Christie, miraculously escaped injury.

The beam striking Mr. Christie knocked him down, badly fracturing the leg in two places, the thigh bone and the bones between the knee and ankle, and injuring him otherwise. Dr. Anderson secured the fractured bones and left him as comfortable as circumstances would permit.

### Annexation of Reach and Scugog

*Toronto Globe: May 3, 1882*

The attaching of Scugog Township to North Ontario is a mysterious piece of impudence. Scugog is an island in Lake Scugog, and between the lake and main body of North Ontario intervenes the township of Reach.

The object of this move is not at all clear since Scugog gave a Tory majority in 1878, and the Government intends both North and South Ontario to be Tory appanages. Why not have given Scugog, as well as Reach, to South Ontario? Or on the same principle, why not have annexed part of Glengarry to Lambton?

## Questions too many bells ringing

*North Ontario Observer: May 4, 1882*

At a meeting of Port Perry council in May 1882, the question of the ringing of the bell at the Town Hall came under discussion.

Councillor Edward Major said that "between foundry bells, school bells and mill whistles, he considers the town bell as quite unnecessary when the mills are running." He said it was not a good use of Mr. Robt. McKnight's time, especially since he would have to leave his work to return to the Town Hall to ring the bell three times a day.

Mr. Major moved that the town bell not be rung until further notice, except in the case of fire, stating council was looking for savings and 50¢ a day may well be saved.

It was a tie-vote, requiring Reeve Richard Jones to cast the deciding vote. He voted with the "nays" and declared the motion lost.

## Ships cattle from Port Perry to USA

*North Ontario Observer: May 11, 1882*

Mr. E.B. Morgan, the enterprising cattle dealer, shipped from Port Perry station on Monday last, 120 head, seven car loads, of very superior cattle for which from five to six-and-half cents per lb. live weight was paid.

Mr. Morgan has made a sale of 2,500 to Mr. F.B. Lingham of Boston Mass., he is purchasing for a company of English capitalists, those he shipped on Monday are part of the 2,500. He has made a good thing out of the transaction.



*A typical barn raising in Reach Township, circa 1880.*

## Rush of barn building in township

*North Ontario Observer: May 11, 1882*

A large number of fine barns have lately been completed throughout the township of Reach and quite a number more are being hurried on. Messrs. Pearson and Wm. H. Worden are building quite a village of barns on the Dundrennan Farm near Manchester, the former contracting for the stone and the latter for the carpenter work. These buildings will be a credit to the skill of the building and to the liberality of Mr. Peter Christie, the proprietor. Mr. Duncan Christie, west of Manchester, is also

having magnificent barns erected on an extensive scale.

Mr. Worden, the energetic contractor has his hands full, he is engaged in the erection of several very fine barns. On the 8th inst. he raised a very large and well laid out barn south of Manchester, and on the 9th he raised a large barn on Mr. P. Christie's place, east of Manchester.

## Prince Albert, Port Perry growing

*North Ontario Observer: May 11, 1882*

Cheerful and convincing proofs of general prosperity meet the eye in every direction. Prince Albert too floats along on the prosperous wave and handsome new residences meet the eye in every direction. In the east we have Mr. Wheeler's handsome new brick residence, to the north we have Mr. Wm. H. Hayes' fine mansion, but late erected to the south we have Mr. Gibson's neat new residence and tidy premises.

We have also the handsome new residence in course of erection for Mr. Spence, the excellent and successful head teacher of the Prince Albert School. M. James G. Holman is making an important and substantial addition to his workshop.

Port Perry too is rapidly extending her borders and tidy new edifices may be seen in all directions. Mr. Thomas Rodman, who has lately retired from farming is having a comfortable residence built. Mr. Lafayette F. Richardson, of the Dominion Plaining Mills is also having a fine residence erected. Mr. Elmett, Mr. Joshua Wright's clerk is having a large well appointed residence put up. Another good looking residence is being built north of the school building. The wave of prosperity is spreading its pleasing influence in every direction.

## Reeve discusses dog licences

*North Ontario Observer: June 8, 1882*

Acting on a complaint by Mr. Wild, complaining of having been assessed in error for two dogs, members of council discussed the issue of dogs.

Reeve Peter Christie remarked that it was enough for people to pay for dogs when they had any, but it cannot be denied that there are large numbers of dogs in every municipality which are not paid for. Very many people keep dogs for which they have no more use than a wagon has for a fifth wheel, a sort of combined luxury and nuisance which if they must have they ought to pay for.

He knows there have been quite a number missed from year to year even in this corporation. It has been the practice only to enter dogs of a certain size and let the little ones escape, but every dog should be taken even if it were not the size of a man's hand, it has four legs and a mount, put it down.

## Preparing for Dominion Day

*North Ontario Observer: June 22, 1882*

Port Perry will be the grand centre of attraction on Dominion Day, July 1st. Preparations are now full and complete for one of the most attractive Dominion Day celebrations ever enjoyed in these parts. The variety and class of enjoyments are such as cannot fail to please.

The aquatic sports will be complete in themselves, the athletic games will be unusually attractive. An interesting lacross match between Oshawa and Port Perry clubs will



come off on the grounds here. The whole day will be devoted to the grand celebration and in the evening that magnificent Cantata "Under The Palms" will be given in the Town Hall.

## Port Perry, Uxbridge burglaries

*Toronto Globe: July 26, 1882*

The burglars who have been operating at Port Perry and Uxbridge during the past few weeks, it would appear have had some connection with Hamilton. A letter, one of the papers dropped by one of the burglars when surprised in a cellar in Port Perry last week, was written on an application form of a life assurance company, which has its head office in Hamilton.

Another letter dropped by the same man was marked to be returned to a sewing machine company, gave a list of the places in Port Perry which it had been decided should be burglarized.

A reporter called at the latter company's place of business to ascertain how the company's envelopes were obtained. The gentleman who was seen professed to know, but acted queerly, and was very reticent, and pleadings press of business, left with communicating any information.

## W.P.P & L. railway joins Midland

*North Ontario Observer: July 27, 1882*

The Whitby, Port Perry and Lindsay Railway made a grand change for the better, and fell into excellent company when it cast in its fortune with, and became part and parcel of the Midland Railway amalgamation.

The improvement is marked and important all over the line, courteous treatment, prompt attention and obliging manners are now the rule with officials. Everything necessary is being put forth for the further accommodation of the public, not only in the running of the trains, but in the increased convenience and comfort provided at the several stations.

The Port Perry station has come in for its full share of the repairs, a ladies' waiting room has been added, and the station is now all that could be desired and we question very much if there is a more efficient, prompt and courteous station master on the Midland system than Mr. Coram, the station master at Port Perry.

He is active, obliging and accurate. The checking of luggage wherever bound is no trouble and is correctly done if even a child presents it.

## Royal Arcade to become a hotel

*North Ontario Observer: August 3, 1882*

Two of our energetic, enterprising townsmen, Messrs. Watters and Jonathan Blong, realizing the rapidly increasing importance of Port Perry as a business centre, and seeing too the still increasing demand for further first-class hotel accommodation have, at a handsome figure purchased from Mr. Joseph Bigelow, that large, substantial, brick building opposite the Ontario Bank on Queen Street, known as the "Royal Arcade".

This, they are about to fit up as a first-class hotel, with fittings and furnishings equal to our best city hotels. The conversion of the building into a hotel will not curtail our mercantile accommodations as at least one of the business



*Joseph Bigelow's Royal Arcade block, Port Perry.*

on the ground flat won't be disturbed.

The only disturbance will be amongst the lawyers, tailors and Division Court officials, who occupy the upper room and we think the public will take kindly to the disturbance. The change may not be quite as good as beating the swords into pruning hooks, still it will be a change very far in the right direction and all will wish the enterprise much success.

## Small boy drowns at lakefront

*North Ontario Observer: August 3, 1882*

It becomes our painful duty to record a very sad drowning accident which took place in Lake Scugog on Friday, July 28th.

Two dear little boys, Albert Alfred Curren and George Drinkwater were together on the dock at Port Perry about nine in the morning when by some misstep young Curren fell off the dock into the water. His young playmate becoming frightened ran off and doubtless being afraid to tell that he had been down at the water, he does not appear to have told anyone of the accident.

As dinner time approached the mother of the lost boy, becoming uneasy enquired after him all around the neighborhood wherever he was likely to go, but she could hear nothing of him. The family becoming alarmed instituted a vigorous search but without result.

Shortly after six in the evening it was ascertained that he had been playing with young Drinkwater in the morning. When asked where Albert was, the little boy replied that he was in the water, and indicated the spot the body was once found. No one except this child saw or knew anything of the accident, no others being on or about the wharf at the time.

The anguish of the grief stricken parents, and of the loving brother and sisters cannot be described. Deceased was a darling boy, a pet at home, a favorite with all who knew him and love by his playmates.

## Town to establish a Public Market

*North Ontario Observer: August 3, 1882*

At a meeting of Port Perry council a deputation was presented to establish a Public Market, with the Town Hall basement as a potential location.

A committee was established to obtain costs in

proceeding and instructed to bring the information back as soon as possible.

Three weeks later, at a special meeting in the clerk's office, council agreed to establish a Public Market in the storehouse on Perry Street, behind Brown & Currie's store with rent at \$60 per year.

## Council meets on important issues

*North Ontario Observer: August 10, 1882*

The commissioner for the Village of Port Perry reported to council that he had waited on all the proprietors, who he could find, of the property through which the proposed drain for carrying off the foul water coming from Lilla Street, crossing Queen west of the Post Office, and that the owners had all expressed their approval of the proposed work.

A second item on council's agenda was a communication from the Lake Scugog Marsh Lands Drainage Co'y, agreeing to accept the sum of \$4,000 from the corporation of Port Perry, that said Company construct such a roadway as has been proposed. They ask how much money it will be necessary for the company to deposit in order to indemnify the corporation for any cost attending the submission of the by-law to electors, should said by-law be defeated.

## Jewellery store moves from Arcade

*North Ontario Observer: August 17, 1882*

The conversion of the Royal Arcade buildings, Port Perry, into a grand hotel will dispossess Mr. William H. McCaw, jeweller, &c., that gentleman will move his business to Mr. James V. Thompson's fine store nearly opposite the Ontario Bank, which is in course of erection.

Mr. McCaw proceeds at once to the erection of two new brick stores on the lot between the Royal Arcade buildings and Abbs & Paterson's store.

Mr. Trick's boot and shoe store and the dwelling house on the lot are to be taken down at once. That will be a lively spot for some time the taking down of the dwelling house, the erection of a new brick block for the new stores.

The altering and fitting up of the Royal Arcade as a first-class hotel. The erection of stables, barns, sheds and other necessary outbuildings required for such a hotel will necessitate a vast amount of work and make that a busy spot for some time to come.

Such important additions and changes speak well for the present condition and future prospects of Port Perry as an important business centre.

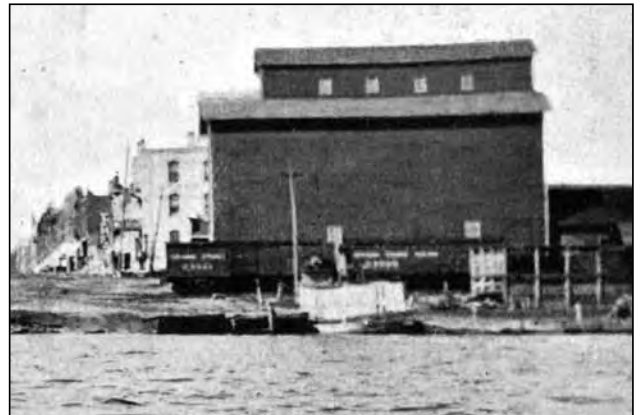
## Wright's lease of elevator expires

*North Ontario Observer: August 31, 1882*

When Mr. Joshua Wright's lease of the Port Perry elevator expired and Mr. Aaron Ross purchased the premises, it was broadly hinted around that Mr. Wright would thus be driven off the market for lack of accommodation and the patrons of the Port Perry market were not a little annoyed at the idea of having Mr. Wright off the market.

But that gentleman is not made of any such soft material as to be routed by an ordinary foe. He secures the use of the Company's stores, thoroughly equips them for business by supplying the necessary scales and other facilities for

handling grain with accuracy and dispatch. His new office is just being completed when he will be prepared to enter another buying campaign with increased energy and first-class facilities.



*Grain Elevator at Port Perry's lakefront.*

## Land owners approve ditch work

*North Ontario Observer: September 14, 1882*

Mr. Edward Major reported that he had examined Clark Street, and would recommend that a three-plan sidewalk, each plank ten inches wide, be laid along the whole length of the south side of said street.

Mr. Robert McKnight said he liked to see the sidewalks going on but the Council appears to be overlooking a very important work, the cutting of a drain from Lilla Street to the Scugog. It is of great importance that this work should be attended to as well for the comfort and health of a large portion of the town.

He has not seen and got the consent of all parties concerned; when he made his last report there was a party whom he had not seen, but he had since seen and got the consent of this party, but he could not go on with the work without the authority of the Council.

The Clerk stated that a resolution had been passed by this council authorizing Mr. McKnight first to obtain, if possible, the consent of the parties owning the lands through which the drain is to pass, and in the event of securing the consent to proceed with the work and specifications were embodied in the resolution.

Mr. Major moved a resolution giving the sanction of the Council and setting forth the specifications.

## Mr. Worden's superior barns

*North Ontario Observer: October 2, 1882*

The barn in which Richard Harper met with an accident, which resulted in his death, was built by Mr. William H. Worden over a year ago, and it is decidedly one of the best barns in the Province. Like all other barns built by Mr. Worden, it is an ornament to the entire locality and a credit to the proprietor.

The superiority of these barns is not confined to their handsome appearance, it consists also in their superior arrangement, the great accommodation afforded, their excellent construction, their stability and durability; and they are so constructed that there is neither difficulty nor danger in passing around them, high or low.

In the case of Mr. Harper's barn, the port holes could

be opened and shut by any child. The doors of the port holes turn on a swivel and cords are so fastened to these doors that anyone standing on the barn floor can by a gentle pull open or close them.

In this case, some party had by some means broken the cord and when it was wanted to open the port hole, Mr. Harper in his activity, daring way ran up a trail, temporary ladder standing almost perpendicular against the end of the barn. While standing on the slender run at the top of such a ladder without anything to hold by, he hit the door and it turned rapidly over and hit him on the breast, knocking him back off the ladder. But with the weight of a pound he must have gone over, the stroke coming so unexpectedly and he having nothing by which to hold.

Mr. Worden's fine barns are rapidly increasing throughout the province. He built several during the past year on some of the finest farms in the county.



Sketch shows the Dafoe House and General Store, Utica.

## Dafoe sells his store and hotel

*North Ontario Observer: October 2, 1882*

Mr. Jacob Dafoe, proprietor of the Dafoe House and general store, Utica, has retired from business and has leased his store to Mr. R. Reid, one of Utica's best known and most respected villagers, and has leased the hotel to Mr. Luther H. Hurd, the worthy and intelligent host of the Epsom Hotel.

All regret the departure of Mr. Dafoe from our midst, for many years he has conducted a prosperous and highly satisfactory business in Utica in both store and hotel, and few men in the township are better known or more highly respected.

Mr. Hurd, successor to Mr. Dafoe in the hotel, will be found all right, a worthy host, valuable townsman and obliging neighbour, so that the Dafoe House will under the management of Mr. Hurd continue to be a pleasant and safe retreat for the traveling public and all others who require hotel accommodation.

## Building being hastened forward

*North Ontario Observer: October 2, 1882*

There is perhaps no busier spot in the province than on Mr. William H. McCaw's fine new brick block which is being hastened forward with all possible dispatch, it certainly promises to be a handsome block.

Adjoining this is the Johathan Blong & Watters new hotel premises which are being pressed to completion

with all possible speed, every hand that can get at the work is employed and splendid work they are making of it. When completed this magnificent hotel will have few equals in the province. It will be an ornament to the town, and highly creditable to the liberality and enterprise of the proprietors.

This addition to our hotel accommodation will greatly add to the public convenience and comfort.

## Talk of location for Public Market

*North Ontario Observer: October 9, 1882*

Now that the idea of establishing a Public Market in town is taking tangible shape, perhaps the next and most important step which can be taken is the selection of a suitable premises. A blunder in the particular would be fatal to all prosperity of the scheme.

The selection of a suitable locality is not quite so simple as most people suppose and if clique influence or narrow selfishness be allowed to play any part in the selection, it will strangle the whole affair.

The accommodation of outsiders and not the selfish whims of this one, or that, must be considered. Narrow clique influence has already saddled on the town of Port Perry a debt of \$20,000 which has already been productive of evil.

The basement of the Town Hall is certainly the most suitable Market building now in town and if that is objected to there is no other building in town which would answer the purpose. A suitable building would require to be erected.

There can be little doubt that a property conducted Public Market would be of advantage to the surrounding farming community and there are few places so well adapted for such a market as Port Perry.

## Couple thrown from their buggy

*North Ontario Observer: October 16, 1882*

On Sunday evening last after the evening service at church, Mr. Joseph Baird was driving home from Utica towards his home, about half a miles east of Utica. His wife was in the buggy with him, and a little way on the east side of Utica two men came driving furiously towards them.

Mr. Baird did everything possible to avoid coming in contact with the furious drivers. He got as far as possible out of the road but they continued their mad and reckless driving and drove their buggy right into Mr. Baird's buggy, badly smashing it and throwing Mr. and Mrs. Baird heavily to the ground.

Fortunately neither of them was much injured but the buggy was badly broken. The two reckless drivers their names as Brown from near Whitby, but it now turns out that they were not quite so far traveled. Their name is not Brown and they reside in Port Perry, but for the present we will suppress the names as the case will doubtless come up in another quarter where all will be made known.

## Deputy Reeve injured in accident

*North Ontario Observer: October 16, 1882*

Leonard Burnett, Esq., Deputy Reeve of Reach, had a dangerous runaway on Friday last by which his buggy was much damaged and himself severely injured, but under the circumstances it is a mercy that he escaped with his life.

On the afternoon of Friday he was driving a young spirited mare towards Greenbank when a furious dog rushed at the mare and grabbed at her. This frightened the animal and sent her off at the top of her speed, kicking and tearing. The dog followed until the mare became completely unmanageable, kicking and bounding so badly that Mr. Burnett could not leap out.

She finally upset the buggy, throwing him with great force within a foot of a stump fence, which had he struck his life would not have been worth one minutes purchase. But as if he was severely injured and take up insensible.

We were much pleased however to see him so far recovered as to be in his place at the meeting of Council on Monday last. He was badly bruised and his right leg too much injured that he cannot walk without a crutch.

## Winter road for crossing the ice

*North Ontario Observer: October 16, 1882*

Thanks to the enterprise of Mr. William J. Trounce and the generosity of some of our business men there is a near prospect of having a winter road crossing the ice from Port Perry to Bailey's landing Cartwright.

This will shorten the travel between Port Perry and Williamsburg by at least five miles. Nearly one half of the whole distance by road.

The scheme has frequently been talked of but it remained for Mr. Trounce to secure the sinews of war. Drawing up a short heading and leading in the subscription with a generous sum, he presented the paper to several of the merchants and business men and in a few minutes had a subscription sufficient to cut out and clear a roadway 25 feet wide across the ice to Bailey's landing. It is to be opened, and that the road will be soon be fit for travel and the full advantage of the new highway will be largely experienced during the present winter.

## The Port Perry market by-law

*North Ontario Observer: December 28, 1882*

The Port Perry Market By-law is now in force establishing a public market in the village. The market building is in the storehouse north of Brown and Currie's store and east of Mr. Brock's block.

The Tuesday and Friday of each week are market days. On the market days no one will be allowed to sell or otherwise dispose of on the streets, at the stores or anywhere else within the village any butter, cheese, eggs, poultry, game, vegetables, fruit, lard or tallow. All such must be taken to the market hall, must be entered and the fees paid.

But after being exposed for sale till 10 am., if not sold the owner may take them away and sell them wherever he pleased in the village or otherwise.

But even on market days, parties bringing into the village any of the above after 1 p.m., are not required to go to the market with them, but may sell them wherever they can throughout the village without entering them at the market or paying market fees.

On the other four days of the week, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, parties may come in and sell or otherwise dispose of any of the above as formerly, these not being market days the market by-law has no effect on such.

Market fees:-

Any quantity of the above however much or however little, if brought to the market by a two horse rig is charged 10 cents; if drawn by one horse 5 cents; if carried by a person 2 cents. Any violation of the market by-law will subject to a fine of not less than \$1 nor more than \$20.

Fresh meet shall not be sold anywhere within the village except within the Market Hall. Farmers may sell fresh meat within the village in quantities not less than one-quarter carcass, and the only after having first entered it at the market, paid the fee and allowed it to remain on the market till 10 a.m.

But after taking such articles to the market buildings, paying the market dues thereon and letting them remain on the market for sale till 10 a.m., if not sold by that time the owners may take away their goods and sell them wherever they can.

The market will be ready for formal opening on Friday, the 5th of January 1883. After which date the by-law will be enforced. Merchants dealing in fresh meat should take notice and govern themselves accordingly.

# ~ 1883 ~

## Public Market set to open

*North Ontario Observer: January 4, 1883*

Port Perry embarks on her Public Market scheme on Friday 5th inst. The experiment will be watched with some degree of interest both by villagers and outsiders and it will be well for all to take a generous view of the situation, not to get upset over it, expect too much, get alarmed if it doesn't spring in maturity at once, and do all that is most optimistic promoters expect of it.

Give it at least three months trial before trying to write its story. It's future success depends much more on the efforts of our farmers than townsmen; but where there is a will there is a way and the efforts of all concerned can deny failure of success.

## Fire destroys Vickery home

*North Ontario Observer: January 18, 1883*

About 5 p.m. on Friday, 12th inst., the unwelcome clatter of the fire bell warned the town that fire had taken possession where it was not wanted. It was found at the residence of Mrs. Vickery, south of the M.E. Church was burning.

The fire brigade and engine were promptly on the scene and had there been sufficient supply of water, the building would most likely have been saved, for it burned very slowly, but the lack of water rendered the engine powerless.

So slowly did the building burn that everything was got out, even the windows were taken out and the doors off the hinges, but the building fell a prey to the flames. The loss may be about \$400 Mrs. Vickery was insured for \$250.

## Hotel accommodations in village

*North Ontario Observer: February 1, 1883*

The absolute necessity for a sufficient supply of properly located, well conducted hotel accommodations must be

obvious to all who do any business.

Port Perry, its surroundings and the traveling public who visit, or do business in town are to be congratulated on the very large addition which has been made to the already extensive and superior accommodation of the town, by the opening of the Brunswick House, one of the very finest and best appointed hotels in the province.

The venture speaks well for the liberality, enterprise and good taste of the active proprietors, Messrs. Watters & Jonathan Blong, who have spared neither labor nor expense in furnishing the public extensive additional hotel accommodations of the very first order. Such in fact as is a credit to the town and which with its large and choice accommodation, furnished by the several well conducted hotels already in existence in town, place Port Perry in the front rank for the extent and quality of its hotel accommodation.

The outlay in the purchase and fitting up of Brunswick House must have been very large, but the money is judiciously expended, the proprietors are shrewd, active businessmen who will doubtless secure a liberal share of the public patronage and make the investment profitable.

## Nonquon swamp drainage dispute

*North Ontario Observer: February 15, 1883*

At a meeting of the village of Port Perry council, an influential and somewhat numerous deputation came before the Council regarding the assessment of the drainage of the Nonquon Swamp.

Mr. Alfred Sleep of Seagrave was first heard. He said that he and other members of the deputation had come to enter a complaint before the Council regarding what they and a great many more, regard as an injustice and a hardship from the equal manner in which the property included in the drainage boundary is assessed.

Mr. Tipp said that the parties on the flat found the drainage to be a damage to them. Formerly horses and cattle could get on the flats for quite a time every year, but since the drainage operations, they can not get on at all. The drainage has so far been a damage to his property and his is taxed \$26 a year for the so-called improvements while they are really a damage to him.

Mr. John Clemense says that somebody has made a grand mistake in the drainage matter. The valuation of the improvements to be effected has been a great blunder for generally those least benefited pay most, the water stands on his place to a greater extent than it did before the drainage, the water appears to be drained on his property in place of being drained off. He believes that for the extent of his property he is about the highest taxed of the whole.

The Reeve, Peter Christie, said council had no power to interfere, the matter was entirely out of their hands. All parties effected by the work had full opportunity to appeal.

## Joshua Wright set to build new grain elevator near railway

*North Ontario Observer: March 8, 1883*

Mr. Joshua Wright, our energetic and liberal grain buyer is about to build an elevator on his premises near the railway station here. The place selected is most suitable for

the purpose and as he has abundance of room, he owns seven acres of land there, he will be enabled to secure every convenience and comfort in handling grain, as well as those who deliver and as those who receive grain.

The premises at one time intended for a tannery will be the site for the elevator. The erection of another elevator in town will be regarded with much interest and satisfaction, as few erections are equally advantageous to the commercial prosperity of a locality. Not on account of the general benefit which it confers on the locality by bringing in large numbers from the surroundings of those whom of all others, the people like most to see our substantial yeoman and families.

An active, energetic grain buyer is a sure guarantee for the stability and life of a market, and it is only echoing the sentiment of all knowing anything of the Port Perry market to say that Mr. Wright has been the life and hope of the market ever since he came upon it; all will wish him much success in his undertaking.



*Railway station with water tower and grain sheds in the distance.*

## Train station busy shipping freight.

*North Ontario Observer: March 22, 1883*

We very much doubt whether there is another station on the Midland Railway system of equal importance to the Port Perry station, especially as a shipping port, as well export as import. Nothing more indicates the volume of trade done here than the perfect crush of freight which accumulates awaiting shipment if the cars are only blocked one day and from that some idea may be formed of the great annoyance and inconvenience experienced by our businessmen during the frequent and prolonged snow block of the present season.

J. Stones and J. Belton shipped from this port on the 16th inst., 47 head of fat cattle for Montreal and Portland eastern markets. Stone and Belton at the same time shipped a car load of choice sheep and one of hogs. Enterprising and liberal stock buyers prove of great value and importance to any agricultural community.

## Man accidentally shoots friend with revolver Prince Albert

*North Ontario Observer: March 29, 1883*

About 9 p.m. on the evening of the 21 inst., two young men named respectively Brawn and Coone were standing together near the residence of the former, in Prince Albert.

Two young ladies were standing with them. Mr. Coone had a revolver in his hand and was turning the chambers to show how it wrought, when by some means of another it went off lodging a bullet in the thigh of Mr. Brawn.

As might be expected the accident created the greatest alarm. The services of Dr. John E. Ware were immediately secured and thanks to the surgical skill of the doctor in probing, he was successful in finding the bullet and no less successful in extracting it.

This accident ought to teach an important lesson to the young man who handled the revolver for had the bullet hit the young man a few inches higher the would have in all likelihood, have proved fatal.

## Ice road across marsh to Cartwright

*North Ontario Observer: April 5, 1883*

The promoters of the winter road across the ice of Scugog to Cartwright shore may be congratulated on the entire success of their well directed efforts. They deserve the thanks of all interested in increasing the business of the town.

This road has been particularly advantageous during the past winter which was of so unusual length and travel on the roads so difficult from snow drifts. This road as well as shortening the distance of travel between Port Perry and Cartwright by several miles is pleasant and direct.

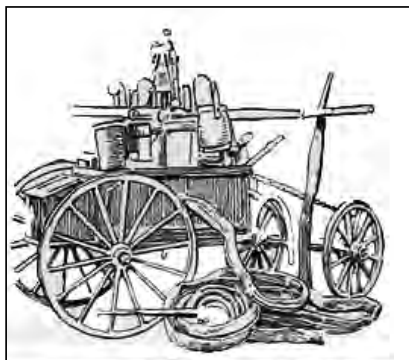
The numerous advantages of this "winter way" were too obvious to be overlooked and the strings of teams daily passing over it went far to prove that a summer road built in the same direction would secure a vast travel and intercourse between Cartwright and this town, which we do not no enjoy.

## Fire engine moved to west of town

*North Ontario Observer: May 10, 1883*

At the regular meeting of the council of Port Perry, Mr. Caleb Crandell asked the council to allow the small fire engine to be located at the west end of town. He claimed as a right, that portion of the town should have some portion of the corporation's appliances with which to combat any fire which might break out in that portion of the corporation.

Mr. Crandell said he would furnish, free of charge, a convenient and suitable building in which to keep the engine. On a motion of Mr. Addison Richardson, Mr. Crandell's request was granted.



*Small pump fire-engine.*

## Fence unsightly obstruction to town

*North Ontario Observer: June 1, 1883*

Every inhabitant of Port Perry and all others who pass up and down Queen Street can scarcely fail to be annoyed at the sight of that long, close-board fence now being built along the north side of the "Olympic Club" grounds. This obstruction entirely cuts of the view of one of the finest landscapes anywhere to be found in this fair county.

Parties going down the hill on Queen St., or going up to-wards the west cannot fail to admire the beautiful landscape which presents itself away to the south and east. One is delighted as he gazes on the finely diversified landscape overtop the waters of Scugog, nestling in the bosom of the picturesque scenery of the Scugog shores and away beyond with alternate woods and fruitful fields which skirt the distant horizon.

A stranger coming down the hill cannot fail in admiring the beauty of the landscape and taking a liking for the town. But if this obstruction is to remain the, view will be cut off and our town will lose one of its most important attractions. Better present the Club with \$1,000 than allow the fence to remain.

## Heavy rainfall washes out roads

*North Ontario Observer: July 12, 1883*

The unusually heavy and long continued rains of the past week have played the mischief with many of the roads of Reach and many of the streets of Port Perry, causing quite an addition to the outlay of both corporations. The Nonquon Road in the 2nd and 3rd concessions of Reach has come in for more than its share of the damage; the old Brock Road too has got a costly wash.

In Port Perry the rush of water was so great along the ditch from Scugog Street to Lake Scugog, that the culverts on Lilla and Perry Streets were unequal to the floods seeking escape and the consequence was that the accumulated water forced a passage first across Lilla St. and then across Queen leaving a wide, deep and impassible chasm right across both streets.

The culverts were well built and in good order but not of sufficient capacity to permit of the passage of so unusual a flood. It is always safe however, to have culverts much larger than is required for ordinary times, and in this instance culverts of much greater capacity are to be put in.

## Bigelow moves lumber manufacturing

*North Ontario Observer: July 19, 1883*

When Mr. Joseph Bigelow found it advisable in order to secure greater facilities for business, to move his lumber manufacturing business from Port Perry to County of Peterboro, much regret and disappointment were expressed by the entire community. All would have had him remain; but his new location possessed facilities for the lumber business which could not be secured at the Port.

Of course Mr. Bigelow's extensive possessions of valuable real estate within the corporation together with his well tried and long established interest in the welfare of the town will always identify him with its rise and progress. All will be pleased to learn that he has now got thoroughly established in his new location in the Township of Harvey, County of Peterboro.

His new mill is 96'x36', stocked with first-class



machinery, and having every other facility for the rapid, economical and advantageous manufacture of everything connected with lumber manufacture. His fine 45 horse power engine is supplied by two large boilers – and while Mr. Bigelow has moved his manufacturing business, his lumber yard in Port Perry will be carried on with, if possible, more vigor than heretofore. He owns a tug and six scows which will keep his lumber yard constantly supplied with everything in the lumber line and at moderate prices.

## Civic holiday celebrated in Port Perry

*North Ontario Observer: August 9, 1883*

The Port Perry, holiday on Monday 6th inst., proved a most interesting and favourable time. August gave us one of its most enjoyable days and while the visitors from the country were comparatively few, still the gathering was large, interesting and pleasant. In fact the programme of the day was such as could not fail in securing a big gathering.

The Olympic Club Grounds proved to be the centre of attraction, a delightful spot on the rising ground overlooking the village. Every necessary accommodation as well for convenience and comfort was provided, and comfortable seats were furnished for all, who so desired.

Among those on the grounds, the large army of intelligent, active and well conducted young men and youths could not help in raising feelings of hopeful anticipation of the future of our fair country.

Oshawa was well and creditably represented by her Lacrosse team and their friends. Uxbridge was here in strength; Cannington too was well represented; Beaverton made noble turn-out, and Manchester was well represented both individually and numerically, and the turn out of ladies as well as gents was most satisfactory. The displays on the grounds was really grand the contestants in the several games being dressed in their dashing uniforms.

The active business of the day commenced with a base ball match between Oshawa and Port Perry. The latter came off victorious after a good and well contested game.

## Saintfield still moving forward

*North Ontario Observer: August 17, 1883*

The Saintfield School Section, having with a view to comfort and health of the teacher and pupils overhauled, and renovated their school house. Now, Mr. Edward Newton having purchased the Centre Hotel, Saintfield



*Saintfield Public School, circa 1900.*

is having it torn up and renewed on vastly improved principles, and when completed in accordance with the plans laid down, the Saintfield Hotel will be one of the most convenient, comfortable and best appointed hotels to be found in this section of the country.

Mr. Wm. Spence and son are pushing forward the work in fine style and may be relied on for making a capital job of it. Mr. Newton is an attentive and obliging host and runs and orderly and respectable hotel creditable to the locality.

## Businesses on the move to more commodious accommodations

*North Ontario Observer: August 23, 1883*

There can be no better proof of the business vitality of any city or town than the regular and natural expression of the business of its old established and thoroughly proved business men. Port Perry to-day furnishes such a proof in large measure. In fact no better proof need be asked of the thorough reliability of Port Perry as a commercial centre than the fact that so many of her well established, feverishly known and enterprising businessmen are seeking more elbow room, more extensive business premises and increased facilities for pushing a still larger and more extensive business.

Thomas C. Forman & Son have so pushed their business, and their customers have so increased that the premises are found quite too small for the business, so they are about to move to those large and commodious premises in the block on Queen and Perry Streets, lately occupied by Mr. Joseph Bigelow. Beside being vastly more commodious and better located, customers will find it much more convenient to do business there.

Davenport, Jones & Co. are moving into their new premises in the Jones' Block, lately occupied by Abbs & Paterson. Here this partly new, but already well known, much respected, highly popular firm will make business hum. Having every facility with large means, thorough experience, business tact and complete reliability secure, aided by very extensive and admirably appointed premises, this firm will doubtless still further extend the extensive and prosperous business they'd in the premises they are now leaving.

Messrs. John B. Laing & John W. Meharry, the well known and deservedly popular hardware merchants, are moving into the premises being vacated by D.R. Davenport & Charles W. Jones & Co. Here the firm will have more room and better arrangements for meeting the requirements of their extensive and rapidly increasing business. Customers will find the new premises even more convenient than the old.

Mr. Henry Charles, one of our earliest and most respected merchants, is having new business premises erected east of his present store and will be so near to the old stand that customers will find it quite as convenient and more suitable than the old premises for doing business.

Mr. Joshua Wright, is adding greatly to his already extensive, well established and popular shoe business. He has leased the store west of the Mansion House where he intends to open an extensive and choice stock of ready-made goods of the newest styles, finest quality and most

desirable goods in the line. His present premises will as heretofore be used for the manufacture of boots and shoes and the sale of goods of his own manufacture. The public will be pleased with the further extended premises and largely increased facilities for supplying the demands of customers. The reliable work turned out of that establishment has made it a favourite with customers.

Our pushing and fashionable Merchant Tailor, Mr. Isaacs, has so extended his business and increased his customers that he too finds his premises too small and will move into the store now occupied by Forman & Son when they have moved to their new premises.

The indications are that the coming season will be the most spirited ever witnessed in the mercantile arena of Port Perry. A general clearance of decks is taking place and the public may expect vast stocks of choice goods to choose from and the prices will be low. Let business flourish!

## Gratuitous insult to Mary Louise owners

*North Ontario Observer: August 30, 1883*

The *Fenelon Falls Gazette* of the 25th inst. has seen fit to offer a gratuitous insult to the inhabitants of Port Perry; it is simply a malicious libel and no less false than malicious. Here's how he puts it:

"Messrs. John Ruddy & John Bowerman have decided to run the steam yacht, the *Mary Louise*, between Lindsay, Sturgeon Point and Fenelon Falls, owning to the fact that the people of Port Perry failed to patronize the boat as they should have done. We are sorry for this, but it could not be expected that they should allow her to remain where the residents show so great a lack of public spiritedness. The yacht has always been ready to convey parties down the lake and back every evening for a small charge, but no one wished to go unless a free ride was offered, and then the boat could soon be filled."

The yacht *Mary Louise* has not always been ready to convey parties down the lake and back every evening. It is not yet a month since it was completed, and to talk of people rushing for 'free rides' is a gratuitous insult and no less false and insolent.

## Wm. Sexton's complimentary send off

*North Ontario Observer: October 25, 1883*

Mr. William S. Sexton was one of Port Perry's standard bearers and best friends in days gone by, who had stood by it in its weaker and less prosperous days, who had lent



*William and Amanda Sexton's home on Water Street.*

it a helping hand, and the full benefit of his purse, his counsel and his energies in building up the town.

He hung to it through its childhood, youth and maturity till he had the satisfaction of seeing his protégé, one of the most thriving, prosperous and active business centres in the province. During his life he served as Reeve of Port Perry and Warden of Ontario County.

As he advanced in years, surrounded by an amiable and loving wife, Amanda, and two sons full of promise, of a prosperous future, all seemed fair for a pleasant voyage down the stream of life. But an adverse wind struck and a series of years of ruinous lumber market brought on financial difficulties and the old gentleman gave up all.

His sons found it necessary to strike out for themselves and thus leave father and mother to plod along the journey of life alone. The father was brave and independent and the mother was a true woman, a noble heroine who sustained her part no less bravely than her husband and proved a source of comfort to his declining years.

But the time came when she, the loving and devoted partner of his life, the sharer of his fortunes, the light of his eyes, his consolation in days of darkness, was stricken down, death's cold, unsparing and relentless hand was laid upon her and she passed away to that better land where the weary are at rest, leaving her beloved one to finish his journey alone.

Thus like a tree in the wilderness, stripped by the hurricane's blast, bereft of fruit, leaves and branches the once upright and stalwart figure is left bowed and alone. He turns away its sadness from the scenes of his former activity and usefulness from a village which he leaves vastly better than he found it.

As soon it was learned that the old gentleman was about to move from the locality, numbers of his friends determined to magnify, in a tangible manner, the high esteem in which he is held by the entire community. It was determined to entertain him to a complimentary supper and make him a present of a fine gold-headed cane and an expensive pipe.

The supper was held in the Hotel Brunswick. W.J. McMurtry, Esq., occupied the chair and the company was large, influential and representative and the universal expressions of respect and esteem must have been highly flattering to the worthy guest of the evening.

Note: The town was saddened to learn William Sexton, 82, passed away in Brooklyn, New York, on September 2, 1893. His body was returned by train to Port Perry, and his body was laid to rest in Pine Grove Cemetery.

## Port Perry fire destroys much of town

*Toronto Globe: November 30, 1883*

A fire broke out in Port Perry between 11 and 12 o'clock last night, which destroyed about \$130,000 worth of property in the centre of town. It commenced in John Ruddy's Hotel and made a clean sweep of Queen Street on the north side from the Ross Elevator to William H. McCaw's jewellery store.

The flames had made such headway before being discovered that they were entirely beyond the control of the firemen and citizens who worked persistently, but against such great odds as to render their efforts almost



*The north side of Queen St. was totally destroyed by fire December 1883, as illustrated in this painting.*

unavailing. The prevailing strong south wind prevented contact with the south side of the street and saved the rest of the town.

To the existence of an alley between the Brunswick House and McCaw's jewellery store, coupled with the fact that the wall of the hotel fell inwards, is largely attributable the staying of the progress of the flames. Otherwise the whole of that side of the street would have been swept away.

A large quantity of goods were removed in a damaged condition. Fortunately no lives were lost through risks were run and venturesome attempts made to rescue moveable goods.



*Section of Port Perry destroyed by fire in November 1883.*

## Observer silenced for three weeks

*North Ontario Observer: December 20, 1883  
(first issue after the November 26, 1883 fire)*

This Christmas is an especially befitting season to make our annual bow to our respected readers; especially in view of our recent rough experience in passing through

a too hot fire, and coming out badly scorched, with our office destroyed, our plant rendered useless and our valuable stock consumed.

The entailed a heavy loss and much annoyance; first having to find suitable premises for an office in a town like Port Perry where property to the value of at least \$125,000 had been consumed in a few hours. We have, however, been fortunate in securing convenient and suitable premises, but these had to undergo extensive repairs ere we could occupy them.

The purchase of new plant and stock was a matter of much expense and required considerable time and labour to get fitted up anew, so that however reluctantly we have been silenced for three weeks, thus missing three issues of the *Observer*.

Thanking our readers for their kind forbearance we take much pleasure in placing in the hands of our subscribers a first installment of the *Observer* in its new garb; and now having secured and fitted up suitable premises in one of the most convenient locations in town, on the south side of Queen St, nearly opposite the Post Office; and having secured a full supply of the best type anywhere to be had, we are now prepared to execute all orders in the most satisfactory manner.

Taking our readers by the hand, we wish them all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous future.

## Fire fiend lays to waste structures in Port Perry's business section

*North Ontario Observer: December 20, 1883*

The Port Perry of today has certainly no inviting appearance, a large number of its finest structures having been laid to waste by an irrepressible conflagration, those are now only represented by sickening heaps of ashes and piles of broken brick.

The fire fiend, of November 26, 1883, made his appearance somewhere in the rear of the Port Perry House, and fanned by a powerful blast from the east, succeeded within three hours from its first appearance

in wiping out at least one-third of the business portion of the town and causing devastation and havoc in every direction. The fire consumed property to the value of \$125,0000.

Active and brave men flew to the rescue; our vigilant fire brigade were soon on hand but had to contend against fearful odds. But all did their best and deserve thanks for their efforts. (See full report in "Fires")

## ~ 1884 ~

### Election of Fire Company officers

*North Ontario Observer: January 10, 1884*

The Rescue Fire Company, Port Perry, met at their hall on the evening of Tuesday, 8th inst. Amongst other business the election of officers for the present year was proceeded with and resulted as follows:

Wm. Kennedy, Chief Engineer; John Powers, Captain; Thos. Hardell, 1st Lieut.; William Mills, 2nd Lieut., William H. Park, Secretary; James Humphrey, Assist Secretary; Robert McKnight, Treasurer; James Wilson, William Irvin, Thomas Platten, William Bond, George DeShane, John Clemense, Joseph Hardell, Robert Buntin, Peter Lansing and John Mann.

### Port Perry lacking in snow removal

*North Ontario Observer: January 17, 1884*

Port Perry may be all manner of justice, be ranked amongst the first towns in the province in point of intelligence and business liberality, but in fighting the snow they are certainly behind the times.

The first snow storm deprives the inhabitants - except those living in the centre of the town - of the use of the sidewalk for the rest of the winter and foot passengers young and old, male and female must plod through the snow along the centre of the streets with the pleasing prospect of being driven into the deep snow or ridden over by every sleigh that comes along.

Were the corporation to procure a property snow plow it could be run over the chief walks over the entire length of the corporation in much less time and at less cost than every small part of the walk now partially cleared two or three times in the season, with much labor and two or three men.

Surely the corporation of Port Perry might afford the luxury of a horse and plow to clear the walks. It would cost less money and infinitely be better than the miserable and more costly system of shovelling now adopted.

### County Sheriff honoured at banquet

*Toronto Globe: January 29, 1884*

A demonstration took place in Port Perry the evening of January 25th, in honour of Mr. Thomas Paxton, who previous to his accepting the shrievalty of the County of Ontario and represented North Ontario in the Local Legislature, and had been identified with the progress of the county for many years.

On account of the railway blockade and the condition of the roads, comparatively few from the distance were present, but about 150 from all parts of the riding and

South Ontario faced and overcame these obstacles, completely filling the tables which were spread in the Town Hall.

The chair was occupied by Dr. John H. Sangster, who intimated that many letters and telegrams had been received in their absence. The chairman read an address to Mr. Paxton expressing the esteem in which he is held by the residents of North Ontario, without distinction of party, nationality, or creed, for his manly qualities and faithful services as their representative and presented him with a cheque for \$500.

Mr. Paxton made a feeling reply, in which he expressed his deep sense of honour done him and value "greater than gold" of the esteem of the people of his riding. The gallery was occupied by about 50 ladies during the course of the banquet.

### Postmaster retires after 18 years

*North Ontario Observer: January 31, 1884*

The entire community will regret to learn that Henry Gordon, Esq., the worthy postmaster at Port Perry has found it necessary from the pressing and rapidly increasing calls of business, to resign as postmaster.

An occupancy of 18 years in which he has discharged his duties as postmaster with a zeal, fidelity and honour most creditable to himself and highly satisfactory to all doing business with the office. While all will regret his resignation the best wishes of the entire community will go with him and all wish him continued and still increasing prosperity.

Mr. Gordon's successor, John W. Burnham, is well and favourably known throughout the community and since Mr. Gordon finds it necessary to retire, the fact that Mr. Burnham has secured the position will be satisfactory to all.

### Grand Trunk changes connections

*North Ontario Observer: January 31, 1884*

All will be greatly pleased to learn that the railway company has generously respond to the memorial of the Port Perry Council of last year, backed by that of several municipalities concerned, and have so arranged their passenger trains that connections shall be made with the Grand Trunk in Whitby.

On and after February 1st, passenger trains will leave Port Perry at 7 a.m., going south and will connect with the east and west trains on the G.T.R. at Whitby. A passenger train going north will also leave Port Perry at 7 a.m., making proper connections with trains in the



*The Grand Trunk Railway's Whitby Junction Station.*

north. This will be most convenient for all concerned a vast improvement on the present regime.

## Hotel owners ready to re-build

*North Ontario Observer: February 7, 1884*

Mr. James V. Thompson, owner of the Port Perry House hotel, the first of the fine range of buildings laid in ashes in November last, is making preparation for rebuilding a worthy successor of the fine hotel whose place it is to occupy. Dashing big timbers are being laid down for sills, &c. The work will doubtless be pushed so soon as the season permits.

Mr. W.B. McGaw, the worthy proprietor of the Walker House, which too went in the general conflagration of November last, has got his lot trimmed and ready for rebuilding so soon as the season opens. In the meantime he has raised on the premises a large temporary building for the accommodation of the public.

This is cat a public convenience, clean, tidy and comfortable; of course it is only a temporary structure with no attempt at display, but is none-the-less convenience on that account and Mr. McGaw deserves well of the public for his effort to accommodate them.

## Residents petition council for free trade for fresh meats at market

*North Ontario Observer: February 7, 1884*

At the regular meeting of Council, Monday last, the clerk read a petition from John J. Stewart and 201 others, praying the council to make no change in the Market By-law, regarding Free Trade in the sale of Fresh Meats in any portion of the corporation.

In another petition from A. Ross and 66 others, they prayed the council to amend the Market By-law so as not to allow the sale of Fresh Meats within a radius of 500 yards of the Market building.

Mr. A. Bongard spoke in favour of the petition. He said they had not exerted themselves to obtain a large petition; he was will to allow pedlars to come into the corporation and peddle, but he objected to the storekeepers disposing of all kinds of fresh meats, especially when the butchers had rented corporation property on the understanding that the sale of meat was to be confined to the Market Building; in fact the by-law contained a clause to that effect.

Mr. M. Luther Crandell said he had circulated the petition in favour of free trade in fresh meats and he found while circulating a general complaint about the high prices charged for meat during last summer. Council would see by the large number of petitioners composed of all classes of ratepayers that the people were determined to have free trade in fresh meats.

On motion of Mr. Parsons, the petitions just read were referred to a committee to be composed of Messrs. McKinley, Currie and Prince, and said committee to report at next meeting of council.

## L.H. Hurd opens hotel on Perry St.

*North Ontario Observer: February 21, 1884*

Mr. L.H. Hurd, late of the Dafoe House, Utica, has leased and fitted up in genuine comfortable style as a Hotel, that new house on Perry St., Port Perry, a few rods south of the

Market.

Neither labor nor expense has been spared in fitting the hot with everything necessary for the comfit and convenience of guests and as a desirable temporary home for travellers. While the accommodations for guests are all that could be swished, the outside accommodations in way of comfortable stables and sheds have been well provided for.

Mr. Hurd has had considerable experience in the hotel business and has a first-class record as an attentive, obliging host, who maintains the best of order round his premises, and strictly conformist to the requirements of the law.

## Messrs. Thompson, McGaw call for tenders for new hotel buildings

*North Ontario Observer: February 28, 1884*

We have pleasure in calling the attention of builders to Mr. James V. Thompsons new three storey building to be erected on the site of the late "Port Perry House", Queen and Water Streets, Port Perry.

The structure will be large, convenient and handsome; solid brick walls rising to a height of over 40 feet, with

a frontage of about 40 feet and running back between 50 and 60 feet.

Tenders will be received up till noon on Saturday, March 1, by Mr. Thompson at Greenbank. The time is short and intending tenders had better move around lively it will be a big undertaking.

Tenders are also being asked for building a large brick hotel for Mr. William B. McGaw, on the site of the "Walker House", which was destroyed by fire at the close of last year. This will be an extensive contract

**TENDERS WANTED!**

TENDERS will be received by the undersigned up till noon on SATURDAY, MARCH 1st, 1884 for the

**MASON WORK**

(Stone Work, Brick Work, and Plastering) for a

**3-STORY BRICK BUILDING!**

First story 11 feet ceilings, second story 10 feet ceiling, third story 9 feet ceiling. One partition of the lower story to be of brick. The building to be erected on the corner of Queen and Water Streets, Port Perry.

For further particulars apply at the OFFICE, Port Perry, where Plans, &c., may be seen.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Also tenders wanted for supply of 150 yards of sand.

J. V. THOMPSON,  
Feb. 23, 1884. Greenbank.

*J.V. Thompson's tender.*

and builders will do well to step around. Tenders will be received by Mr. A.A. Post, architect, at his office in Whitby town, up till noon March 15th.

Mr. Post is also calling for tenders for the erection of two sites and a dwelling in Port Perry. Plans and specifications are to be seen a Diesfeld's Jewelry store, Port Perry.

## Contract let for McGaws new hotel

*North Ontario Observer: April 3, 1884*

Mr. William B. McGaw has let the contract for the mason work of his new hotel to Mr. Deveril of Whitby, decidedly one of the best and most energetic contractors in Canada.

The superiority of his workmanship, his honour in the quality of material supplied and the energy with which he pushes his contracts were fully exemplified in the erection of our High School buildings, a structure of which he was the contractor and builder and which does him the greatest credit.



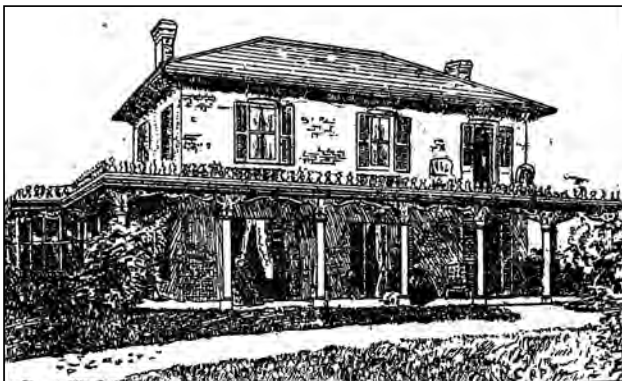
## By-law prohibits wood structures

*North Ontario Observer: April 10, 1884*

The council of the Corporation of Port Perry met at the Town Hall on Monday, 7th inst., and on a motion of Mr. Henry Parsons, the report of the finance committee was received and adopted.

Mr. Parsons introduced and carried through a Fire Limit By-law, prohibiting the erection of wooden buildings on either side of Queen Street, from Water Street to John Street, and on either side of Perry Street, from North Street to Mary Street, and on the west side of Water Street from Queen to Mary Street.

That all main walls shall be build of brick, iron or stone within a distance of at least 60 feet from the line of the street.



*Ambleside residence of John Adams, Esq., Scugog Island.*

## Ambleside a must visit for breeders

*North Ontario Observer: May 1, 1884*

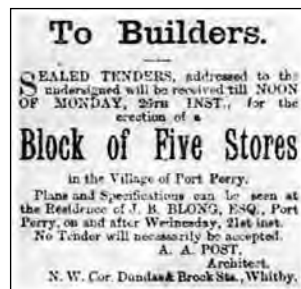
John Adams, Esq., of Ambleside, Scugog who is now one of our leading stock breeders is a case in point of what may be achieved in that most important of all departments of Agriculture – stock raising. Mr. Adams from being an observant, liberal and energetic amateur stock breed and feeder has with a comparatively short time won his spurs and taken rank among our professional stock breeders and now Ambleside is visited by the best stock breeders and dealers, as well of the United States, as of Canada, and parties wishing to secure choice stock never fail to pay a visit to Ambleside.

Only last week Messrs. Button & Rundle, two of Michigans best stock breeders visited Ambleside and bought 30 choice Shropshire lambs of last year, paying from \$50 to \$100 a pair for them.

## Tenders being received for Blong's block of stores

*North Ontario Observer: May 15, 1884*

It will be seen form our advertising columns of today that sealed tenders are sought by Albert A. Post, Esq., County Architect, for the erection of five stores in Port Perry. These stores are to be erected on



*Tender for Blong's block of stores*

the property of Jonathan B. Blong, Esq., and will prove a grand acquisition to our town.

The energy and liberality of Mr. Blong are a sufficient guarantee for the quality and appearance of the structure, while the universally knowledge ability of the architect, Mr. Post, is all that need be required as a surety for the handsome architectural beauty of the structure. It will be seen that the building will contain five stores, and they will be beauties, and will be eagerly be snatched at by suitable parties.

Note: A month later, on July 12th, it was announced that Mr. Spence was awarded the Contract of building Mr. Blong's Block of five brick store. It will be a handsome block and the contractor may be relied on for the quality of work.

## Thompson buys land for stables

*North Ontario Observer: May 22, 1884*

Mr. J.V. Thompson is hurrying up the erection of his new hotel, which will be even better appointed, more convenient and a finer building than one which preceded it. Mr. Thompson having purchased a large property adjoining his hotel lot, to the north, gives him every facility for making all the stable and yard accommodation he requires, for stables and sheds.

The additional accommodation will be appreciated by farmers coming in to market, for their teams and wagons while there own wants can be abundantly supplied by the greatly increased hotel accommodation.

## Fire bell rings at Town Hall

*North Ontario Observer: July 4, 1884*

A few minutes before midnight, on the evening of July 3, the townspeople were rudely awakened by the persistent ringing of the Town Hall bell.

The Town Hall bell acted as an alarm clock for the townsfolk, ringing every day at 7 a.m., noon hour, one o'clock and at six o'clock in the evening. However, if it rang at any other time, it could only have one meaning; FIRE!

The volunteer firemen made their way quickly to the Town Hall to gather the limited fire fighting equipment available to them and to find out who was ringing the bell.

A fire had been noticed in the stables behind Ben McQuay's hotel. Aided by the strong wind from the south east, it spread rapidly, first in a westerly direction, then across the road and finally, to the east. Wooden buildings in the middle of a hot dry summer, virtually exploded when sparks settled on them. The fire appliances were totally inadequate to handle an inferno of this proportion. (see full story in "Fires")

## Rush of construction in downtown as Port Perry rebuilds after fire

*North Ontario Observer: July 31, 1884*

A perfect rush of industry prevails in the Village of Port Perry, and the burned district is one scene of rush and activity as busy men are hurrying in hither and thither in every direction while the sounds of hammers, saws, axes, trowels, &c., if not overly musical, is highly pleasant under the circumstances.



Besides a whole army of temporary frame buildings completed or under immediate course of erection, there are 17 permanent brick blocks under contract and being rushed. These blocks will provide accommodation for 20 stores, one hotel, Masonic Lodge rooms, Sons of England Lodge rooms &c.

The following brick buildings on Queen St. are all contracted for. In the south east crooner of Queen St., Mr. Henry Charles block is 44x75 feet and two stories high. Mr. Deveril is contractor for the mason work and Mr. Charles Powers for the carpenter work.

West of Mr. Charles' is Mr. Benjamin Ackerman's block, 22.5x60 feet, Mr. William Spence has the mason work and Mr. Powers the carpenter work.

West of Mr. Ackerman's is Mr. Aaron Ross' block 54x75 feet, with the Bank and store on the ground flat and the Masonic Lodge rooms and several offices on the second flat. Mr. Richard Deveril is contractor for the mason work and Messrs. Charles Powers and William Trounce for the carpenter work.

Then Laing & Meharry's 113.5x62 foot building. Mr. Hughes of Peterborough has the contractor for mason and carpenter work.

Mrs. William Allison's 47.5x62 foot building. Mr. Hughes is contractor for mason and carpenter work. Mrs. Currie's 30x70 foot structure, Mr. Gardner for mason work.

Mr. Parrish's 32.5x65 foot block, Mr. Gardner for mason work and Mr. Powers carpenter work.

Mr. Thomas Bedford's 36x105 foot block has Mr. Westlake doing the mason work.

Mr. William H. McCaw's 24x65 foot block, Mr. Dunkley of Whitby has the mason work.

Mr. Jonathan Blong's is next, about 100 feet frontage, Dr. Deverit has the mason work and Messrs. Charles Powers and John Stovin the carpenter work.

Mrs. Diesfeld's is about 30 feet frontage, Mr. R. Deveril the mason work and Mr. Foot the carpenter work.

Mr. William McGaw's block is 40 feet front, Mr. Gardner has the mason work and Mr. Foot the carpenter work.

Mr. Charles Hiscox's block is about 40 feet frontage and Thompsons hotel frontage about the same. Mr. Gardner has the mason work of both.

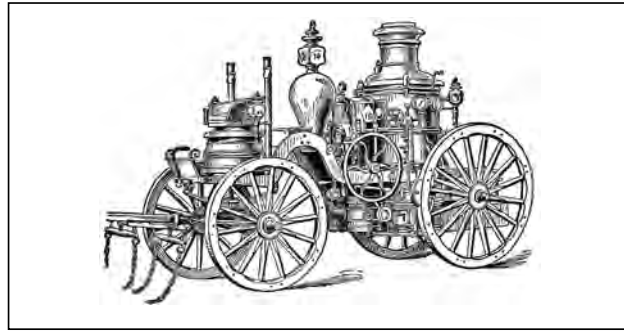
There are other brick blocks about to be built but we are not aware that the contracts have yet been let. Thus it will be seen there is a vast number of bricks to lay before the snow flies but the contractors are busy at it.

## Council considers debenture to purchase steam fire engine

*North Ontario Observer: September 4, 1884*

At the last meeting of council, Henry Parsons introduced and carried through its first and second reading, a by-law to raise by way of debentures the sum of \$5,000 to meet debentures maturing on 9th Sept., inst., and to raise \$6,000 for the purpose of purchase a Steam Fire Engine and other necessary fire apparatus.

No one we think will grumble as it is of absolute necessity of a Fire Extinguisher and Engine that may be relied on to do its work when required. Very soon there will be \$150,000 worth of property within the corporation requiring carpenters' risk against fire. The investment of a



*Steam Fire Engine of the 1880s.*

Fire Engine is not only commendable, but it is absolutely necessary. We can't get along with it and it would be worse than madness to attempt to get along with a proper Fire Extinguisher.

The \$6,000 provided for in the By-law will supply everything necessary to purchase and fully equip a first class Steam Fire Engine. The Brussels Steam Fire Engine Works furnish the best, most reliable and cheapest Steam Fire Engines to be found anywhere else in the province.

## Waste of water at Lindsay locks lowers Scugog lake levels

*North Ontario Observer: September 18, 1884*

A special meeting of council was held on Monday evening last. Mr. Trounce came before council to take some action in order, if possible, to prevent Messrs. Needler & Dundas of Lindsay using and wasting so much of the waters of Lake Scugog in running their mills.

He said that the waters of the lake had become so low, on account of the dam at Lindsay having been lowered, that steamboats would soon have to abandon the lake. He did not think that parties at Lindsay had any right to utilize the water of the lake for their direct benefit to such an extent as to utterly destroy the navigation of the lake.

He said he had the authority of one medical practitioner or Port Perry, that the lowering of the lake had militated against the sanitary condition of the village and was the cause of the increased number of cases of malaria fever.

Mr. Mark Currie moved that this council memorialize the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, asking him to take such action as will place the navigation of Lake Scugog beyond the control of parties at Lindsay, and forward it to the property authority.

## A new location for a Public Market

*North Ontario Observer: September 18, 1884*

Mr. Currie presented a petition from A. Richardson and 67 others, asking the Council to secure a suitable building in which to establish a public market.

On a motion by Mr. McKinley, a committee consisting of Reeve Peter Christie, Mr. James Prince and the mover were appointed to ascertain on what terms a suitable building for holding a Public market can be obtained, and to report to council at their earliest convenience.

## Burglars break into local businesses

*North Ontario Observer: September 25, 1884*

Port Perry had a flying visit from two or more professional burglars some time between Thursday night and Friday morning. It appears they visited Humphrey, Deshane & Co.'s Carriage factory and selecting such tools as was considered necessary for the nights practice.

They had gone to the office of the station master at the railway station and by some means or other found an easy access into the office and by the aid of a drill went through the safe and carried off \$100 in all, a very small sum for the labour and so great a risk.

The next found their way to the Ontario Bank, but the vigilant D. Ledingham was a usual keeping watch. He had his faithful dog with him and so soon as the burglars approached the door, his dogship demanded in forcible tones what they wanted. They slipped away but returned in a short time. Mr. Ledingham arose and let the dog out to interview the strangers and this put a stop to any further visits.

## Town purchases Steam Fire Engine.

*North Ontario Observer: October 2, 1884*

Mr. John Ronald, of the Brussels Steam Fire Engine Works, brought one of his famous steam fire engines to Port Perry on Thursday, September 25th and gave a most satisfactory display of its capabilities. It was tried in every possible way and proved most successful, giving the utmost satisfaction to all who witness the display.

The rush of water was so great that no fire could possibly live under it; wherever the stream was directed it fairly drenched everything that came in its way. It threw from 300 to 400 gallons a minute on whatever object it was aimed at.

So thoroughly did it perform its work that all who saw it were unanimous in its praise and when the by-law providing for the purchase of a Steam Fire Engine came to be voted on the following day, it was carried by an overwhelming majority and the unanimous opinion of all was that the corporation should purchase Ronald's Steam Fire Engine.

## Thompson House ready for guests

*North Ontario Observer: October 8, 1884*

The villagers, the traveling public and all doing business in the Village will be much pleased at the announcement that the Thompson House, Port Perry will be open for the accommodation of the public on and after Monday 13th inst.

All will be ready to admit the great necessity that existed for more hotel accommodation in our town, and for such accommodation as the Thompson House will furnish.

All will regret the removal from out midst of Mr. William B. McGaw, the courteous and obliging host and proprietor of the lately destroyed Walker House. Mr. McGaw has leased and taken possession of the Alma House, Bowmanville.

Mr. McGaw is well known as an active and attentive hosts and successful host for the accommodation and comfort of his guests, always supplying his table and bar with the best the market affords while his good lady, Mrs. McGaw in an amiable and active hostess.

## Observer partnership dissolved

*North Ontario Observer: October 23, 1884*

Notice is hereby given that the partnership heretofore subsisting between James Baird and Henry Parsons, as proprietors, printers and publishers of the *North Ontario Observer*, under the name steely of Baird & Parson, was this day dissolved by mutual consent. All debts due the said partnership are to be paid to the said James Baird and all liabilities of the said partnership will be paid by him. The business will in future be carried on by Henry Parsons.

Messrs. Baird and Parsons, commented in their parting, that as public journalists we have endeavoured to perform our duties fearlessly and fairly and whatever success may have attended our efforts is a source of satisfaction to us, and wherein we have failed, is to us cause for regret. Whatever public feline may be towards us, we have but one feeling towards a generous public, that of our sincere gratitude for favours received.

## Dr. J.E. Ware to leave community

*North Ontario Observer: November 6, 1884*

To the regret of the entire community Dr. John E. Ware, Coroner for the County of Ontario, has determined to remove to Pickering for the practice of his profession.

On the eve of his removal, a number of his friends entertained him to a public banquet in the Queens' Hotel, Port Perry.

The address was entrusted to Mr. John Nott, who spoke in terms of the highest praise for the guest of the evening. He praised his many good qualities as an honourable, upright man, and exemplary and enterprising townsman and a skillful and highly successful medical practitioner, whose removal is regarded by the entire community.

## Methodists sell church, will use Town Hall for services until new church built

*North Ontario Observer: November 6, 1884*

The Methodist body, Port Perry, finding their church much too small have decided on building a large and magnificent new church in the spring of next year.

In the meantime they succeeded in selling their present church to the Roman Catholic denomination. The R.C. body made a good purchase, they paid only \$4,500 for the church which is in perfect condition and is easily worth \$7,000.

At a meeting of the council of Port Perry on Monday evening, 3rd inst., a deputation of the Methodist Church attended. Mr. Aaron Ross, ebbing spokesman said they had disposed of the their church and he did not know how soon they would have to give up possession.

Mr. Ross said there business with council was to ascertain if they could secure the Town Hall for worshipping in every Sabbath for one year, and the use of the basement one night each week for the same period.

Mr. Parsons moved that the Methodist congregation be allowed the use of the main room of the Towns Hall at \$3 per day for every Sunday, and the use of the basement at \$1 per night, on the understanding that when and as often as the hall shall be required for secular purposes they forgo the use of the basement if required, and they furnish a caretaker to heat and lights on Sundays.

## Rev. Father Allain arranges purchase of former Port Perry Methodist Church

*Uxbridge Journal: November 20, 1884*

The indefatigable Father Allain, after having paid the church debts and made everything comfortable for the Catholics of Uxbridge and Markham, now turns his attention to the Port Perry congregation.

Some twenty years ago the Catholics of that place built a beautiful frame church in the west end of that town called Borelia, but before it was quite finished it was burned to the ground. There being no insurance on it the loss was heavily felt; but the small congregation, composed of about thirty families, united all its energies and succeeded in putting up a temporary little frame church in which they worshipped to this day, but which proves too small for the present congregation.

They had therefore made up their mind to build a brick church next spring, when, hearing that the Methodist Church of Port Perry, a large and beautiful brick building, very nicely located, put up some eight years ago, at the cost of seven thousand dollars, was for sale. Rev. Father Allain at once communicated with the Trustees of that church and a purchase was ultimately effected, \$4,523 to be paid on the 2nd of January, 1885, on which day he takes possession of the church.

Although sold at a great sacrifice on cost, it is a heavy sum of money for the small congregation of Port Perry and a very responsible undertaking for Father Allain. No doubt the Rev. Father, who has always been successful in all his undertakings here, is confident of having the whole amount cleared in the near future. We might add that under his able management we also feel confident of his success.

Father Allain, who has already subscribed and heads the list with \$525, has a sanguine expectation of generous support by the Port Perry congregation and from other parts of the parochial district – Markham and Uxbridge.

~ 1885 ~

## Report on repairs to Scugog Bridge

*Ontario County Report: January 29, 1885*

The County Commissioner appointed to make certain repairs on the roadway approaching the east end of the Scugog Bridge, reports: The sides of the said roadway which are supported by brush had become decayed and wasted away, leaving the road to narrow for public travel, and that the road has been widened and raised up with timbers, brush and earth on one side of the new fence.

The fence, recently erected by this Corporation, a distance of 800 feet in length, and that the same is now in good state of repair, but which would be very much improved by a course of gravel being placed in the centre of the road, which the Commissioner recommended should be done at an early date.

## Scott Act convention in Port Perry

*The Toronto Globe: February 6, 1885*

A largely-attended convention of Scott Act supporters met in Port Perry on 29th ult. All parts of the County were

represented and with the exception of some censure of delays in a few places in completing their canvass, the best of feelings prevailed.

The secretary, Norman F. Patterson reported 3,200 names to petitions showing a margin of fully 200 over the required 25 per cent. The petitions will therefore be filed at once in the registry office at Whitby, and the voting will likely come off some time in April.

## Deputation to contest changes

*Uxbridge Journal: March 5, 1885*

Some of the leading residents of Port Perry, not overly well satisfied at the proposed change as affecting their village, met on the 9th and passed a resolution that a deputation wait upon the councils of Reach and Scugog and request them to join in taking action in memorializing the Local Legislature not to detach Port Perry, Reach and Scugog from North Ontario, and annex to the South.

The co-operation of Reach and Scugog was attained and the deputation waited upon the government, when consent was given to leave present boundaries as they are for all except elector purposes.



*Catholic Church, John St., Port Perry.*

## Catholic Church opens in Port Perry

*Uxbridge Journal: March 5, 1885*

The opening and dedication of the Catholic Church, Port Perry (formerly occupied by the Methodist Church), on Perry Street, took place on Tuesday last.

The imposing ceremonies in the morning consisted of the consecration of His Grace, the Archbishop of Toronto, assisted by Rev. Fathers McCann and Allain, Decon Trayling and acolytes; High mass (Father McCann celebrant), and the administration by His Grace of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Singing was by St. Michael's choir, Toronto.

A kind and fatherly discourse was given by the venerable Archbishop who, in closing, referred to is great pleasure at hearing the good reports for Father Allain of the generosity and kindness of the people of Port Perry and other parts of the parish.

The Catholics of Port Perry have now the finest of the three churches in the parish of which they are a part.

## Re-adjustment of riding boundaries

*Uxbridge Journal: March 12, 1885*

Last week was an important one of the session. We had the Re-adjustment Bill and Franchise Bill, and a lengthy and important debate on the subject.

In the County of Ontario, the re-adjustment places Reach, Port Perry and Scugog in the South and takes these municipalities out of the North Riding. They will hereafter received attention from Mr. John Dryden instead of Mr. Joseph Gould.

As the figures show, the re-adjustment is a proper one, the growing population of the North Riding, reponderate as it does so much over that of the South, which for several years has remained at a stand still.

The Bill has nothing of the "Gerrymander" element in it; it is a fair and reasonable measure as free from objection as possible in the nature of the circumstances.

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The co-operation of Reach and Scugog was attained and the deputation waited upon the government, when consent was given to leave present boundaries as they are for all except elector purposes.

## Eyes up to see solar eclipse

*Uxbridge Journal: March 26, 1885*

Last week Monday, several people were seen standing around the street gazing heavenward through a piece of smoked glass. They were not crazy; nor were they a crowd of school boys, though a stranger might have been excused for thinking them both. They were people looking at the eclipse of the sun, which was visible from about noon to 3 p.m. This was the most pronounced solar eclipse in Canada since the total eclipse of 1869.

## Boat capsizes boy drowned

*The Toronto Globe; July 1, 1885*

Three young men named Thomas McBrien, Isaac Vipond and Martis Hardy, all of Brooklyn, were out on Lake Scugog this morning in a small boat.

When near Scugog Island about three-quarters of a mile from here (Port Perry) one of them made a mis-stroke of the oar and the boat capsized. Vipond and McBrien clung to the boat and drifted ashore; Hardy being unable to swim was drowned. The boy has not yet been recovered.

## Progress of campaign for Scott Act

*The Toronto Globe: July 15, 1885*

As the day for the polling on the Scott Act approached the excitement increase to some extent, but even yet a great many remain apathetic.

Rev. Keefer, of Toronto and Messrs. Spence, Toronto, and Norman F. Patterson, Q.C., of Port Perry are at hard a work throughout the County. Yesterday sermons were

preached in all the Protestant Churches in favour of prohibition and the Scott Act.

Prof. Goldwin Smith, Prof. Richardson and Mr. J.G. Mowat are stumping the County in the interest of National Liberal Temperance. Scott Act advocates are not allowed a word in opposition at their meetings.

Work will go on vigorously up till the very eve of the election, and if the friends of the Act will but do their duty at the polls, we will roll up a glorious majority on the 16th.

## Improved hay and grain loader

*The Toronto Globe: July 15, 1885*

Harrington's improved hay and grain uploader was exhibited at the Guelph Exhibition by Mr. R.B. Browne, of Port Perry. It unloads by means of a rope shir-sling with perfect and equip facility hay, barley, peas, beans, sheaves of wheat, oats and in fact every kind of grain that a farm producers.

The machine is so simple that a boy 12 years of age can work it, taking off a load of grain and placing it anywhere in the mow in three to six minutes, dispensing at the same time with the services of from one to four extra hands and a team, thereby saving its cost in a very short space of time.

Farmers would do well to examine its merits before purchasing any other. It is manufactured by messes. Browne, Seymour & Co, Port Perry, Ontario.

## Corner stone laid for new church

*Uxbridge Journal: July 2, 1885*

The corner stone of the new Methodist Church, Port Perry, was laid with becoming solemnity, on July 29th inst., by Aaron Ross, Esq., surrounded by the dignitaries of the denomination. A great crowd gathered to witness the ceremony.

Mr. Thomas Courtice read the Historical Sketch which was placed with other mementos in the cornerstone.

## A duck hunting mishap

*The Lindsay Watchman: October 21, 1885*

Early Monday morning Mr. Jonathan Blong, with others, were going duck shooting. While they were getting everything in readiness, the lamp fell over in the boat or exploded and in a few minutes the little *Sea Gull* was in a blaze and burned to the water's edge. Nothing now can be seen but the smoke stack throughout the rice bed. It was insured.

~ 1886 ~

## New Methodist Church opens

*Uxbridge Journal: January 28, 1886*

The opening of the new Methodist Church of Port Perry on Sunday last (January 24, 1886), was attended with much success. The congregations at every service were large and the amount realized on Sunday was over \$2,600. Rev. Dr. Briggs of Toronto and Curtis and Sutherland preached the sermons.

On Monday evening a grand tea was prepared in the spacious basement of the new church, where everything



*The new Methodist Church, Port Perry.*

was arranged in excellent order. After tea, all retired to the body of the church, which was taxed to its utmost seating capacity to contain the crowds who sought entrance.

The speakers who entertained the vast audience for two hours with eloquent and instructive addresses, after which the financial statement of the new edifice was presented, showing their indebtedness above subscriptions was between \$3,000 and \$4,000.

## **Port Perry narrowly escapes furious fire which raged through the night**

*Toronto Globe: March 1, 1886*

This thriving and progressive town had a narrow escape February 28, from being wiped out of existence by a furious fire that raged from half past one o'clock in the morning until late in the night.

The smoke that burst out of the Parrish block on Queen Street was the first indication that the building was on fire, and alarm was immediately sounded. The steam fire engine was quickly on the spot and in a very short space of time the willing firemen and citizens had a stream of water from Lake Scugog playing on the flames.

That the efforts of the people to check the conflagration were almost futile as everything inside the building was converted to ashes, leaving the four bare walls standing. Everything to Wm. T. Parrish's hardware store and James Boxall's stove and tinware establishment, which were on the block, was consumed, as there was little or no time to rescue the goods.

In spite of the efforts of the firemen and their steam engine the flames made their way to the Currie Block, occupied by John H. Brown, general merchant. The I.O.O.F. lodge room was also situated in the upper portion of this building, which was completely gutted.

The fire then crossed the street and consumed the Willard Block, containing an unoccupied store and the new post office, which was occupied for the first time last night. Benjamin Robinson's barber shop, Wm. Hiscocks,

confectionery store and L.E. Allison's, drug store, the latter an elegantly fitted up establishment, with five plate-glass windows, all shared a similar fate.

The fierce struggle between the fireman and the flames showed signs of slackening about noon, when the effects of the water were noticeable, but it was not until late in the afternoon that the firemen finally gained the supremacy.

The loss to Mr. Allison is estimated at \$1,000, which is covered by insurance. About \$10,000 was done to the Currie block. There is an insurance on the building of \$6,500. Mr. Brown's loss amounting to about \$12,000 is said to be covered by insurance and salvage. Mr. Parrish's property, valued at \$11,000 is insured for \$7,000 and Mr. Boxall's insurance is \$2,000.

Mr. William Hiscox had his hand badly cut by broken glass necessitating the attendance of the physician when found necessary to put several stitches in the wound. Port Perry has been extremely unfortunate as it has been visited by two great fires previous to this one during the last two years.

## **Parrish and Currie block fire**

*Toronto Globe: March 2, 1886*

The damage by the fire at this place was not so great as appeared yesterday. The Parrish block and the Currie block, occupied by J.H. Brown, were consumed. The premises occupied by Messrs. Davenport and Jones and Boxall's store were damaged.

The damage to the Willard block was principally in broken glass, as was also the case in regard to the drug store of Mr. L.E. Allison, the confectionery store of Wm. Hiscox and the barber shop of Benjamin Robinson.

## **Port Perry Fair receives a charter**

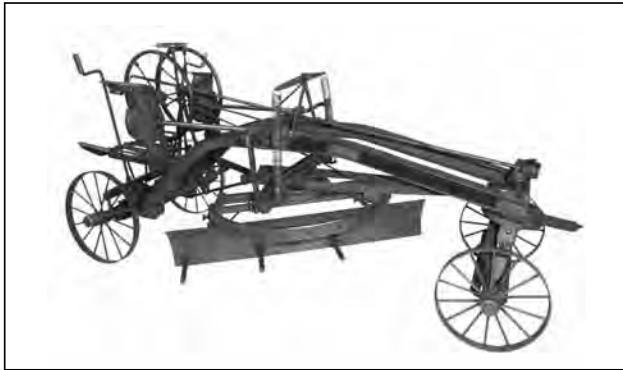
*Toronto Globe: May 4, 1886*

A charter has been granted to the Ontario Central Agricultural and Live Stock Association. The objects are the promotion of the interests of agriculture, stock-raising, art and manufacture, and the establishing of a market for the sale and purchase of thoroughbred and high grade stock by the holding of an annual exhibition in the village of Port Perry.

The general meeting of the shareholders, held at Port Perry on the 24th ult., Mr. John Howden, Whitby, provisional President, acted as chairman and Mr. C.R. Henderson acting secretary. The meeting decided to elect a Board of Directors:

The Directors, at their meeting held at the close of the general meeting, elected the following officers: President J.I. Davidson, Pickering; 1st Vice-President John Adams, Scugog; 2nd Vice-President, Peter Christie, Reach; 3rd Vice-President, James Parr, Cartwright; Secretary, C.R. Henderson, Port Perry Treasurer, W.J. McMurtry, Port Perry.

Splendid grounds, containing 22 acres, have been bought by the Association in the north-west quarter of the town, and the work of erecting buildings and preparing the grounds for the first fair is to be proceeded with despatch. Port Perry is wonderfully well situated for the holding of a Central Fair.



Road scraper from the 1880s.

## Council, Fair purchase road machine

*Uxbridge Journal: June 10, 1886*

Arrangements have been made between the Port Perry Central Fair directors and the Council whereby the former bear a third and the latter the balance of the cost of the road machine introduced by Mr. Edward Major, at the recent meeting of the council.

The machine is made with a vertical frame with swing upon a pivot in the centre between the front and rear axles. It is set to any angle, right or left, or direct across the road by means of a brake wheel and cog, gearing at the rear of the semi-circular platform, which can be quickly adjusted by the operator, who rides on the machine, without changing his position.

It is drawn by one or two team as required, and will build a road in any shape desired by simply going over the road once or twice on each side. The cost is \$300 and the Council expects to save \$200 in one season.

*File from the Port Perry Standard.*

## News briefs from Port Perry

*Uxbridge Journal: June 17, 1886*

A gang of 100 Italian natives are at work ballasting this branch of the Midland Railroad. New steel rails, we understand, are also to be laid on this road some time between now and fall.

Mr. Thomas H. Dancaster, of the St. Charles Hotel, was brought before justice Robson and Gordon on Thursday and the charge against him was proven, and a fine imposed. As far as we are able to judge, our hotelkeepers are pretty careful, and it's a very difficult matter for a stranger to get liquor.

## Visitors arrive in town by horse, wagon

*Uxbridge Journal: June 17, 1886*

Young men from Oshawa, Whitby, Uxbridge and other places, seem to make Port Perry a central point for their Sunday outings. The majority of them, of course, drive livery rigs and have little feeling for the poor horses.

Last Sunday a horse was driven from Oshawa, and after arriving here, was kept on the go for hours, under the whip without feeding, and was only put in the stable on the driver being interfered with. Livery men should take note of this as it is most shameful the way some of their horses are used.

## Dr. Sangster's beautiful home

*Toronto Globe: October 2, 1886*

"The residence of Dr. John H. Sangster is beautifully located on the west bank of Lake Scugog, within the corporation of Port Perry. The house, built by the present owner, is of white brick and is surrounded by very extensive environmental grounds which besides the groves of beeches on the western shore, include several acres of primitive forest, fully improved and detailed.

The residence with its ample and well-stocked conservatory is said to be one of the finest in the province - its grape and hot houses and grounds form a lovely picture from the lake, and constitute one of the stateliest and choicest houses in the land.

Dr. Sangster is at present engaged in a very large and lucrative medical practice. He was formerly principal of the Toronto Normal School, and is well known as an author of the school books in exclusive use from 1860 to 1870.



*Dr. John Herbert Sangster's Port Perry residence.*

He was for twelve years professor of chemistry and botany in the Medical Department of the University of Victoria College, and for the seven years immediately prior to his removal to Port Perry in 1874 he was a member of the Board of Examiners of the Medical Council. He has thus been most intimately connected with both the general and medical education of the province.

## Central Fair opens to large crowds

*Toronto Globe: October 8, 1886*

The Central Ontario Fair, October 6th, was a grand success. The attendance was large, much better than had been expected, and the special attractions in the horse ring went off without a hitch.

The trotting and running races were very fine, and proved the capabilities of the track, which was in excellent condition. The races included a single horse in harness race for a purse of \$100; and a pair roadsters, property of exhibitors, for a purse of \$75.

Lieut. Governor Robinson failed to connect for the formal opening and the proceeding were informal. The band of the Dominion Organ and Piano Company, of Bowmanville, was in attendance, and performed some excellent selections.

The exhibit of agricultural implements was a very good one, fully equal to that of many more ambitious places, and the show of livestock was second only in number, and



hardly that in quality to that at Guelph.

The anticipations of the promoters will be more than realized in making this a great central stock sale if the railway companies will only do their part to give the requisite accommodation. There was a grand display of fireworks, which drew very large crowds to the grounds.

On the third day of the Ontario Central Fair, splendid weather attracted an attendance of 1,000 people. The evening's illumination of the buildings by the electric light proved to be attractive features.

## Newspaper ownership change

*Whitby Chronicle: October 31, 1886*

The firm of Baird and Parsons, publishers of the *North Ontario Observer* has been dissolved. Mr. James Baird retiring and Mr. Henry Parson continuing the business himself.

# ~ 1887 ~

## Liquor inspectors raid hotels

*Toronto Globe: January 8, 1887*

A raid was made on Port Perry hotels on Friday night last by four County constables. A quantity of intoxicating liquor was found at Ruddy's and Dancastor's hotels. The bartender at Dancastor's hotel obstructed the officers in the performance of their duties, and will likely suffer the penalty of the laws in consequence, a warrant being issued for his arrest.

Two days later charges against the hotel keepers for violation of the Scott Act were dismissed because the search-warrant and summonses were dated the same day.

## Jessop Block now completed

*Whitby Chronicle: January 7, 1887*

Dr. Jessop's new brick block on Queen Street is just now completed. It is one of the best-appointed business places in the village. Mr. W.J. Nott, manager, is getting his fine stock arranged, and looks for a big increase of business.



Jessop Block, Queen Street.

## Religious instruction at schools

*Toronto Globe: March 3, 1887*

It appears from the *North Ontario Observer* that the Board of Education, at Port Perry, recently passed a resolution to the effect that one hour per week be set apart in the High and Public schools for religious instruction by the ministers of the various denominations and that the clergy have cordially responded.

The classrooms being small, it has been arranged that two ministers should teach each week, one taking

the senior and the other the junior pupils. Each pair will teach for four weeks, or a calendar month, continuously. It was understood that the style of instruction was to be largely catechistic.

## Accidents involving alcohol

*Whitby Chronicle: March 4, 1887*

A short time ago a man who had been attending to his property in Mara, while returning home got drunk and tumbled out of his sleigh into a pool of water, somewhere between Greenbank and Saintfield.

The team passed on quietly until they got to Greenbank, where they were put into the hands of Mr. L. Rose. The driver, who did not like to "stay back" by the roadside, was picked up and brought to Greenbank, where he got the team and started for home.

The same night, a man who had got a little too full of the Scott Act drinks of Port Perry, started out for Oshawa at a late hour, but somehow or other he came north instead of going south.

Thinking everything was all right he went to sleep and did not awaken until he found himself with his horse and cutter lying in mud, water and ice near the Nonquon. As his horse had failed between to stakes, it could not get up.

With great cries for help, he aroused some people living about half a mile away, and with their help succeeded in freeing his horse and setting things right.

Now, we think if this is the way authorities are going to allow the act to work in our country it is time for us as people to be up and doing something.

## Massive tree gives up large logs

*Uxbridge Journal: April 1877*

Last Tuesday we beheld one of the largest saw logs that has ever been seen in this part of the country. The tree from which it was taken, grew on Mr. John T. Pound's farm, just north of Port Perry, and was blown down about three years ago during a heavy wind storm.

The first two logs cut from the tree measured 15 feet each in circumference, and were composed of good, sound, clean timber. They were taken to Utica to be cut into shingles.

## Currie block destroyed by night fire

*Whitby Chronicle: May 20, 1887*

On Saturday night, 14th inst., the annual fire came over again, only instead the thing has now become semi-annual. This is the only change which has been made in the event, however. The hour of three o'clock in the morning is carefully observed.

The whole building was destroyed this time and will have to be rebuilt. The Oddfellows, as usual with every fire which has occurred in the town, one excepted, were burnt out. Mr. Hugh Campbell, who was just getting a \$4,000 stock on the shelves, had it all destroyed. An auctioneer, named Smith, who was holding trade sales, had his stock destroyed. Several others suffered losses. Nothing was saved.

The burning of the Currie Block brings to mind a few recollections of the past showing that this unfortunate corner-site has for fifteen years been the scene of disaster for almost every mortal man who has ever had anything



Currie Block, 1886.

to do with it, the proprietors, the tenants, the insurance companies and all.

What with the losses in fires by the owner, the losses in both business and fires by the occupants, the insurance premiums and insurance losses, between \$50,000 and \$75,000 must have gone upwards in smoke from this Currie block.

But though the insurance companies lose largely in Port Perry, they can well afford it, for there is not an old cabin or chattel of any kind in Port Perry, even to a sewing machine or wheelbarrow, but what is insured for all that will be taken upon it.

Thus the companies collect enormous sums in premiums and can afford to lose a good deal.

## Heavy rain ends pleasant excursion aboard the Cora

*Whitby Chronicle: May 27, 1887*

Captain John Bowerman's steam yacht, the *Cora*, took about 25 excursionists down the lake on Tuesday. At Washburn's Island the long threatened rain came down in oceans and shelter went up to a premium at once.

A number of youths of the party went off bathing at a distance along the shore and in the midst of the sport were startled by the steamers whistle for home. Jumping into their pants and gathering their clothing in their hands they boys took to their legs across the bay through the water, plunging and splashing like alligators. They won't want another cleaning this summer.

Almost everyone who took to the lake on Tuesday, got a drenching and there was a large quantity of spring wear



Captain Bowerman's "Cora" yacht.

placed on the second-best list.

One young enterprising young man went ashore with his girl, and turning the boat over with one end up on a log. He gathered the fair one in under and discussed the affairs of the nation during the storm.

## Currie block fire inquest held

*Whitby Chronicle: June 3, 1877*

Coroner Jones held an inquest on Monday, into the causes which led to the Currie block fire. Many witnesses were examined and a good deal of startling information secured, but nothing regarding the fire.

For instance it came out that almost the whole of Saturday night is devoted to carrying on business of various kinds, barber shops, delivery wagons, and every kind of Saturday night work being carried on away long into Sunday morning.

However, nothing has turned up yet to show that the fire was anything but an accident - more than that the thing has become half-yearly instead of yearly. The hour of the morning was correct, as was also the day of the week.

## Scugog to Cartwright road

*Whitby Chronicle: May 27, 1887*

The committee appointed at the Friday night's meeting met in the clerk's office on Tuesday. Mr. Norman F. Paterson was appointed secretary and Mr. Thomas C. Forman, chairman.

The necessary steps were taken for the formation of a joint stock company for the construction of a road from Scugog to Cartwright, to be known as the "Port Perry, Scugog and Cartwright Road Co.", the capital to be \$2,500 or \$20 each. Messrs. Aaron Ross, Thomas Courtice, John W. Meharry, Thomas C. Forman, Norman F. Paterson, Joshua W. Curts and Henry Gordon were nominated as first directors.

There is no little to be done in regard to the Cartwright-bridge but to go on with the work. The Grand Trunk has signified its willingness to give \$1,500 towards the work and the Scugog Marsh Drainage Company has promised a like amount on condition that the embankment be made watertight.

All the talking has been finished and no one will be any use in the matter in future who can not do something beside with his mouth, for which latter sort of work very many of our citizens seem admirably adapted. Several of our perpetual candidates for high municipal positions will have no nomination speech left.

## Scugog Bridge deemed unsafe

*Whitby Chronicle: June 17, 1887*

At the regular meeting of Ontario County Council, Mr. Percy read a letter from Mr. William R. Ham, reeve of Scugog, telling him that the Scugog bridge was in a dangerous state and contained a large number of holes, making it dangerous to travel at night. That though no accident had yet occurred, there was danger of one at any hour. Asking him to give his earliest attention to the matter.

As soon as he received this letter, he went at once and upon inspection, found the bridge not at all in a dangerous condition. There were some holes where the dirt washed through, but not at all more than one might

expect from the high water of the spring.

He had visited Mr. Bateman, the commissioner, and the two had inspected the bridge. Mr. William Bateman had said he had filled the more dangerous holes, but at such an early date in the spring it was impossible to do much more. He (Percy) thought Mr. Bateman was doing the best he could.

## Residents travel to Toronto

*Uxbridge Journal, July 1887*

Port Perry was well represented at Toronto on Dominion Day, a great many going by way of the C.P.R. from Myrtle. The G.T.R. through Port Perry, appears to be losing traffic because of the poor accommodations it provides, and travelling between here and the city by way of the C.P.R. is steadily on the increase.

## Struck by lightning in a Utica hotel

*Uxbridge Journal, July 27 1887*

Last Friday, July 22nd, a number of men were going to a barn raising at Peter Christie's farm in Reach. A sudden thunderstorm came up and they sought shelter in the Utica Hotel.

They had been there but a short time when a lightning bolt struck the chimney of the bar room, striking three men who were sitting on the bench near the stove. George Ward and Wright Crozier, were struck in the body and lay for a time apparently lifeless, while Thomas Horne had his boot torn to pieces and his foot burned severely. Mr. Crozier and Ward recovered from the incident.

## Tragic accident near Greenbank

*Whitby Chronicle: August 26, 1887*

On Tuesday of last week, Annie, a seven year old daughter of John Stone, a farmer north of Greenbank, met her death in a singular manner. She and another little girl, Flossy Burns were playing in the implement house.

Flossy went out for something and while gone Annie climbed on a seed-drill, it is thought, to see a hen's nest on some boards above, and in some manner fell on the drill. The lever behind the drill flew up and struck her in the stomach and pinned here between the hopper and reaper tongue, which was lying over the drill.

Her playmate on returning thought she was asleep and spoke to her and shook her, not getting any answer she ran to the house and told Mrs. Stone, who came out and lifted the lever off her and carried her to the house.

Medical aid was summoned but it was of no avail. Annie was dead. The funeral on Thursday was the largest in this section for a long time.

## Crowds block railway platform when train arrives at station

*Whitby Chronicle: September 2, 1887*

There is not a railway station within fifty miles of here where so many people gather around to see the train arrivals. One would fancy there was a reception at every evening train.

The crowd blocks up the railway platforms to such an extent that people coming off the train have to either get off on the opposite side of the car or else get off at either

end of the platform in the dirt.

There has never been anything sensational around the platform to draw such a crowd of gaping loungers, and the wonder is, what they go there for. One would think our good people never saw the cars.

## Port Perry's mannerless young men resemble mudcats

*Whitby Chronicle: September 2, 1887*

This town is blessed with about as mannerless a gang of youths as can be found. In physical stature the upper and most of these boys resemble the front of a mudcat, inasmuch as both the boy and the mudcat is entirely mouth clear to the waist, and when one looks at either from in front all that can be seen is the mouth.

It is also a fact that all that can be heard in the vicinity of any of these two legged mudcat is the mouth. They sit around in squads on the sidewalks or lean against fences and pass audible remarks about passers-by, while the animal glare can be seen written in their continuances.

I shall not say any more about them now, but some Sunday evening I shall pass along the sidewalks and take the names of all boys and young men loafing in this manner and send the list to you for publication. Then when people meet any of the boys whose names are given, they will know what to expect.

## Harbor at lakefront needs dredging

*Whitby Chronicle: September 9, 1887*

I have studied hard all summer at odd times to see if I could make out what object our people have in asking that \$1,000 be expended in dredging this harbor. There is no business doing on the lake, nor do matters seem to indicated that there ever will be.

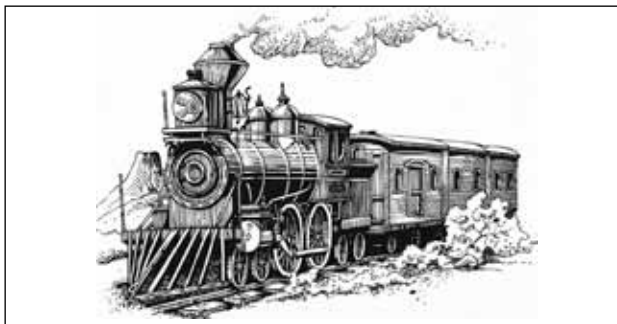
There is not to do on the lake, except that Capt. Benjamin Lebar goes out trolling with his snug little craft daily. The lake itself seems to feel that there is no further use for it and is gradually drying up, having been grown with weeds this year almost everywhere.

I thought it a sensible suggestion the other day when a friend said in my hearing that it would be a better idea to expend money in trying to dry up the lake and make farming land of as much of it as possible.

## Child struck by train but survives

*Uxbridge Journal: September, 1887*

Conductor Gray's train was passing about a mile south of Seagrave, when engineer Dean noticed a small child sitting between the rails on the track. He instantly



*Cow-catcher on the front of a train engine.-*

whistled, braked and reversed his engine, slowing the train to about 10 miles an hour.

The child had risen at the sound of the whistle, but was struck by the cow-catcher and thrown into the ditch with only a few bruises to the head from falling on the cow-catcher.

## Elias Williams thrown from wagon

*Uxbridge Journal: September, 1887*

Mr. Elias Williams, of 7th conc. Reach, was driving a wagon through one of his fields when the horses were frightened and ran away at a furious rate, only stopping when they collided with a tree. Mr. Williams was thrown out of the wagon with such force as to break his thigh and dislocate his shoulder.

## Steam dredge begins clearing mud

*Whitby Chronicle: September 23, 1887*

Just as the leaves begin to turn the steam dredge has arrived at Port Perry and begin to dredge the harbor. It had no trouble finding any amount of good substantial mud to dig out and is busily occupied carrying its discoveries out into the lake and dumping it there.

## Chisholm recognized for his long and faithful service to Grand Trunk

*Whitby Chronicle: September 23, 1887*

This week the proper recognition by the Grand Trunk Railway Co., of the long and faithful services performed by Mr. James Chisholm, baggage jammer, at the Port Perry station. He has long exercised the power and had as much to say about things as the manager of the road, and now we understand his is shortly to be offered full control of the whole system.

His rigid exercise of such powers as he already possessed and his ready usurpation of those he should have had, has been highly appreciated. The first creed he will issue, I am told, is that traveling with trunks and valises is to be dispensed with, while other commodities will in future be either handled by their owners or else by carters. People requiring their goods checked will be prohibited from traveling on this road.

## Young men break into store and steal guns, knives cartridges

*Whitby Chronicle: November 11, 1887*

A burglary was perpetrated here on Thursday morning last. Two young men, Shaw and Hambly, aged about 18 and 20, took it into their heads to go north on a hunting expedition, but had no guns.

To supply this want they bored out a hole in the door at the rear of Parrish's hardware store and reached in to unlatch the door. On gaining entrance they equipped themselves with a gun each, a stock revolvers, ammunition, cartridges, knives etc.,

No person had the faintest suspicion as to the perpetrators until Saturday morning last, when Capt. Shaw noticed a revolver in his son's possession and made him own up and deliver the property back. The boys were committed for trial at Whitby.

## Horse stolen at Scugog Indian village

*Whitby Chronicle: December 2, 1887*

An Indian calling himself Albert Esqueh paid the Scugog Indian village a friendly visit last week, and on Saturday noon skipped out with a four year old mare colt, the property of one George Goose. Esqueh is a tall, slim Indian, wearing a black soft felt hat, grey pants and black worsted coat, and also had a smock. The colt is a dark iron grey, almost black, a white star on the forehead and white hind feet.

Mr. George B. McDermot, Indian agent and justice of the peace at Port Perry is trying hard to secure Esqueh's arrest. Esqueh claims to have come from the Moneer Town Reserve and to have half-brothers named Toham living at Iron Lake Reserve.



*The Myrtle Railway Station.*

## Detective shot dead at Myrtle

*Whitby Chronicle: December 16, 1887*

The news from Myrtle on Wednesday that George Brown had been shot twice by whiskey Detectives W.D. McRae and John S. Dennin, who recently raided this county, caused great excitement. These detectives had been at Brooklin giving evidence and had procured for the Crown evidence about 50 violations of the Scott Act.

The detective work had raised strong feelings against them by the supporters of the traffic, and Brown and some other Port Perry fellows came down to Myrtle station and met them as they took the train for Toronto about seven o'clock in the evening.

Brown asked Dennin to come out of the station, and catching hold of him asked him to walk to one side. This Dennin refused to do and Brown attempted to pull him along. A scuffle ensued in which both men drew revolvers, as did also McRae.

A few shots were fired and Brown fell down shot twice in the breast, Dennin having also secured Brown's revolver. Then some other parties who had been hiding behind the station came running up, fired some shots but without hitting any person, and ran away again.

Brown was removed to the station house just as the train came along and took the detectives to Toronto where they were arrested and detained at the request of the Myrtle station agent.

## Gang of toughs infest Port Perry

*Whitby Chronicle: December 16, 1887*

In writing last fall about a gang of toughs who infest Port Perry, I said if this whiskey party continued to rule the town, crime would open the people's eyes, and also

that the course of the newspaper which backs the whiskey party could be nothing else but an incentive to crime.

The shooting at Myrtle station on Wednesday night shows my words were prophetic. When things come to that pass here that gas may sally out at night to mob whoever they please, it is little wonder some of the get show.

With all my heart I am sorry for poor George Brown, as I believe he is only a tool of the gang who got all the profits of illicit traffic while he suffers the penalty. The authorities of Port Perry have winked their eyes for years while bullies have hung round our hotels hammering and thumping whoever they chose, and now things have come to a crisis by the Myrtle tragedy.

Their work was of the most despicable character, but so is all detective work when we come to look at it. At any rate they were being used by the Crown and were entitled to protection, and no person could expect them to allow a mob of small ants to drag them into the darkness and thrash them half to death.

## Men getting drunk a disgrace

*Whitby Chronicle: December 16, 1887*

Port Perry winces over the charge of being a tough place, but we think it deserves the name. There are only a few men in this neighborhood who will disgrace themselves by getting drunk, but about everyone of that new came home from there about a week ago beastly drunk.

We would suggest that the place be boycotted by all respectable people, until the business men of the place does something towards making their town decent.

~ 1888 ~

## Scott Act a great success in Reach and Port Perry?

*Whitby Chronicle: January 13, 1888*

Either somebody is lying wholesale or else the Scott Act is a great success in Reach and Port Perry.

In there evidence given here last week, the hotelkeepers from Prince Albert, Utica, Epsom, Saintfield, Seagrave and Port Perry so far as their cases were heard, all swore they sold nothing fiery to the detectives John Dennin and William C. McRae, nor do they keep anything intoxicating for sale.

If Dennin and McRae are swearing falsely, then the Scott Act must be working well in that part of the county. If the hotel keepers are lying in saying they keep nothing for sale, then they must be a pretty set of men to keep public houses.

A good many people consider the Scott McDermott Act a bad law, but all people regard the law against perjury as being a good one; so that the man who may be admitted to have done so great wrong in violating the Scott Act can not at all by an sort of reasoning be excused for breaking the law against perjury.

When the people of Reach and Port Perry come to look at the evidence in another column, they will be able to

know who is telling the truth, and they will also be able to decide when.

## Scott Act cases vs hotel keepers

*Whitby Chronicle: January 13, 1888*

Police magistrate Horne heard two cases against hotel owners in Port Perry and Prince Albert last week.

Mr. Hodgson keeps the Queen's hotel at Port Perry. In this case Mr. W.C. McCrae swore he went into Hodgson's hotel on November 8th, to the bar and played the ruse of trying to sell some cigars. He got an order for 500 and treated Hodgson, another man and himself. McCrae said he and Hodgson took whiskey, but did not know what the other man took. He could not identify any except for Mr. Hodgson.

Hodgson, Marnon and Blakely swore Mr. McCrae took a cigar. Hodson also swore that he had not kept any intoxicating liquor for sale, Blakely corroborating. Case reserved for argument.

The second case, against Mr. William Parkes, who keeps a hotel in Prince Albert. Mr. McCrae swore he was there on November 29th and had dinner. He asked for and obtained a glass of whiskey when going into dinner. He stayed there until four o'clock in the afternoon and saw other persons come in and get drinks.

Mr. Parkes swore McCrae was there that day and said he had been told by Port Perry fellows to call. Squelch and Coomb were there at the time. McCrae wanted dinner and Parks went to dinner together. McCrae got a cigar when he came out and paid 5 cents.

McCrae tried to sell book flask in presence of Squelch and Coomb. Parkes said he had not kept intoxicating liquors for sale. Coomb's story did not quite corroborate Parks' but did regarding the sale of Whiskey. Case reserved for argument.

## Robbery and Murder

*North Ontario Observer: January 15, 1888*

A party now unknown entered the residence of an old gentleman over 90 years of age, named Burk, at Caesarea, and after beating him in the most brutal manner, robbed him of over \$300. Leaving the old gentleman more dead than alive, he proceeded to steal a horse and buggy from Mr. Elliott, a magistrate in the village. The thief then drove the rig to Hampton where he left it and made off.

The services of Detective Burroughs, of Toronto was secured who traced the brute from Caesarea to Hampton, Port Perry, Prince Albert and Whitby.

## Deserter found in Greenbank

*Whitby Chronicle: February 3, 1888*

Last April two young men named Wells and Hickman left this neighborhood for Toronto to see their fortunes and a soft job. Shortly after they arrived in the city they joined the C. Company of the School of Infantry. About six weeks after the joined they deserted.

Wells went to the States, Hickman came back to Greenbank. The officers hearing his whereabouts telephoned Constable Till to arrest him, which he did last Wednesday evening. On Thursday two officers arrived from the city, dressed in uniform and armed with rifles, swords and revolvers and escorted Hickman back to the

barracks. He gives his reason for deserting that the food supplied was not fit to eat, and he did not get enough such as it was.

## Indictments in Myrtle shooting

*Toronto Globe: March 15, 1888*

The Grand Jury, on March, 14th, returned the several indictments against George Brown, Wm. Lattimore, Thomas Trebell and Fred Corbyn of Port Perry and Dennin and McRae, the Scott Act detectives, principals in the shooting affray at Myrtle Station, on the C.P.R., on December 14th last, all endorse "No Bill."

The announcement in the crowded court-room of this wholly unexpected result created a great sensation. The jury were equally divided, nine for and nine against. It is necessary to have 12 for before they can find a true bill.

Greenfield, Belmont and Spencer were found guilty of larceny of a G.T.R. handcar, and Spencer of common assault in firing a revolver at Conductor Hay.

The two former were sentenced to four and one-half years, and Spencer to two years in Kingston Penitentiary.

## Tons of muskellunge pulled in every day from Lake scugog

*The Lindsay Watchman: March 21, 1888*

Lake scugog at the present time, has the novel appearance of a gold mining camp on a large scale. Its icy surface is completely covered with small structures, or houses, made of newly-sawn lumber. Each of them is just large enough to hold two men; and they are not tenantless, for fishermen are the occupants.

Provided with a decoy fish, and a few snares made of brass, copper or stovepipe wires, the fishers ply a curious trade. A peep inside one of these houses disclose two men anxiously gazing down into the water through a hole in the ice.

One man plays the decoy fish back and forth in the water beneath, while the other manages the snare, which consists of a strong wire with a loop at the other end. The game is to decoy the muskellunge by means of the small wooden dummy fish, inside the charmed circle of wire, then the word "yank!" and a big fish is landed out on the ice.

Upwards of two tons daily are now taken by this wire loop style of fishing, and Fishery Overseer McDermott is in despair. That officer is reasonably afraid the splendid fishing of Lake Scugog will be ruined, and is wisely urging the department in Ottawa to pass an Order-in-Council prohibiting snaring.

This new way of taking fish has brought about a famine in wire. The *Toronto Empire* correspondent found that the demand for wire with which to carry on the business exhausted the supply. All the local dealers are cleaned



*Maskinonge or Muskellunge*

out. The hardware and stove stores have no stovepipe wire, and if you were starting housekeeping in Port Perry, the pipes would have to be held up by other means than wire.

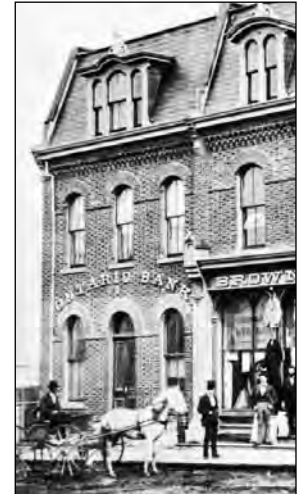
## Ontario Bank leaving town

*Whitby Chronicle: March 30, 1888*

The Ontario bank has withdrawn its agency from Port Perry. It is to be succeeded by the Western bank. The only regret experienced by the Ontario bank men in leaving is that they did not do so twenty years ago.

Their agency here has never been a profitable one, nor has business losses they have figured to some extent, many men being carried for many years on the bank's money. Having many opportunities for opening agencies, the managers decided to wind up an unpleasant business.

Mr. Wm. McGill is likely to become manger of the branch of the Western bank, established here this week. Mr. Wm. Smith, Oshawa is accountant and Mr. B. Bongard cashier. Thought Mr. McGill was manager of the Central branch here at the time the institution collapsed, no person thought of blaming him for any part of the bank's calamities, and he is likely to again become a popular agent.



*Ontario Bank, 1888.*

## Chief McKnight gives good service

*Whitby Chronicle: May 4, 1888*

Street commissioner Robert McKnight deserves much credit for the manner in which he keeps the street of the town cleaned up and turnpiked. No town in the county can show as handsome turnpikes and such good order generally.

In his capacity as street overseer, poll-tax collector, chief constable, caretaker of the town property, and ringer of the bell, Mr. McKnight gives about as much service as two or three men in other towns.

## Hotel keepers and prohibition

*Whitby Chronicle: May 4, 1888*

The mantle of righteousness has fallen from our hotel keepers. For two long years, amid a thousand temptations these keepers of public houses were incorruptible, and the Scott Act they swore by (or rather at); but nary a drop of anything intoxicating could any thirsty applicant get.

It was thus successfully demonstrated that hotels could be maintained profitably upon a temperance basis, and this was the boast of our town far and wide.

Now, however, that things have gone from under the watchful eye of the Hon. Ben., there is a shrinkage in prohibition principles, and the keepers of the public bars have fallen away. The record is broken, and it will take many an offering of \$50 and cost to mend the breach.

The County Attorney spent Friday last here trying to



brace up the shattered principles of the fallen, absolution being granted for all past shortcoming on payment of fines and costs.

## Little lad drowns in water tank

*Whitby Chronicle: May 11, 1888*

Everybody in the part of the county will regret to learn of the drowning accident which caused the death of Douglas, son of Henry Gordon, Esq. ex-warden of the County.

The little fellow, who is about six, went out on Sunday afternoon, and not returning, his parents felt an uneasiness to know of his whereabouts. After search had almost been abandoned, his mother thought it worth while to visit a public water-tank near at hand, and saw his hat floating upon the surface of the water under the corner.

A plank of the tank covering had slid back past the sleepers and on walking across the poor little fellow had been precipitated into the water. The authorities of the town can scarcely be blamed more than the residents of the vicinity of such a pit-fall, where danger awaited every person who passed along.

## Mysterious disappearance of man

*Whitby Chronicle: May 11, 1888*

The mystery of the disappearance of Joseph Graham, V. S., who left here on the 18th of April for Battle Creek, Mich., has not yet been cleared up. He cannot be traced further than Toronto. His father, Mr. Thomas Graham, Manchester has adopted every suggestion that could be made and done everything that seemed possible to throw some light upon his disappearance, all in vain.

Graham's trunks and parcels have been returned from Union Station, Toronto, and his purse with about \$75 was left at the Revere House, Toronto, on the 17th April by a man named Dunning of Napanee, who said he had been out around the city with Graham.

The lost veterinarian was a graduate of Ontario Veterinary College at the recent examinations, and was on his way to Battle Creek to commence the practice of his profession. It seems quite unlikely he ever got further than Toronto.

Note: A week later the body of young Joseph Graham, V.S., of Port Perry, who had been missing for over a month, was found floating in the Toronto harbour, opposite the site of Union Station.

## Prince Albert man brewing non-intoxicating wine

*Whitby Chronicle: May 18, 1888*

P.M. Horne and the County Solicitor were here on Monday investigating the case of one Cruse, of Prince Albert, who makes wine and sells it. Of course the evidence showed the wine was not fermented nor intoxicating, that it is a temperance sin, and it seems that a good many like a nip of it.

This fondness for non-intoxicants appears to have spread from our Temperance houses in Port Perry to Prince Albert, and is an outcome of the blessed Scott Act. It will, of course, occasion doubts as to the truthfulness of the evidence when it becomes known that the imbibers in the wine have the reputation of occasionally taking something

for electric; but I am bound to maintain, on behalf of Port Perry that this unfermented wine drinking is merely a spreading of the temperance sentiment pervading Port Perry.

The temperance people should at once heave to and get up a banquet for the Hon. Cruse. There is nothing like a frank and open acknowledgement of merit.

## Serious fall from wagon for lady

*Whitby Chronicle: May 25, 1888*

Mr. John Rolph, of Reach, came to town May 15th, having brought his daughter to stay with some sick friends, in relief of Mrs. Wm. Birkett who had been on duty for a week.

As Mr. Rolph and Mrs. Birkett seated themselves in the wagon, his horses took fright and dashed off. Mrs. Birkett was thrown from the wagon and so badly injured there were no hopes of her living 'till morning. Mr. Rolph was also thrown out and seriously injured, but was able to be taken home.

## Port Perry man robbed and found floating in bay at Toronto

*Uxbridge Journal: May 28, 1888*

The body of Joseph Graham, V.S. of Port Perry, who had been missing since April 16, 1888 was found floating in the Toronto Bay on the night of May 27th. Mr. Graham disappeared while travelling from his father's home to Battle Creek, Michigan to commence a veterinary practice.

About 7 a.m. Wednesday morning the body of a young man was found floating in the bay near Clindinning's boathouse, a short distance from the city wharves and opposite Union Station.

He was hauled onto the dock by some workmen and the police were notified. His body was taken to the morgue. The face of the body of the deceased was terribly swollen indicating the remains were floating in the water for a long time.

The body was fully clothed and in his pocket were a number of letters, a ticket to Battle Creek, some veterinary surgical instruments and a small amount of cash and addresses which identified the deceased as Joseph Graham.

Mr. Graham was reported to having last been seen in the company of a young man named A.J. Dunning. Both of the young men had been registered at the Revere House in Toronto, and were said to be drinking freely together.

On May 8, Mr. Graham's father, Thomas, came looking for him in Toronto and told police he had left home with over \$400 in his possession.

Mr. Graham says he does not think there was foul play, as his son's watch and chain and \$1.38 were found on him. His son had sent a purse of money on to Battle Creek, where he was going to start in business, and kept only some small change with him.

At an inquest, no evidence could be given to exactly how Graham met with his death. Dunning, the last man seen with him said Graham had given him his wallet for safekeeping, and he had tried to return it to the hotel, but he never came back. Although there was no evidence to connect him with the murder, the coroner told Dunning

he had come nearer the gallows than he could ever come again, and escaped. He also warned him in future to avoid liquor and evil habits.

## Young boys meet with tragedies

*Uxbridge Journal: June 1, 1888*

Fishing season opened on Lake Scugog and it's estimated that three tons of fish were taken out of the lake the first day. Every available floater in the shape of a boat was in use; even washtubs were pressed into service - to hold the fish after they were caught.

## Curts moves creamery to Whitby

*Whitby Chronicle: June 1, 1888*

Reeve Joshua Curts has moved his creamery machinery to the farm of Dr. Alfred A. Farewell, East Whitby, where he expects to do a good deal better business than appearance promised here. Probably what withheld a good many farmers around Port Perry from turning in their milk was because our merchants are fools enough to go to the Market, and pay a higher price for the worst axle-grease that can be made, than can be got for creamery butter in legitimate trade.

As long as the same price is paid for all grades of butter, and the price about ten cents to high, the farmers will have no use for a creamery.



Reeve Joshua Curts.

## Fishing season opens on Scugog

*Whitby Chronicle: June 22, 1888*

The dawning of the 15th of June causes more stir and anxiety in this town than does any other day of the year. On that morning the great Scugog fish-barrel is opened up and somewhere about 1,800 mouths are opened up also - to receive.

This year they all had a great days fishing. The care bestowed by Inspector George B. McDermott in protecting the fish is amply repaid by one day's sport. The catch on Friday was good, some hooking as many as 30 or 40 fish. Those who had no luck made thier way to the Inspector's ship and helped themselves to part of his abundant catch.

## Young boys meet with tragedies

*Uxbridge Journal: July 17, 1888*

ACCIDENT - A little fellow named Ewers met with a bad accident near the railway station Monday night. He is but 12 years old and while watching the trains shunt, he stole a ride on the back of the tender to be dumped. While the train was running back to the shed, he fell off and was run over by the tender and the engine. His leg was broken and his face badly crushed.

DROWNING - Mr. Henry Gordon has notified the village council of Port Perry, through his solicitors, Messrs. John A. McGillivray and Thomas W. Chapple, that he will sue for \$5,000 damages in connection with the drowning of his boy recently in a street tank, unless a settlement of the matter is effected. The council passed a motion declaring its belief that the corporation is not liable, but sympathized with Mr. and Mrs. Gordon in the loss of their

child.

## Young man drowns in Lake Scugog

*Toronto Globe: July 25, 1888*

A sad accident occurred at Lake Scugog last Saturday by which John C. Scott, seventeen years of age, the son of Rev. Robert Scott, of Brooksdale, lost his life. The young man, who had been employed in the store of Messrs. W.A. Murray & Co, here for about a year, went to Port Perry a little over a week ago to spend his holidays with his cousin, John Campbell, aged 16, son of Mr. Hugh S. Campbell, of that place.

They went camping out the Island across the bay from the town. On Saturday evening about six o'clock they went for a bathe, taking a canoe to carry them out to the clear water. Young Campbell is a good swimmer and Scott could swim a little.

When ready to return to the shore Campbell got into the canoe safely, but Scott in attempting to follow upset the frail craft. They clung for some time to the canoe, unable to right it, and coming to the conclusion that it was sinking determined to swim to shore. Campbell led, but was soon called back by Scott, who said he was drowning.

When Campbell endeavoured to hold him up, the poor fellow wrapped his arms around Campbell's body and both went down together. After a hard struggle Campbell freed himself and then made another effort to grasp his drowning companion, but failed to catch him, and he sank to the bottom.

Mr. Raines, of Port Perry, who was rowing down in a boat, saw the two in the water, but supposed at first they were playing. When he discovered his mistake he at once rowed to the spot and took Campbell, who was thoroughly exhausted and on the point of drowning, into the boat and conveyed him to the shore.

The body of young Scott was recovered Sunday morning, and at once forwarded to his bereaved parents at Brooksdale, where the funeral took place on Monday. The deceased was a very promising young man and a great favourite with all who knew him. During his residence in Toronto he lived with his uncle, Mr. D.S. Campbell, of the Bank of Toronto.

This is the second son Rev. Mr. Scott has lost by accident. Four years ago their eight-year-old boy got up in his sleep and fell over the balustrade and was killed.

## Work on railway station underway

*Uxbridge Journal: August 2, 1888*

Work on the new railway station at Port Perry has commenced. The mainline has been moved some 25 feet to the east front of the old station, and the site of the new building is between the main track and the switch to the west, and just to the south side of Queen St. It is to be a frame building on a stone foundation.

## Samuel Christian almost drowned after falling into lock at Lindsay

*Lindsay Post: August 9, 1888*

Wednesday morning at 5.30, Samuel Christian, a well known grain buyer of Manchester and Port Perry, experienced a very narrow escape from drowning in the Lindsay locks. Mr. Christian had arrived in Lindsay the



Samuel H. Christian

evening previous on the steamer *Marie Louise* of Port Perry. In the morning, proposing again to embark, he made his way to the lock in company with Mr. Mark Crandell, the engineer.

Wishing to get down upon a scow then in empty lock Crandell took a pike-pole, and using it as a vaulting pole made the descent, about nine feet, in the easy and graceful style peculiar to river men. He then passed

the pole to Mr. Christian, who attempted to duplicate the feat successfully, but failing to allow his hands to slip, he jumped short, came back against the wall of the lock and fell into the water.

It happened so quickly that Crandell was unable to do anything to avert the catastrophe. The narrow space between the scow and the lock wall made it useless for him to jump in, as there was not sufficient room to swim, but plenty to drown. Bending over he noticed Christian, who could not swim a stroke, come to the surface and disappear again slowly, and at the same time spied a fissure in the wall capable of giving his hand grip room.



Crandell's steamer *Marie Louise*.

With one hand grasping on the scow and the other grasping the rock he immersed his body up to the armpits, in the hope that Christian would succeed in grasping his feet. In a few seconds he became painfully aware that the idea was most prolific in results, as Christian caught on with wonderful tenacity. Fortunately Mr. Carnegie of Port Perry arrived at this state and assisted Crandell in extracting Christian from his dangerous position.

After a few minutes rest he was able to ejaculate, "Well, I guess I'm saved for another time." A commemorative medal is to be presented to Crandell.

## Historic house destroyed by fire

*Uxbridge Journal: August 16, 1888*

Friday night last a house occupied by Mr. Marks in Reach was struck by lightning and burned down. Before the inmates were aware of any danger the building was in a sheet of flame and the barely escaped with their lives, saving some of their property.

This house was situated near the Presbyterian cemetery on the 12th of Reach, at what used to be the corner of the old Brock Road, and the 12th concession. The first Greenbank post office was kept there by Mr. George Horne, our present Police Magistrate, who also conducted a store in the same building. After the closing of the Brock Road, the office was removed to the present Greenbank village, which has grown to a respectable size since those old days.



The new Port Perry Railway Station.

## New railway station progressing

*Whitby Chronicle & Uxbridge Journal: September 7, 1888*

The new railway station for Port Perry is gradually growing into shape and promises to be a very suitable building. Forty or fifty Italians workers are engaged working at the station.

The mainline has been moved some 25 feet to the east front of the old station, and the site of the new building is between the main track and the switch to the west, and just to the south side of Queen St. It is to be a frame building on a stone foundation.

From present appearances it is pretty hard to say how the public will be able to get to it, unless some effort is made to build a thoroughfare over the top of Mr. Jack Lawder's grain warehouse.

## Young men gawk at our fair ones

*Whitby Chronicle: September 7, 1888*

There are reports of a few young fellows who stand around the lamp-post near the Town Hall on Sunday nights, to take stock of the fair ones going to and from church. It isn't a very nice thing to be stared at this way, and a number of the ladies are complaining.

These boys had better go to church with the others. To those of them who have never been there I may say church service does not embrace anything to be feared, though some clergymen I could mention offer such long prayers that one can hardly straighten up from the cramped position that custom compels him to take.

## Paxton thrown from his horse

*Whitby Chronicle: September 7, 1888*

Last Saturday, Mr. J.D. Paxton, bailiff, was thrown out of his sulky on the Ontario Central track, Port Perry and had his collar bone broken. There were several horses on the track at the time speeding and Messrs. H. McKenzie and W. Paxton were coming down the home stretch with their driver at a three minute clip, and Mr. J.D. Paxton, was waiting for them on the side of the track.

When they got well up to where he stood, he gave his colt a touch with the whip and on doing so it bolted to the left and Mr. W. Paxton ran into him at full speed, throwing J.D. out on his head with great force. It was thought at first he was killed sure. He was picked up in an unconscious condition and taken home, where he was properly cared for. We are happy to say he is no able to be about again, although he carries his arm in a sling.

## Low lake cause of sickness in town

*Whitby Chronicle: September 14, 1888*

An alarming amount of sickness seems to prevail in our midst. The fever has broken out in various parts of the town, with gravest concerns for several cases. The low and unhealthy condition of the lake is no doubt the source of the sickness, and a vigorous effort is being made to compel the authorities at Lindsay to raise the locks and bring the lake up to its proper height.

Mr. Norman F. Paterson, who waited on the Government at Ottawa regarding the lake trouble, returned this week and gives encouraging reports.

## Lake of mud and sunken logs

*Whitby Chronicle: October 12, 1888*

No satisfactory issue has been arrived at in regard to the raising of Scugog's waters. If something is not done soon there will not be water enough left for a nest-egg, and possibly farmers may take to farming on the "drowned" land. I fancy the community would be better off with dry land than with a mixture of mud and sunken logs and bogs.

## Liquor license convictions

*Toronto Globe; December 18, 1888*

License Inspector Ferguson of South Ontario has been making things lively here for the last two weeks.

He laid twelve informations before Magistrate John Nott in Port Perry and secured ten conviction for violation of the liquor license act of 1897, which provides that no hotelkeeper shall supply liquor to boys under the age of 21 years, or even allow such boys to loiter in their houses.

The authorities are determined that the law shall be observed in this particular. Magistrate Nott imposed the smallest fine for the first offence, but warned them all.

## Charges close St. Charles Hotel bar

*Whitby Chronicle: November, 1888*

Three charges for violation of the Scott Act were laid against the St. Charles Hotel, resulting in the permanent closing of the bar. The proprietor has decided to run a first class Temperance House from this out.

The merchants turned out in body last Friday evening and presented the proprietor, Mr. Thomas H. Dancaster, with a complimentary oyster supper to show their esteem for him and their approval of this thorough temperance move.

~ 1889 ~

## Temperance meeting in Port Perry

*Toronto Globe: January 3, 1889*

Inspector Ferguson returned from Port Perry tonight. A number of leading citizens there met this afternoon to try and save one of their hotelkeepers, from whom a warrant is out, from going to the gaol (jail) for two months for infringement of the Scott Act. The inspector held out no hopes that the law would not take its course, and left them depondent.

## Case against selling liquor to Indians

*Uxbridge Journal: January 10, 1889*

Messrs. M.G. Robson, Caleb Crandell and McDermott have been holding Magistrate's court for several days lately investigating charges referred against several persons for supplying, liquor to Indians.

On Christmas day, Messrs. Robson and Crandell fined three Indians named Bolin, McCue and Johnston for being drunk. To save themselves from a further penalty the dusky braves preached on their pals, which led to the arrest of John Smith, George Cameron, Neil Sinclair and Patsy Brennan. Smith and Brennan were on separate charges and each was fined \$50 and costs, or thirty days. Preferring the latter they have gone to Whitby.

Neil Sinclair's trial extended over two or three days. Judgment will be given on Saturday. The evidence is all against him. The three Indians swore that on 22nd December they were in Cameron's shoe shop, and while there they each gave, Sinclair 25c to get a bottle of whiskey, which he did. Cameron and Sinclair assisted in drinking it. The Indians then gave 60¢ more to Sinclair and he got another bottle. While the latter was being got, George Young, the itinerant hatter, came in and had a drink.

On the first day of the trial Sinclair and Cameron contradicted the Indians and swore they gave the money to Young and that he got the whiskey. Young was ascertained to be in Bowmanville. The case was adjourned and a constable sent after him. Sinclair was admitted to bail and took advantage of it, as on the re-assembly of the court on Tuesday he did not appear, nor has he been seen since.

Young appeared and told the court in plain language he never got the money nor whiskey. Cameron, fearing prosecution for perjury then went into the box and stated that his former evidence was untrue, that Sinclair got the whiskey, that he himself was drunk, having drank two bottles with Sinclair before the two Indians came in and had been on a three weeks drunk.

In Cameron's case, though he was the chief sinner and was charged with abetting and counseling, Messrs. Robson and Crandell, two of the magistrates, strange to say, dismissed the case against him. It appeared from the evidence that the Indians were in a habit of resorting to Cameron's and that Sinclair used to go out and buy whiskey while all would drink at the expense of the redmen.

It is now in order for the magistrates to acquit Sinclair, but of course those two old simpletons, Smith and Brennan, will have to put in a month each. Who says justice doesn't see under the corner of the bandage around her eyes.

## Large quantities of big fish in Scugog

*Uxbridge Journal: February 21, 1889*

Large quantities of black bass and maskinonge are now coming to town and sell readily at 80. per lb. They are caught principally by the Indians of the Scugog Reserve.

A pair of really magnificent maskinonge were brought to town on Monday last and were greatly admired. They weighed 26 and 30 lbs. The largest was caught by a young Indian belonging to the Scugog Reserve, and the other

was caught by a Port Hope gentleman, who was greatly elated at his first attempt at fishing through the ice at Scugog.

Port Perry beats the world for maskinonge, so said a well known commercial man when looking at the fish, and further remarked that every time he struck the town it always had a big fish on hand.

## Temperance meeting in Port Perry

*Toronto Globe: February 23, 1889*

A convention of representative Temperance men from all the principal points in both ridings of Ontario was held in the Town Hall, Port Perry, on Wednesday last. Rev. F.C. Keam, of Prince Albert was appointed chairman and D. Keith, of Oshawa, secretary, and it was resolved without one dissenting voice, that the utmost be done to prevent the repeal of the Scott Act in the County, being convinced that, though the Act is not perfect, it is much better than license.

Committeemen were appointed and plans were adopted for raising the needful funds, preparing and scattering suitable literature, holding Temperance meetings, preaching Scott Act sermons, besides canvassing from house to house, and all work needful for carrying the election.

A strong resolution was passed condemning the County Council for advising inspectors and police magistrates against proceeding or enforcing convictions for third offences against the Canada Temperance Act. A public meeting was held in the evening, when the hall was filled.

## Lake Scugog swarming with fish

*Uxbridge Journal: March, 1889*

The lake must be swarming with fish as one man alone on Scugog has sold in the past two weeks, over 2,000 lbs. of fish. They are being caught with a loop made of copper wire on a rod of iron. Those who have tried this "snaring" method, say it is the greatest fun on earth to fling a large maskinonge out on the ice and see him dance a "cotillion."

Such large quantities of fish have been taken out of Lake Scugog this winter by snaring, that Inspector McDermot is urging Ottawa to pass an Order-in-Council prohibiting that method of fishing.

## Dangerous ride on the railway track

*Uxbridge Journal: April 4, 1889*

Last Thanksgiving day a number of boys ranging from nine to fifteen years of age took it into their heads to have a ride on the railway cars or the next best thing to it. So they accordingly, proceeded to place the lorry, which happened to be laying by the side of the track in the yard at the station here, into position.

This done they set off for Prince Albert, but only succeeded in getting as far as Mr. Bruce's farm. When on returning they found they were to be met by Mr. Hugh Chisholm, and they skipped. Nothing more was heard of the affair until Saturday last, when some nine of the boys were served with summons to appear in Whitby on Tuesday to give an account of their trip.

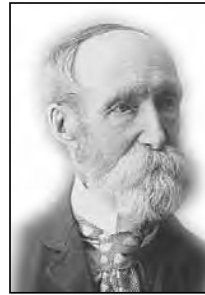
On Tuesday morning, however, word was received to the effect that if they handed over \$2 a piece and costs

they would he saved the bother of going to Whitby. The offer was accepted, and the boys of course felt considerably easier. Had a train come along about the time they were traveling to Prince Albert on the tracks, some of them might have lost their lives.

## Surveys shorter route to Cartwright

*Uxbridge Journal, May 23, 1889*

Mr. William E. Yarnold, engineer, along with Mr. Joseph Bigelow, have been making a thorough examination of the shortest and best route for the Cartwright roadway, and the survey will be completed next week.



Wm. E. Yarnold

As soon as the water gets low enough, the work will be proceeded with and pushed as fast as the receding waters will permit. The present line is about 300 rods, almost 100 rods shorter than the line surveyed last winter. A very easy grade has been obtained for the approach at the Scugog end. As soon as the water gets low enough the work will proceed.

The examination of the bottom of the marsh shows hard pan at about two-and-a-half feet over about 270 rods, and about 30 rods from thee to four feet. The channels of the two creeks to be crossed being about 15 feet wide and six feet deep. We congratulate the company on finding a much better route than they expected.

## Tragedies mount on Lake Scugog

*Uxbridge Journal: June 20, 1889*

Last Tuesday a fishing boat capsized and one of its occupants went down to an alarming depth, but was rescued as he came up the second time.

On Sunday last, the body of a man was found floating on the lake at the far end of Scugog Island. It had evidently been in the water about three weeks and was badly decomposed.

Last Saturday forenoon, Charlie Edmott was missed, but much fear was not entertained until later in the day when man at the wharf reported having found a hat drifting at the end of the scow. The hat was at once identified, and a vigorous search began for the body.

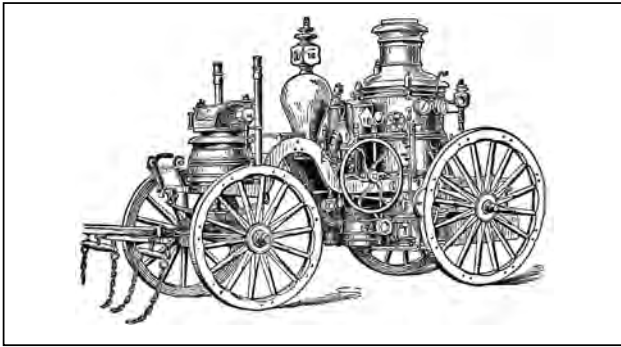
The grappling hooks were brought into service and the lake dragged, but not until three o'clock on Sunday morning was the body found. The funeral took place on Monday, followed by the school children in procession.

## Change of ownership at Revere House hotel in Manchester

*Whitby Chronicle: September 6, 1889*

On Monday last Peter Holt moved out of the Manchester hotel (Revere House), going to Blackstock, and on Tuesday Alonzo Sexton, hailing from Port Perry took up his quarters as landlord of the Revere House.

We are rather amused to see the very careful way in which some of the men moved a barrel of beer from a wagon to the tavern. About a dozen got their hands, hearts and eyes fixed on that innocent looking keg, and good gracious weren't they more than careful.



*Illustration of a steam fire-engine.*

## Steam fire engine not working

*Whitby Chronicle: September 13, 1889*

It might surprise a great many to learn that should a fire have broken out in the early part of last evening no assistance whatever could have been given by the steam fire engine to have put it out.

The firemen, as usual come out for their monthly practice and the engine was taken to the foot of Queen Street and started running. It had not been running many minutes when it was found that the pump which supplies the water for the boiler was not working and the engine had to be stopped. This is not the first time that the engine has been brought out for practice and something gone wrong, and it is a serious matter.

## Ducks scarce as season opens

*Whitby Chronicle: September 13, 1889*

Hunters flocked in from all quarters on Saturday and had everything ready to make great havoc among the ducks on Monday morning, but as yet we have failed to see or hear of any large "bags" having been made.

If a duck had fallen for every shot that was fired at the head of the lake that morning, it is safe to say there would have been plenty of feed everybody in town for a week.

There are thousands of ducks, but they are so wild that it is impossible to get within gun shot of them. Besides, a great many of them can not be reached after they are shot, when they fall into the rice. So far Messrs. George McDermott and John McKenzie have been the most successful.

## Davenport is assistant postmaster

*Whitby Gazette: October 25, 1889*

Mr. D. R. Davenport's friends in Port Perry will be pleased to learn that he has been appointed assistant postmaster at Imlay City, Michigan. Dr. George Jones, brother of Messrs. Charles and William Jones, of this place, was appointed postmaster for Imlay City, and not being able to fully attend to the job and his medical practice at the same time, he engaged Mr. Davenport as assistant.

## Man dies in bed from practical joke

*Toronto Empire: November 28, 1889*

Mr. A.J.D. Mingeaud, of Bowmanville, kept a room at the St. Charles hotel, lately Ben. McQuay's, on the corner of main street coming from the station. He was of French descent and 31 years old. The body is that of a large and handsome man, whose features are striking.

A week ago to-day Mrs. Mingeaud went to Bowmanville to visit her aunt. While away Mr. Mingeaud, a man who was sadly addicted to drinking, became intoxicated and was made the victim of vicious practical joking.

When he could no longer drink himself, it is alleged, the liquor was poured down his throat, and at last, while in a drunken stupor, lugged upstairs and put to bed with another man. Then the contents of the water pitchers in the rooms were poured over them and the window left open on a bitterly cold night.

Next morning Mr. Mingeaud, in a state of collapse, was found by his wife on her return. A doctor was called in but too late to avail anything, and the wretched victim of his own weakness and of those who thought it "fun" to play upon it, died on Tuesday.

The jury returned this verdict: The deceased came to his death on Tuesday, the 19th of November, 1889, at the St. Charles Hotel; that from evidence they find that the deceased was addicted to the habitual use of intoxicating liquors and had contracted alcoholic pneumonia. That he drank to excess in company with others and that after so drinking he was carried to bed and water thrown on him by Frank Quick.

He lay during the night in his wet clothing upon his bed with the bedroom window raised, and in the opinion of the jurors, this exposure accelerated his death, and the jury are of the opinion that censure should be laid on the male employees of the hotel and others who participated in the carousal.



# BEAUTIFUL PORT PERRY

## Attractive and Rising Place - Excellent Situation - Natural Advantages - Schools and Institutions - List of Prosperous Business Men

The following article, describing the village of Port Perry, its history, businesses, industries and leading businessmen was published in the Toronto World newspaper, on Monday, September 23, 1889.

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Port Perry is situated at the head of Lake Scugog on the Whitby and Port Perry branch of the G.T.R. The situation is a most charming one, and the fertile island in front, with its sloping fields and fine residences, form a frontispiece picturesque and attractive.

The surrounding section, from an agricultural point of view, is first-class. The town itself has suffered immensely from fires at different times, and nearly all the business street is comparatively new, modern in style and clean in appearance.

It was named after Peter Perry, who settled in Whitby in 1836, and whose name identified with all the important improvements in the locality in his time. He appears to have been a man of singular energy, shrewdness and sagacity, and died in 1851 while



Joseph Bigelow

busily engaged working out various schemes for the development of the country.

He erected the first store and saw mill something over 40 years ago and on the building of the railway the place grew rapidly. Its present population is 1,672 and the total assessment \$479,650.

The council is composed of Joseph Bigelow, Reeve, William Ross, William Jones, James Boxall and William Wilcox, councillors. There is a two-storey brick town hall, with square bell tower. A fire station and hose tower are in the rear and there is a steam fire engine and every equipment required for a first-class fire department.

There is an excellent band, a band-stand, curling and skating rink, flourishing societies, fine agricultural buildings with a half-mile track, 71 feet wide. Among the lake craft, it is claimed the Mary Louise steam yacht



Port Perry Union School

is the fastest boat on the lake.

Port Perry has always been noted for the high standing of its schools. The present building was erected in 1874 and is a substantial two-story brick building at advanced architecture. The High school was established in 1868, and has been one of the most successful in

the country. Dugald McBride is principal.

The churches are the English, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic, and all have settled pastors excepting the Roman Catholic, which is supplied from Uxbridge.

Water is carried to the town from neighbouring spring, showing that they appreciate the bounties of nature and have enterprise enough to take advantage of them. In fact everything about the place indicates intelligent enterprise on the part of both council and citizens.

It is a large grain market and from this point considerable shipments are made of lumber and timber. One of the wants of the locality is a lock, three miles this side of Lindsay at a place known as the Devil's Elbow.

**James Boxall** – manufactures tinware of all kinds and does plumbing, hot and cold water, furnace work, eavestroughing, roofing and makes a specialty of fine class tin. A large variety of coal and wood stoves are constantly kept on hand. The premises are convenient and have a hoist.

**E.D. Holliday** – deals in deals in staple and fancy dry goods, clothing, gents' furnishing; hats and caps, and does a very large tailoring trade. In Thomas McBurnie he has a cutter both competent and experienced, who never fails to give satisfaction. Dressmaking it also done on the premises, all novelties in dress goods are promptly received.

**Thomas C. Forman & Son** – are proprietors of the largest established mercantile house in the county, and carry one at the biggest stock in their various lines. The deal in groceries, provisions, crockery and boots and shoes. In very few towns can a more complete stock of boots and shoes be seen. It embraces all sorts and sizes, so that every taste can be suited. The prices will also be found right.



Thomas C. Forman



William L. Parrish

**William L. Parrish** – this is one of the old established houses, having been commenced in the early time, by the father of W. L. Parrish, who now carries on the business. The store is large and stocked with a general line of hardware, silverware, paints and oils, also coal oil. Room papers get special attention and in this line there

is a complete stock.

**Joshua W. Curts** – has what is called a cold storage, the building being brick and wood 50x75 feet, two-stories high, and specially equipped for the business. Butter is stored for outside parties. The egg business is simply immense, 20 horses being on the road, and a great many of them are pickled. At the time of our visit 90,000 dozen were in the pickling vats; 360 tons of ice are required annually. A wind mill pumps water with which the building is supplied throughout.



Joshua W. Curts



St. Charles Hotel.

**St. Charles Hotel** – William B. McGaw and Mingeand, proprietors, is a three-storey brick building and has every accommodation required for the travelling public. As a commercial house it is well known and has always taken a leading place. The interior is well fitted up and furnished, and a well spread table is one of the characteristics. F. Quick is clerk.

**Beatty & Bongard** – are harness makers, and keep a good stock constantly on hand. Also collars, trunks and valises, robes, bills, whips, combs, etc. They are practical men and their work has the highest reputation. They have been two years in the business, and in that time have worked up a big trade.

**Port Perry Livery** - Harry Cann, proprietor, is centrally located, and is noted for the excellent quality of its turn-outs. Ten horses are kept, all excellent roadsters, and some of them not to be excelled in the county. Rigs of all kinds, including spring wagon and hack.

**Jonathan Blong** – is not in business, but has done his share in building up the town. He is largely interested in real estate, and owns the Blong Block.



Blong's block of five stores

**Benjamin T. Ackerman** – has been in the harness making business for 10 years and does a large and successful trade. Harness and all the usual odds and ends are kept as good supply. A jobbing trade is done as well and 15 hands are kept.



B. J. Ackerman

**Davenport & Jones** – do a business of \$80,000 annually. Their premises are large and tilled with dry goods of every kind, clothing, hats and caps, etc. Tailoring and millinery

are also carried on and 30 hands employed.

**J. W. Davis** – cabinet maker and undertaker, keeps on hand a large stock of furniture, upholstered and otherwise, and manufactures the cheaper goods. This factory has steam power. Picture framing is also done.

**Joshua Wright** – manufactures and deals in boots and shoes, keeping a large stock. He also has a wood yard and coal sheds. The sheds are at the railway, and are 60x125 feet, two-stories high, and with all conveniences. Wood is brought by water and coal by rail. Mr. Wright lives at Prince Albert, and is Reeve and Warden of the county.



Joshua Wright



Edward Purdy

**Edward Purdy** – flour and feed and seed merchant, is one door west of the Oriental Hotel. He has all the facilities such as track, scales and hoist, and does a large business both wholesale and retail.

**Oriental Hotel** – Thomas H. Doncaster, formerly of St. Charles, proprietor, is a three-storey brick hotel, all decorated and furnished in handsome style. It contains 25 bedrooms, parlours, sitting rooms, large dining hall and four commodious sample rooms. The stabling and yard accommodation is all that could be desired.

**Western Bank of Canada** – the head office of this bank at Oshawa and the branch here was established in March 1888. William McGill is manager.

**M. Williams** – located two doors east of the Western Bank and has the only shop license in town. He has a large and commodious cellar. His stock is large and includes all the best brands of liquors and ales and porters from the leading breweries.

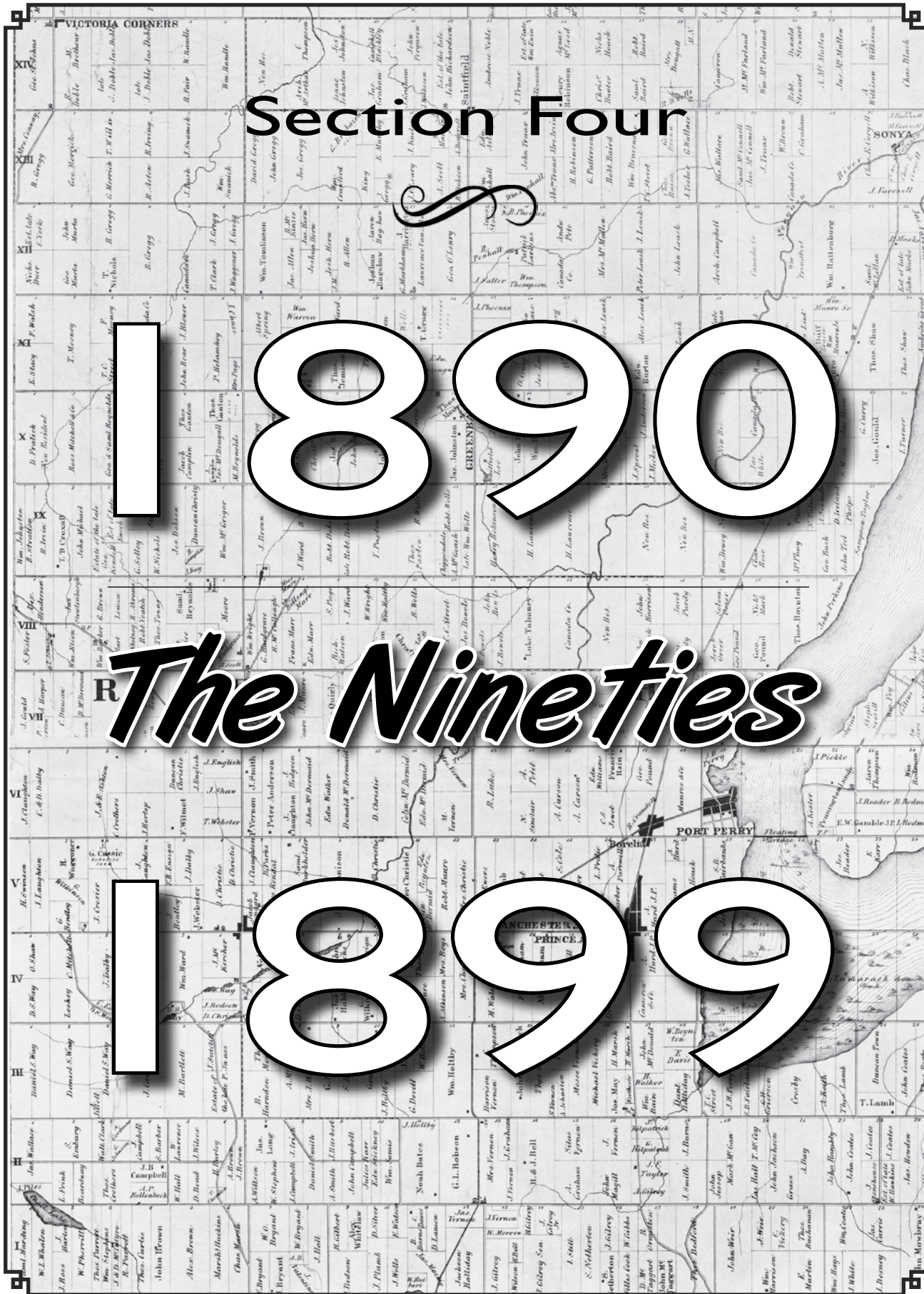


Oriental Hotel

**William M. Jones** – commenced business 20 years ago, and deals in groceries, flour and feed, boots and shoes and crockery. The premises were built after the fires, and planned with a view to handling country produce. Butter, wool and eggs are dealt in extensively, of eggs alone about \$10,000 being shipped annually. There is access to the rear of the premises and every facility for a large business.



William M. Jones



Section Four

1890

The Nineties

1899

George C. Tremaine's map of Reach Township, 1860.



# The Nineties

~ 1890 ~

## New ice company opens in village

*North Ontario Observer, February 6, 1890*

On Monday last a new industry of considerable importance was started in this place. The "Spring Water Ice Company" of Toronto, commenced operations on Lake Scugog, and intended to secure a crop of ice of considerable magnitude. They have already made an ice road from the shore of the lake to the railway track and on Tuesday, shipped a number of car loads to Toronto.

The ice has been analyzed and pronounced perfectly free of all impurities; in fact the ice dealers of the city claim it is the best ice that has reached the city the present season. It is the intention of the company to ship from our station 15 car loads a day for the next five weeks. This will give employment to a large staff of men besides a number of teams.

The superintendent of the company is erecting a commodious ice house just east of the engine house, where they intend storing a large quantity of this commodity. We are informed that dealers in ice in the city of New York are in communication with the "Spring Water Ice Co." for their season's supply.

Should Scugog furnish the requirement of that city, the ice trade of Port Perry will not be surpassed in magnitude by any place in the Dominion. There's nothing like ice.

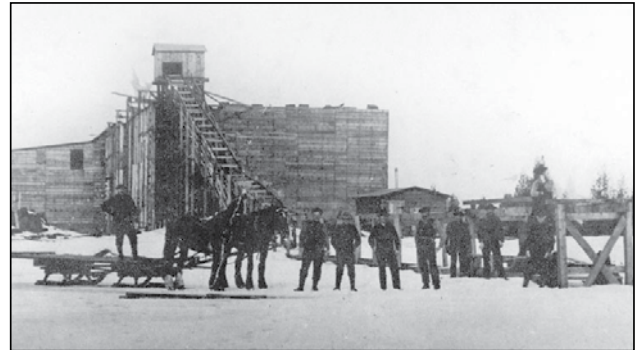
## Two more ice companies begin ice harvesting on Lake Scugog

*North Ontario Observer, February 13, 1890*

Two more companies have commenced operation on Lake Scugog since our last issue, and are securing immense crops of ice. Both companies are from Toronto, and are well pleased with the success they are meeting with.

The "Knickerbocker Ice Company" is the first to adopt the system of loading the ice direct on the cars without the use of teams and sleighs. Their mode of operation is first to cut a canal about five feet wide in the ice, reaching out in the lake and then float the cakes of ice through this to a derrick which elevates them to a slide along which they pass into a car.

Mr. M. Luther Crandell has charge of the derrick and manipulates its operations to perfection. This company requires 13,000 tons and intend shipping that quantity



*Knickerbocker Ice Co. crew at Jackson's Point, Ontario*

should the facilities and weather not prevent them.

The other company, is the "Ralph Burns Company", and their output is consigned to O'Keefe & Co., Toronto, and the cars containing the ice for this firm are labelled "Lake Scugog Ice, O'Keefe & Co., Toronto." They require 12,000 tons.

Since commencing to cut, this company have received an order from the great packing house of Armour & Co., of Chicago, for 10,000 tons to be stored at Toronto, to replenish their cars at that point while passing east to Boston.

The "Spring Water Ice Company", the first to commence operations here are increasing their output; They have now a staff of 30 men and ten teams steadily engaged and intend to continue until the weather prevents further cutting. They are not limited to quantity, it being their intention to secure all they possibly can.

The ice harvest is a source of considerable profit to the G.T. Railway, and our railway officials here are rendering every assistance possible to the ice shippers. Yesterday no fewer than 54 cars loaded with ice left this station for Toronto, containing about 1,000 tons, which at 75¢ per ton, would amount to \$750 paid freight on ice alone in one day.

## Horses drown under Scugog ice

*Toronto Globe: February 21, 1890*

An accident on Scugog lake last Saturday resulted in the drowning of a team of horses. Mr. O. Raimes was hauling ice for one of the companies now busy loading ice at this place. Owing to the amount of traffic the ice was cut considerably by the sleighs and the moving waters had worn it from underneath, causing it to weaken.

The horses fell through first and then the sleigh followed in such a way as to push the horses under the ice, rendering it impossible to get them out alive. The loss

is about \$900. A subscription was at once started and considerable sum raised. Later in the day another sleigh broke the ice, but the team were unhitched in time to save them from going down.

## Immense quantities of ice being harvested from Lake Scugog

*North Ontario Observer, March 13, 1890*

The Ralph Burns Co. have already in stack on the dock and south of the old station about 10,000 tons of ice besides which they are shipping to Toronto 5,000 tons to each of the following firms, Messrs. O'Keefe & Co., Armour & Co., and Swift & Co. The speed at which the Burns Co., load cars is surprising. On Saturday last, Mr. McDermot held out an inducement for a trial of speed of loading two of the largest cars, when the feat was accomplished in 16 minutes.

## Special meeting held for Scugog Cartwright roadway construction

*North Ontario Observer, May 1, 1890*

A special meeting of council was held on Saturday to discuss the considering and advisability of the corporation of Port Perry assuming the work of construction of the roadway from Scugog to Cartwright. The proposition was that the corporation should finish the uncompleted work, finance for the undertaking and collect the uncollected stock and bonuses and pay off all the liabilities.

Mr. James Boxall favored the scheme, but he strenuously opposed it, contending that the council had no jurisdiction to enter into any such arrangement. He requested that the corporation solicitor give the Council his opinion as to powers of councils assuming such undertakings.

Mr. Norman F. Paterson said, should the council enter into the proposed contract, it would certainly exceed its legislative powers, so the matter was dropped.

## Shed erected to store road scraper

*North Ontario Observer, May 15, 1890*

A special meeting of the Port Perry council was held on the 15th inst. On a motion of Mr. Jones, the Street Commissioner was instructed to erect a rough shed in the rear of the woodshed, on the Town Hall grounds in which to store the village "road scrapper" and thus protect it from the weather.

On a motion of Mr. Aaron Ross, the Town Hall Committee were instructed to engage Mr. J. Powers to put a coating of asbestos on the roof of the hall, and were also empowered to call for tenders for painting the water tank on the corner of Perry and North Streets.

In answer to a petition of Mr. Clark and company, and 44 others requesting the council to take proper steps for street waters. A by-law was introduced and carried through its various stages, providing for the watering of that part of Queen Street extending from the railway track westward to John Street, and that part of Perry Street, extending from North Street south to the southern portion of the Market buildings.

## Donald McKay honored at dinner

*North Ontario Observer, May 22, 1890*

A number of friends of Donald McKay, Esq., ex-Reeve of Reach, entertained that gentleman to a compliment supper at the Revere House, Manchester on the evening of Friday 16th inst.

Mr. McKay, having been appointed Country Treasurer, and has lately removed to the county town. The occasion was seized upon by a number of his friends in Reach and elsewhere, to manifest their esteem for him, by entertaining him to a supper and making him a suitable presentation.



*Donald McKay*

James Graham, Esq., presided over the evening, and after an excellent supper the chairman rose to propose the health of the guest of the evening. He then exposed to view of the company a valuable and beautiful gold-headed cane, bearing the following inscription artistically cut thereon: "Presented to D. McKay, ex-Reeve of Reach, by a few of his friends, May 16, 1890", which he handed to the guest of the evening. The chairman then read and address to the guest being honored.

## Severe rain storm stops train service

*North Ontario Observer, June 6, 1890*

The severe rain today has materially interfered with our railway accommodation; there are two or three washouts of considerable magnitude on the line between Whitby and Port Perry, which will require considerable repairing before the trains can resume their usual time.

Many of the bridges on the highways in the township of Reach were destroyed by the great deluge of rain today, and the necessary expense attending the rebuilding and repairing of them will amount to a handsome sum.

Fortunately Reach is possessed of an active and worthy council and the traveling public may rest contented that the roads will, at the earliest possible moment be made passable.

## Fish are plentiful in Lake Scugog

*North Ontario Observer, June 19, 1890*

The open season for fishing commenced on Monday last and large numbers took advantage of it. Our lake was literally alive with fishermen, all of whom met with more or less success. Some of the unsuccessful ones came straggling home, after four or five hours exertion with a fish catch, about four or five inches long, while the more successful ones were loaded with the "finny tribe".

Whitby carried out the laurels, however, Mr. W. Thompson, harness-maker of that town captured 19 fine maskinonge and two bass; while Mr. J. Davison secured 20 "lunge" and three bass. The fish are very plentiful in the lake this year, thanks to our indefatigable Overseer for the large crop, he employed the most systematic and commendable measures to prevent fishing during the close season.

In the matter of fishing materials, Messrs. Laing & Meharry have got a magnificent stock of everything in the

fishing line for the best quality. Don't fail to go and see it; skillful fishers all like it and we think fish will prefer it to the awkward looking tackle often presented to them

## Storm causes death, heavy damage

*Toronto Globe: July 8, 1890*

The heaviest thunder storm ever known in this section of the County passed over this area between two and three o'clock on the 7th inst., doing considerable damage. Mr. Daniel Munroe, living near the eastern part of the Uxbridge, was in the cellar, accompanied by his wife, churning at the time. He was struck by lightning and instantly killed. He was one of our most prosperous farmers, and was married last fall.

The lightning also struck the house of Mr. A. Spears, hardware merchant, on the west side of the town, completely knocking down the chimney, tearing off shingles, and even the sheeting. It also set fire to the telephone office, but the lady attendant, Miss Hamilton, being on hand, pluckily poured pitcher after pitcher of water on the flames till the flames were subdued.

The storm was accompanied by heavy rain and light hail, and only lasted a short time. During the storm lightning struck the barn of Joseph Watson, in the Township of Reach, killing his hired man, Norman Davidson, and seriously injuring Davidson's brother, who stood beside him. It set fire to the building, which was burned, together with 11 head of thoroughbred young cattle. The damage is about \$4,000 and there is no insurance.



*Log cabin accommodation on Nonquon Island, 1890.*

## Nonquon Island popular spot

*North Ontario Observer, July 17, 1890*

Mr. Albert Stevens, proprietor of Nonquon Island (Lake Scugog), was in town on Monday last in search of a large tent in order to supply increased accommodation on this beautiful little island for the large number of visitors that are continually calling there.

The capacity of his residence is already taxed to its utmost and he is determined that all shall be amply provided for. All the substantials and many of the luxuries are provided, and all are made welcome to visit this beautiful spot.

## Two fires in one day destroys home and saw mill

*North Ontario Observer, July 17, 1890*

Yesterday, (Wednesday) at 12 o'clock p.m., the old saw mill building in this town, just west of the Scugog Bridge, was discovered to be on fire. The fire alarms were sounded, but parties ascertaining the cause of the conflagration viewed it from a distance. So rapidly was it consumed that it would have been impossible to have saved it from destruction after the discovery that it was on fire.

The building was owned by James A. Cull, Esq., on which there was no insurance. Two wagons and a number of implements, the property of Mr. Jesse Ireland that were in the building at the time were all destroyed.

A second fire, the residence of Mrs. Haynes, Prince Albert, was destroyed by fire. The fire occurred about three o'clock in the afternoon and had made such headway when discovered that very little of the contents were saved.

All exerted themselves in order to save as much as possible for Mrs. Haynes, and a number of ladies worked heroically to lighten her loss.

## Wollen Factory begins production

*North Ontario Observer, July 24, 1890*

Mr. A.A. Bowerman has his woollen mill running already, having steamed up for the first time on Monday morning last. He has not got his machinery all in place, but expects by next week to have some 25 different machines in operation on the second storey along and in connection with the woollen mill.

The lower part of the building will be used as a planing factory, he having bought the machinery lately used by Mr. Joseph Bigelow there for that purpose. He has some six or seven hands engaged at present and expect to increase the staff as soon as he get things in shape.

## Anglo-American Hotel fire

*North Ontario Observer: August 1, 1890*

"Shortly after midnight on Sunday, August 3, 1890 our attentive and watchful village bell sounded an alarm of fire which was then quietly at work in the kitchen of the old Anglo-American Hotel.

The devourer went on licking up everything consumable in its course. For two hours the flames held unrestricted away and made a magnificent display until they had consumed that large hotel, its barns, stables, driving sheds, and a lot of extensive and substantial buildings. See full story in "Fires".

## Boat tips, throwing man into lake

*Whitby Chronicle: August 9, 1890*

On Thursday night last, about nine o'clock, a loud voice sounded on the lake opposite the town, calling for help in tones that would easily discount a fog horn. A citizen took a boat and hurried across to rescue the supposed candidate for a watery grave, and found on reach the spot that it was Mr. Jim McGaw, who had tipped his boat and was roosting on the bottom of it calling lustily that he was drowning.



He was removed and his boat hitched behind, but after a long pull, it was found to be anchored by a thirty pound stone, which had tipped out with his carcass. He had lost a coat and a bottle of whiskey, and will most likely give a liberal reward to any person who will restore it to him.

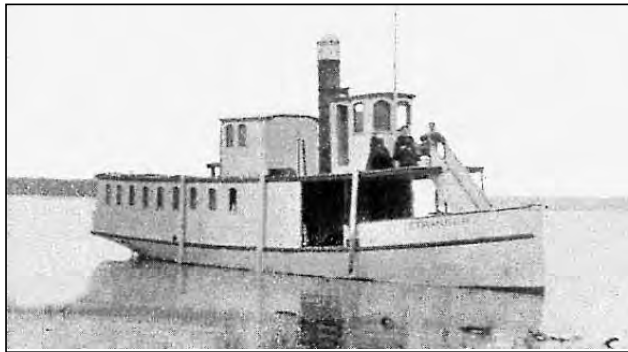
## Port Perry High school among best in the Province of Ontario

*North Ontario Observer, August 14, 1890*

We are pleased to see the splendid record of the pupils from Port Perry High School at the Toronto University Matriculation Examination. They have taken the largest number of First Class Honors of any High School or Collegiate Institute in the Province.

Six of the pupils of the Port Perry High School proved successful and of these six, four obtained first-class honors in French; one being second on the list; three first-class and one second-class in German; two first-class and one second in mathematics, and one a second-class in English.

We are proud to announce that for First-Class Honors, Port Perry holds the banner this year. Who says Port Perry is not a thriving town!



*Steamer Stranger on Lake Scugog.*

## Wright supplying coal and wood

*North Ontario Observer, August 21, 1890*

Mr. Joshua Wright is making preparation to supply this whole section of country with coal and wood. He is receiving an immense quantity of these necessary commodities.

While the steamer *Stranger* is engaged in towing wood from the north to stock his large wood yard, almost every freight train lately bringing coal from the south to supply his immense coal house. The qualities of both articles are No. 1, and the price he is selling them at can not fail to please.

## Scugog and Cartwright roadway nears completion

*North Ontario Observer, September 4, 1890*

We had the pleasure of a drive over the new roadway from Scugog to Cartwright and was surprised to find it so far advance towards completion.

Mr. Joseph Bigelow, the instigator and promoter of the scheme, has taken every precaution so that when the roadway is completed it will be a permanent one, and a credit in every respect to his perseverance and

indomitable pluck. Had he not taken hold the the scheme, we question whether it would have had an existence today.

He was not only the instigator and promoter but he was most successfully financed for the undertaking throughout. And although at times when managing this most important part, the financing, the prospects were anything but bright, he never faltered but pressed onward until his efforts were crowned with victory and shortly he will have the pleasure of declaring this important highway open to public travel.

## Toronto swells buy Scugog Marsh

*North Ontario Observer, October 9, 1890*

Observer Editor Henry Parsons writes: "It appears that a syndicate of Toronto Swells have purchased the Scugog Marsh for the purpose of breeding fish and fowl, and for the foolish purpose of hooking the former and shooting the later.

They also propose to protect the game - such protection as the wolf gives the lamb. They certainly have got more money than brains if they expect that by paying a lot of money to somebody they can secure a monopoly of hunting and fishing on the Scugog Marsh.

If these would-be notables are allowed to take part with the public hunting and fishing over the Marsh they may thank their stars, but if they get impertinent over it they will be excluded entirely and serve them right.

But their mightiness are putting it on a little too thick when they put up poster forbidding trespass on the Marsh; such modesty on the part of the syndicate would melt the heart of a stone.

Trespass on the Marsh! O, my country! Will the modern Neros allow us to creep past the Marsh on our hands and knees? It is said that they intend to employ a game keeper who will pour all the terror of the law on the head of the unfortunate who may be found on the Marsh or Swamp.

Their bark is perhaps worst than their bite, they may bark away but if ever they attempt to bite we will extract every tooth they have and give them a free and permanent pass to their grab-all home in Toronto

There may be localities where the good natured, broad backed, easily ridden community will smile when they are sat upon, but he that imposes on this community will find he has caught a Tarter."

## Cemetery directors planing for expansion of Pine Grove cemetery

*North Ontario Observer, October 9, 1890*

The old cemetery grounds here are quite large enough to furnish all the burying accommodation that will be required for the next fifty years, but from some freak or another, the directors of the company are seeking to add four and a half acres to the present cemetery, while the fact is the cemetery as it now stands contains more unoccupied ground than will be required for burial purposes for the next half century.

The law provides that no addition can be made to a cemetery if any portion of the said addition be within two hundred yards of any dwelling unless the owner of said dwelling gives his consent to said additions.

The Board of Directors know that there are several

dwelling within one hundred yards of the proposed addition, and in the face of the law they are impudently going on with their other addition. What do they care for other peoples comfort if they can carry on their whims. The drain of the proposed addition is directly towards the dwellings referred to and if used for cemetery purposes will endanger the heath and greatly annoy the inhabitants of said village.

Were the owners of this contiguous dwelling so silly as permit the extension of the cemetery to their door steps the local Board of Health would be neglectful of their duty.

## Dangerous ruins at site of fire

*North Ontario Observer, October 23, 1890*

Here in Prince Albert, no sidewalk has yet been laid around the dismal ruins of the Anglo-American hotel, caused by our late fire. The two yawning gulfs, cellars of burned buildings, gap in mockery at the passers-by. The one is a tidy cellar, the other is a bottomless pit.

Near to these included in the ruins is a now forsake burial ground whose fences are the sacrilegious flames destroyed and left naked to the public gaze and the unsanitized roaming of cattle

The few white-robed rentals which kept silent watch over the precious dust of the long, long departed ones, look out reproachfully on the villagers, who thus permit their quiet rest to be exposed and desecrated.

We are told that our path-master has sufficient funds belonging to the division to purchase the necessary boards and nails for the necessary sidewalks. Then why should this scene of desolation be allowed to remain a single day longer?



*Norman F. Paterson's home at North and Lilla Street.*

## Paterson's home destroyed by fire

*North Ontario Observer: November 6, 1890*

On the morning of Tuesday last, 4th inst., Port Perry was again visited by the unwelcome intruder, fire, by which the palatial residence of Mr. Norman F. Paterson, Q.C., on North Street, was burned to the ground. The fire originated outside the northern addition. It was discovered about 3:30 by a party coming to town for medical aid. He drove directly to the burning building and gave the alarm.

The fire brigade was soon at the scene and on short notice had a stream of water directed where it would effect the most good and very soon had the flames under contra. When it was ascertained that the water tanks

within reach were exhausted so that the services of the engine could not be made further available, and the fire soon advance so far that nothing could be done but save the contents. Willing hands zoomed to remove a large quantity of furniture, &c. We are not aware of the figure at which Mr. Paterson places his loss.

## Fire consumes house despite efforts of Port Perry's fire brigade

*North Ontario Observer: December 4, 1890*

Again on Monday last about nine o'clock the alarm bells were sounded, this time it was ascertained that the roof of Mr. Helmkey's residence, on Rosa Street, was in flames. Soon a large number congregated at the scene and in short order removed the contents of the building and fought the fire with pails of water.

But the flames had secured too good a hold of the building to be despatched by any such means; it was not till the steamer arrived that any perceptible diminution of the devouring element was observed, but she soon the fire under control and would have utterly annihilated it had not the water in the tank become exhausted.

Parties who had any doubt of the utility and efficiency of our steam fire engine, and witness her play with the fire on this occasion, so long as the water held out, will now doubtless disabuse their minds of any such doubt. She sent the water with such force as to literally rip the siding off the building. We venture assertion that no other town, or city, either in Canada has a superior steamer to ours.

The "Ronald" has no peer on this continent. Our steamer has already paid for herself more than 20 times over; she has on more than one occasion prevented the total destruction of the entire business portion of the town and we are fortunate in being possessed of so valuable fire extinguisher.

Our excellent Fire Brigade worked like heroes and did everything possible to save Mr. Helmkey's property, but their efforts were almost fruitless owing to the insufficient supply of water.

## Scugog and Cartwright roadway

*North Ontario Observer: December, 1890*

The following is a statement of the particulars in connection with the building of the roadway between the Township of Scugog and the Township of Cartwright over the water and marsh land separating these two townships, the former of which has always been known as Scugog Island.

In the spring of the year there is from one to three feet of water over the marsh permitting small boats to pass over it. During the summer the water subsides to about a level with the marsh. Formerly more or less timber grew on this marsh but the building of locks at Lindsay for the improvement of the navigation of Lake Scugog and river is the cause of this overflow which rendered the construction of the new roadway much more expensive than it otherwise would have been.

This roadway has been talked of as a most desirable object to be accomplished for the past twenty years, the completion of which would accommodate a large section of country and the best evidence of its necessity is the liberal subscriptions given in aid of the work.

The bridge or roadway from Scugog Island to Port Perry, thoroughly about half the length of the proposed roadway, and built by the County of Ontario, is said to have cost about \$25,000. These facts embark in the work, or the promoters of the proposed undertaking, who however, came to the conclusion if it was not commenced it would never be finished.

In order to carry on the work a company was formed under the General Road Companies' Act to obtain a legal standing.

## Reverend drops dead on street

*North Ontario Observer: December 25, 1890*

On Monday last, this whole community was plunged into the deepest sorrow on learning that Rev.

Dr. John Carry, the worthy and esteemed incumbent of the church of the Ascension here, had dropped dead while walking along the street.



*Rev. Dr. John Carry.*

About 1:30 o'clock, on Monday 22nd inst., Rev. Dr. Carry while passing along the street on his way to administer the Sacrament to a dying aged lady, one of his parishioners, he dropped dead on the way. The body was immediately cared for, medical aid summoned, but heart disease had done its work,

the doctor had expired as he fell to the ground.

We have known him well during the ten years in which he has been pastor of the Church of Ascension here. As a townsman he was exemplary, hospitable and kind and was highly esteemed for his genuine worth.

## ~ 1891 ~

### Beatty vs Davis re: Scugog Marsh.

*Toronto Globe: January 5, 1891*

Judgement in action tried at Whitby. Action by S.G. Beatty of Toronto against John W. Davis and Jonathan Blong of Port Perry to restrain the defendants from trespassing upon lands owned by the plaintiff, being part of the Scugog Marsh, in the Township of Reach, and from infringing his right of sporting in upon and over the same, and for damages and for the value of ducks shot by defendants on the plaintiffs lands.

The chancellor lays it down as a general rule that ownership of land or water (though not enclosed) gives to the proprietor the sole and exclusive right to fish, fowl, hunt or shoot within the precincts of that private property.

The custom relied upon of person or the public going to shoot and fish in that locality year after year does not afford any defense in law against the private rights of the owner Judgement for the plaintiffs.

### Remnants of fire are unsightly

*North Ontario Observer: January 8, 1891*

The recently burned property in Prince Albert still lies exposed in its black and ruined desolation. The owners of the property ought to be obliged to fence it. It is neither safe nor sightly and if the property is worth anything it is

certainly worth fencing.

In any event it should be fenced as well for the safety of the public as the appearance of the locality. But whatever else is done common decency demands that the little burial ground, which now lies posed and unprotected, be carefully enclosed to protect the silent graves of the sleepers from the sacrilegious gaze, or tramp of man, or beast.

Let not our otherwise intelligent and enterprising village appear as the residence of vandals.

### Rink a popular winter enterprise

*North Ontario Observer: January 29, 1891*

The Port Perry Rink has so far the present season proved highly successful, as well for numbers in attendance, the pleasure of the entertainments and the capital order maintained throughout.

The large number of ladies and gentlemen who patronize the rink speaks highly of the enterprise of Mr. William Spence, who thus furnishes a means of healthful, enjoyable recreation in a season when such recreation is most needed.

The Carnival on Friday evening last was a complete success. The Citizens' Band furnished an abundance of excellent and appropriate music.

### Generous gift helps church debt

*North Ontario Observer: January 29, 1891*

A debt of nearly \$4,000 hung like an incubus over the Port Perry Methodist Church and created a feeling of uneasiness and discontent. The congregation was willing, but scarcely able to grapple so large an amount, when a gentleman belonging to the congregation, Mr. Aaron Ross, Esq., came forward and offered \$1,500 toward paying off the debt on condition that balance be made up at once.

The worthy Pastor, on being informed of the gentleman's generous offer, started out at once on a canvass and within five days succeeded in raising the required amount and thus wiped off every dollar of debt of the church, which is now free and clear from all encumbrances.

### Scugog Cartwright road progress

*North Ontario Observer: February 12, 1891*

A recent trip along the Scugog Cartwright Roadway convinced us more than ever before of the importance and future usefulness of the road as a valuable channel of trade between Port Perry and the township east of it.

The very fine, extensive farms of choice land, well appointed and magnificently stocked, offered a legitimate inducement to the people of Port Perry, to seek a shorter and more direct route to the prosperous farmers to the east in Cartwright.

At the same time the sum paid by the township of Cartwright to secure the road will be found to be a profitable investment, inasmuch as it gives them easy access to a first-class market for all they wish to buy or sell.

The road when properly completed may be kept in order at a small cost. As far as the fencing goes it is simply a burlesque and if meant for any use of it will have to be done over again. The roadway is fairly well built, and all



*The Scugog-Cartwright roadway about 1900.*

may be completed for five or six hundred dollars.

This road will prove a lasting monument of the unflinching energy and indomitable perseverance of Mr. Joseph Bigelow. Many years hence, when that gentleman shall have passed away, the Scugog Cartwright Road will remain a lasting monument of his indefatigable energy and good judgement.

## Good bass fishing in Lake Scugog

*North Ontario Observer: March 19, 1891*

The catch of bass in Lake Scugog during the past few days has been something extraordinary. Mr. Martin Luther Crandell caught 40 in one day; the following day he secured 150 pounds of these fine fish, a number of which tipped the scales at six pounds each.

Other amateur fishermen have been almost equally successful. Among the lucky ones were Messrs. Luzerne Savage, Arthur Sawyer, W. Quackenbush, J. Ewers and Prof. Coomb. The fish find a ready sale at good prices and are in much demand in Toronto and other cities. Scugog bass at this season of the year are not surpassed by any fish on the market.

## New firm will open in Currie Block

*North Ontario Observer: April 2, 1891*

The people of Port Perry and surrounding municipalities are to be congratulated on the fact that a new enterprising dry goods firm are about to open business in the Currie Block, which they have leased. The block is one of the best, most attractive and desirable buildings to be found anywhere else in the county.

The new firm of Brown, Waite & Co. will be quite an acquisition to our business community. Mr. Thomas Waite, the junior partner of the firm requires no recommendation from us, he is one of our best known and most popular merchants and is quite a favorite as well with customers as with the general public.

## Plans to re-establish Central Fair

*North Ontario Observer: April 9, 1891*

The attendance at the public meeting called by Reeve Joshua Wright, held in the Town Hall on Monday afternoon was not large. The object was the consideration of the action to be taken regarding the re-establishing of a Central Fair in Port Perry.

After due consideration a committee was formed to

a canvass for subscriptions and ascertain the prospect of forming a Stock Company to purchase the Central Fair property, and report at their earliest convenience. This fine property can be secured for about \$5,000.

## Council agrees to mill tax break

*North Ontario Observer: April 9, 1891*

At the regular meeting of the Port Perry Council on Monday evening last, Mr. James Carnegie came before council. He proposed adding steel rollers, at a cost of about \$5,000, to his Flouring Mill, believing it would be beneficial to the entire community and it might prove remunerative to himself; however he came in order to ascertain what encouragement he might expect from the corporation.

He made a proposition that the machinery of the mill might be exempted from taxation for ten years and that the building be assessed at a nominal figure, say \$500 a year. Should council feel justified in giving him encouragement to that extent he would endeavour to equip his flouring mill in such a manner that all would be proud of it.

Mr. Wm. Ross moves that council grant Mr. Carnegie's request and the Clerk was instructed to prepare a by-law embracing the condition set forth in this resolution.

## Early closing of stores on Saturdays

*Whitby Chronicle: May 24, 1891*

There is a movement on foot among our citizens to persuade our merchants and business men to close their places of business on Saturday nights promptly at 9 o'clock. It is to be hoped something will come out of this talk, as it is not fair to the merchants, their clerks and especially those who deliver parcels for them to have to violate the Sabbath and can't help themselves.

I have heard some of our merchants say they have known many persons to walk up and down the street until two o'clock and then order their supplies for Sunday and the coming week, and ask to have them delivered that night.

Messrs. Jones & Co., William Brock, and Ross & Sons have signified their willingness to close at 9 o'clock. The others will be approached this week. If people would only think so and act promptly, all shopping could be done on Saturdays in good time, but as long as stores are open there are those who will shop even if they were kept open until midnight.

## Whiskey seems to make man crazy

*Whitby Chronicle: May 24, 1891*

The town council and authorities seem determined to be a terror to evil doers. On Thursday, 16th inst., a man from Cartwright got too much fire-water inside his stomach. The result was that it caused something to go wrong with the brain. The fellow got furious, the air around him being blue with curses and oaths.

Constable Powell took him in tow and laid a complaint against him before John Nott, J.P. for being drunk and disorderly. As a result the man was out nearly \$5 in fine and costs.

It is really too bad to see such men get liquor. When sober this man is a good citizen, but as soon as he gets

liquor he seems to get crazy drunk in a short time. He has a fine wife and interesting family, and is well connected.

The hotel men would confer a favour on not only the man but his family in refusing to give him any more liquor. Should he lose his life through being drunk whoever sold him liquor would be responsible for an action.

## McDermot new fishery inspector

*North Ontario Observer: June 11, 1891*

Our active and popular townsman, Mr. George B. McDermot, the vigilant Fishery Inspector for this district has just received from the government a valuable and suitable acknowledgement of his efficiency and success as inspector, by appointing him Fishery Inspector for the Province of Ontario.

This is an important appointment and we congratulate the Department on the wisdom of their choice. Mr. McDermot is worthy of the appointment and has proved himself an efficient and reliable officer. The fishery interests will be safe in his hands.

## Man drowns falling from boat

*North Ontario Observer: June 18, 1891*

The town was thrown into a state of excitement on the evening of Thursday last, on learning that one of our townsmen, James Donaldson, had got drowned in the Scugog. Donaldson had built a small boat on strictly anti-capsize principles and took it to the Scugog to test its floating capacity and in testing its capacity in resisting capsize, he lost his own balance and went over.

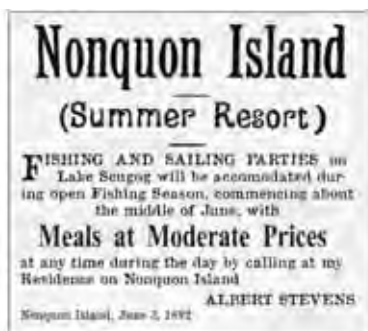
His cries for help were heard and parties went to the rescue but life was extinct before they found the man. Thanks to the energy of Mr. John McKenzie, gamekeeper of the Lake Scugog Game Preserve Company, deceased was found within a comparatively short time after he had got into the water.

Deceased stood deservedly high as a skilled workman, occupying a foremost position as a carpenter and joiner and was much sought after by parties who desired specially good work done in the carpenter line.

## Open season for fishing on Scugog

*North Ontario Observer: June 18, 1891*

The open season for bass and maskinonge commenced on Tuesday last and that portion of Lake Scugog, in the vicinity of Port Perry, on that day fairly swarmed with fishing parties, many arriving the day before from long distances in order to be thoroughly prepared for an early start on opening day.



*Nonquon Island advertisement, 1892*

Philadelphia, New York and Toronto were represented, beside large numbers of Whitby, Uxbridge and other places. The catch during the day was not large, but most of the parties succeeded in capturing some of the much sought after prizes.

Mr. A. Bandel's party was the most successful, they secured 18 bass and eight lunge, while others secured a fair catch. The Toronto party were principally composed of member of the Lake Scugog Game Preserve Co. Mr. Samuel Beatty, of Toronto, made the largest catch of the day, 32 bass and 1 lunge. Mr. A. Bandel, of Whitby, succeeded in capturing the largest fish, an 18 pounder; Mr. Parkin of Port Perry came next with a 15 pounder.

The portion of the lake just off Mr. Albert Stevens' Nonquon Island proved the most prolific, large catches were made there.

## Nonquon Island great fishing area

*North Ontario Observer: June 25, 1891*

Two guests of Mr. Albert Stevens' now famous fishing resort, Nonquon Island, Messrs. Samuel Beatty and A. Mitchell of Toronto, while out fishing for a couple of days the present week, succeeded in capturing 150 lbs. of maskinonge and bass. They were full of glee and had a most enjoyable time and returned with a fine lot of fish.

The "champion fishing grounds" of Scugog are without doubt in the vicinity of Nonquon Island. the Toronto gentlemen and all others visiting Mr. Stevens' island are delighted with the treatment they receive and are anxious to return. It would be difficult to find a more picturesque and enjoyable fishing ground than the Scugog and parties knowing how to fish need never complain of success.



*Crandella steamship on an excursion cruise.*

## New Crandella steamship excursion

*North Ontario Observer: July 30, 1891*

The Prince Albert Sunday School is getting up an excursion which is expected to be the excursion of the season. The management have, in order to provide an abundance of accommodation for the large numbers who will doubtless take part, chartered that commodious and magnificent steamer *Crandella*, the largest and swiftest on these waters.

She will leave the wharf, Port Perry, on Wednesday next, 5th August, at 8:45 a.m. for Washburn Island and expected to make the trip in one hour and thirty minutes - returning will leave the island at 5:30 p.m.

The *Crandella* is fitted up expressly for excursion parties

and is provided with a first-class piano. The management extend a hearty welcome to all.

## Prince Albert won't give up name

*North Ontario Observer: August 6, 1891*

The meeting held in the Prince Albert Public Hall was quite an affair, and the village fathers were out in good force. Mr. John Heard was in the chair.

The suggestion of a change of name for the village of Prince Albert, was originated with the Post Office Department, with a view of avoiding the confusion caused by two villages of the same name.

The fathers felt if a change is necessary, why not change the name of the upstart town in the North West (Saskatchewan) and let our dear Prince Albert retain a name it has held so long.

## Cemetery company butchers village

*North Ontario Observer: August 6, 1891*

It is not to be wondered that outsiders should suppose that they can cut and carve Prince Albert, at their will, when its own people stand by in cold indifference and see the village butchered by an insolent Pine Grove Cemetery Company. With criminal carelessness the villagers stood by and witnessed that Company expropriate a valuable portion of the village and add it to their Cemetery, while the cemetery required no such addition.

Thus for all time to come adding to the taxes of the School Section as well as of the general ratepayers of the township. The transaction is both illegal and unjust but the easily ridden inhabitants stood by with folded hands and let it pass.

Parties who allow the village to be cut up to suit the whims of an overbearing Cemetery may easily be expected to allow the name to be changed or taken away altogether and leave the village nameless. We would suggest to the village mutilators to call what is left of it "Necropolis" (City of the Dead).

## Carnegie Union Mill in full blast

*North Ontario Observer: September 2, 1891*

The village of Port Perry and its surroundings are fortunate to have located in their midst so worthy a representative of thoroughly intelligent enterprise and well directed perseverance as Mr. James Carnegie, proprietor of Union Mills. Since Mr. Carnegie took possession of the mill, the progress has been steadily upwards and now through exertion and very liberal expenditure, his whole establishment is unsurpassed by an establishment in the province.

He has just put in a magnificent new steam engine of 100 horsepower, and had the roller process put into his flour mill which will now turn out 75 barrels per day of the very best quality of roller process flour.

The community at large have every reason to thank Mr. Carnegie for establishing so important an enterprise in our midst and all wish him abundant success. His door and sash factory, planing mill and flouting mill are now in full blast.

## New elevator near railway station.

*North Ontario Observer: September 24, 1891*

With a view to the prompt and satisfactory handling of



*Grain elevator just south of the railway station.*

the enormous quantity of choice grain now in the hands of the farmers in this section of country largely increased facilities are being prepared here.

Mr. Joshua Wright, reeve of the municipality, believing that the interests of the farmers and also of the town require a largely extended and greatly vitalized grain market at Port Perry, comes nobly forward with both money and energy to so increase the buying facilities of our grain market, that all having grain to sell will find at Port Perry.

He is having his extensive premises near the railway station, fitted up as an elevator and grain storehouse for the proper and expeditious handling of all grain that may be offered. Mr. Wright's facilities for shipping will be all that could be wished for, he is near the main line of railway and has a switch from the elevator to the main line.

Parties having grain to sell will find Port Perry to be one of the most satisfactory markets in the province. Opposition is the life of trade and with three separate buyers we shall have it here good and strong. In so greatly extending our grain market Mr. Wright is doing a good work for those who have grain to sell and is also doing much for the benefit of the town and deserves the thanks and countenance of the community.

The construction is being made on the most solid and improved plans and neither labor nor money will be spared in making the Wright elevator all that it ought to be. All wish him that success which generous liberality and indefatigable enterprise deserve. The work of construction being in the hands of our expert townsman George Walling, is a sufficient guarantee for the stability and superiority of the construction.

At a special meeting of Port Perry council, Mr. John Nott introduced and carried a by-law exempting from taxation for a term of ten years, all expense incurred for the necessary improvements that Mr. Wright may put into converting his large building on Water Street into an elevator.

## Manchester Church re-opening

*North Ontario Observer: October 15, 1891*

The Manchester Church, which has under-gone a complete overhaul and extensive, permanent and judicious repairs, will be re-opened for worship on Sunday next.

The opening services will be held on Sunday and Monday 18th and 19th inst., and every necessary repartition has been made to make the occasion worthy



of the noble object the re-opening of the House of God. An intelligent public will gladly take part in so enabling services.

## Letters, stamps stolen at post office

*North Ontario Observer: October 15, 1891*

The comfortable village of Prince Albert, was insulted on the night of the 9th inst., by the presence of a thievishly inclined rascal who burglarized the post office by cutting a panel out of the front door and entering the premises stole every letter in the office. He may have secured some stamps but not many.

He must have been a fool as well as a thief or he would not have intensified his guilt by stealing common letters, not worth a cent a bushel to him. He also ransacked the adjoining grocery but with the exception of a quantity of tobacco the proprietor cannot state what else was taken.

## Fire Returns to Port Perry in 1891

*North Ontario Observer: October 22, 1891*

Once again, on October 22, 1891, residents of the town were awakened in the middle of the night by the dreadful clatter of the fire bell when a huge blaze was discovered underway in the heart of downtown.

The flames had already made themselves visible through the roof at the rear of the Laing & Meharry hardware store. All the buildings were new brick structures, which had fortunately been built with fire walls, and the fire was brought under control by 4 a.m. due to the extraordinary efforts of the local fire company and its excellent fire engine, which poured tons of water onto the blaze. Laing & Meharry's establishment was completely gutted and their stock completely destroyed.

Mr. Allison's Block west of the burned building was damaged to quite an extent.

Aaron Ross & Sons costly and handsome new block was threatened, but had little damage.



*Haggerman's store at corner in Manchester.*

## Thieves break into Haggerman's

*North Ontario Observer: November 5, 1891*

There are some parties around whose supreme contempt for the eighth commandment of the decalogue leads them to substitute the burglar's creed, "Let him take who has the power and let him keep who can."

It appears that Manchester, the "Capital of Reach," had a visit from one or more of these loose fish on the night of Thursday of last week. Here they put their thievish

propensities in practice by breaking into Mr. Deforest Hagerman's General Store there and stealing there from some \$40 or \$50 dollars worth of choice underclothing, boots, shoes, gloves and other winter comforts.

A raid was also made on the post office, on the same premises as the store, but literature did not appear to have much attraction for the raiders who satisfied themselves with burning one or more letters to assist them in their search for plunder.

The same or some other party equally honest, visited Mr. Edward Purdy's grocery and feed store, Port Perry, on Sunday last. They effected an entrance by cutting a large pane out of a front window. They must have been scared off, for they carried little away. They cleared the till of its contents and appropriated a quantity of canned goods.

## Increasing the business capacity

*North Ontario Observer: November 5, 1891*

The completion of Joshua Wright's new elevator near the railway station here marks an important era in the extension of the business capacity of Port Perry as a grain buying centre and Mr. Wright is worthy of commendation for his indomitable courage and business daring in going into so costly an undertaking in order to enlarge the facilities of Port Perry as a grain market.

In future this town will possess two grain elevators in place of one, and will doubtless far more than double the amount of its grain business. Opposition is held to be the life of trade and when there is no opposition the life of the market languishes and the public generally fight shy of these markets where there is no opposition.

One horse markets are neither favorable to buyers or sellers. Where there is only one buyer, if he were an angel, sellers would scarcely have confidence that he would give the highest price the market would warrant and they would go to a greater distance to find a market where there is opposition.

Now Wright's elevator removes this objection by supplying a lively competition in the purchase of grain, and while neither buyer is so foolish as pay more than the fair market price, sellers may feel assured that they will receive the very highest price that can be given and parties having grain to sell will find it to their advantage to bring it all to the Port Perry market, where they will be promptly paid the very highest possible price for every bushel they bring in. Farmers will find the Port Perry market most satisfactory in every particular, a first class market to sell in and no less satisfactory to buy in.

~ 1892 ~

## Pine Grove Cemetery meeting

*North Ontario Observer: January 22, 1892*

The annual General Meeting of the Pine Grove Cemetery Company was held in the Town Hall, Port Perry on Monday 18th inst. The president took the chair and the minutes of the last annual General Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Secretary read his report for the past year. He referred to his long connection with the Company as

its secretary, for ten successive years he had held the office of Secretary and had performed the duties of the office to the best of his ability and now had pleasure in congratulating the Company on the highly satisfactory condition of its affairs.

The caretaker read his report showing the number of interments during the year was 47, and three re-interments.

## Renew insurance on Town Hall

*North Ontario Observer: February 13, 1892*

The regular meeting of the Port Perry Council was held on Monday evening with all members present. Of the items discussed was a motion put forth by Mr. Aaron Ross. The insurance on the Town Hall furnishings and hose tower was ordered to be renewed, for three years, at the same rate as now paid.

And that the insurance of \$2,500 on the Town Hall building in the London Mutual was transferred to the Economical Company for the same amount and same rate.

## Manchester Cheese factory erected

*North Ontario Observer: March 10, 1892*

There is no other Department of the Dairy of our country which can be one moment compared in extent and importance with the cheese industry.

We are much pleased to notice the rapid progress being made toward the erection of George Howson's Cheese Factory at Manchester. The new venture has every promise of success. It will be built on the newest and most approved principles, the proprietors have a thorough knowledge of every department of the work and possess all the necessary facilities for running it to perfection. But a generous supply of good milk is essential, and the surrounding farmers are good for that.

A meeting of the patrons and others interested will be held at the Town Hall, Manchester, on Friday, 18th inst., when the election of officers and other business will be transacted.

## German measles break out

*Whitby Chronicle: March 18, 1892*

The German measles which have been epidemic in Toronto for a few weeks past have struck Uxbridge and we understand one or two cases have broken out in Port Perry during the past week. They are said to be much worse than the ordinary old fashioned measles.

## Ackerman moves to Peterborough

*Whitby Chronicle: March 18, 1892*

Mr. Benjamin F. Ackerman caused a sensation in town this last week by announcing his intention of removing his wholesale saddlery business from here to Peterborough.

The principle cause which led him to this decision is the want of better railway accommodation in the shipping of goods by freight to customers. The lack of competition at this point in this matter allows the G.T.R. to be negligent at times and local shippers are put to great disadvantage and inconvenience thereby.

Mr. Ackerman also states that his business has grown so, of late, that he finds his present premises do not afford

sufficient accommodation for him, and that he cannot fill orders as they come in. He moves the first of May and will take all the men with him that can go, who with their families will add about fifty to the population of Peterborough. By his removal Port Perry suffers a serious loss that it will not recover from for some time.

## Lake level dangerously low

*Whitby Chronicle: March 18, 1892*

At council Monday evening council had to deal with an important question relative to the welfare of the town.

The issue dealt with the waters of Lake Scugog, brought forward by Messrs. John Dundas & Sadler, who reported the level of the water has dropped below the top of the dam at the locks at Lindsay, thereby impeding navigation and endangering public health.

All the Port Perry council require to remedy this evil is to follow up the move they made Monday evening. Don't let the matter drop with simply writing the Dominion Government once, but keep to the correspondence until some tangible action has been taken by the government to compel Messrs. Dundas & Sadler to cease using the water after the level of the dam has been reached.

## Man in sleigh forced off road

*North Ontario Observer: March 24, 1892*

Some few evenings ago a gentleman was driving in a cutter along the 11th concession, Reach and was met by a young man driving rapidly, a span of horses and an empty sleigh on which was a heavy rack. The driver of the cutter gave all the road he could owing to the deep snow.

The driver of the sleigh gave no part of the road whatever, or slackened his speed, the result was the driver of the cutter was badly hurt and disabled for several days and also his horse, the cutter was torn to pieces and rendered useless. An action for damages was tried at Uxbridge, but the driver of the cutter could not properly identify the man that drove the sleigh and lost the case.

## Two men drowned in Lake Scugog

*North Ontario Observer: May 12, 1892*

It becomes our painful duty to record one of the most serious calamities that for many, many years has befallen Port Perry. On the morning of Friday last the steamer *Stranger*, the property of Mr. James Carnegie, proprietor of the Roller Flouring Mills and Planing Factory here, sailed for Lindsay. Two of our active and intelligent young men, James Carnegie, eldest son of the proprietor of the boat, aged 20 years, and James H. Roberts, eldest son of Mr. Humphrey Robert, aged 21 years, went aboard the steamer.

When the steamer, on her return from Lindsay on Saturday, arrived at Washburn Island the young men went into a canoe to have a spin to Caesarea with the intention of returning to the island in time to catch the steamer on her return to Port Perry. But when the steamer was ready to return the young men were not back and an alarm was at once raised lest the parties had got lost.

It was found that they left Caesarea in time to catch the boat and it was at once concluded that the parties had gone down.

The steamer arrived here late on Saturday night and the

greatest alarm was created when it became known that the young men were lost. An active search for the bodies was at once instituted, but notwithstanding the active search from several steamers, small boats, &c., the bodies were not recovered till Monday evening.

## Reeve injured in elevator accident

*North Ontario Observer: May 19, 1892*

Mr. Joshua Wright, the energetic and estimable Reeve of the town, met with a painful and dangerous accident on the afternoon of Thursday of last week. Mr. Wright is ambitious, energetic and industrious and at the time of the accident was busily engaged in his grain elevator shipping some three or four thousand bushels of wheat.

While the elevator was running, one of his feet slipped, and getting caught in the conveyer he was carried up by the foot which got so fast as to cause the wire cable to slip on the pulley. The sufferer hung thus suspended by the foot for several minutes till some person happened to go into the elevator and seeing the state of things at once got the sufferer extricated from his perilous position.

Surgical skill was at once secured and on examination the foot was found to be terribly bruised and lacerated. All that skill could do was done and the sufferer was removed to his home.

Mr. Wright has a capital nerve and bears up without murmuring but it is a serious matter and the whole community express anxiety as to the result, all wish to see our esteemed townsman soon going around amongst us with his usual activity. All sincerely desire his speedy and complete recovery but it is yet too soon to predict the result.



*Joshua Wright*

## Fence between villages unsightly

*North Ontario Observer: May 26, 1892*

The extensive wire fence along the south side of the road between Prince Albert and Manchester when nicely completed will prove not alone an ornament but a great convenience to that road, inasmuch, as it will, to a very great extent, prevent the annual snowdrifts which accumulate on that road and impede traffic.

If the north side of the road were properly fenced it would add greatly to the appearance of the road, but that fence as it now stands would spoil the appearance of any road. Fences clinging to unsightly triangles or unsightly rail fences with stakes as long as the moral law with one end sticking in the ground and the other resting on the moon is only a waste of timber and looks like sin.

There is timber enough in the rail portion of the fence, if properly distributed, to fence both sides of the road from Prince Albert to Utica. A little labor and small expense would make that fence both ornamental and useful, and add greatly to the appearance of the road between the villages.

## Barn raising for James Munro

*North Ontario Observer: June 2, 1892*

We had a most enjoyable time on Thursday last at a

barn raising on the farm of Mr. James Munro, 12th con, Reach. The frame was large and heavy and required both strength and skill to handle it, but Mr. Munro, the worthy second deputy reeve of Reach, is highly popular in the section in which he resides, and about 100 stalwart men turned out at his call for help.

The hands, took sides and they made the timbers fly, the raising went on like clock work, everything fitting like a charm, without stop or hindrance, highly creditable to the skill of the builder and the well directed efforts of the army of raisers. From the dimensions and plan of the frame, a large and magnificent barn may be expected, creditable alike to the skill of the builder and the proprietor, it will prove an ornament to that section of country.

After the raising Mr. Munro invited all present to supper in the church shed. Here Mr. Munro and a numerous staff of fair assistants welcomed the guests to a highly suitable supper. All were greatly satisfied with the days proceedings. Mr. Miller, the contractor, expressed much satisfaction with the work of the raisers and the general proceedings of the day.

## Vickery goes into coal business

*North Ontario Observer: June 9, 1892*

Our enterprising lumber and wood merchant, Mr. Charles L. Vickery, is adding an important branch to his business by going into the coal trade. He is now erecting a large and commodious shed in order to keep constantly on hand for sale, a large supply of the best and cheapest coal. Mr. Vickery gave general satisfaction in his lumber and wood business and will make the coal business a success.



*Charles L. Vickery.*

## Dominion Day plans for Port Perry

*North Ontario Observer: June 9, 1892*

Port Perry is putting forth a generous, united and it is to be hoped successful effort to celebrate Canada's birthday in a manner worthy of our country's prospects and the intelligence of the community whom we wish to bring together to help us to make the celebration all that it ought to be.

We take the liberty of the town as a whole to offer a cordial and pressing invitation to come to Port Perry on July 1st, Dominion Day, and have a grand celebration. The attractions will be of the right sort and lots of them, we will make all visitors heartily welcome, and will strive to make them comfortable.

The beautiful and extensive grounds will offer every facility for witnessing with comfort everything that transpires and a glance at the posters will show that the bill of fare is a generous one and that lots of enjoyment are being secured for comers. A big effort is being forth.

Money nor effort is being spared by the management but the complete success very much depends on the presence of outsiders, and as a rule outsiders generously patronize the Port in her celebrations, and we expect that on this occasion they will honour us with even a more numerous turnout than usual.

## Oshawa man lands 32 lb. musky

*North Ontario Observer: June 23, 1892*

That Lake Scugog is one of the best, if not the very best fishing ground in the province appears obvious from the success of the numerous parties who frequent that resort.

Messrs. Samuel Beatty, and W.B. Stewart, Toronto, were the first to "catch the limit" the present season on the waters of the Scugog.

During their stay, the past three days, they were guests of Mr. Albert Stevens, Nonquon Island, and it was on the celebrated fishing grounds just off his island where these gentlemen were so successful in securing so large a take. They speak in glowing terms of the grand sport they had and of the royal style in which they were entertained at Mr. Stevens' island resort.

S.A. Flumerfelt, Esq., the worthy reeve of Uxbridge township, and Mr. Davies of the same township, assisted by Mr. Geo. Cameron of our town were out on Monday for a couple of hours trolling, and had great success. They caught 19 maskinonge, one of which weighed over 18 pounds.

On Monday last, Mr. Gardiner, foreman of the Malleable Iron Works, Oshawa, landed a 32 pound maskinonge. He was of a party from that town that were successful in securing big string. Mr. John Wilson of Port Perry was out for a few minutes on Tuesday and captured a 17-pounder.

## Crandella struck by lightning

*North Ontario Observer: July 21, 1892*

The severe storm which visited this section of country doing a large amount of damage let its power be felt on Sturgeon Lake. About 5 p.m. the steamer *Crandella* was on her return trip from Fenelon Falls to Lindsay with a large excursion party under the auspices of the Church of England and Baptist Church of that town.

The staunch craft was steaming gaily along when all at once she was struck by a lightning flash and a terrific squall at the same time which carried away the greater portion of the hurricane deck on the starboard side exposing a large number of the passengers to the pelting rain storm.

The more timid of the excursionists were greatly excited, but on the assurance of the officers of the steamer that she was perfectly reliable and that there was, really no danger, the excitement soon calmed down and in due time all landed in safety.

## Nonquon a sportsman's home

*North Ontario Observer: July 28, 1892*

Mr. Albert Stevens, the energetic proprietor of the "Sportsman's Home," on Nonquon Island, Lake Scugog, is being rewarded for his enterprise in providing suitable and comfortable accommodations for all visitors wishing to enjoy the sport of fishing and shooting in their seasons on Lake Scugog.

Lake Scugog is admittedly one of the very best fishing and shooting locations in the Province. Mr. Stevens, being aware of this fact, built a comfortable residence on Nonquon Island where he can accommodate comfortably shooting or fishing parties.

The best proof of the success of Mr. Stevens' venture is that his premises are fully occupied by guests who come



*Albert Stevens' "Sportsman's Home".*

to seek the pleasures of a transitory rural home with the enjoyment of shooting or fishing. Mr. Stevens finds it necessary to build an addition to his present premises, Well done for the "Sportsman's Home".

## Fire levels Wright's grain elevator

*North Ontario Observer: August 4, 1892*

There are few places in the province in which there are as many fires to the square mile as there are in Port Perry and when we have fires they are blazers. The destruction of Mr. Joshua Wright's elevator on Tuesday last was another scorcher.

At 10 o'clock on that morning the busy, industrious villagers were engaged in their ordinary business without the slightest suspicion that the fire fiend was lurking in our midst. Within a few minutes after the discordant and unwelcome sounds of the fire bell, broke over this nest of industry and brought the people to the streets.

Already there was no difficulty in locating the devourer for thick volumes of smoke mingled with the incipient flame, were seen issuing from Mr. Wright's elevator and the doomed structure was soon surrounded by an active host ready to do anything to save the property, but nothing could be done. Within a very few minutes after the alarm was given the fire had the complete mastery of the premises the building was full of smoke and flame.

Our faithful and vigilant fireman were promptly on hand but the fire was too rapid for firemen or any other power when first its existences was known. Water was supplied and the men showed what they could do by confining the destroyer to the building in which it originated, had it been allowed to spread the disaster would have been terrible.

## Home, barn completely destroyed

*North Ontario Observer: September 1, 1892*

The assets of our comfortable but not over wealthy village were reduced last week by somewhere about \$1,200. This was accomplished by a fire which attacked our northern border and which at one time looked as if it would swallow us all up.

About 2 a.m. on Friday last those sound which all dread (fire! fire!) were heard ringing over the village the location of the devourer was a simple matter for already the greedy flame was seen glittering through the Sharpe dwelling and volumes of smoke curling through the Brown barn a couple hundred yards to the northeast.

The two buildings burned with the greatest energy it would almost appear as if the devourer tried which he could soonest consume. Be that as it may within a couple of hours from the visible start, the Brown barn and its contents were reduced to awaking ruins and the Sharpe

residence was wiped entirely out, not a vestige of it remained.

Surrounding buildings had a pretty close call and parties dreading the worst, removed their furniture, but recent rains having thoroughly wet the roofs the surroundings were unharmed.

The origin of the fire is a mystery. There is one peculiar feature about mysterious fires, in such fires there is little salvage, people don't care about entering a building where the fire may cut off their retreat at any time.

## Spare the ducks and wild game

*North Ontario Observer: September 8, 1892*

Now that duck shooting is in full blast it will be well for the more hoggishly included not to try and kill them all, better leave a few for another year. The law bearing on this matter is both timely and judicious, here it is:

No person shall catch, kill or take more than 300 ducks during any one season.

No person shall kill or shoot at any bird or wild fowl, between sunset and sunrise.

No person shall, on the Lord's day hunt game, animals, or birds, or take, kill or destroy any game animals or birds or sue any gun or other engine for the purpose.

No person shall by himself, his clear, servant or agent, expose or keep for sale, or directly or indirectly upon any pretence or device, sell or barter, or in considerations of the purchase of any other property give to any other person, any quail, snipe, wild turkey, woodcock or partridge, no matter where killed or produced, for a period of two years from the passing thereof (i.e., 10th April, 1894)

No wild turkey shall be hunted, taken or killed at any time before the 15th day of October, 1897, and no beaver, otter, or fisher before the first day of November 1897.

## Powers to repair Town Hall roof

*North Ontario Observer: October 6, 1892*

The regular meeting of Port Perry council was held at the Town Hall on Monday evening last. The committee appointed to examine the necessary repairs required to be done to the town hall reported that they had instructed Mr. John Powers to purchase a barrel of pitch and barrel of of coal tar and give the roof of the hall two coats of the same. Also a good coat of sand.

That Mr. Charles Powers agrees to do a good job of the repairs for the sum of \$10, which terms the committee recommends he accepted.

## Reward of well directed enterprise

*North Ontario Observer: October 17, 1892*

The benefits conferred on a community by having established in their midst well directed, judiciously conducted manufactures cannot be over estimated, it is now admitted on all bands that vigorously conducted manufactures are the mainstay of the growth and prosperity of the community in whose midst they are established.

As a case in point take the firm of Courtice & Jeffrey, our extensive and popular harness manufacturers, whose reputation for first-class workmanship, superior material and honourable dealing, is thoroughly established

throughout this and the surrounding provinces, the result is that their business, wholesale and retail, for export and home consumption, is so extensive and still extending they are greatly enlarging their premises and adding to the number of their workmen, which means a largely increasing weekly pay list and more money spent in our groceries and stores.

All congratulate the enterprising firm on their business prosperity and their upward and onward progress.

To give some idea of a the immensity of their business, a few days ago they received by mail an order amounting to \$1,200 and frequently receives orders for, from 50 sets to 100 sets of harness.

## Curt's warehouse levelled by fire

*North Ontario Observer: November 10, 1892*

Yesterday morning about three o'clock the presence of the town's neterate and persistent enemy, fire, made its appearance in the Curts' block, Water Street. An alarm was at once sounded, the fire engine was promptly on hand, the villagers turned out in large numbers and all efforts were united but nothing could save the doomed building in which many thousands of dollars worth of butter and eggs were stored.

The building was a large and costly structure and used for preserving eggs and storing butter. Mr. Curts was from home at the time of the fire. The loss was heavy, the insurance is \$20,000. The cause of fire is unknown.

## Special meeting re: Curts fire

*North Ontario Observer: November 17, 1892*

All the members of Council present for a special meeting of Port Perry council in the Clerk's office on Thursday last, to consider the advisability of granting exemption from taxation certain property on Water street belonging to Mr. Joshua Curts, should he rebuild, on conditions to be agreed upon by both parties.

Mr. Curts position was submitted. Mr. Purdy moved that so far as this Council has power to grant "That Mr. J. W. Curts be granted exemption from taxation on his warehouse off Water street, over and above the sum of \$1,000 for the term of five years provided he build a Warehouse to the value of \$4,000. That he commence the erection of the building forthwith and have the same completed and begin business operations by Jan. 1, 1893, as per terms of his proposition to Council and that a by-law be introduced and passed in to formally herewith Carried.



*Reeve Joshua Curts home, Water and Scugog Streets.*

~ 1893 ~



*Osler Clubhouse on Hemlock Island.*

## New club house for syndicate

*North Ontario Observer: December 1, 1892*

The Scugog Game Preserve Syndicate are making preparations for the erection of a suitable club house on Hemlock Island, Scugog. It is to be a substantial structure 30 x-40 feet. The contract has been given to Mr. Charles Powers of this place.

## St. Charles adding new stables

*North Ontario Observer: December 1, 1892*

The liberality and good judgment of the proprietor of the St. Charles Hotel are greatly to be commended as showing a well directed enterprise and a proper desire for the comfort and convenience of his guests. The largely extended stable and shed accommodation cannot fail in largely increasing the business of that popular hotel.

## Nott's premises destroyed by fire

*North Ontario Observer: December 15, 1892*

The fabled "God of Fire" must have an inveterate hatred to Port Perry for his infernal visits to this town are more frequent and more disastrous than to any other town in the province of ten times the extent and population of Port Perry.

What is still more singular, the fire destroyer makes his attacks at times when fire should be least expected and in places where no fire should be, and "mysterious" is the popular verdict as to the origin of the fires.

Another of those mysterious fires occurred here on Friday morning last, which destroyed Mr. John Nott's premises. The buildings were wooden so the fire was short and sharp and bad, the whole thing cleaned off on short notice. The fire made its first appearance about 4 a.m. the alarm was promptly given and our vigilant firemen were as promptly on the spot, but even then the flames had the building fully in hand and the falls of Niagara could not have saved it, but the efforts of the firemen were energetically and successfully directed to saving more valuable adjacent properties.

Had it not been for the dash and well directed efforts of the firemen Port Perry would have had another big blaze. We learn that Mr. Nott's insurance amounts to \$1,150 of which \$850 was on stock and \$300 on building. Of course there was some salvage.

## Currie block damaged by fire

*North Ontario Observer, January 26, 1893*

On Tuesday evening shortly after 11 o'clock fire made its appearance in the Currie Block, corner of Queen and Perry Sts. An alarm was sounded and the fire company was soon on hand with the fire engine and in a very short time had the fire completely extinguished, not however before thousands of dollars worth of goods, clothing, &c., of Messrs. Brown, Waite & Co. had been completely ruined by fire, smoke and water.

Mr. Thomas J. Widden's extensive and choice stock of groceries, boots and shoes, &c., was also damaged to a very large extent by water and smoke.

## Splendid carnival at skating rink

*North Ontario Observer, January 26, 1893*

The carnival in the skating rink, Port Perry on Friday last, was a grand success in every particular. The costumes were splendid and the characters sustained with ease and grace which would do credit to professionals. There were many fine skaters present.

The town of Uxbridge was well represented, there being present about 50 from that place. The judges had considerable difficulty in placing the prizes, all were so deserving. Port Perry Band supplied an abundance of choice music.

## Port Perry Standard sold

*The Toronto Globe, Toronto. March 22, 1893*

Mr. Edward J. Mundy, son of Mr. Edward Mundy, editor and proprietor of the Oshawa Reformer, leaves today for Denver, Colorado, having disposed of The Port Perry Standard, of which he was editor and publisher.

The newspaper was sold to Messrs. Samuel M. and George H. Newton who published the Standard under the Newton Bros.

## Magnificent home razed by fire

*North Ontario Observer: March 9, 1893*

On the morning of Monday, February 28th, at about 4:30 a.m., the palatial residence of Dr. John H. Sangster, situated on the northern border of the village, was discovered to be on fire, and soon the whole structure



*Dr. J.H. Sangster's home, Port Perry.*



was enveloped in flames so that the building and contents were in a short time destroyed by the devouring element. Only a few articles were saved.

This was one of the most magnificent and best appointed residences in the province and was furnished in a manner rarely excelled anywhere. The loss is a heavy one, there being only insurance of \$3,500 on the building and \$3,000 on the contents.

## Mechanics' Institute re-opens

*Lindsay Watchman: April 13, 1893*

The Port Perry Mechanics' Institute, having secured well appointed rooms in the McCaw Block, Queen Street, held an "at home" on the occasion of the re-opening on the evening of Wednesday this week.

The attendance was large and much interest manifested in the proceeding which were of an intellectual order. The institute is highly prosperous, the membership being large and is constantly increase. The new books have been secured and are ready for distribution.

## Church remnants cleared from site

*North Ontario Observer: April 13, 1893*

Prince Albert, our pleasant, comfortable village still progresses in the most desirable directions for a community to advance, viz : on the path of social and intellectual progress. Our material advancement is neither slow nor uncertain. Thanks to the energy of our enterprising townsman, Mr. Mungo Weir, the old Presbyterian Church, which for many years has frowned on the progress of the village, has been cleared away from its foundations.

## Hotels getting new owners

*Lindsay Watchman: April 27, 1893*

Two of our three large and handsome hotels are changing proprietors. Mr. Louis Sebert, of Whitby, has already taken possession of the St. Charles, and Mr. D. Whitney, also from Whitby, will take possession of the Railroad Hotel next week.

Both are well appointed, suitable houses, and if conducted as they should be, will be found to be profitable investments. The late proprietor of the former means to rest for awhile, while that of the latter died a few days ago. Both houses were well conducted by the late proprietors.



*Railroad House hotel, Water Street, Port Perry.*

## Cheese factory will purchase whey

*Lindsay Watchman: April 27, 1893*

The patrons of the Manchester Cheese factory met at the town hall on Saturday last, there being a good attendance. The principal object of the meeting was to arrange as to the disposal of the whey and it was after discussion decided that parties wishing their whey sold must notify the secretary before May 1st.

To that effect; those not so notifying him will be required to remove the whey from the factory daily. The cheese maker has agreed to manufacture cheese the present season at 21 cents per lb., and pay the secretary's salary; the patrons paying all other expenses incurred.



*Curts Warehouse, Water St., Port Perry.*

## Curts erects egg, butter warehouse

*Lindsay Watchman: April 27, 1893*

Our active and enterprising townsman, Mr. Curts, has just completed the erection of one of the most extensive, best appointed and advantageously constructed buildings for the preserving and storage of eggs, butter, etc.

The contracts were given to the most expert and reliable contractors, and no expense was spared in the construction, upwards of \$8,000 being expended on the building. All the latest and most important improvements, without regard to cost, have been used in the construction of the building.

More than 1,800 pounds of metal were used in the structure. The cold storage room has sufficient capacity for 80,000 dozen eggs. The space for vats is also very large.

Competent judges state that is one of the best and most complete structures of the kind anywhere to be found. It is an important addition to the business establishments of the town.

## Jones & Company engulfed by fire and reduced to ashes

*Toronto Globe: April 27, 1893*

A disastrous fire occurred here on April 23 inst., between 3 and 6 o'clock this morning. Mr. W. Hiscox was awakened by a noise resembling an explosion, and seeing a reflection upon his windows arose, and to his astonishment it was that the store occupied by Messrs. Jones & Co., as well as the one occupied by Messrs. John Phillipo & John W. Meharry, were one mass of flames.

The firemen responded promptly to the call, but of course were powerless beyond preventing the fire

from spreading to the store of Mr. William Brock, on the one side and Messrs. T.H. Philp & Co. on the other. Notwithstanding their untiring efforts both these stores and the stocks were very considerably damaged.

It is not known in which store the fire originated and the prevalent opinion is that burglars were at work and either fired the building intentionally or accidentally.

One thing is certain – the building occupied by Messrs. Jones & Co., dry goods, and Phillippo & Meharry, general commodities, are in ashes. Nothing was saved. Miss Dennison, too, who kept a dressmaking shop over Messrs. Jones & Co., lost everything and her loss will be upwards of \$100, with no insurance.

Thomas Bedford, the owner of the block, is insured for \$6,000; loss \$9,000. Jones & Co's loss on stock is \$18,000; insurance \$13,000. Phillippo & Meharry, loss on stock between \$5,000 and \$6,000; insurance \$4,000.

Damage to the McCaw and Parrish blocks about \$500 each; covered by insurance. Philip & Co. tinware, loss on stock about \$1,000; covered by insurance. Wm. Brock's loss on his general stock unknown yet, but is covered by insurance. The plate glass windows of Messrs. T.C. Nichols, W. Hiscox, Mallory & Cook and Philip & Co., Brock, and the post office were broken by the intense heat.

The prospects are that the Bedford block will be rebuilt, but not by Mr. Thomas Bedford, he having decided to sell out and let someone else face the fire question. Evidently he has not acquired the knack for making money out of fires. It is stated that different local men are bidding for the site.

## Egg wars between merchants

*Lindsay Watchman: May 18, 1893*

There is a bit of an egg war raging here, at present. For some years past Mr. Joshua Curts has purchased the in- take in this line from the stores; but many of the dealers always held that he ground them down too fine, and some contended that this prevented them from offering big prices for farmers' eggs, which in turn kept the eggs off the village market and enabled Curts to buy them all with his rigs.

One merchant said that Curts made the price both in town and on the road, and the result was that the merchants were not in a position to trade much goods for eggs. Therefore when Curts demanded exemption and taxation to a large extent before rebuilding after his fire, several leading men opposed the move on the ground that going round and collecting produce with rigs keeps people from coming to town to sell, and thus injures trade.

Jones Brothers, Aaron Ross & Son and William Brock cut loose this year and decided to store their own egg, but when they saw the tremendous cold storage warehouse Curts had completed they began to have nightmares in the daytime.

Then Curts changed his tactics in a way that made it worse, for this year he allows the merchants two cents of a margin over the prices he pays on the road, but he does not call on merchants who opposed him in this matter. Thus he has it fixed so that those in town who are storing eggs have to do it at as good as a cash outlay of 11¢ per doz. the farmers have a better egg market here this year as a result.

## Bedford block being rebuilt

*North Ontario Observer: June 1, 1893*

The Bedford Block so recently destroyed by fire is already being replaced, the contract has been given to Messrs. Pearson & Spence. The thoroughly established reputation of the contractors is such as to guarantee the excellence of the structure and its rapid completion. The site is a choice one and the building will add to the beauty of the town.

## Lacrosse match at Port Perry

*North Ontario Observer: June 1, 1893*

Wednesday, June 7th is looked forward to with much interest by all admireres of the manly game of Lacrosse. On that day our Port Pery boys will cross sticks with the Whitby boys and an interesting match may be expected. This will be the second scheduled game of the County League for the present season.

The Olympic Grounds on which the match will come off is a pleasant and suitable spot and doubtless a large gathering of ladies and gentlemen will witness the contest.

## Lots cluttered with charred rubbish

*North Ontario Observer: June 8, 1893*

On the western extremity of the business portion of the town there is a disgusting ugly spot which should not be allowed to exist one hour longer than it is possible to have it reclaimed,

We refer to the several lots west of the old Post Office from which the buildings have been removed by fire. In coming east along that beautiful portion of Queen Street from the school buildings down towards the business centre of the town it is simply disgusting to look at the black charred rubbish scattered over the sites of the burned buildings; strangers and in fact, almost any one coming into the town from that direction will form a very different opinion of the character of the town from what it deserves.

All that know the true character of Port Perry know that it is an active, intelligent, enterprising town, but if parties were to reason from the appearance of that decapitated spot they would put us down for a community of sluggards. It would not require a great deal of labor or money to convert that unsightly disgusting spot to a handsome green, suitable for many useful purposes and an ornament instead of a deformity of the village.

Let the rubbish be cleared away, the ground properly



*Post Office beside burnt out buildings on Queen St.*

graded and sown to grass when the spot would be both useful and ornamental. The owners of the lots could have no objection for the lots as they now stand can be no use to any one and there is likelihood of their ever being built upon, there being tidied up would make them more valuable for building purposes if anyone should want to build on any of them.

But while not used for building purposes, the town could have the use of the green and remit the taxes (which only a trifle) to the owners from year to year while the lots are occupied as a green. Of course the lots would still remain property of the owners and when they so desired they could claim and fence them off, but to let them lie in their present condition is as near nuisance as possible. Of course the money required to fit up the green would have to be raised by voluntary contribution.



Stewart Bruce's hardware store, early 1900s.

## Stewart Bruce returns to Port Perry

*North Ontario Observer: June 8, 1893*

The town, and in fact this whole section of the country, while be pleased to learn that another hardware establishment is about to be opened in Port Perry, and the fact that it is to be opened by one of our own Port Perry boys, Mr. Stewart Bruce.

Mr. Bruce will satisfy all the business, and it will be made both attractive and profitable to the public. Mr. Bruce is now in the hardware business at Cannington and is about to move his business to Port Perry. He may be sure of a hearty reception, and such an amount of patronage as will convince him of the wisdom of his choice.

## Barn raising for John Munro

*North Ontario Observer: June 23, 1893*

Productive soil and skillful cultivation are indispensable to successful farming but in the absence of proper accommodations for storing the crops the farmer must always be handicapped, and the farmer can make no more advantageous investment than that laid out in the erection of suitable and properly arranged barns.

Mr. John Munro, Lot 22, Con. 11, Reach, had the frame of a magnificent new barn 54 feet x 80 feet raised on his place on Tuesday last. One hundred and twenty five stalwart yeomen turned out to assist in raising the frame. The arrangements were conducted in the most business like manner, the hands were divided into two squads one taking the north side the other the south, Mr.

James Munro being captain of the former squad and Mr. Robert Munro of the latter while the builder, Mr. Miller, superintended the whole.

The framing had been done to perfection for the frame went up like clock work without the slightest obstacle and within one hour and a half, the raising was completed and the splendid frame stood forth in its fine proportions.

The ladies were well and generously represented, for while strong arms and willing hands were busy raising the frame, a score of the fair and active daughters of the locality were actively engaged in preparing supper for all present. When the raising was completed the ladies treated their guests to a supper highly creditable to the fair caterers and most acceptable to all who partook of it.

## Crandella busy with excursions

*Lindsay Watchman: July 4, 1893*

As can be seen by the following, the *Crandella* will be kept busy during the present month. The engagements booked to date are numerous.

The Port Perry, Methodist Church will have an excursion to Washburn Island on the 10th; and Port Perry Baptist Church leaves on the 11th to the same location.

The commodious and fast sailing steamer *Crandella* has already carried no less than 18 excursions this season and in addition to the above, quite a number of additional excursions are expected.

Captain George Crandell and his boat are justly popular and the captain deserves great credit for the manner in which he has conducted the boat this season.

## Cottages on shores of Lake Scugog

*North Ontario Observer: July 8, 1893*

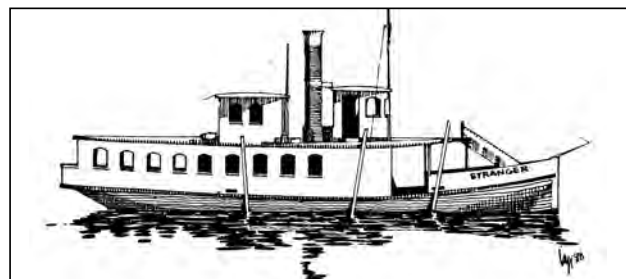
Mr. George Pettet, of Scugog, showed commendable enterprise in erecting several little cottages on his beautiful property on the border of Scugog, for the convenience of tourists in the summer season and the fact that these cottages are now all occupied goes far to prove that Mr. Pettet has supplied needful accommodations for parties seeking health and comfort.

Cottages have already been rented to the following, whose families will occupy them during the season, Messrs. Thomas S. Corrigan, William Ross, William Hiscox and William Willard.

## Churches join forces for excursion

*North Ontario Observer: July 13, 1893*

The Church of England and the Presbyterian Church of Port Perry have united their forces in getting up an excursion of large dimensions, full of interest and healthful enjoyment, and while they are preparing a good time for



Sketch of the steamship *Stranger*.

themselves, they kindly invite the public to take part with them in their desirable and enjoyable excursion.

That safe and well appointed steamer, *Stranger*, with her handsome scow, *Lindsay*, supply first-class accommodation for all who wish to enjoy so desirable a treat amidst the grandeur of nature. The management is doing everything possible for the comfort and convenience of all who take part. The excursionists will leave the wharf here at 9 a.m. on Wednesday 19th, inst.

## Vickery dwelling lost to fire

*North Ontario Observer: July 27, 1893*

The unwelcome sound of the fire bell aroused many of our towns people last night about 12 o'clock, a frame dwelling house on Caleb St., occupied by Mr. R.W. Hunt and owned by Mrs. Charles Vickery, was discovered to be on fire; when first seen the fire had completed control, the south being a mass of seething flames, so that the contents of only one room were saved.

The chief of the brigade was early at the scene, took in the situation at a glance, ordered the hand engine brought out to play on a stable to the east of the burning building, the fences to be torn down, etc., all that could possibly be accomplished under the circumstances.

We are pleased to learn that our enterprising townsman Mr. Charles Vickery, intends to erect a fine residence on the vacant site.

## Washburn a popular summer resort

*Lindsay Watchman: August 4, 1893*

Washburn Island is fast becoming popular and ere long, no doubt, will rival Sturgeon Point as a summer resort. It is owned by Mr. James Sweetman, who has lived around Scugog lake for 48 years. The old gentleman, yet strong and vigorous, in the evenings recalls "Early Days" incidents to the campers, some of which relate to the Indians on Scugog Island and their old enemies, the Mohawks.

It appears the Indians formerly lived on the island, and fearing the incursions of their enemies, removed to their present village. Where stands today the butternut, the oak and the basswood on this point, the Indians were wont to grow "big corn and much potato."

Mr. Wellington Sweetman has a store on the island which is a great convenience to campers. There is no regular boat running to and from the island, but Mr. Wellington Sweetman, the popular overseer, intends to have a trim steam yacht next year for the benefit of the campers and all others

## Albert Stevens barns destroyed

*North Ontario Observer: August 17, 1893*

About three o'clock on the morning of Wednesday, 16th inst., the barns of Mr. Albert Stevens, Nonquon Island, Scugog, were discovered to be on fire, and so rapidly did the flames spread that the buildings, together with their contents were soon reduced to ashes.

His hay and barley crops of this season were in the barn at the time of the fire. There is only a small insurance, and much sympathy is expressed for Mr. Stevens in his misfortune.

## Scugog on top for fishing

*Lindsay Watchman: August 24, 1893*

Messrs. Winchell and Emund of the Hamilton Powder Co., accompanied by Mr. John McKenzie of this place, on Monday of this week, were out on Lake Scugog for a short time on a fishing tour during which time they captured 13 fine maskinonge. The largest one weighing 27 lbs., was landed on 8 oz. rod in less than 20 minutes from the time of commencing fishing. The smallest one of the catch weighed over five lbs. This is one of the best catches of the season.

## Fined for fishing on the Sabbath.

*Lindsay Watchman: September 7, 1893*

Two men named Mitchell came to Port Perry from Toronto on Saturday night and hired Benjamin Crandell and George Cameron to row them for a day's fishing on Sunday.

On Monday the Mitchells were summoned before Justice Nott and admitted they had fished on Sunday. Each was assessed \$5 and \$4.75 in costs.

On Tuesday Cameron and Crandell, who had been at Lindsay on Monday with the excursion, were brought before his worship by Constable Robert McKnight and after a long hearing of explanations by Honest George, a similar does of \$5 each and \$4.75 costs, making \$37 for the whole party, was levied.

This makes a rather expensive Sunday's sport, but the magistrate is determined to put an end to Sabbath breaking.

## Runaway horse injures two

*Lindsay Watchman: September 7, 1893*

On Saturday night Mr. Samuel Graham and another party whose name we could not learn, were heading down street at their customary speed and at the noise of their approach appears to have made a horse restive which was standing in front of William Tummond's store on Queen street.

The animal belonged to Mr. Cornish, of Prince Albert, and his wife and little girl were sitting in the buggy. When the horse was startled Mrs. Cornish refused to let it go ahead, so it backed up just in time for Graham's cart to hitch into the hind wheel. Graham was at once overturned and the horse Mrs. Cornish was driving dashed down street.

It turned a curve at Brown's corner and pitched her and the child out, after which it was caught. Both Mrs. Cornish



*Ruannaway horses always a danger.*

and the little girl were badly shaken up, but not seriously hurt.

That no person was killed when so many people were on the street was most fortunate and the authorities would do well to take warning from this and pull some of those horsemen who don't appear to know or care when they endanger public safety by reckless speeding.

## Magistrate Nott summoned to court

*Lindsay Watchman: September 7, 1893*

Quite recently Magistrate John Nott asked young Wesley Cawker to carry some apples from his house to the store. Upon Cawker doing so, Mr. Nott handed him a cigar which happened to be lying in the shop.

It soon got abroad what our magistrate had done, with the result that he was summoned before Justice of the Peace Wm. Bateman, charged with furnishing tobacco to minors, contrary to the statutes.

After hearing the evidence on Tuesday, Mr. Bateman adjourned the case. Mr. Nott contends the act prohibits the sale, but not the giving to minors and the adjournment was made in order to decide that contention.

## Man shot while out hunting ducks

*North Ontario Observer: September 21, 1893*

On Wednesday afternoon 20th inst., Mr. E.D. Holliday and Mr. Luzerne Savage of Port Perry were hunting ducks on the flats of the Nonquon about six miles north of this place. After being on the grounds some time they met and an interrogatory as to the respective luck of each took place.

Savage stating, he had shot four of a flock but had only secured three of them, Holliday said, he would assist him in finding the other one. Savage lead off in the direction of the missing duck when Holliday started to follow him, but stumbled over a root, which discharged his gun, the whole contents of which took effect in Savage's right thigh causing a fearful wound from the effects of which he died in a few hours.

Medical aid was at once secured but of no avail. Deceased leaves an aimable wife a mourning widow and three highly intelligent daughters. Deceased was honourable and upright with his dealing, a loving husband and watchful father.

## Group plans to buy fair grounds

*North Ontario Observer: October 4, 1893*

An energetic and reliable syndicate of well-to-do inhabitants of the town are taking the necessary steps towards purchasing the magnificent fair grounds in the north of the village. This is as it ought to be. It appears like inexcusable waste that so extensive, valuable and thoroughly equipped grounds with all necessary buildings, one of the best race tracks in the province, with grand stand and every other convenience for public comfort, should be locked up and unused.

For holding fairs, Agricultural Shows, great demonstrations, picnics on a large scale, &c., there are no more suitable and desirable grounds in the province. As a suitable and desirable, centre for all such occasions the Port Perry grounds cannot be excelled.

Railway facilities are complete and with proper

management the Port Perry grounds would be the most attractive, most popular and best patronized grounds in the province. We hope the syndicate may go on and complete the purchase. It would be of much advantage to this entire section of country.

## A disastrous barn fire in Reach

*Lindsay Watchman: October 12, 1893*

On Tuesday afternoon a serious fire occurred at lot 23, 3rd con., Reach, the farm owned by Mr. William Kennedy, of Port Perry.

The tenants, Messrs. R. and G.A. Corner, were in the throes of a threshing, when fire was discovered at the top end of the straw carriers. The flames spread so quickly that it was impossible to extinguish them and it was with great difficulty the thresher was even saved.

The 60 x 40 barn and the production of 80 acres, consisting of wheat, barley, oats, peas, hay and buckwheat, were completely destroyed. The contents were uninsured and the Messrs. Corner will lose fully \$300. The barn cannot be replaced for much less than \$900, but is insured for some \$400 or \$500.

The head thresher, Mr. Robt. Graham, had his hands and the side of his neck and face severely burned in saving the machine. Much sympathy is felt for the Messrs. Corner in their loss after a hard summer's work.



*Thomas J. Widden in his store on Queen St.*

## Thieves break into store

*North Ontario Observer: November 2, 1893*

Port Perry was invaded early on Monday morning last by two, at least, unwelcome visitors. Not having any legitimate business in town they wiled away the early hours of the morning by first breaking into Mr. Thomas J. Widden's grocery establishment.

Having forced the front door of the store open they made an assault on the door of the vault but finding it invulnerable, cut a large hole through the brick wall of the vault, and thus obtained admission to the contents which proved valueless to them as they did not remove anything. No clue as yet to the perpetrators

## Council writes to G.T.R. manager

*North Ontario Observer: November 2, 1893*

A special meeting of the Port Perry Council was held at the office of the reeve on Friday last, all the members were present. Moved by Mr. Edward Purdy, seconded by Mr. Phillippo, that the clerk is hereby instructed to write to Mr. L.J. Seargeant, general manager of the G.T. R.

1. Grain that should come here is going to Uxbridge, Myrtle, Brooklin, and Burketon because the Railway Company have allowed all the grain storage buildings here, at Manchester and Seagrave to come under one man's control, who keeps the prices so low the trade is turned away from the village and the Grand Trunk line.

2. The Company's warehouse at Port Perry is held almost idle, while shippers of apples, potatoes, &c., are put to great inconvenience and delay in making their shipments, and the railway employees are put to extra work trying to meet the demand for accommodation, while a good shed is held to keep away competition and as a speculation; prices for the use of which are put so high that no one will use them.

3. The same influence is brought to bear on the District Freight Agent, so that he issues instructions forbidding his agents to supply cars except to parties having warehouses convenient to the track who are in the same line of business as Mr. Aaron Ross.

4. The business men of the village whose trade that should come here; farmers have to haul their grain longer distances, and a general feeling of dissatisfaction is increasing towards the place and railway line.

5. We think the By-law of the Corporation and also the Charter of the Railway is violated when cars are refused to any one who desires to move produce or any article of merchandise.

Carried unanimously. On motion the Council adjourned.

## G.T.R. responds to council concerns

*North Ontario Observer: December 7, 1893*

Dear Sir – I have made enquiries in regard to the matters referred to in the resolution passed by the Council of Port Perry, of which you sent me a copy on the 27th, October.

The business transacted through the Company's warehouse at Port Perry, for some years past, has not been satisfactory. Full enquiry was made as to the prospects for traffic, and no other shippers did not appear to be disposed to make use of it to an extent which would be remunerative to the Company. A lease of the building was given to the present occupant. The Company, however, will not allow any of its building to be used for purposes injurious to the trade of the district; and if any cause of complaint exists, I will undertake that every case brought to my notice shall receive full investigation.

The warehouse at Manchester referred to in the resolution is not the property of the Railway Company. The warehouse at Seagrave is not occupied exclusively by any one shipper.

If the shippers at Port Perry wish to establish and independent warehouse, for the storage of produce to be forwarded by the railway, the company will be prepared to give a lease of a suitable site in the station yard.

In regard to the supply of cars, there is at times a pressure for cars which makes it difficult for the company to meet the requirement.

L.J. Seargeant, Esq., General Manager, G.T.R'y.

## Thieves fail in attempted robbery

*Lindsay Watchman: November 16, 1893*

On Friday evening last Mr. John Irwin, of Port Perry was returning home from Oshawa, when entering a wooded section of the road near the Ridges, he was accosted by two men, who stopped the horses and demanded from him "His money or his life."

Mr. Irwin coolly drew from his pocket a revolver, and aiming at the would-be highwaymen remarked – "Boys, do you see this?"

Evidently thinking that they had attacked the wrong individual the robbers made no delay in making for the woods, and Mr. Irwin returned home with both his life and his money.



*Widden's store, corner of Queen & Perry Streets.*

## Burglars busy visiting Port Perry

*Lindsay Watchman: November 16, 1893*

For some time burglars have been at work in Port Perry. Only a few months ago they paid a visit to Messrs. J.M. Davis, Thomas Foreman and Thomas J. Widden.

On Sunday night Mr. Widden's grocery store was again broken into. They first drilled a number of holes in the door of the vault, but striking a steel plate on the inside, which they could not drill through, they stopped and turned their attention to removing the bricks. With the aid of a crowbar and a sledge they gained an entrance; but were not successful in getting any money, as Mr. Widden was sensible enough to deposit it in the bank Saturday morning.

The entrance was gained by prying open the front door. The sledge and crowbar were taken from Mr. A.W. Allan's blacksmith shop. As yet there is no clue.

## Scugog Island new parsonage

*Lindsay Watchman: November 23, 1893*

For some time the Methodists of Scugog Island have been desirous of selling their parsonage in Port Perry and using the proceeds in the erection of a parsonage on the island, with a view to having their pastor living among them.

A few weeks ago a meeting of the clergy and laymen was held to talk the matter over, when it was decided the Port Perry parsonage should be sold as soon as an



equally comfortable parsonage on the island was assured, which would make it necessary for the islanders to raise a considerable sum above what would be realized for the present parsonage, owing to its not being free from debt.

It now remains to be seen whether the islanders can produce the necessary, and with that object in view a subscription is to be circulated during the winter with the intention of reporting 'the result to the committee before next May. If successful this town will be obliged to bid adieu to the parsonage.

## Winter horse racing on Scugog

*North Ontario Observer: December 14, 1893*

The Winter meeting on the ice at Port Perry, will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday, 9th and 10th days of January. Everything connected with the coming races is on a scale far surpassing any previous meeting of the sort in this section of country and parties may be assured of witnessing such races as have never before been witnessed on the ice Scugog.

Active and thorough preparations are being made for a couple of gala days, sport and such as will justly entitle Port Perry Winter Races to the foremost place in the front ranks of such sports.

An active committee have been appointed and nothing will be left undone which may contribute to make the races all they should be and give satisfaction to the thousands who will come to witness the races.

Expert Judges are to be secured, which is a sufficient guarantee for just and honorable decisions, while the liberality of the promoters have provided prizes amounting to nearly \$500.

But the Port Perry Races now sustain a reputation which makes the prizes, handsome as they are, of less consequence than the fact of winning the race from such horses as enter the lists in these races. No labor or expense will be spared in securing every degree of comfort and fair play for the horses. The track is to be kept clear for several days previous to the races. The coming races will doubtless excel anything of the kind ever witnessed in these parts.

## Sheriff's sale of hardware goods

*Toronto Globe: December 23, 1893*

A Sheriff's Sale of general stock, hardware, stoves, Tinware, etc. to take place on Wednesday the 27th day of December 1893.

Under and by virtue of several writs of fieri facias issued out of her Majesty's courts and to Sheriff John F. Paxton, directed against the goods and chattels of Laing & Meharry, hardware merchants, Port Perry, I have seized and will offer for sale by public auction at a rate on the door as per inventory.

Sale to commence at 1 o'clock on the premises, a general stock amounting to \$3,845.58, also book debts amounting to \$2,699. The stock is a first-class one, and offers a grand opportunity to anyone desiring to engage in a general hardware business in a flourishing village. Stock and stock sheets, also list of book debts, may be seen on application at the store. Terms cash. Ten per cent on day of sale, balance on completion of checking stock.

## Fence at Olympic grounds removed

*North Ontario Observer: December 28, 1893*

The removal of the close board fence from Mr. Caleb Crandell's property (Olympic Grounds) on Queen Street and the substitution of a neat open one is a vast improvement not only to the fine property enclosed, but to all the property on that part of the street.

It adds greatly to the comfort and pleasure of the residents of the opposite side of the street as well as making the street more attractive and pleasant for the vast numbers who pass along that finest street in town.

In passing along that portion of Queen Street the landscape to the south and south east is of rare beauty and to have the sight of it cut off by a great old board fence was a privation to all and an unnecessary sacrifice of public comfort and convenience.

The property on the opposite side of the street is much improved in appearance, comfort and value by the change and certainly the property enclosed appears to much greater advantage behind the new fence.

# ~ 1894 ~

## Cremation will replace burials

*North Ontario Observer, January 11, 1894*

Disposing of the bodies of our dead by cremation in place of burial is again coming to the front, and there can be little doubt but that in the not distant future cremation will be the chief, if not the universal, mode of disposing of the dead in all enlightened lands.

That cremation is in every respect preferable to burial, few, we think, will dispute. It may not now be fashionable, but it is no less common anymore on that account, and it has every other consideration in its favor.

When universally adopted, as it certainly will be some day, people will wonder why the disgusting mode of disposing of the dead by burial was continued so long.

## Village council gets down to work

*Whitby Chronicle: January 19, 1894*

The new Port Perry council met for organization on Monday last, and the following executed their obligations for office: Joshua W. Cutts, reeve; William M. Wilcox, deputy; Albert J. Davis, Samuel Jeffrey and William Bateman councillors.

The first business was to appoint Enoch D. Rogers assessor; one appointing W.L. Parrish high school trustee; and F.J. Widden and J.W. Meharry auditors. The board of health will consist of the reeve, clerk, and John Rolph, J.W. Meharry and W. John Nott, with Dr. Clemens as medical director and Robert McKnight as inspector.

The following are the standing committees for the year: finance, Bateman and Davis; indigents, Willcox and Jeffrey; fire department, Davis and Willcox. The clerk was directed to secure tenders for the printing required for the year.

On motion of Mr. Wm. Willcox the County Council's rules were adopted to govern procedure in this council so far as possible. On motion the clerk was instructed to advertise for stone, lumber, timber and wood for corporation use. On motion the constable was instructed to have a pen with a chute built at weigh scales.

## Local man invents new lawn mower

*North Ontario Observer: February 1, 1894*

We heartily congratulate our ingenious and energetic townsman, Mr. R.D. Robbins on his valuable and important invention of a Lawn Mower so greatly in advance of every other machine in the lawn mowing line that it has only to be seen to be grabbed at by everyone having any use for a lawn mower.

The great advantages it has over all others cannot fail in making it a universal favorite wherever it is seen and the vast number who require such machines will thank Mr. Robbins for his great improvement of that important machine which is almost of daily use around our dwellings in the growing season.

The inventor claims and the machine warrants the claims that is adjustability of cut by simply-rocking the machine is perfect. It can cut close up to any object such a building, tree or shrub. By a most simple and ingenious device the cut can be instantly changed to any desirable height up to four inches, without the alteration of a pin or screw.

The marked lightness of draught and superior speed are amongst the many desirable features which will secure the universal popularity of this new machine which has only to be seen to be appreciated.

## Electric service for town debated a special meeting of council

*North Ontario Observer: February 1, 1894*

A special meeting of Port Perry Council was held at the Clerk's office on Tuesday evening last, all members present.

Mr. Jeffrey presented a petition signed by John Powers and 99 other asking the council to exercise strict economy to renewing the Electric Light Service.

The chairman of the committee, re: Electric Light Service, reported that they had interviewed Mr. Joshua M. Davis, the present contractor, and he stated he was prepared to negotiate with council – he would enter into a contract extending three years, at \$400 per annum. He, (Davis) to have the privilege of shutting off service moonlight nights; or he was prepared to sell the Electric plant, apparatus and all connections for the sum of \$2,500.

Mr. Jeffrey moved, that in consequence of the existing contract with Mr. J.M. Davis, for Electric Light Service, expiring at the end of the present month, that the Council agree to renew the contract for one year, commencing March 1st, at \$350. The service to consist of nine street lights of equal power to those now in use and one in the Town Hall when required. The contractor to have the liberty of shutting off the street light on moonlight nights; all other condition regarding the fulfillment of the contract to remain the same as previous contract.

Mr. Willcox moves in amendment the contract as it now exists, that is, the contractor to furnish ten street lights and one light in Town Hall at a cost not to exceed \$400, be renewed, provided Mr. Davis gives the corporation a written agreement duly signed that he will sell the Electric Plant at any time during the existence of the contract at the sum or price of \$2,500.

## Overfishing the lake with snares

*Whitby Chronicle: February 8, 1894*

It is a matter of common report here that fish are being snared by the hundreds in Lake Scugog. We call on Inspector Martin's attention to this. It is a wonder that people who are so deeply interested in preserving fish, do not assist in securing the prosecution for fish snarers.



*Blong's house as it looked about 1910.*

## Jonathon Blong's home lost to fire

*Whitby Chronicle: March 16, 1894*

There were two fires on Thursday night, thus making up for the long spell of a month or so since the last burn-out. During the early part of the evening Mrs. Deshane, who lived in the old Phillips house on Scugog street, found that her house was all ablaze, and had barely time to get her children and a couple of chairs out. The house was well insured, but Mrs. Deshane had none. A subscription was taken up for her benefit, and a good sum realized.

Shortly after midnight there was another alarm, and this time the fine residence of Mr. Jonathan Blong was burning beyond hope of salvation. Here was wealth and plenty, a magnificent structure furnished to the full with first-class furniture, but this only increased the energy of the flames.

The proprietor being alone in the building that evening had some difficulty in escaping from the flames. The progress of the fire was so rapid and had taken such hold before the arrival of the engine that nothing could save the property.

Everything was lost, amounting to \$3,000 - \$4,000. The amount of insurance is not definitely known.

## Fishing on Scugog is a business

*Whitby Chronicle: March 16, 1894*

Fishing is a business of the day here, not a pastime. Everyone who can get away is out on the ice daily, bobbing a line up and down through a hole in the ice. Look at the whole surface of the lake and here are hundreds at it.

The catch is bass and they bite freely. The fish are sold to Mr. Dolph Wheeler, who ships to Toronto. The sport is so popular that it would be impossible to hire a man in town for any other purposed.

It is stated that a party who owns a portable saw mill came here the other day to hire some workers and could not find a single man to stop fishing to go and help him out. Some of the expert fishers make from \$2 to \$3.50 a day.

## Fishing business causing problems

*Whitby Chronicle: March 23, 1894*

The ice will go out in a day or two and its departure will be greatly mourned by those who have lately been, making big money fishing for bass through holes. It is astonishing how many bass the expert fellows can secure, and the effect of making such a slaughter will be noticeable before many years, unless regulations are passed to prevent this annual tournament of fish killing through the ice.

It is a wonder that people who are so deeply interested in preserving this sport, as are the people of Port Perry, do not make some efforts to stop this destruction. We can all agree that fishing should only be allowed on such lakes as sport, and should not be made a business of. It is good thing to be able to make a little in the midst of hard times like these, but overdoing any-thing plays it out.



*St. Charles Hotel, Queen St., Port Perry*

## St. Charles Hotel fire averted

*Whitby Chronicle: May 4, 1894*

The St. Charles hotel took a bad roasting on Sunday morning. About 2 a.m. the servant girls were awakened by smoke in the third flat, and they roused the house. The place was full of smoke, so dense that lamps would not burn, and the inmates of the house had to grope around in the dark. Some became terror-stricken, and when it was found that the smoke was becoming so thick in the hallways that a passage down the stairs was next thing to impossible, a panic struck the place.

Still no fire was visible – all was smoke. However, some of the men managed to get down to the first floor and found that there was a big blaze in the cellar, which had made its way through the floor of the dining room and kitchen, and from there had climbed a dumb waiter, which was formerly in use to the third story, where the smoke entered the servants' room and awoke them as mentioned above.

To this dumb waiter may be attributed the saving 20 lives, for it was a pile of wood that was burning in the basement, and so hot was the fire that the whole bottom might have been burned out of the house before, and

allowed the upper parts to cave in before anybody would have known had not the fire found an easy means of ascent in one corner, and thus given warning.

As it was, the women flew down the fire escape in their night robes, while men slid down the ropes which which are kept in rooms for that purpose. One or two were nearly strangled.

The firemen responded to the alarm and very quickly put out the blaze. Mr. Louis Sebert's loss has been settled for, we understand, for \$2,000 to the building. The origin of the fire is one of the mysteries which belong to this hotel's history. There had been no fire in the furnace for days.

## Council extends thanks to Firemen

*North Ontario Observer: May 10, 1894*

At the regular meeting of Port Perry Council, the Clerk read a communication addressed to the Reeve, from the Fire Brigade, severely censuring in a resolution passed at a late meeting of the bridged, one of our town fathers from usurping the function of officers of the brigade during the late conflagration in the St. Charles Hotel.

On a motion by Mr. William Bateman the thanks of the Council were tendered to the Fire Brigade for the gallant, noble and successful efforts put forth by them in extinguishing the conflagration which lately occurred in the St. Charles Hotel; such extraordinary efforts cannot but meet the approbation of every well wisher of the town and placed our brigade in the front rank of first-class fire brigades.

## Crandella begins spring excursions

*North Ontario Observer: May 17, 1894*

Captain George Crandell, the popular owner of the well known and highly popular steamer *Crandella*, will give a pleasure trip on the Scugog on the evening of Saturday, 19th inst. The steamer will leave the Port wharf at 7:30 p.m.

Should the weather prove favorable a grand time may be expected. The owner of the steamer, as on all former occasions, will do all in his power to add to the pleasure and comfort of the excursionists.

The liberal supply of choice music will be provided. The boat will be lightened up by electricity. Being the first trip of the season, large numbers from the town and its surroundings will doubtless avail themselves the opportunity.



*George Crandell, left, on board the Crandella, circa 1890.*



Ontario Central Fairgrounds circa 1890.

## Sebert leases Ontario Central Fair

*North Ontario Observer: May 31, 1894*

Our enterprising townsman, Mr. Louis Sebert, proprietor of the St. Charles Hotel, has leased the Ontario Central Fair Ground in this place. This fine property which has for some years past been practically locked up as far as the public is concerned is now to be thrown open to the public for the purposes of public character.

Mr. Sebert, with his usual liberality, intends letting agricultural societies, committees for celebrations, &c., have these beautiful grounds and buildings at a mere nominal figure, so that in future Port Perry will command the best accommodation for fairs, races, celebrations &c., anywhere to be found.

## Pettet Point ready for summer

*North Ontario Observer: May 31, 1894*

Mr. George Pettet, the enterprising proprietor of Pettet's Point, Scugog, has made extensive improvements at his now famous summer resort. He has just completed two additional cottages which are much larger than the former ones erected by him.

The Point the coming season promises to be more popular than ever; already a number of the cottages have been lease to desirable visitors and the prospects are that the season of 1894 will eclipse that of any former one.

Situated in close proximity to the best fishing grounds on the lake while the bathing off the shore cannot be surpassed. The Point is pronounced by parties who have enjoyed a summering at it one of the delightful and pleasant summer resorts anywhere to be found.

## Man and woman struck by lightning

*North Ontario Observer: June 28, 1894*

On Saturday last while a number of hands were at work on the grounds of Mr. West, merchant, Prince Albert, a thunder storm came on. The workers sought shelter from the rain and Mr. Joseph Bartley one of the hands, went under the bough of a neighboring tree. He had not been long there when a lightning flash passed under the tree striking Mr. Bartley on the neck singeing his hair, setting fire to his clothing and passing down his body ripping one of his boots from top to bottom and bursting the other on the side of the foot.

A Mrs. Knox who was on the grounds at the time was brought to her knees by the force of the shock but like a noble heroine she never lost presence of mind, but seeing the prostrate form of Mr. Bartley rushed to his

assistance, extinguished the fire of the burning garments, secured assistance and had medical aid secured at once. The prompt action of the energetic lady is highly commendable.

By the skillful treatment of the physician and careful attention of friends the victim of the stroke was able to be out, and cast his vote at the election on Tuesday last. The escape was as nearly miraculous as could be and heartily congratulate the sufferer on his escape.

## Lunge fishing on Lake Scugog

*North Ontario Observer: July 19, 1894*

A distant correspondent is curious to know whether Corrin brothers, of Port Perry, are the men of whose skill in fishing one hears so much about. Precisely the same.

The other day, in a very short time, they succeeded in securing in the Scugog no less than 13 fine 'lunge, one of which tipped the scale at 21 lbs. They pursue the shining bass and festive 'lunge with great success and are reliable guides, and know to a demonstration the most prolific fishing grounds on the lake, and never fail to convey parties in their charge to these "happy grounds".

## Blong launches steamer on Scugog

*North Ontario Observer: July 19, 1894*

Our enterprising townsman, Mr. Johathan Blong, is to be congratulated on his enterprise in placing a staunch and handsome new steamer, the *Seagull* on our beautiful lake. Lake Scugog is rapidly increasing in importance as well for its beauty and attractive surroundings and for the health promoting breezes which float over its surface. Mr. Blong's craft will be an important addition to our facilities for enjoying life on the sparkling waters.

## New building being erected

*North Ontario Observer: September 6, 1894*

The village and surrounding community are much pleased to learn that Mr. Samuel Graham, late of the Ontario Carriage Works, Port Perry, has purchased that fine lot on Queen Street, opposite the Ontario Bank. Mr. Graham is widely and favourably known as a dealer in first-class horses, but he is also known and highly popular as a skillful and successful blacksmith.

He is about to have a substantial building erected on his new property and intends to open a Blacksmith Shop on the rear end of the lot. The building will fill a long standing gap on the street. All wish the enterprising proprietor much success.

## Ducks fly serenely past the hunters

*Whitby Chronicle: September 7, 1894*

Duck hunting, perhaps it should be called duck frightening, commenced on Saturday last, and is going on vigorously. The gunnists are out in full force, and they shoot at everything that can be sighted with a telescope, both barrels at once.

If a flock of ducks fly along over the middle of the lake, the gunners on both shores keep letting fly "bang" every few yards, and of course the ducks sail along serenely ignorant of the lead that is flying at them continually.

A sportsman who knows something about shooting might get a few, but the duck is not a very numerous

article this year, and the absence of the Toronto sports from their large reserve enables all that are here to find safety from the amateurs in that limit.



*James Carnegie's Union Mills.*

## Carnegie's flouring and planing mills important to town business

*North Ontario Observer: September 20, 1894*

It is greatly to the interest and prosperity of a community when its manufacturing establishments fall into proper hands, this fact is clearly illustrated in the case of the Flouring and Planing Mills of this town. In days gone by these mills especially the flouring mill did comparatively little towards the building up or reputation of the town.

Mr. Carnegie's purchase of the mills and his energetic, liberal and well directed management of the works have marked a new era in the history of these mills. The Port Perry mills are now heard of far and near and parties come long distances to patronize them and in doing so largely increase the business traffic of the town.

Mr. Carnegie spares neither labor nor expense in introducing the newest and most desirable improvements so as to keep his mills in first class order, make their output thoroughly reliable, and secure the full confidence of customers and of the public in general. A short time ago finding that his engine boiler was not doing all the work that was required of it, had it removed at once and replaced by a splendid boiler costing \$1,000. This gives him increased facilities to promptly supply all customers.

## Port Perry Fair a grand success

*Whitby Chronicle: September 28, 1894*

As was anticipated our exhibition was a grand success. The weather on Thursday morning somewhat dampened the expectations of the directors, but towards the middle of the afternoon the sun shone out beautifully and by evening the sky was as clear as crystal.

The weather on Friday and Saturday was all that could have been desired, and the large and intelligent gatherings on those days, which numbered some 7,000 to 8,000 souls, was demonstrative of the interest taken by our agricultural friends in their chosen calling and the patriotism displayed in supporting home enterprises. It

was truly a grand exhibition, and we believe all enjoyed themselves immensely.

The show of horses was good, and the animals themselves were of a very superior class. Perhaps no finer lot has been seen in Ontario County this or any other year. In heavy draught, general purpose and carriage horses the exhibits were equally good and reflected a degree of credit upon the people of this and adjoining counties that marks them at once as enterprising and wide awake farmers.

Cattle, sheep and pigs were also represented by some of the finest specimens received their kind and the attention they received from visitors testified to their quality. There was also a good show of fowls. The judges in the respective classes had a most difficult part to perform, and it was not without much hesitation and much consideration that they handed over the prize tickets to the owners of what they thought to be the best animals. The honor of opening the fair was conferred on the two representatives of the Riding, Mr. Wm. Smith, M.P., and Hon. John Dryden. Both gentlemen performed their duties very acceptably, and were loudly applauded.

## Railroad Hotel sold by auction

*North Ontario Observer: November 1, 1894*

The sale of the Railroad Hotel property, opposite the Station, Port Perry, took place on Friday of last week, proved to be an excellent sale and the present proprietor was the fortunate purchaser.

The price paid for it was most satisfactory all round, the purchaser got a good bargain and the seller could not fail to be satisfied with the price received, \$2,430. The solicitor managed to business with his usual good judgement, the auctioneer did his part to good purpose and secured a good price for the property. The purchaser who had a perfect knowledge as to the value of the property did not hesitate to pay a fair price for it. All wish him much success in his purchase.

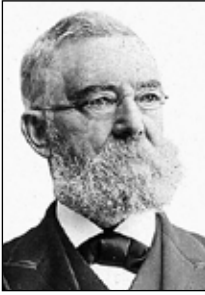


*Railroad House Hotel, Water Street.*

## Dr. J.H. Sangster elected

*North Ontario Observer: November 1, 1894*

In this Territorial Division, No. 12, embracing the Counties of York, Ontario and Victoria, our townsman Dr. John H. Sangster has been elected to the Medical



Dr. John H. Sangster.

Council by a large majority; his votes outnumbering those cast for his opponent by three to one.

This is the highest possible tribute on the part of his fellow practitioners in these Counties to his general and profession ability.

Once in council the highest honours in the profession are within his reach and there can be no doubt that his commanding ability will serve to carry him to the top.

## Diphtheria outbreak in village

*North Ontario Observer: November 1, 1894*

Mrs. Burney, like a noble heroine entered the diphtheria stricken Ellis family home in Prince Albert, when two of the children had been carried off by the disease, and three more had caught it. The mother being unable to attend on the smitten ones, Mrs. Burney generously offered her services and entered into the family to do battle against the terrible disease.

Through the superior skill of the medical attendant and Mrs. Burney's careful nursing, the three afflicted ones were pulled through and it was hoped diphtheria was stamped out of the village. But we regret to state that the plague was not sampled out for within a few days it attacked the Burney family. Mrs. Burney and her son had caught the disease. So far it appears to be somewhat mild in its manifestations, and it is fondly to be hoped that they may soon get over it and the fell destroyer be banished forever from our happy village.

## Plowing match at Scugog Island

*North Ontario Observer: November 8, 1894*

The annual Plowing Match under the auspices of the Plowing Association of Reach, Port Perry, Scugog and North Ontario took place on Ambleside Farm, Scugog, the property of John Adams, Esq., on Tuesday, 6th inst.

The weather was most favourable and a fine presentation of the stalwart young plowmen from every section of the County and its surrounding entered the lists as competitors. When the large host of noble, intelligent competitors with their valuable, handsomely groomed teams appeared at the scratch, ready for the start they made a splendid show.

Some 36 noble fellows entered the octets and got away in good style and all was hush, the practical eye and trained hand being brought to bear on the work. On the approach of noon, Mr. Adams and his good lady with a generosity worthy of the reputation of the Adams' household provided all present plower and spectators with an excellent and most acceptable lunch.

After the match the dinner was held in the Railway Hotel, Port Perry and the active and energetic host and hostess proved their skill and ability in getting up one of the best dinners every got up in this section of country.

## Graham constructs iron-clad building

*North Ontario Observer: November 15, 1894*

Mr. Samuel Graham, our popular blacksmith is the first to introduce an iron-clad building into our town. Unlike

the iron-clad battle ships whose mission is to destroy property, Mr. Graham's iron-clad is for the purpose of developing the noble science and art of blacksmithing in all its branches.

Mr. Graham is an expert and experienced workman and is widely known and as widely respected. His iron-clad is now in full blast. The iron-clad is fire proof. On learning of the recent destruction of the Lund residence by fire, we could almost have wished that all our buildings were iron-clad.

## More diphtheria cases in village

*North Ontario Observer: December 13, 1894*

We regret to state that our interesting village cannot present a clean bill of health we have a virulent type of that most hated of all diseases, Diphtheria, in our midst. It is now in two families that of Mr. James McBrien, Public School Inspector, and in that of Mrs. Foy, widow of the late Mr. B. Foy.

There are two cases in the former family and two in the latter. Superior medical skill and expert nursing are so far successfully grappling with this second attack of the plague.

Diphtheria is not to be played with and when it enters a family all the members of the family and all others residing in that dwelling or frequenting it should be entirely isolated from the rest of the community.

All sympathize with whose families stricken by the horrid disease, but no member of such family should meet up with the people in anyway, in churches, school, post office, market or even on the street, lest they spread the infection and give the destroyer a further hold on the community.

# ~ 1895 ~

## Purdy defeated in bitter election

*Toronto Globe: January 11, 1895*



Edward H. Purdy

The town election on Monday ended in Mr. Edward H. Purdy's defeat by five votes for deputy reeve, though a different result was anticipated. A large and needless amount of bitterness was stirred into the fight by the conduct of Reeve Joshua Curtis and Mr. W.M. Willcox, who brought their personal disputes into play to the fullest extent.

For week they have been pouring their bar room style of yarns into everybody's ears, and even on the platform they displayed no better qualities.

One thing was rendered obvious by their conduct, and that is that neither of them is fit to be at the head of the town's affairs, and the town will no doubt look for men in whom they can place a little degree of respect, and who have some self-respect.

The wonder is that Mr. Purdy was not elected this year, and most people regard his defeat as the result of the acrimonious conduct of Mr. Curtis in his behalf.



## Sons of Temperance want to buy English Church in Greenbank

*Toronto Globe: January 18, 1895*

Early last spring the Sons of Temperance concluded that better hall accommodation was desirable, not only for their weekly meetings but for public gatherings as well, so they made a move in that direction of procuring a larger building.

With this end in view, they entered into negotiations to purchase the old St. Agnes English church, Greenbank, which has been standing unused for years. A committee representing the division met with a committee of the Uxbridge parish, to whom the building was supposed to belong and an agreement was soon arrived at whereby for a certain amount of lawful money, the property was to be transferred to the S. of T. Possession to be given as soon as the necessary papers could be procured from the Synod office at Toronto.

The ponderosa machinery of the church court requires time to get in motion and months passed before an answer was received that the church can not be bought on any conditions. The power feared that once it passed out of their hands it might become a grocery store, or a blacksmith shop, which would be a dreadful desecration.

They prefer to see the building rot down by degrees, or perhaps go up in smoke than allow it to be used for a useful purpose. So that ends the new hall scheme, at least in this particular direction.

## Woman thrown from runaway cart

*Whitby Chronicle: March 22, 1895*

The horse driven by Miss Mabel Wright, while doing to Port Perry by the avenue last Saturday, became unmanageable and ran away. Miss Wright kept the horse on the road until she reached Dr. Mellow's corner, when the horse shied, threw Miss Wright out, and then took to the sidewalk, where it struck the cutter against the lamp post.

The cutter and horse were separated and the horse with shafts when flying down Queen Street at a mad gail and in close quarters to several plate glass fronts. The cutter was badly broken, horse cut and fortunately for Miss Wright she escaped with only a few bruises. Mrs. Mellow had a narrow escaped from being run over protecting her little girl.

## Willard's store gutted by fire

*Whitby Chronicle: March 22, 1895*

On Sunday 17th inst., our citizens were awakened from their peaceful slumbers at 3:45 p.m. by that unwelcome cry of fire! fire! and the clang, clang, clang of the fire bell, and when it became known that the fire was in the Willard block a feeling of anxiety was felt by every businessman in town.

Willing hands went to the help of the firemen, the fire engine was placed on the ice, and quickly the "toot" "toot" from the engine was followed by a powerful stream being forced into Mr. Willard's dry goods and grocery store. In less than 50 minutes from the time the alert was rung word was given "the fire is out!"

The engineer had located the fire at the centre post of the store. A hole about 12 feet square is burned and the



*Wm. Willard's block, corner of Queen & Perry Street, Port Perry.*

counter fronts scorch. Two hundred to \$300 will replace the damage to the building inside. The stock is badly damaged by smoke and water.

Our excellent fire brigade deserve words of praise for preventing what might have been a serious conflagration, and the splendid "Ronald" fire engine did its work to perfection.

A man from the country was calling a doctor, and he ran to the Whitney House, where he saw a light as he came into town, and routed the inmates. Great credit is due to Messrs. John Cook and Seymour Whitney for the promptness in giving the alarm, and ringing the fire bell. Had it not been for this fortunate circumstance there is not telling what the result might have been.

Had this fire been burning for 30 or 40 minutes longer it would have been impossible to have saved this fine block of Willard's. With the wind blowing at the time, the market, Hiscox and Allison would also have gone, besides the damage that would result to those fine blocks on the north side of Queen Street.

This fire should be a warning to businessmen as well as private person not to leave their stores and residences at night with a lot of fire in them.

Much sympathy is felt for Mr. Willard and family in their loss, having restarted so recently and had their business in good running order.

Workmen are already busy repairing the store, and in a week or two Mr. Willard again expects to open out in business.

## Wagon goes through ice on lake

*Whitby Chronicle: March 29, 1895*

Mr. Thomas Hope of Scugog lost a fine young horse in Lake Scugog on Tuesday 26th. His son was going to Port Perry with a load of grain, and before he knew it had driven into an air hole that had frozen over the evening previous.

As he was alone he called for help and Messrs. Jackson hearing the calls ran to his assistance and they saved one horse and the load of grain and the sleigh. Next morning the drowned horse came to the surface and the harness was secured.

## Blong's Beechenhurst improvements

*Whitby Chronicle: May 10, 1895*

Mr. Jonathan Blong is making extensive improvement at Beechenhurst, the beautiful home previous to the fire of Dr. John H. Sangster. In a short time this will again be a valuable property. Mr. Blong has only had it a few months

and has been offered an advance of nearly one hundred percent on the price he gave for it. Whether this remains in his hands or passes into the hands of outsiders, it will make a most delightful summer residence.

## **Fined for shooting maskinonge**

*Lindsay Watchman: May 24, 1895*

In the celebrated fish case of Deputy Warden Crandell vs Henry Bowen, judgement of the court was delivered and the defendant was fined \$22 and cost for the shooting of maskinonge out of season.

Rumors are heard that Mr. Bowmen intends to appeal as he claims he was fined before the same office. This case may lead to the decision of an important point of law as to which the Provincial or Dominion jurisdiction holds good in regard to the fisheries of Lake Scugog.

Mr. Bowen, who is a farmer residing on Washburn Island, shot a maskinonge weighing about 30 lbs. Dominion Fishery Inspector Watton had Mr. Bowen summoned before William Bateman, J.P., and fined under the Dominion laws. Warden Crandell summoned him before John Nott, J.P., and when under trial before Mr. Nott, Bowen produced papers showing his conviction before Mr. Bateman.

Mr. Nott imposed a fine of \$22 and costs.

## **Merchants to close stores at 9 p.m.**

*Lindsay Watchman: May 24, 1895*

There is a movement on foot among our citizens to persuade our merchants and business men to close their places of business on Saturday nights promptly at nine o'clock. It is to be hoped something will come out of this talk, as it is not fair to the merchants, their clerks and especially those who deliver parcels for them to have to violate the Sabbath and can't help themselves.

I have heard some of our merchants say they have known many persons to walk up and down the street until two o'clock and then order their supplies for Sunday and the coming week, and ask to have them delivered that night. Messrs. Jones & Co., William Brock, and Aaron Ross & Sons have signified their willingness to close at 9 o'clock. The others will be approached this week.

If people would only think no and act promptly, all shopping could be done on Saturdays in good time, but as long as stores are open there are those who will shop even if they were kept open until midnight.

## **Man fined for drunk and disorderly**

*Lindsay Watchman: May 24, 1895*

The town council and authorities seem determined to be a terror to evil doers. On Thursday, the 6th inst., a man from Cartwright got so much fire-water inside his stomach. The result was that it caused something to go wrong with the brain. The fellow got furious, the air around him being blue with curses and oaths.

Constable Powell took him in tow and laid a complaint against him before John Nott, J.P. for being drunk and disorderly. As a result the man was out nearly \$5 in fine and costs. It is really too bad to see such, men get liquor. When sober this man is a good citizen, but as soon as he gets liquor he seems to get crazy drunk in a short time.

The hotel men would confer a favor on not only the

man, but his family in refusing to give him any more liquor. Should he lose his life through being drunk whoever sold him liquor would be responsible for an action.

## **Vickery gets addition on mill**

*Whitby Chronicle: June 7, 1895*

At the regular meeting of council Monday, June 5, Charles L. Vickery asked permission to build an addition to his planning mill on Perry Street. Mr. Willcox voted nay, all the rest yes.

An order was granted on the treasurer for \$209.63 for a tin roof on the town hall to T.H. Phillip & Co.; C.L. Vickery, lumber for town hall, \$11.80. and Newton Bros., on printing &c., \$39.

## **Western Bank is renovated**

*Whitby Chronicle: June 7, 1895*

The interior of the Western Bank here has been thoroughly remodelled and renovated. The banking room has been enlarged, both for public and bank officials. The counter and glass front now extending the whole length of the larger rooms.

The manager's room has been made smaller to give more room to the back proper. Mr. John Powers did the woodwork and made a neat job, while the decorating and paperhanging was done by our new painter Mr. W. Delve - who has an artistic eye for harmony in colors and has made a first class job. The place inside now looks like a city bank.

The officials in this branch, Messrs. William McGill, Hibbert G. Hutchinson, James Baird and Duncan McMillan are courteous and gentlemanly in their business with the public and will now be in a better position to do their duties to their patrons and the public.

## **Damage to doctors telephone lines**

*Whitby Chronicle: June 14, 1895*

Our four medical men, Dr. Samuel J. Mellow, Dr. John H. Sangster, Dr. George H. Clemens and Dr. Robert Archer all have telephone connections and privileges through the outlying districts for the accommodation of their different patients and friends and up to this time one has ever uttered a word of complaint or done anything to show there was opposition to any of our medical men erecting telephone lines at their own expense.

Dr. Archer, at considerable cost to himself, erected a telephone line to Prince Albert, Manchester, Prospect, Shirley, Purple Hill and Blackstock. One evening last week someone cut down with a saw a number of the doctor's telephone poles on the gavel road south of Blackstock. Such scoundrelly work should be punished and Kingston penitentiary would be the domicile of that man if found out.

There are very strong suspicions who is the originator of the mean, spiteful job. The party need not think the doctor can be discouraged as he will keep his line in order if he has to keep men to watch and catch the guilty ones.

## **Fishing is great on Lake Scugog**

*Lindsay Watchman: June 28, 1895*

Lake Scugog is keeping up its name for maskinonge fishing. Joe Mosure and John McKenzie caught 23 on

Saturday and Monday, the largest weighing 26 lbs. Mr. Sample, of Albany, N.Y., and Messrs. Dingle and Gardner, of Oshawa, in three days of last week caught 28, weighing 200 lbs. Port Perry is the place for sport just now. Fine hotels, food boats and plenty of guides.

## Boat burns to waters edge

*Lindsay Watchman: October 21, 1895*

Early Monday morning Mr. Jonathon Blong, with others, were going duck shooting. While they were getting everything in readiness, the lamp fell over in the boat or exploded and in a few minutes the little *Seagull* was in a blaze and burned to the water's edge. Nothing now can be seen but the smoke stack throughout the rice bed. It was insured.

## Twin fish caught in Lake Scugog

*Toronto Globe: August 16, 1895*

Twin fish were caught in Lake Scugog one day last week. The weighed about 7 lbs. each, and when landed were found to be connected at the corner of the mouth by a band that was unbreakable.

One of the fish had evidently at one time been caught, and escaped with the hook and part of the troll firmly embedded in his jaw. In swimming around in his native element he had hooked on to a brother fish, whose struggles to escape only served to give the hook a firmer hold.

In this ways they must have journey through life for several years, as the hook was completely covered, and the two lunge had grown tether in a way that was astonishing. The inside of the silver spoon that dangled from the port side of the twin fish bore the initials J.D., 1892.

## Thirty pound muskellunge caught

*Toronto Globe: August 16, 1895*

Jno. Marsden, Indian of Scugog, caught a muskellunge last Friday weighing over 30 lbs. This and two others make 74 lbs., were expressed to an American in Pittsburg, PA., a Mr. H.A. Laughran.

## Dr. Clemens home razed by fire

*Uxbridge Journal: August 1895*

On Saturday morning about four o'clock, Dr. George H. Clemens was awoke by smoke, only to discover that his fine house was on fire. The flames spread with such rapidity that he had barely time to escape and soon the



*Dr. Geo. H. Clemens home, Queen St., Port Perry.*

whole structure, together with its valuable contents, were nothing but a heap of debris. The origin of the fire is a mystery, but it is supposed to have started in the cellar.

Loss \$11,000; insured \$6,000 on the house and \$3,000 on the contents. It is likely the doctor will rebuild at once. Mrs. Clemens and Louie were away at Niagara at the time of the fire.

## Central Fair attracts thousands

*Toronto Globe: September 23, 1895*

The Scugog Agricultural Society held their annual fall exhibition on the Ontario Central Fair Grounds, Port Perry, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and it was a pronounced success in every particular.

Very large crowds visited the grounds, pavilion and other buildings. On Friday, 5,000 were present and receipts of the gates amounted to the handsome sum of \$1,600.

The track, a large portion of which is elevated, was constructed at a cost of \$6,000, and speeding and other contests may be viewed to advantage from any portion of the grounds. The number of entries was nearly a thousand in excess of those of previous years. The weather was all that could have been desired.

## New printing office set to open

*Whitby Chronicle: November 29, 1895*

Howard Gordon, late of the *Lindsay Post* staff, and James W. Murray, late of the *Port Perry Standard* office, will shortly open a new printing office in that town. It was said they were trying to buy out the *Standard* office. It would pay them better to invest in a new plant entirely, as a new and complete outfit for a country printing office can be purchased for less than \$1,000.

As both of these young men are clever and practical printers, and hustlers as news gatherers, they would give our citizens a bright newsy sheet. If your young friends venture in this enterprise it would only be a question of a short time when one of the two offices in town would close up as one of the partners of the *Standard* said last week, that the *Standard* and *Observer* were only making a bare living.

Messrs. Gord and Murray would soon be assured the cream of the printing work in town and vicinity. We are anxiously waiting to see the first numbers of the *Port Perry Review*.

# ~ 1896 ~

## Pine Grove Cemetery meeting

*Whitby Chronicle: January 24, 1896*

The annual meeting of the Ontario Pine Grove Cemetery Co. was held on Monday last in the Town Hall. The auditors report, which was adopted, showed the receipts were \$559.49; expenditure 1,508.07; leaving a balance in the Treasurer's hands of \$50.52.

The Township of Reach tax collector has seized the caretaker's cow for taxes and the Cemetery Co. intend fighting the matter and defend the caretaker. The president was instructed to examine the assessment roll

and find out how the property was assessed and whether personal or reality.

The old board of directors was re-elected, viz: Joshua Wright, W. McGill, J. Rolph T. Graham, P. Christie, C. Crandell, J. Heard, H. Campbell, and I. Laing.

The board of directors met and elected the following officers J. Wright, President; J. Rolph, secretary; W. McGill, treasure, R. Bond, caretaker. Messrs. Campbell, Laing, Heard, Heard, Graham, Condell, and Christie, were appointment a committee to take into consideration the repairing of the caretaker's house or buy a building adjacent to the grounds.



Passengers leaving train station in Port Perry.

## Crowds gather at the train station

*Whitby Chronicle: January 24, 1896*

Several of our best citizens have of late made many complaint of the motley crowds that assemble nightly at the G.T.R. station. It is mere conjecture why the crowds gather at the station and on the long platform. Some think it is to see the incoming and outgoing passengers. At any rate it is a nuisance that should be stopped at once.

The crowds usually congregate while the station agent and his assistant are very busy with their duties and cannot leave their work. It is often the case that those who have to go the station to meet friends coming in or to see friends off that they cannot elbow their way through the crowds.

If the G.T.R. authorities would send a detective or special constable here for two or three weeks to assist the station agent, it would soon be that women and children could go to the station and not be jostled as now happens.

## Angry man charged with assault

*Whitby Chronicle: January 31, 1896*

R.G. Shire, Port Perry, appeared before Major Harper on Saturday last to answer a charge of assault causing actual bodily harm.

The evidence showed that Mr. Shier was incensed at an article written by Mr. John Nott in the Port Perry columns of the *Chronicle*, that he railed Nott on the street at Port Perry, seized him by the throat and struck him down upon the sidewalk, when the interference of bystanders put an end to the struggle.

Shier admitted the charge and refused to put in testimony of the usual town variety which some parties

there offered to put in, to the effect that Nott struck him first. With the exception of the assault, which Mr. Shier states was done in a haste moment, Shier acted in a most straightforward way throughout the case, in consideration of which Mr. Nott asked that the penalty be merely confined to such measures as would protect him as a newspaper writer.

Sentence was suspended, Mr. Shier paying the costs. Mr. Shier states the gambling practices commented up by Mr. Nott had been put an end to a fortnight before the article appeared.

## Joseph Bigelow petitions for council to provide payment for lots

*Whitby Chronicle: February 7, 1896*

Mr. Joseph Bigelow presented a petition at the Council meeting last Monday evening with over 150 names of property holders of the town asking the council to remunerate him for the seven lots or parts of lots that were taken by the town to make a part of the Avenue road.

Some will think it is a long time since the transaction took place for Mr. Bigelow to ask for his just right. It will be remembered when he was in a legal dispute with the Ontario Bank and Wm. J. Trounce some years ago that Mr. Bigelow rather than give the bank any benefit from those seven lots, allowed the town to reap the benefit of it.

No, after a lapse of years, his friends think the town council should in a measure pay Mr. Bigelow for the lots, Mr. Baird got \$100 for one lot. If only for the good our town has received from the Cartwright roadway, and for which our citizens have only Joseph Bigelow to thank, that whom no man did more to help on that work, he should be paid a reasonable amount for the land.

## Minister visits Scugog Island church

*Whitby Chronicle: February 7, 1896*

The Rev. T. Manning made a visit this week to Scugog Island in the interest of the Methodist Church in that place. For some years back the minister in charge of the island has lived in Port Perry and has received \$300 a year from the mission fund as part of his stipend. Last June a young man was stationed on this work, who boards on the island and who receives no assistance from the mission fund.

Mr. Manning's visit was made for the purpose of ascertaining if the people were willing to support an ordained married man among them. He reports himself as greatly pleased with the prospect. He found the church in the process of a most genuine revival of religion, which was reaching every part of the island.



Methodist Church, Scugog Island.

The young pastor, Rev. Mr. Hallett, is universally popular, and is receiving about \$260 as stipend from the people, whereas only about \$260 were raised for this purpose last year. There are in all 113 families on the island, and over 90 of these are nominally methodists.

There are besides about 40 Indians on the reserve. The missionary society pays \$100 a year to the Indian work. But it is hoped that next year the Indians will help the cause of religion by attending the church at the foot, along with the white people, that saving the \$100 to the mission.

The plan which Mr. Manning, the chairman of the district proposed, is to build a parsonage on the island, so that the minister can live among the people, and to sell the parsonage now owned in Port Perry. To this plan the people all readily agreed, believing it to be the only wise course. If Bro. Mallett can be left for another year on this charge there is good hope that by the time he must leave for college there will be a parsonage built and furnished and ready for occupancy by a vigorous young man.

All the churches on the district will rejoice over this matter, and none will be more glad than the islanders themselves. There is a project on foot for the strengthening of circuits over the district, of which the Scugog place is only a part. There are some obstacles in the way, but a united effort, and a wide and sympathetic view of the whole case may result in the permanent advantage of the cause of religion in the circuits concerned.

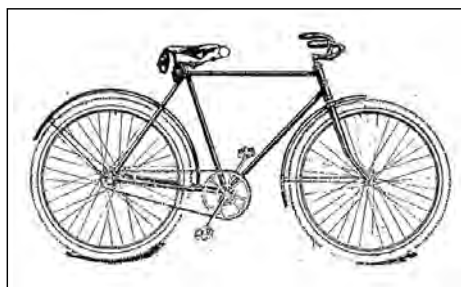
## Fire in downtown Port Perry

*Whitby Chronicle: February 28, 1896*

About two o'clock last Thursday morning, the town was again called out by the clang, clang of the fire bell, when fire was discovered in C.L. Whitby's merchant tailoring establishment, in the Blong block.

Mr. and Mrs. Whitby were awakened by their little child crying, being stifled by smoke. Mr. Whitby gave the alarm to Chief Robert McKnight to ring the bell. In a few minutes willing hands were soon at work, at first forming a bucket brigade, until the engine could be placed.

In a very short time the small hand engine was throwing a good stream and did good work and was afterwards reinforced by the fire engine, and the two streams soon had the fire under control.



*Hyslop bicycle with white rims.*

## Group forms Maple Leaf bike club

*Toronto Globe: March 14, 1896*

A meeting of the bicycle riders of Port Perry was held in the Western Bank of Canada on March 12th, for the purpose of organizing a club. There was a good attendance and the following officers were appointed.

Hon. President, F.J. McMillan; Captian Ernest Ebbles; Lieutenant Jas Bravana; Secretary-Trasurer, Johnson Goudy; Bugler Walter Ross. This club will be known as the Port Perry Maple Leafs, and will also become a member of the C.W.A. This club will all ride the popular wheel known as the Hyslop No. 1, white rims.

## Fishing out of season

*Whitby Chronicle: March 20, 1896*

A few weeks ago I called the attention of Inspector Watson, of Caesarea, to the fact that large quantities of maskinonge were being snared and sold in town and shipped to outside places. Why make "fish of one man and flesh of another" in this matter ?

If the department of Marine and Fisheries at Ottawa intend that our citizens and citizens of American and Canadian towns and cities who come here to spend their holidays, have the privilege and pleasure of fishing for maskinonge on and after the 16th of June, they through their inspectors will have to take sharp measures to stop the illegal snaring of fish now going on every day.

I know for a positive fact that hundreds of pounds of maskinonge are openly sold and shipped every few days. Inspectors Watson and Martin did put in an appearance after that article appeared.

News was in town yesterday, that fishery Inspector Watson had laid in ambush all night on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning and had caught several parties in the act of snaring fish.

After hauling the fish on the ice he saw the same persons hide them in the snow. Inspector Watson is reported to have said, that he did not lay all night on Seven Mile Island for nothing.



*Train with snowplow attached to front of engine.*

## Snow removal on railway tracks

*Whitby Chronicle: March 20, 1896*

Wednesday night and all day Thursday of last week was a trying time on our railway line. It required two snow plows, each with double engines, to clear the track of snow from Lindsay to Whitby.

Early on Friday morning Roadmaster Mr. Ferguson and 35 of his men, after a hard 12 hours work returned to Port Perry and had an early breakfast at the St. Charles Hotel. The men had had nothing to eat from 12 o'clock of the day previous and they relished the appetizing meal prepared for them at 2 o'clock that morning by the host Louis Sebert and his staff, after which the men proceeded homeward bound.

## McGaw block destroyed by fire

*Whitby Chronicle: March 27, 1896*

On Saturday night, 21st inst., at 10.45 p.m., again for the third time in a few weeks came the clang of the fire bell. It was soon found out the fire was in the McGaw block on the north side of Queen street, and occupied by the *Port Perry Standard* printing office, Miss Thompson's millinery, and G.H. Wallis, merchant tailor, which were all completely destroyed.

From the time the alarm was given until the whole interior of the building was in flames was only a few minutes, then followed the cracking and falling in and out of the plate glass fronts. The fire burned so fiercely that not one dollar's worth of goods were saved for any of the three occupants.

On account of the depth of snow on the road it was very hard work to get the fire engine to the ice, when the engine did get to work it very soon quenched the fire. At one time it looked as if R.G. Shier's livery stable would have burned, being only 20 or 25 feet north of the burning building. The two engines soon stopped that building from further damage.

Mr. Shier's horses and rigs were nearly all got out. The fire started in the millinery rooms – how is a mystery, as Miss Thompson used a coal stove. It being, Saturday night the coal fire was nearly out, and they had only gone some 45 minutes when the building was in a blaze.

Many of our citizens say the insurance companies should hold an investigation and find out the cause. It is rumored on the street that this fire is of incendiary origin. If so, it should be ferreted out and the guilty one or ones punished. If an example were made when fires are thought to be incendiary the result might be worth thousands of dollars to our town.

We have had too many fires, and many of our townspeople are of the opinion that all were not accidental ones. Losses were : Messrs. Newton Bros., complete; Miss L. Thompson, total loss, and the same with G.H. Wallis; Mrs. Diesfeld loss on building and stock, \$500; M. Williams loss on stock \$200.

Much sympathy is felt for all those who occupied the fatal building, and I believe they all intend to start again. The plate glass in the Ross block, Laing & Meharry block, and Allison block, opposite the fire on the south side of the street, was cracked by the heat.

## Sad and fatal accident during fire

*Whitby Chronicle: March 27, 1896*

During the progress, of the fire on Saturday night, March 21st. inst., several persons were assisting Mr. M. Williams to remove his stock. Two of those persons were his brother Allen and Jno. Moshure, jr., who were removing goods by the rear door. While in the act of rolling a barrel, the north-west part of the wall fell and part of it struck poor Moshure.

Friends at once removed him to the surgery of Drs. George Clemens and E.L. Proctor, across the street. The medical men made an examination of the poor fellow and found his skull fractured, three bad cuts on the right side of his face, the shoulder broken in two places, his ribs broken, the pelvic and thigh bones broken, his leg broken

at the knee, as well as internal injuries.

The injured man lived for nearly four hours. The doctors are of opinion that Moshure never knew what struck him. He never regained consciousness, and died without a struggle. The doctors did all they could but it was of no avail. His injuries were too many.

The wonder is the poor man was not killed at the time, as when found pieces of brick and mortar weighing nearly 150 lbs. were on his chest and leg. Allen Williams escape is a puzzle, as he was only two or three feet from Moshure.

His death cast a gloom over the town, and many expressions of profound sympathy were tendered to the bereaved family in their sad affliction. The funeral on Monday was a very large one, and was attended by many of our citizens and many from a distance, showing the respect and esteem in which the deceased and family are held in this vicinity.

## Newspaper back in business

*Bowmanville Statesman: May 6, 1896*

The *Port Perry Standard* which was destroyed by fire some weeks ago is again in running order and in last week's issue the editor says: Well, the *Standard*, after many trials and tribulations, is back in Port Perry again, and we are more included than ever to exclaim, "Home, Sweet Home;" there is no place like home.

## Big musky caught on Lake Scugog

*Whitby Chronicle: June 19, 1896*

Messrs. Fred Hatch, W.S. Gold and McLaren went out onto Lake Scugog Tuesday and caught 31 fish, nearly all muskellunge, and of large stature. We are very careful to say they caught these fish with steel hooks, because we want it to be distinctly understood that we make no insinuation that they bought them with silver count.

It is often complained that we exaggerate fish stories in reporting, so we have confined this whole day's fishing to once sentence.

## Bathing hours restricted in Scugog

*Whitby Chronicle: June 5, 1896*

At a special meeting of the town council on Thursday of last week instructions were given to Chief Constable McKnight to enforce the bylaw in reference to bathing on the lakeshore between Mary Street and Carnegie's Mill, between the hours of 5 o'clock a.m. and 12 o'clock p.m.

No one is even allowed to wear bathing suites, as in the past several boys have taken advantage of "so called" bathing suits. The reason why the council is so strict is that boys would resort to some very contemptible tricks and ladies and young men, who were escorts of lads, have been insulted.

## Fire Inspector tests local fire engine

*Whitby Chronicle: June 12, 1896*

The Fire Inspector was in Port Perry last Friday and at noon had the fire bell rung to test our fire engine. In one minute after the alarm was given, the engine was on the street, and in 10 minutes and 45 seconds, 300 feet of hose was laid and the branchmen were throwing a stream of water with steam at 50 lbs. pressure.



The inspector was well satisfied with the result of the test. Our citizens are proud to have such prompt firemen. Our firemen always do their duty even when the odds are against them.

## Objections to creating a town park

*Whitby Chronicle: June 12, 1896*

At the council meeting last Monday, Councillor Jeffrey introduced a resolution to have that fine plot of land adding the town hall enlarged and laid out and fitted up for a park. Messrs. Wm. Bateman and Thomas Rundle, to the surprise of the ratepayers offer town, objected on the score of expense.

If those two members of council want to stay outdoors in their own back yards that is no reason why the majority of our citizens should be deprived of a nice little park, which can be arranged at a very limited expense.

Let council instruct Street Commissioner Robt. McKnight to make a suitable park and it will be done without being extravagant. It will be a cosy spot for visitors to spend a pleasant hour when visiting in town, and will be used by our own citizens as well.

## Death of an old mariner

*Whitby Chronicle: July 7, 1896*

Capt. Hugh Chisholm, an old and highly-esteemed citizen, passed peacefully away at noon today in Meaford. He was one of the pioneer shipbuilders and navigators of Canada in his earlier years.

For nearly a quarter of a century he carried on a large mercantile, grain and forwarding business at Meaford. As a shipbuilder he built at Port Credit the first centre-board schooner on the north shore of Lake Ontario. In 1850 he built the first steamer, the Woodman, on Lake Scugog and adjacent lakes. He was master of the vessel for three years, plying between Port Perry, Lindsay and Fenelon Falls.

For the old Northern R.R. Co, he built in 1854 the steamer J.C. Morrison, named after the late Judge Morrison. She was a palatial steamer for those days and cost \$60,000. She ran on Lake Simcoe and was the lake's favourite steamer.

Interment for Mr. Chisholm, who was 72 years old, will take place at St. Vincent Cemetery, near Meaford, on Wednesday.

## Fishing good at Seven Mile Island

*Whitby Chronicle: July 24, 1896*

Messrs. Archibald Thompson, H.A. Mullins, Joseph Wilson and James L. Rowntree, four of Toronto's prominent cattle exporters, have just returned from a short fishing holiday, which they spent at Seven Mile Island on Lake Scugog.

Between them they caught 123 fish, muskellunge and basses, weighing from one pound and a half for the lightest bass up to 16 pounds for the biggest "lunge" in their string. They brought all these finny prizes back with them, and presented the most of them to their confreres at the western cattle markets.

They were guests of Mr. Albert Stephens at Seven Mile Island to which place they were rowed after leaving the train in Port Perry.

## More than 600 lbs of fish caught

*Whitby Chronicle: July 24, 1896*

- In the ice house of the Oriental Hotel was the finest lot of muskellunge that was ever seen in the town. The entire catch would weigh over 600 lbs. and were caught by Messrs. F. Smith and A.W. Wood of Toronto.

- Messrs. Mallory and Bath of Brockville were here a few days and in their lot was one that weighed 30 lbs. Mr. Bath says this is the finest fishing grounds in Ontario. In the next few days a part of about 20 Americans are expected here for fishing.

- Lunge fishing on Scugog lake is better than usual this season. Messrs. J. B Goulp and R. Calvert caught 52 lbs. one morning last week in a few hours.

## Corner stone laid for new Methodist Church in Greenbank

*Whitby Chronicle: August 7, 1896*

The corner stone gather for the Methodist Church, Greenbank, was a decided success. Indeed, if anything, the weather was too fine to allow many who were busy at their harvest to attend, but notwithstanding there was a very good turnout.

Mr. McGill, who was to have laid one of the stones was suddenly taken in, so Mr. William Ross, Reeve of Port Perry was contacted by telephone to take Mr. McGill's place. While waiting for him to arrive, the gathering repaired to the Presbyterian Church, which was filled to its utmost, and part of the ceremony was gone through.

The principal feature was an address by Dr. J.J. McLaren, QC, of Toronto, who spoke of the wonderful growth of the Methodist Church, especially since the union of the different branches a few years earlier.

When Mr. Ross arrived, the gathering proceeded to the new building, where after a short address by Rev. Mr. McCamus, Mr. Leonard Burnett, M.P., placed the jar containing the usual articles in the recess and with a few taps of the hammer, pronounced the stone well and truly laid. The next stone was laid in the same way by Mr. Ross, with Mr. John Beare, sr., placing the jar in the recess.



*R.J. Bruce Hardware, Queen Street.*

## Bruce opens new hardware store

*Whitby Chronicle: October 9, 1896*

R.J. Bruce moved into his new hardware store last week, and has one of the handiest hardware establishments in this County. Every part has been laid out to advantage. We now have three first-class hardware

stores in town where every need can be gratified.

Some time ago it was a very frequent occurrence to hear people say they could buy hardware cheaper in a western town. That is now very seldom heard as it is claimed our hardware men sell as close as any other dealers in this district, and the trade that used to go away from this town has returned, as is seen by the business done by each of the hardware stores in town.

Bruce's hardware store takes the place of the late building burned in February last. The present store is a great improvement on the old one. The mason work was done by Mr. George Gardiner, the wood work by Mr. John Stovin, and the painting by John Rodman, the tin roofing by Mr. W.H. Clark. Each contractor has done first class work and the finished building is a credit to those men.

## Giving liquor to the Indians

*Whitby Chronicle: October 25, 1896*

Last week three Indians from Scugog were in town and got filled up with firewater as usual. It is a known fact that our three hotels and liquor shop have positively refused to sell or give liquor directly or indirectly to those Indians.

The Indian agent should look into the matter and catch the men who buy liquor for the Indians. The way it is down is:- Say Tom wants whiskey, he gives A.B. a bottle and money to buy liquor from him. While A.B. is away the Indian hides where A.B. knows he can find him. In that way the law is violated. If a severe lesson were taught those men it might be to their advantage.



*Greenbank Methodist Church.*

## Greenbank Methodist opens

*Whitby Chronicle: December 18, 1896*

As might have been expected the, opening of the new Methodist Church this week that has engaged the attention of this community. The roads on Sunday were about as bad as they could be, but that did not prevent the people from coming, and the spacious edifice was filled to its utmost capacity at each service.

The first service was conducted by the Rev Amos Campbell of Belleville, who preached a grand sermon. The choir, reinforced by some extra voices, did their part well, and Mr.

The cost of the entire undertaking, including ground, sheds, sidewalks and fencing, will amount to nearly

\$6,000, and after deducting the cash and subscriptions received, left about \$2,400 yet to be provided for. To meet this amount an appeal was made at each service by the Rev. A. Campbell, who may truly be said to be a professional in this line of business. As a result of his appeal over \$1,500 was raised in collections and subscriptions.

On Monday the roads were better and another crowd equally as large came from every point of the compass. The scenes of the day before were repeated, and at last the pleasing announcement was made that the whole debt had been provided for.

The edifice was then formally dedicated and the meeting was brought to a close at a somewhat late hour. The church has a seating capacity of 450. The trustees and members of the church are to be congratulated on the successful completion of such a fine and comfortable place of worship.

The contractors, Messrs. Reid and Thirsk, of Uxbridge, have done their work in a way that is a credit to them. The wonder is how they could erect such a building for the price paid.

~ 1897 ~

## Irish Pheasants for Scugog Island

*Uxbridge Journal: February 9, 1897*

Mark Crandell, of the Scugog Game Preserve, is having eight fine Irish pheasants sent to him to let loose on the Scugog Island. We hope the farmers on the Island will take good care of these birds for a few years, as they are the best grub destroyer known. In a few years they will multiply so as to afford sport for shooters. It is said these birds bring out from seventeen to twenty-one birds at a hatching. Mark also has at the preserve, some wild turkeys and geese which are thriving in captivity.

## John Nott in business for 50 years

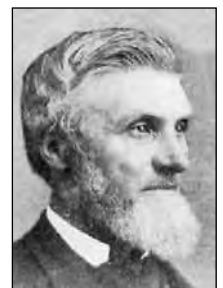
*Toronto Globe: March 22, 1897*

Fifty years ago yesterday, March 17th, our esteemed townsman, Mr. John Nott, started in the furniture business in the western portion of this village, then known as Borelia. And he has been steadily engaged in the same line of business since that time.

After completion of the railway in order to be nearer the business centre he removed his business operations to a more central portion of the village. Persevering, industrious and honorable and upright in all his dealing he always commanded a fair share of public patronage. Long after Squire Nott lives to enjoy the fruits of his labors.

He has occupied a number of public positions, the gift of the people, and discharged the duties of his various offices with credit to himself and for the best interests of the public. At one time he was collector for the Township of Reach. He served a number of years at the Port Perry council. About 25 years ago he was appointed Justice of the Peace, which office he still retains.

It may be added to the foregoing notice of Mr. Nott, that he has been a constant reader of *The Toronto*



*John Nott.*

*Globe* for 35 years, and has been a life-long Reformer. He has taken an active part in all the elections which have been held in his riding for many years.

Among the contests in which he has figured were those waged by Messrs. Joseph Gould, John Hall Thompson, Thomas Payton, George Wheeler, Isaac Gould, James I. Davidson, the present member for South Ontario; Hon. John Dryden and Mr. Leonard Burnett. In all these elections he was either deputy returning officer or scrutineer.

## Fire destroys barn and animals

*Uxbridge Journal: March 23, 1897*

On Sunday evening about 8 o'clock the citizens of this peaceful village, Manchester, were aroused with the cries of fire. All followed the bright light, and it was found that Mr. Aaron Masters' barn was on fire.

Mr. Masters was just going down to do the night chores when he noticed flames coming out of the side of the building. He rushed in the door, and got the horse out, but in trying to untie the cow he was knocked down, when he regained himself he had to flee, but not before he had received some nasty burns.

A good cow, a large pig, a cutting box, a quantity of hay, and numbers of little things were lost. There was no insurance, and in all Mr. Masters loss will be about \$200. The origin of the fire is a mystery.

## Petition to purchase Fair Grounds

*Uxbridge Journal: April 7, 1897*

A petition signed by about 130 ratepayers of Port Perry was presented to council, asking them to submit a by-law to the ratepayers for their approval of the purchase of the Ontario Central Fair Grounds. Messrs. Wm. Bateman and Thos. Rundle were appointed a committee to ascertain the price for the grounds. The price asked by Messrs. Frankish and Hudson, is \$4,250.

## Seagrave petitions to close hotel bar

*Uxbridge Journal: April 7, 1897*

Over two-thirds of the people of Seagrave have signed a petition, and in all probability Mr. Robt. Brown, host of the Ocean House, will be forced to close his bar. Mr. Edward Newton of Seagrave and Mr. Jacob DeFoe of Utica are endeavoring to get licenses, but petitions have been circulated against them.

Note: Two weeks later, the Ocean House in Seagrave was successful in holding the right to sell "fire water" despite the large petition against it. Utica and Saintfield were turned down.

## Want late night shopping stopped as it encroaches on Sabbath

*Whitby Chronicle: May 14, 1897*

The ladies of the WCTU acting in concert with the ladies of the Sons of Temperance and Royal Templars have started a good movement in endeavouring to get the citizens of the town to do their shopping early on Saturday so as to avoid having a night delivery.

It has been the practice for many people to do their shopping as late as possible, causing those who drive the delivery wagons to be out until midnight and in

many cases encroach on the Sabbath, when by a little thoughtfulness on the part of shoppers this could be avoided.

I have heard some of our merchants say that they have known people to put off their buying purposely until ten o'clock Saturday evening with the result that the clerks were compelled to work later on Saturday nights than there was a need to.

It is to be desired that those who have been in the habit of shopping late will have a little more concern for the merchants and clerks in the future in doing their shopping on Saturday nights

## Work progressing on Scugog and Cartwright roadway

*Toronto Globe: May 14, 1897*

The work on the Scugog and Cartwright roadway is going ahead rapidly. With four weeks' good weather we will be the brush and timber work completed. There are about 10 teams and between 25 and 30 men at work. The work so far as completed is permanent and well done.

## License granted for Mrs. Jacob Dafoe

*Uxbridge Journal: May 20, 1897*

At a meeting of the license commissioners of South Ontario held recently, a license for the sale of wine and beer was granted to Mrs. Jacob Dafoe of Utica. It is a problem we cannot solve, how the Utica petition was considered and the one from Seagrave hardly recognized. We are pleased to note the stand taken by Mr. Burns in the work of this year, but we will refrain from giving our opinion of the other fellows. Our Greenbank friends have expressed themselves correctly, and we are with them.



*Paxton Tate Foundry, Port Perry.*

## Paxton, Tate Co., business failure

*Toronto Globe: June 16, 1897*

The estate of Paxton, Tate & Co., mill wheel manufacturers, Port Perry, who recently assigned to Henry Barber, of Toronto, is not likely to realize a large dividend to the creditors.

The first have been in business in Port Perry for many years and heretofore have been considered in a sound financial position. A meeting of the creditors was held yesterday afternoon at the office of Mr. Barber. No offer was made by the time, and Mr. Barber was instructed by the creditors to wind up the estate, which will be sold on July 2nd.

The statement presented at the meeting showed liabilities of \$47,018.69, and assets of \$44,117.69, leaving a nominal deficiency of \$2,901. There are over 100 creditors, but most of them are in for small amounts.

The largest creditors are William McGill of Port Perry, who is in for \$17,200; Hon John Dryden, Brooklin, for \$10,750, the Ontario Bank for \$6,900; and the Western Bank for \$3,735. There are 30 other Port Perry creditors in for amounts up to \$100.

## Child dies from burst blood vessel

*Whitby Chronicle: July 2, 1897*

On Monday afternoon, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Smith, of High Point, took their daughter Minnie, about 12 years old, to Dr. Samuel Mellow for examination and medical treatment. The doctor had finished his examination and was with parents in an another room telling them of the dangerous condition of their daughter when a cough was heard.

They went at once to the girl who had her hand over her mouth. The doctor removed the hand when out gushed a stream of blood and in less than two minutes she was dead; the immediate cause of death was the bursting of a blood vessel.

The parents were shocked at the sudden death of their daughter and did not know that their child was in such a dangerous condition until informed by their medical attendant a few minutes previously.

Dr. and Mrs. Mellow were very kind to Mr. and Mrs. Smith in their sudden bereavement and did all in the power to help them. Kind hands soon after had the body properly attended to and was taken home that evening.

## Burglars break into egg factory

*Toronto Globe: July 2, 1897*

As was to be expected, Port Perry was visited by burglars, many think the same gang that has been operating throughout the Province. Last Friday night between midnight and daylight the office of the egg warehouse of Mr. Joshua W. Curts was broken into, the safe opened and about \$500 and some papers stolen.

The safe was unlocked, it being always left that way and a card attached stating that anyone desiring to open the safe has only to turn the knob. It was done and it was no trouble to get a the cash drawer and papers. The papers are no good to the thieves.

Note: Two boys, playing near the platform at the Prince Albert station, about two weeks later, found the box and the papers under the platform and they were returned to Mr. Curts. (see July 22, 1897)

## More Lake Scugog fish stories

*Toronto Globe: July 15, 1897*

Mr. W. Cook of the Hub Cafe has just returned from a very successful fishing excursion at Lake Scugog. He reports the land of a 34 pound maskinonge, also a number of black bass, weighing from two pounds upwards.

Mr. Martin Burk of Bowmanville writes that in company with four other gentlemen he spent Wednesday fishing at Caesarea on Lake Scugog, and returned home on that evening with 19 maskinonge and number of bass. The

maskinonge averaged 15 pounds; the smalls weighing six pounds and the largest being 26 pounds in weight and 46 inches in length.

## Live in Toronto, you are no good here

*Uxbridge Journal: July 15, 1897*

How many people are there in Port Perry who make their money here and spend it in Toronto, and then find fault with the town? If you are one of them, go to Toronto and live, you are no good here, only a drone.

A town should be to its inhabitants what a residence is to its occupants, in both cases it is their home. The members of a family leave nothing undone that will increase the appearance of their home and promote the happiness, comfort and contentment of those lining there.

The same spirit should animate citizens in beautifying and otherwise improving the town, for in this way they will make residents generally more comfortable and contented. Then everything about the house that adds to the pleasure of the family also increases the enjoyment of the visitors. The same is true the town. Visitors delight to visit a place where cleanliness, beauty and cheerfulness are at a premium.

## Stolen papers, tools found

*Uxbridge Journal: July 22, 1897*

While some little lads were playing on the platform at Prince Albert station a week ago last Sunday, they found a chisel under the platform. They at once told Mr. A.M. McLean, who lives in the station, and he told the boys to look further and they might find Mr. Joshua W. Curts missing papers. The boys did as they were directed and soon found a box containing all the papers taken from the egg factory safe belonging to Mr. Curts, and also found the tools belonging to Mr. F. Williams of the Allen Carriage Works.

The two men were well pleased at the recovery of their property. It is a source of satisfaction to Mr. Curts in having his papers returned as some of them were very valuable to him and of no use to the burglars. The burglars must have been frightened as they only got a small part of the money in the office.

Fortunately Mr. Curts had removed only a few hours before the burglary some \$350 in cash from the safe. Had the burglars been a week sooner they would have made a good haul, as about \$850 in hard cash was in the safe.

## Central Fair Grounds for sale

*Uxbridge Journal: July 22, 1897*

Last week the loan company holding the Central Fair Grounds advertised for tenders for sale of the buildings known as the Exhibition buildings, stables and sheds, the same if sold to be removed inside of three months.

This is a silly, childish move on their part, and shows that if they cannot force the sale of the property to Port Perry that they will have their satisfaction in knowing they will prevent our town holding any more fairs. Loan companies are like lots of other people, they don't know when they get a good offer.

An enterprising citizen some time ago offered the loan company \$4,500 for the property, \$2,000 cash and the balance in five years with interest. The Canada Permanent

Loan Co. refused this offer without thanks. I believe if this park by-law had been properly worked, the citizens would have voted for it and the by-law.



*Jones and Son store, Queen St., Port Perry.*

## Jones & Co. file for bankruptcy

*Toronto Globe: August 14, 1897*

Another heavy dry goods embarrassment which will effect a number of Toronto and Montreal wholesale houses, is reported for Port Perry.

Jones & Company, who for a number of years have conducted one of the largest retail dry goods stores in Port Perry, are financially embarrassed, and are endeavoring to effect a compromise with their creditors. No statement of affairs for Mr. Jones has yet been issued, but it is understood that the liabilities will be in the neighborhood of \$40,000.

Last week Mr. Jones went to Montreal and interviewed his creditors there, and yesterday he was in Toronto consulting his creditors there.

## Tenders let to purchase Ross block

*Toronto Globe: August 25, 1897 (advertisement)*

The executors of the late Aaron Ross invite tenders for the purchase of the brick block in Port Perry, occupied by the Western Bank, Aaron Ross & Son, merchants, law offices, with fireproof vaults, etc.

The building was substantially built under professional superintendence, is modern, centrally located, perfect and in perfect repair throughout, always well occupied, two storeys high, frontage 54 feet, depth 75 feet, with side lane, yard and outbuildings, etc.

Sealed tenders marked "tenders for store" to be sent up to September 30, 1897, to Wm. Ross, Port Perry, from whom or the undersigned full information can be obtained. No tender will be accepted unless satisfactory.

## Tearing down building a disgrace

*Uxbridge Journal: October 1897*

The *North Ontario Observer* comments: The highest tender received for the main building in the Ontario Central Fair grounds was \$300, which has been accepted. The building is to be removed from the grounds by December. The tearing down of that magnificent building, which cost nearly \$4,000 to build, would be a disgraceful act.

## Fire destroys Allison drug store

*Whitby Chronicle: December 3, 1897*

Mr. T.C. Nicholls' drug store in Port Perry was burned to the ground last Thursday (Dec. 2nd) morning. The fire was discovered about 3 o'clock in the morning, but the whole building was then a mass of flames which were bursting from the front, rear and roof.

The firemen were soon on the spot and did good work, but the gallant work of the firemen did not avail much, except to prevent the fire from spreading to adjacent buildings.

The ground floor was occupied by Charles H. Allison, druggist, while Dr. John H. Sangster's offices and Dr. W.A. Sangster's dental parlors occupied the upper storey.

The stand was one of the handsomest and best equipped brick buildings in the town and will be seriously missed. Mr. Nicholls had the building insured for \$2,200, but this will not nearly cover the loss he sustains.

How the first started is a mystery as everything was alright when each on left his place the night before, but it is thought the fire started from a defective flue.

Several plate false windows on the opposite side of the street were cracked in the Currie block, Parrish block, Jones, block and McCaw block.

## Christian Church re-opening

*Whitby Chronicle: December 3, '897*

In October, the members and friends of the Christian church, on Scugog Island, took steps to have their church thoroughly renovated; a subscription list was opened, when \$135 was subscribed, and workmen commenced the repairs.

The church is now completed, and presents a very comfortable appearance, and is a credit to the members of that denomination. The re-opening services were held last Sunday and Monday, Sunday morning, the pastor, Rev. J. W. Mallett, conducted the services; in the afternoon and evening the Rev. W. H. Chidley, of Newmarket, president of the Christian conference, delivered two eloquent sermons full of inspiring thought, and if followed out by men and women they would be better christians in their daily walk and conversation.

At the close of the evening service the sacrament was administered to many present. On Monday evening the ladies of the congregation held a social in the Town Hall, which was crowded; after the inner man had been satisfied, Mr. T. Graham was voted to the chair and presided over the concert that was given. The concert was a success, the different ones taking part acquitted themselves to the and satisfaction of the audience. The church choir did their duty well, both on Sunday and Monday; Messer. J. Balfour, J. Terry, K. Campbell, G. Sweetman and H. Brathwaite; Miss Clara Broad in her recitations, and Misses Savage and Williams were the ladies and gentlemen who took part in the programme.

Rev. T. Garbutt in his illustrated talk was very interesting and his address will do good to young men if heeded. The pastor made the following statement: subscriptions \$135, expenditures on building \$158.81, for organ \$60: receipts of re-opening \$50.75.

## Hotel keepers fined for liquor offences, selling to young men

*Toronto Globe: December 18, 1897*

License Inspector Ferguson of South Ontario has been making things lively here for the last two weeks. He laid 12 informations before Magistrate John Nott and secured 10 convictions for violation of the liquor license act of 1897.

The act provides that no hotelkeeper shall supply liquor to boys under the age of 21 years, or even allow such boys to loiter in their houses. The authorities are determined that the law shall be observed in the particular. Magistrate Nott imposed the smallest fine for the first offence, but warned them all not to come up a second time. The boys were fined as well as the hotelkeepers, as provided by the act.

## ~ 1898 ~

### Sets speed record for ice racing

*Toronto Globe: January 15, 1898*

The annual winter meeting of the Port Perry Trotting Association was held on Lake Scugog, January 14. The ice was in fair order, and the sport was good. Attendance was about 3,000.

Dick French made the fastest time ever made on ice in the second heat. If the Port Perry Association will see that a surveyor's certificate, as to the track measurement is furnished, Dick French will be ranked as the holder of the world's trotting record on ice, according to *The Toronto Globe's* sporting editor.

Note: The track is 31 feet 6 inches over a mile, as per measurement made by Wm. E. Yarnold, P.L.S. This is the fastest one mile ever made on Lake Scugog, or any other ice course. Four reliable timekeepers agreed to the record.

### Woman poisoned with morphine

*Toronto Globe: May 28, 1898*

As an indirect result of the Osgoodby fire, (January 1895) which occurred three years ago, Hannah LeBar, of Port Perry, a domestic employed in that building now known as the "Manchester" lost her life on Saturday.

It will be remembered that at the time of the great fire, Mrs. Cavell, the wife of the caretaker, saved her life by sliding down a wire to the ground. The injuries which she received at the time required the constant use of morphine, and last Saturday week her sufferings were ended by death.

The servant in her house, Hannah LeBar, was laid up with a severe cold, and while in search of a quinine powder found a small package of morphine, which had been purchased for the use of Mrs. Caven. She took the morphine at 10.30 o'clock on Friday night, and the janitor, Mr. Cavell, was attracted by her heavy and labored breathing.

He vainly tried to awaken the girl, and then he sent for Dr. B. Hooper of Brunswick Avenue, who discovered traces of the powder about the room. Friday night and Saturday Dr. Hooper worked on the case, and endeavored to resuscitate the girl, but on Saturday afternoon she died.

Dr. Garratt was called in, and he would not express time opinion that the girl was suffering from morphine

poisoning. Coroner Spencer issued a warrant calling an inquest for to-night, but it is probable that the warrant will be withdrawn. Hannah LeBar was a nineteen-year-old girl, who recently came to this city from her home in Port Perry, where she was very well known.

### Wm. McGill cleared of charges for \$10,000 loan to Paxton, Tate Co.

*Toronto Globe: May 28, 1898*

An old-time legal battle has been going on in Whitby, in the case of the Western Bank vs. William McGill, of Port Perry. The large amount of \$10,000 directly involved, and indirectly twice this sum and the well-known persons interested cause the result to be looked forward to with much interest. Leading residents of the county have been in constant attendance.

Mr. Monroe Grier opened the case for the plaintiff in a vigorous and carefully prepared address, which occupied over an hour, and it became apparent that the fight was to be carried to the bitter end. He outlined in a concise way to the jury the incidents which led up to the signing of the note in question by Mr. McGill, Manager of the bank at Port Perry, claiming in effect that it would be shown by the evidence that McMillan, the cashier at the head office at Oshawa, had allowed the Port Perry branch to run a bad account with the defunct firm of Paxton, Tate & Company and by undue influence had succeeded not only in getting McGill, the local manager, to give his personal note for \$10,000, but got him to induce three prominent residents of Port Perry, viz., Joshua Curts, James Carnegie and William Ross to endorse the said note by misrepresentation.

The plaintiffs were represented by Walter Cassels, Q.C., and Mr. Jones of Oshawa. Mr. C.J. Holman appeared for McGill, the local bank manager, and Mr. Wallace Nesbitt and Mr. Monroe Grier appeared for the endorsers, Joshua Curts, James Carnegie and William Ross. It was the most hotly contested case during the spring circuits and counsel engaged put in the best work, so much depending upon the result. Mr. McGill was in the box for nearly a day and was subjected to a severe cross-examination by Mr. Cassels. The endorsers had to run the gauntlet; and Mr. Cassels so cleverly framed his questions that it is doubtful whether or not they have put themselves out of court on appeal. Mr. Cassels seemed to be satisfied that he had achieved this result.

On the other hand, the cashier Mr. McMillan, was subjected to a whole afternoon's work at the hands of Mr. Holman and Mr. Nesbitt, with Mr. Grier prompting at every turn until every detail of alleged dealing with McGill had been sifted and their relations made clear to the scrutiny of the jury. It was apparent that he knew of the enormous amount of money that was being given to Paxton, Tate & Company, and while he would write letters complaining he never instructed the account to be closed peremptorily.

This proved to be the crucial point of the case, for the Judge's charge, which was practically a direction of a verdict for all the defendants, was hinged upon this



William McGill



circumstance. Mr. Holman who seldom, leaves Osgoode Hall to address a jury, took such an interest in the case that he made a powerful effort, being followed by Mr. Nesbitt who portrayed the awful position into which McGill had been placed as he claimed, at the hands of McMillan, that the jury and one might say the court were convinced of the force of their arguments, for the Judge followed very much on the same lines in his charge.

Mr. Cassels, relying upon the good work he had done in cross-examination, made a strong appeal for the bank and seemed to be content that the law is with him though the jury should find against him.

The jury, after retiring for a couple of hours, returned with a verdict for all the defendants.

## Cycling club plans trip to Port Perry

*Toronto Globe: June 3, 1898*

The Wanderer's Bicycle Club held their month meeting last night, with good representation of the members in attendance. The club run to Hamilton Saturday afternoon by train and wheeling back to Toronto Sunday morning will be a most enjoyable outing. All Wanderers should take this trip.

The Toronto to Port Perry run to-morrow afternoon is always looked forward to as an annual fixture and of the banner outings of the season. Starting from the Toronto Athletic Club at 2:30 o'clock, a stop will be made at Whitby for supper, after which the boys will journey on to the pretty Lake Scugog town for night. The return trip home will be made at leisure the next day.

## Crandell first to raise wild geese

*Uxbridge Journal: June 1898*

Mr. M. Luther Crandell, manager of the Club Mansion, of the Scugog Game Preserve Company, claims he is the first in the province to succeed in inducing wild geese to hatch in captivity. One of his wild geese came off with four fine goslings and he expects more in a few days.

## Will not jump off anymore

*Toronto Globe: July 19, 1898*

The custom of jumping from the train from the east at Yonge Street, so as to save the trip on to the Union Station, appears to be more popular than safe.

So at least Mr. John Nott of Port Perry thinks today. Mr. Nott is an elderly gentleman, but when he came into town yesterday afternoon he felt agile enough to jump off. Something went wrong with the jump however, and he, his bag and his watch were scattered over the neighborhood in decidedly promiscuous style.

He was unhurt, however, and picked himself up as several people rushed to his assistance. "This should be awarding to me and to others," said Mr. Nott, as he went his way.

## Fish shooting charge upheld

*Uxbridge Journal: July 1895*

A case against Henry Bowen of Washburn Island, in which he was charged in 1895 for shooting a large maskinonge in Scugog lake, finished its final appeal. The fine of \$22 plus costs, assessed earlier, was upheld and Bowen was called on to pay the full fine.

## Rousing meeting held in Port Perry

*Toronto Globe: October 24, 1898*

A splendid meeting was held in the Town Hall here tonight in the interests of Hon. John Dryden. The building being packed, and a large number of ladies being in the audience.

Mr. William Ross, ex-Reeve of Port Perry, occupied the chair, and many prominent business men of Port Perry and farmers of the district were in the audience. The enthusiasm ran high, and in reply to the question who would be the next member, the unanimous answer "Dryden" showed that the meeting was solidly determined that they would not again allow their popular member to be defeated.

Hon. E.J. Davis spoke for nearly two hours, with good effect. He congratulated the town on its excellent turnout, and advised the young men to give an honest consideration to public questions before decided on them.

The meeting broke up with cheers for the Queen, Hon. Mr. Dryden and Hon. Mr. Davis.

## Bribed to defeat Mr. John Dryden

*Toronto Globe: November 3, 1898*

A gentleman from South Ontario, who was in the city yesterday, gave one or two examples of the methods used by Mr. Charles Calder and his agents in their endeavor to defeat Mr. John Dryden on Tuesday.

The occupants of one of the polling booths in Reach Township, he said, were treated to a mild sensation during the day. A well-known resident of the village was the cause of it all. When he went in to vote he was challenged by a scrutineer, but he took the oath without hesitation.

Then turning to the gentlemen present, he said: "Now that I am on my oath I want to say something; that is, that man who swore me offered me five dollars one day last week to vote for Calder." The statement caused a flutter, but the elector voted and then left the booth.

Three of Mr. Dryden's supporters in Port Perry and one in Manchester were approached by some person and handed a dollar each, and told it was from Dryden. They were unbribeable men however, and while not exactly knowing what its significance was in view of their politics, handed it at once to Mr. Dryden's committee, who gave the money to the Poor Fund.

On polling day however, the reason for the act became clear. When these men came to vote all four had to swear that they had not accepted any bribe, which they readily did. The motive was to have them disqualified by this mysterious messenger's act.

## Dr. Sangster acclaimed

*Toronto Globe: November 11, 1898*

Dr. John H. Sangster of Port Perry was yesterday elected by acclamation as a member of the Ontario Medical Council for electoral division No. 12.



*John Dryden*

## Central Fair Grounds purchased

*Uxbridge Journal: November 11, 1898*

The Ontario Central Fair Grounds have been purchased by the following wealthy gentlemen: Messrs. James Carnegie, G.M. Gibbs, William H. McCaw, William Ross and Frank M. Yarnold.

The grounds, which originally cost over \$23,000, are without doubt the finest in Ontario, outside of Toronto. The half mile race track, which cost about \$4,000, is a paragon of perfection, being well drained, graded and perfectly level.

## ~ 1899 ~

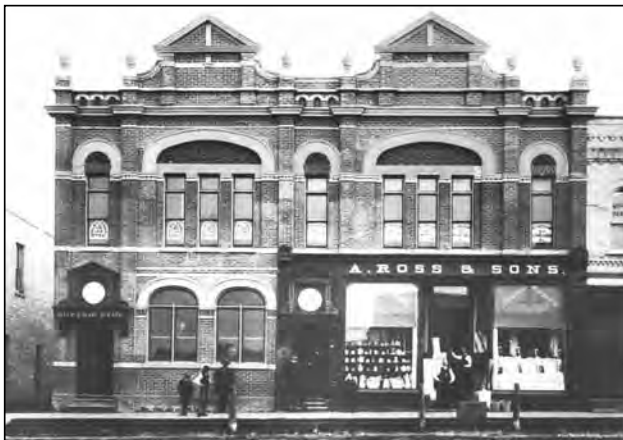
### Former resident to build public hall

*Uxbridge Journal: March 9, 1899*

Mr. John K. Horn has purchased the lot on the corner of Brock and Church streets, Utica, for Thomas W. Horn, Toronto, who intends building a public hall on it. Mr. Horn is a former resident of Utica.

Wright Crosier has the stone on the ground for the foundation and the building will be commenced as soon as the weather will allow and it is to be completed not later than the first of July.

The hall will have all the modern improvements and have a seating capacity of four hundred. This will fill a long felt want in this part of the country and Mr. Horn is to be commended for his enterprise. We will give further particulars later. We might also mention that the contract has been awarded to John K. Horn.



*Ross & Sons block, Queen St., Port Perry.*

### Ross Block sold to Western Bank

*Toronto Globe: April 20, 1899*

The leading business block in the town of Port Perry, known as the Ross Block, was purchased on April 18th by the Western Bank of Canada, from the executors of the Ross estate, who disposed of it under instruction in the will. It will continue to be occupied by the Western Bank and William Ross, the present occupants. The price is not known, but the original cost exceeded \$10,000.

## New Ontario fishery overseers

*Toronto Globe: May 3, 1899*

The following appointments of fishery overseers have been made by the Ontario Government.

John Bowerman, Port Perry, for the Township of Reach, County of Ontario, the Township of Mariposa, in the County of Victoria, part of Lake Scugog and the westerly half of Scugog Island.

John Veale of the Township of Cartwright, for the Townships of Cartwright and Manvers, Durham County, and the easterly half of Scugog Island and the waters fronting thereon.

### Bank manager William McGill dies

*Toronto Globe: May 3, 1899*

On Thursday the remains were laid to rest of one of Port Perry's lodes and most respected townsmen, in the person of Mr. William McGill, who for many years was manager of the Central and Western Banks.

Mr. McGill had been ailing for some time past, the result of business worry. He was identified with everything having for its object the prosperity of his townsmen, and was held in high esteem by them all.

The funeral was the largest seen in the neighbourhood for over 20 years, there being considerably more than 100 conveyances forming the cortege. He had also been treasurer of Lodge Fidelity 428, A.F.&A.M. for many years and brethren from all parts of Ontario were in attendance.

### Revere House hotel burned down

*Uxbridge Journal: May 1899*

Local Option has come into Reach with a vengeance. The second day after the expiration of Mr. M.S. Tooley's license year, the Revere House hotel at Manchester, with sheds and an adjacent blacksmith shop, was burned down.

The occupants had barely time to escape, let alone saving the contents. Mr. Tooley carried about \$1,800 insurance on the buildings and contents.

Following the fire an investigation was held into the fire at Tooley's Hotel, Manchester by London Mutual, the company holding the insurance. The investigation lasted about nine hours, with 12 witnesses examined.

In November, the Insurance company ended its investigation with Mr. Tooley and paid the full amount.

### Better mail service required

*Uxbridge Journal: July 20, 1899*

There is a big chance for the exhibition of a little enterprise in regard to effecting a more direct mail service between Port Perry and Utica. Two days is too long a time for a letter to travel four miles. Our business men as well as the good people of Utica and Epsom regard this lack of communication as a barrier that must and will be speedily removed.

There is no place in Canada, civilized Canada to-day, with poorer accommodation in the way of mail service than Port Perry, and the sooner our citizens become fully alive to this fact the better. The truth of the matter is the town is fortunate enough to be wholly at the mercy of the Grand Trunk Railway. In this regard we certainly occupy a

unique and most unenviable position.

We can get to Lindsay (30 miles) and back in a day, while it takes two days to travel to Uxbridge (10 miles) and return. We have already heard the rumbling of thunder from other points of the compass and shall expect a violent and continuous storm in this particular locality as soon as along suffering public begins to realize that we are a forgetful and a forgotten people daily losing the advantages that the age demands.

## Port Perry in need of a cash market

*Uxbridge Journal: August 3, 1899*

In the village of Stouffville there is something like civil war over a market building. The Stouffville Hall & Market Co. propose to build one, and Mr. Spoffard, a leading merchant, is determined to build another. There is nothing like opposition, and a good share of the people of Port Perry would be pleased to see some such a rumpus break out here.

Some time ago a few of our merchants visited Uxbridge to see into the workings of the cash market there. A meeting was held after their return, but as yet we have not been able to get a report of it. Some tell us we are not in need of a market. We are in need of it! Why is it that every Tuesday and Friday morning the farmers of even Manchester and Utica can be seen wending their way toward Uxbridge?

Simply because the merchants and business men of that town have worked up a good cash market, and in consequence trade is drifting that way. If our townsmen would get a move on the matter, could at least have a proper investigation, and if properly handled a lively market twice-a-week would be the result.

## Man builds unique wolf trap

*Uxbridge Journal: September 14, 1899*

At the south end of Lake Scugog, Reach township, Thomas Lamb lived for over half a century beside a dense forest of over 100 acres.

In the centre of this forest, which was estimated to be the largest extent of forest land in the area, Mr. Lamb built a unique trap to catch the wolves which roamed the forest.

The trap was made of logs commencing with a base of 12 feet square. Each additional layer of logs was drawn in closer than the one below until at the top there was a small opening about three feet square. Under this opening Mr. Lamb would suspend a piece of fresh meat as bait to attract his prey.

Not able to reach the bait, the wolf would jump in the trap, but once inside it was unable to climb out because of the sloped-in logs.

Mr. Lamb said he caught twenty wolves each summer for many years and received a \$5 per head bounty from the Government.

## Revere House fire investigated

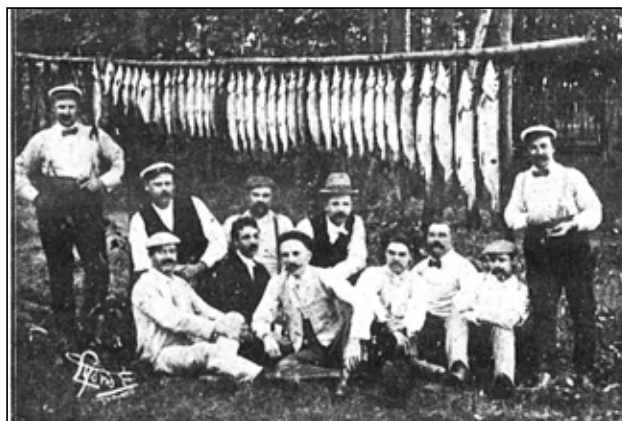
*Uxbridge Journal: September 21, 1899*

The fire which occurred at Manchester on the night of 3rd of May is not yet settled, at least the insurance on the contents belonging to Mr. Michael S. Tooley, the proprietor, is not settled.

Since the fire Mr. Tooley has taken possession of the

Myrtle House, and although the investigations have been made, no settlement could be made. Last week Squire John Nott received a request from the London Mutual Company to hold an investigation as to the cause. This investigation took place in the town hall on Monday. It was a most thorough one, lasting nine hours, with twelve witnesses examined. There was no decision given.

Note: Two months later, in November, the Insurance company ended its investigation with Mr. Tooley and paid the full amount.



*Toronto fishing party with their Lake Scugog catch.*

## Fishing party scores big on Scugog

*Toronto Globe: September 2, 1899*

One of today's *Globe* pictures is of a fishing party and their catch of 38 "lunge" aggregate about 200 pounds, the largest weighing 17 pounds.

It is doubly interesting to know that this haul was made within 40 miles of Toronto, the result showing as well as for parties of the same number who might travel 200 miles.

The evening train for Port Perry was taken at 5:10 and by 8:30 the anglers were seated at a first-class supper, provided by host William Brooks of the Oriental Hotel. The following morning at 4:30 Captain John Bowerman was in waiting with his steam yacht. The Captain rigged two poles, placed at right angles to the boat, to which were tied two rowboats, the party trolling from the rowboats, as well as from the yacht.

At the end of five hours, the above result was obtained. Mr. Willie Hurst of the Elliott House landed the 17 pound "lunge," thereby winning the gold medal.

Upon their return to the city the anglers being elated with their success, proceeded to Balmy Beach, where they are summering, and sent for Mr. Lyonde to make a group photograph, including the catch. Messrs. Randall, of New York, Klotz, Hurst, Thompson, Bovier, Lyon, Lauder, Lambert, Tremble, Draper and Bailey of this city made up the party.

## Telephone poles at Utica ready

*Uxbridge Journal: October 26, 1899*

The poles for the new telephone line from Uxbridge to Epsom have been placed along the roadside. There are already two telephones through the village and the poles to be erected will require considerable trimming



*Utica Memory Hall, 1899.*

before they are as presentable in appearance as those of other lines. We presume the poles supplied are as good as required by the contract, all the same unless their appearance is considerably improved they will be unsightly when erected.

## **Doctor held up on way to Cartwright**

*Uxbridge Journal: November 16, 1899*

Dr. Orr Graham, our local veterinarian, had quite an unusual experience Monday night. While on his way to Cartwright to attend a call he was held up on the Cartwright Roadway opposite the farm of Mr. Wm. Hooper, by two daring individuals who gave him the choice of two things. Either put up his coin or die.

It so happened that he did not have to comply with either request. The gent who made the demand received knock-out blow from the Doctor, and then the former's colleague who had been holding the horse, came to his rescue. At this crisis Dr. Graham managed to get away and is not much the worse for his frightful encounter, except that his nose is slightly disfigured.

## **Utica opens "Memory Hall"**

*Uxbridge Journal: December 1899*

Utica, a small village in this county situated five miles from the town of Port Perry, marked an important, and long to be remembered epoch in its history last week, with the opening of the commodious "Memory Hall," on Friday, Dec. 1, 1899.

Friends from far and near took part in the opening ceremonies, and to show the appreciation for an "old

Utica boy", Thomas Walter Horn.

As a Reach boy of the Utica neighborhood, T.W. Horn went forth in early years to make for himself a name and a place. Although a lawyer by profession, his tastes were more of the financier, than of the barrister, and we soon found him devoting his talents in financial, rather than legal lines.

Mr. Harvey J. Gould, ex-Warden of the county presided as chairman, and the keys of the hall were formally handed over by Mr. Horn to the following board of trustees: Enoch Kendall, Arthur Crosier, Wm. Brooks, D. Horn, John Horn, Wm. Ward, John McKercher.

In handing over the keys, Mr. Horn said he did so with the wish and expectation that the hall be used for the benefit of the community. He attached the single condition that the churches and school should have the use of it free.

In naming the hall, the Hon. John Dryden suggested that more appropriate than Horn's Hall, or Public Hall, would be the name "Memory Hall," and he offered that name for consideration. The audience express their approval by a show of hands.

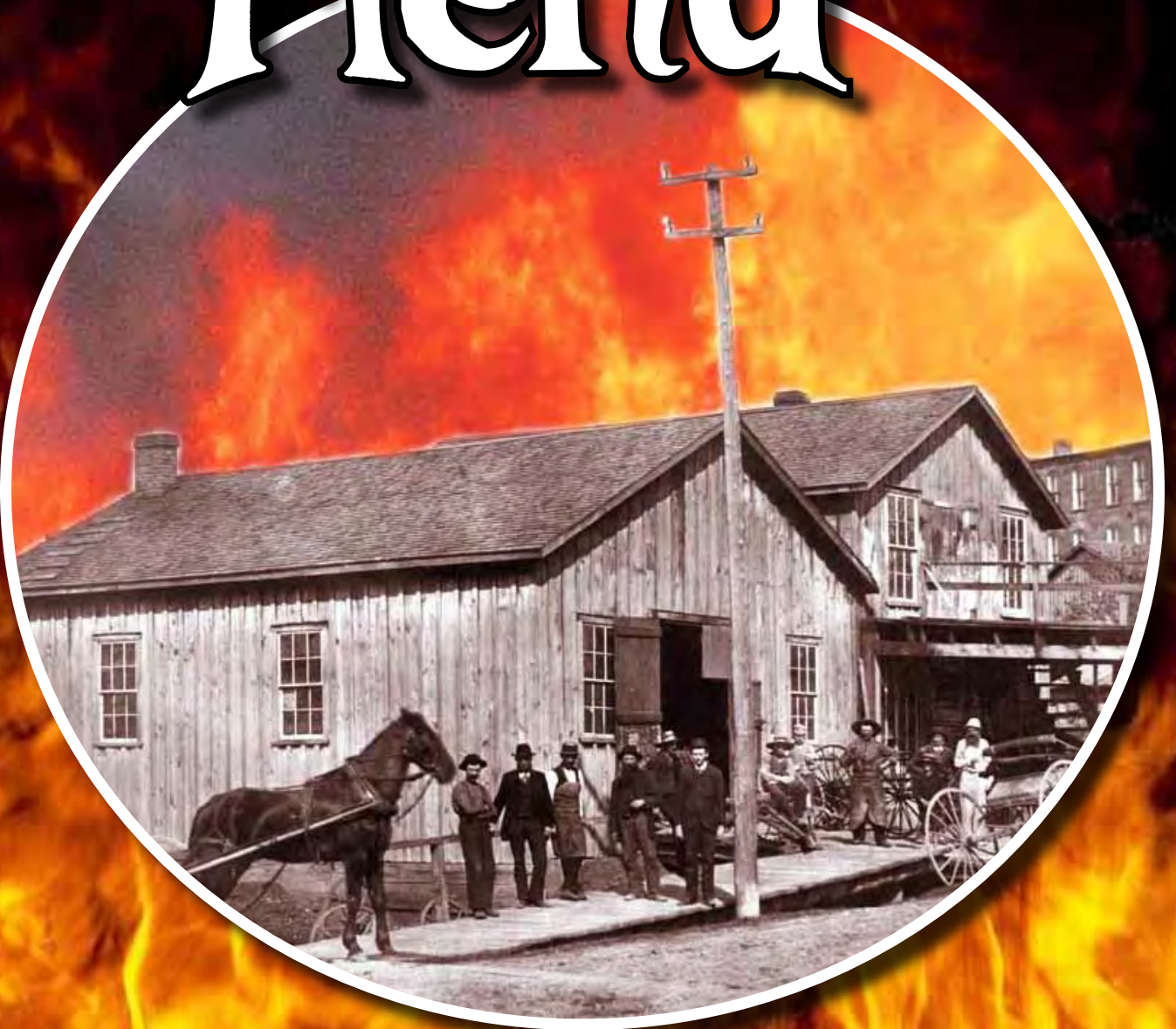
The hall is 38 x 65 ft., has a seating capacity of nearly four hundred, and is designed in the Spanish renaissance style of architecture, with two towers. Mr. John K. Horn was the builder of the hall.

It was always Mr. Horn's ambition to succeed, but he was always proud to be remembered as a boy of Utica. He believed that association of people with each other broadened, brightened and improved the mind, and it was his hope that the hall might serve such a purpose.





# The Fire Fiend





# Introduction

**FIRE!** Fire.... that one word instilled more fear into the hearts of most pioneers than any other during the formative years of the earliest settlers. Fire was a constant, but evil and feared companion of farmers, householders and businesses throughout hamlets of Reach Township and Port Perry every day of the year.

It was not uncommon, particularly during the cold winter months, when homes and businesses were being heated by wood heating units, to hear the clang of the fire bells and the cries of Fire! Fire! Fire! echo throughout the community, warning that the dreaded “fire fiend” was at its work again.

“Fire Fiend” was a term often used by newspaper editors throughout the later part of the 18th century, to describe the conflagrations that so often descended upon their communities.

As you will read throughout this document, fires were being recorded in newspapers as early as 1854, although Reach Township did not have its first newspaper until late 1857. Other communities, primarily to the south, reported fires regularly in their publications, even reporting in 1843, a fire at the home of Reach Township’s first settler, Reuben Crandell. It was in 1843, his Queen Street home, which was also used as a hotel, was completely destroyed by fire.

During those early years, the pioneers of these small settlements had little more than muscle, determination and buckets and water to fight fires, but most structures having been constructed of wood, fared little chance of being saved once the fire took hold. Barns, houses and buildings, located far away from the built-up villages, were at tremendous disadvantage when fire struck. Most often there was no help for miles around, and with no help generally the buildings went up in blaze as the owners looked on helplessly.

Small hamlets throughout Reach Township and Port Perry, while having far more hands available to help when fire intruded, really only had the resilience of its population to fend of the flames – forming bucket brigades to douse the flames.

With the loss of commercial, residential and farm buildings mounting, by the early 1860s town leaders in both Reach Township and Port Perry began to consider purchasing “hand pump fire-engines” to stave off the full destruction of their villages. And while these fire-engines were a tremendous improvement in fighting fires, without an abundance of water they were almost useless. It was unfortunate than in many villages, water in the quantities the fire-engine required was not always readily available.

It was only after two disastrous fires in Port Perry, one in 1883 and a second six months later in 1884, that a steam-powered fire engine was purchased. This engine was capable of throwing up to 400 gallons a minute onto a fire. But once again, unless the fire was close enough to a good supply of water, sufficient water was not always available. If the firefighters could not access water from Lake Scugog, they depended on water wells set up in strategic locations throughout the town. But once again, if they were drained before a fire could be brought under control, there was little the fire engine could do.

Despite all the issues related to fighting the “fire fiend”, the communities in and around Port Perry survived. The stories throughout this document will provide a glimpse of the constant threat the settlers faced, as fire razed their homes and business for much of the 19th century.

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## ~ 1854 ~

### Crookshank saw mill consumed

*Oshawa Freeman: June 12, 1854*

The *Oshawa Freeman* reports that the steam and saw mill on the Nonquon in the township of Reach, belonging to the estate of the late Mr. Crookshank, was totally consumed by fire on the night of the 5th inst. About 100,000 feet of lumber belonging to different parties were also burned.

## ~ 1858 ~

### Sanders Carriage Shop fire

*Ontario Observer: January 1858*

The premises of Mr. James Sanders, Carriage and Cutter Manufacturer, Prince Albert narrowly escaped being consumed by fire yesterday, (Thursday) morning. It appears that a stove-pipe became loose, and the flame ignited the woodwork through which it passed to the room above.

Fortunately it was discovered before the fire had made any headway, and an alarm being given, it was speedily extinguished.

# FIRES

## of the 1860s

### ~ 1863 ~

#### Almost a fire in Prince Albert

*Ontario Observer: March 9, 1863*

On Friday our village was thrown again into a state of excitement by the dreaded alarm of fire, when it was found that the driving barn of the Anglo-American Hotel was in a blaze.

A great number of people were immediately on the spot and succeeded in putting a stop to the fire before it had made progress, for which Mr. John Moggridge desires as to return them his most sincere thanks, for if it had been left five minutes or longer nothing could have saved his whole premises.

The fire originated for a fire cracker which some of the boys had unintentionally thrown in that direction.

### ~ 1865 ~

#### Five storey grist mill destroyed

*Toronto Globe: May 6, 1865*

On Tuesday 1st, the grist mill of Mr. Morris, at Port Perry, was destroyed by fire. The grist mill and the building occupied by Mr. Morris were the property of John Cameron, Esq., Ex-M.P.P. for Victoria and we believed were not insured.

The grist mill was five stories high and was built in 1856, but has been idle for the last four years; and the other building, formerly a saw mill, was recently leased by Mr. Morris for a shingle factory, and had been running but a few days.

Mr. Cameron's loss will be over twenty thousand dollars; Mr. Morris' about three or four hundred dollars.

#### Wesleyan Methodist Church in Prince Albert burned to ground

*Toronto Globe: July 2, 1865*

The Wesleyan Methodist Church in Prince Albert was burned to the ground early on Monday morning last. When first discovered (about two o'clock) the flames had made so much headway that it was impossible to subdue them.

The fire must have been the work of an incendiary, and from the manner in which it broke through the roof, was probably kindled in the gallery over the vestry, where a

quantity of lumbers and other articles were stored. The loss by the fire is estimated at from \$1,200 to \$1,500 - no insurance.

A tin can containing a quantity of raw pitch and pine chips was found near the building, a portion of which was probably employed in firing the school house on the previous Monday morning.

### ~ 1867 ~

#### Tannery and house destroyed by fire

*North Ontario Observer: April 18, 1867*

We regret that a disaster occurred in the place by fire, on the evening of the 8th inst., which resulted in the total destruction of the Tannery recently erected on Perry Street, and a dwelling house in the immediate vicinity.

The occupant of the premises, Mr. W. Armstrong, states that he examined the building as late as between nine and ten on the evening of the conflagration, at which time there was not the least trace of fire to be seen, and before eleven o'clock the building was enveloped in flames.

Every means available were used to stay its progress, but ere half the stock could be removed, the building was burned to the ground. The house adjoining, occupied by Mr. Armstrong as a dwelling, soon fell pray to the devouring element; and despite the efforts put forth to save it, was soon reduced to ashes. The loss is estimated at \$1,200 with no insurance

We understand that Mr. Joseph Bigelow, the owner of the property, will build again as soon as possible.



## Large building destroyed by fire

*Toronto Globe: December 16, 1867*

On Monday morning, 16th inst., the inhabitants of Port Perry were roused from their slumbers at 2 a.m. by a cry of fire, the flames of which were seen issuing from the rear of a two-story building, situated on Queen Street, the property of Mr. John W. Davis.

Every possible means were resorted to in order to check its progress; but as water was scarce, the efforts were unavailing, and before three o'clock the building was burned to the ground.

It was occupied by three tenants, who lost more or less of their household effects; and we are pleased to learn that tepees are being taken to make good their misfortune in this respect. The fire seemed to proceed from a stove-pipe; but how it actually originated is a mystery. The loss to Mr. Davis, with whom we sympathize, will be probably about \$1,000, partly covered by insurance.

People can not be too careful at this season of the year, with their stoves and stove-pipes. Perhaps it would be well to overhaul them at once, and have them fixed as securely as possible. Perhaps it would be well, too, for our "City Fathers" to take into consideration the propriety of purchasing a fire engine; for in case a fire occurred in a block of buildings, there is no knowing what results might attend it.

~ 1868 ~

## Destructive Fire consumes White's carriage factory

*North Ontario Observer: February 18, 1868*

"The village of Prince Albert experienced another heavy loss by fire on the evening of the 14th inst. About half-past eleven on Friday night, Mr. George White's Carriage Factory was observed to be on fire.

This must have been the commencement of it, as parties were constantly passing the building up to that time. The moment the fire was observed the bell was rung, and in very short time the building was surrounded by lots of men anxious to save the property, but all were entirely powerless to do so, there being no water within reach.

The consequence was that there were no means to doing anything except saving the loose property and protecting the houses on the opposite side of the street by means of snow.

This was gone into with a will and a large quantity of loose property saved, and doubtless some of the opposite buildings; but as far as the burning buildings were concerned it was most provoking to stand and look at them burning without being able to put forth a hand to save them in the entire absence of water, and not having the advantage of hook and ladder.

The result was the Carriage Factory was entirely consumed, with an excellent large house two stories high, the property of Mr. James Sanders and a large unoccupied house the property of Mr. Thomas Courtice, with a dwelling house attached belonging to the same party.

The loss of real estate must be about \$2,000, with the loss on loose property cannot be under \$900, of this only

\$800 covered by insurance - \$400 on the Carriage Factory and \$400 on Mr. White's stock.

Mr. Sanders loses about \$1,300, no insurance; while Mr. Beatty, Mr. White's carriage building loses considerably in stock. The origin of the fire is a complete mystery.

Had their been a strong wind from the north or west the consequences to the village would have been more disastrous. Some more efficient means of fighting fires will have to be introduced into these villages."

~ 1869 ~

## Fire destroys house on Christmas Eve

*Ontario Observer: December 1, 1869*

Our village had an exhibition, on Christmas Eve, of that useful, though sometimes devastating element, Fire; and the probabilities at one time were in favour of a big fire.

About seven o'clock in the evening, a small house on King Street, opposite the Post Office, was observed to be on fire and the doors were found to be all fast, the family having gone to visit at a neighbour's house.

The alarm bell soon collected the inhabitants of this and the neighbouring villages, who went to work with characteristic zeal to grapple with the devouring element and succeeded, almost miraculously in saving the fine residence of Squire Abner Hurd, and other valuable buildings.

The high estimation in which the Squire and his good lady are held throughout this whole section of country, nerved the arms of those who fought on nobly to save their residence.

The house in which the fire originated with nearly all it contained, was a heap of burning coal within a couple of hours from the time when it was first observed to be on fire. The fire is said to have originated about the stove pipe or chimney. People ought to be cautious in leaving their houses with large fires in the stoves.

Amongst those who distinguished themselves by their activity and daring, the name of Mr. Liule, Borelia, deserves a prominent position. He took his position on the very peak of the building, the most exposed and dangerous position, and rendered capital service in saving the buildings.

# FIRES

## of the 1870s

### ~1870~

#### **Boynton's barn destroyed by raging fire in Prince Albert**

*North Ontario Observer: September 15, 1870*

The useful but unwelcome sound of the fire-bell again rang throughout our village on the evening of Tuesday the 13th, and on turning out it was found that the barn of Mr. Robert Boynton, half-a-mile south of the village, was already enveloped in flames. The fire busting forth in every direction and licking up everything which came within its reach.

All hands went to work with a will and notwithstanding the proximity of the two barns – being only a few feet apart – one of them was saved, but not without the utmost exertion of many willing hands.

In fact, it seemed at one time to be a hopeless task, but the will was there and the fire was beaten back and building saved. Had the second barn burned, the dwelling house would have stood a poor chance of being saved.

The threshing machine had been at work all day threshing barley in the barn which was saved, and

they had just turned the machine into the other barn with the intention of threshing the produce of 26 acres of wheat on the following day, but the greedy flame threshed it for them, but consumed it all and did not even spare the machine, the south barn and all it contained was licked up by the devourer.

The loss will range from \$1,500 to \$2,000 covered by insurance to the extent of \$1,250. So far as we know, Messrs. Coates & Lamb, owners of the machine, had no insurance. Theirs was a capital machine.

That the fire was the work of an incendiary cannot be doubted for a moment – not a devilish one we admit, but one nearly as guilty, a foolish and reckless one who could not deny himself, even for a short time, the pleasing odors of the abominable weed tobacco.

Our friends from the neighboring village, on this as on all other occasions, when assistance is required were present in large numbers and aided with all their might in fighting the fire.

#### **Weir's Steam Saw Mill destroyed**

*Ontario Observer: June 9, 1870*

The excellent Weir's Steam Saw Mill, on the 7th Conc. of Reach was completely destroyed by fire Friday morning last. The mill was in capital working order, the machinery was excellent, being recently renewed at considerable expense. Over \$1,000 worth of lumber also fell prey to the flames. The loss must be considerable and no insurance. Universal sympathy is felt for the enterprising proprietor.

#### **Lazier's factory consumed by fire**

*Ontario Observer: September 29, 1870*

"We regret exceedingly to have to record another conflagration which took place at Mr. James Lazier's Factory, about a couple of miles north of Prince Albert, on Monday night last.

A little after ten o'clock the unwelcome sound of Fire! rang through this and the neighboring villages. Large numbers of willing hands at once turn out, and making for the light; soon found that Mr. Lazier's wood kiln, containing about \$600 worth of wood suitable for making grain candles and other agricultural implements, best stuff for carriages, etc., was on fire all of which, we regret to

state, was consumed.

Insurance offices won't touch such risks, so the entire loss falls upon the proprietor. The Port Perry Fire Company lost no time in reaching the scene."

### ~1871~

#### **Fire brought under control**

*Ontario Observer: March 9, 1871*

The denizens of Prince Albert and the neighbouring villages were not a little startled on Sabbath evening last, when just about the time of opening evening services, the unwelcome clatter of the fire bell ran throughout our peaceful village.

The Port Perry bell soon joined the alarm and the villagers with their accustomed energy, repaired to the spot with a moment's delay. It was found that the fire was in the loft of Mr. James Emaney's stable, convenient to his carriage factory.

Flames had already burst through the roof, but the combined effort of a number of energetic men soon

subdued the flame and extinguished it, ere it had done much damage.

Had the fire gained the mastery and caught the carriage factory it would have made great destruction.

## Cossatt factory destroyed by fire

*North Ontario Observer: June 9, 1870*

The village of Port Perry sustained a considerable loss by fire on the 7th inst. That somewhat extensive planing and fanning mill factory owned by Mr. Cossatt was totally destroyed by fire.

We are told that a large amount of valuable machinery and expensive tools were got out; but the building and a large quantity of valuable lumber have been entirely destroyed while the steam-engine if not destroyed must be badly injured.

The loss is over \$2,000 and no insurance. The owner is a comparative stranger, but a highly respectable and intelligent man and has the sympathy of the entire locality.

Had there been a wind from the north, the results must have been much more disastrous. The lack of any more effectual means of extinguishing fires than the common luck, is by no means in keeping with the energy and enterprise of that prosperous village.



## Steamer Victoria burned at Lindsay

*Toronto Globe: June 27, 1871*

The steamer *Victoria* was burned last Saturday evening at the lower railroad wharf in the town of Lindsay. The origin of the fire is unknown. Considerable personal property belonging to the captain and hands was lost. The loss is estimated at from \$10,000 to \$12,000. The steamer is owned by Mr. N. Shaw of Peterboro and was in charge of Capt. Ross.

## ~1872~

### Fire destroys Port Perry Carriage Factory of George U. White

*Ontario Observer: September 12, 1872*

On Tuesday, 10 inst., the unseemly, clatter of the Port Perry fire bell grating forth its execrable sounds about 6:30 a.m., warned the denizens to prepare to fight, the thousand, tongued demon which had reared in their midst.

It appears that Mr. George U. White, of the Port Perry Carriage Factory, being pretty well driven with business started work with all his hands at five o'clock of the morning of the fire and after having wrought about an hour and a half went off to breakfast. About this time the foreman of the wood work department, in going upstairs to his work perceived fire around forge chimney and immediately gave the alarm.

The fire bell was rung and a general turn out of the male and partly of the female inhabitants was the result; but from the combustible materials of the second flat, paints, oils, shaving, moss &c., the fire in a few minutes gained complete mastery of the building.

For some time previous the fire engine had not been in a proper condition for work. Mr. Caleb Crandell had a few days previous called the attention of the caretaker of the engine to the fact and advised him to have it repaired, and at this time the engine had been turned up with a view to undergoing the required repairs so that it was in a bad condition for active service.

But it must be brought to the scratch and in a surprisingly short time it was brought up to the most convenient tank, but the absence of the necessary feeders, the water had to be supplied to the engine with pails; and crippled and all as it was it did noble service saving many thousand dollars worth of property. Now the fight fairly begins, the firemen on their part struggling with the monster, while the villagers each one in his own way, joins in the struggle, each one working like a bear.

But nothing could stay the progress of the fire fiend, he had already got full control of the building and threatened those on the opposite side of the street. When the paint on the buildings on the opposite side of the street began to darken and smoke, the firemen at this time plain on Mr. White's lumber with a fair prospect to saving it, had to leave the lumber to its fate and go and protect the building and they succeeded in saving them.

Fortunately for the engine and tank, the fire would doubtless have consumed property to the value of at least \$20,000 or \$30,000 more. The supply of water in the tank held out till its work was done. All the well in the neighbourhood were exhausted by those who as skirmishers fought the fire.

Within an hour from the time that the fire was first seen, the Carriage Factory and Mr. Warriner's Boot and Shoe establishment were nothing but a heap of ashes. The fire is supposed to have been caused by sparks from the forge chimney lodging in a joint in the floor of the second story and setting fire to the downy stuff which had collected there from the moss and carriage trimmings. Mr. White estimates his loss at \$6,000, this includes a very large stock of paints, oils, seasoned lumber, carriages. He is insured for \$2,650.

~1873~

## Fire fiend lays much of Prince Albert into ashes

*North Ontario Observer: April 1, 1873*

On Tuesday the 1st of April about 11 o'clock at night the inhabitants of the peaceful, happy village of Prince Albert were startled by the trice unwelcome Fire! Fire! Those who had not yet returned to rest were on the street in an instant and those who had retired were speedily summoned to do battle against the devouring monster but the timely and well sustained clatter of the fire bell.

This at once indicated the course of action to be pursued and presently a lot of willing hands assumed the responsibility of saving these buildings and succeeded in doing so.

The scene of conflagration was not long left in doubt. The fire doubtless originated in the upper storey of the Willcox's Drug, Grocery and Liquor Store, but it was not long confounded to that, it soon burst forth in all its fury illuminating the heavens and giving a crimson hue to the snow for a large space around.

There was a strong south-east wind blowing at the time, in the first place carrying the flame right towards the Victorian Hotel and Mr. George Currie's empty store.

As the fire progressed northward it threatened the Anglo-American Hotel, Rolph's Harness Shop and other buildings. The devouring fed was by this time at the height of his strength shooting his thousand forked tongue far up into the heavens and kissing the buildings all around.

But strong hands and willing hearts aided by the wetness of the night met the devourer at every point and confined him to the block in which he first began, and his maddening fury speedily consumed that on which he fed and soon rendered him powerless for further devastation.

At this stage the well known sound of the Port Perry Fire Brigade was heard approaching, and though under the circumstances they could not make themselves felt in saving the property – the monster having been shorn of its strength ere they arrived – still their presence was highly acceptable and their generous effort most thankfully received.

The generous and persevering effort put forth by many from surrounding villages and neighbourhood as well as by the people of Prince Albert is worthy of the highest praise; and the village tender their sincere thanks to the Fire Brigade and all other outsiders who manifested their sympathy at this time in so tangible a manner. It is comforting to know that no bodily injury was received.

At eleven o'clock the fire was first discovered in the upper part of Willcox's store, a little larger than the light from a lamp, but within a very few minutes it burst forth with great fury spreading south to Mr. Joshua Wright's Boot and Shoe Establishment and north to Mr. Wm. extensive Dry Goods, Grocery and Clothing establishments; and within three hours from its first discovery it had laid in ashes that splendid block on the north-east corner of Simcoe and King Streets, extending along Simcoe St., 100 feet and King St., 100 feet.

The following stores were totally consumed: Mr.

Wright's extensive boot and shoe establishment; Mr. William Willcox's drug, grocery and liquor store; Mr. Wightman's extensive general dry goods, clothing, grocery and establishments; and the Masonic Hall.

Mr. Wright's loss on the building is \$1,200, covered by an insurance of \$1,000.

Mr. F. Graham, owner of the building in which Mr. Willcox kept store, loses \$700 and no insurance. Mr. Willcox loss on stock amounts to \$3,000 of which \$2,000 is covered by insurance.

Abner Hurd, Esq., the proprietor of the Wightman buildings and the Masonic Hall buildings sustains a loss of \$2,000 and no insurance. Mr. Wightman's loss in stock is \$8,000 on which there is an insurance of \$7,000.

The Prince Albert Masonic Lodge 183 loses \$400 and no insurance.

The destruction of Mr. Wright's establishment, though not the most costly, is by far the greatest calamity to the village. That gentleman through his interring energy and enterprise has done much towards the up-building, of this village by the number of hands he constantly keeps employed and the correspondingly large amount of expenditure of money which these hands create.

Besides, his boot and shoe establishment, from it well merited and now thoroughly established reputation for first class material and workmanship, is regarded with much favour throughout a large section of country and its removal from this would be regarded, by large numbers of his customers, as a misfortune.

We heartily sympathise with all who have sustained injury by this unfortunate event, especially with our highly esteemed and worthy townsman, Abner Hurd, Esq., who is by far the heaviest loser by this calamity.

*NOTE: Three weeks after the fire (August 28, 1873), Joshua Wright notified the public that he would be moving his Boot and Shoe business the following week from Prince Albert to his new location in Port Perry, opposite Mr. White's Carriage Factory.*



## Dewart's Hotel devoured by fire

*Ontario Observer: March 27 1873*

James Dewart's Hotel, Nonquon, with nearly all its contents was destroyed by fire on Sabbath 22nd inst. Mr. Dewart was on his way home about one o'clock in the day and while yet a considerable distance from the house he observed, to his no small alarm, that his premises were on fire.

Ere he reached the building the fire had made such progress as precluded all idea of saving the buildings. He accordingly turned his attention to saving his chattels, but could not do a great deal in that, and all speedily fell a prey of the devouring element.

By sawing the shed in two halves, the shed and stable and barn attached were saved. Mr. Dewart's loss in chattels amount to some \$400, of which \$300 is covered by insurance.

## Wilcox drug store laid to ashes

*Toronto Globe: April 2, 1873*

A fire broke out in the upper storey of Willcox's drug store, Simcoe Street at 11 o'clock on the night of April 1, and within three hours from its first being discovered it had laid in ashes Mr. Wm. Willcox's drug and grocery store, Mr. Wright's book and shoe establishment, Mr. Wightman's dry good establishment and the Masonic Hall.

The block destroyed was two stories high, front on Simcoe Street 100 feet and on King Street 100 feet. The loss cannot, so far, be exactly ascertained, but the value of the real estate and personal property will exceed \$15,000, about two thirds of which is covered by insurance. The origin of the fire is unknown.

## Midnight fire destroys school

*North Ontario Observer: December 2, 1873*

We feel exceedingly sorry to have to record the destruction by fire of the excellent and comparatively new School House of School Section No. 4, (east settlement), Reach.

About midnight on Tuesday last, Mr. Wm. Coates whose residence is convenient to the school house, saw a light issuing from the roof and at once hurried to the spot and running into the school house had barely time to save the clock and some maps.

They had but lately got a capital supply of new maps. In fact, the section deserves much credit for their generous efforts in sustaining not only a good school but a comfortable, well furnished house.

The house has been only a few years built at a cost of \$500; the loss however, must be considerably more than that. There is an insurance of \$300 on the whole.

The section is very small and the cost of the house and furniture will be a heavy burden on the few ratepayers on whom the weight of the section rests.

The Educational Department fought by all means to make up the loss to a section which has just lately got through paying for the house which has just been destroyed. The loss of the winter school will be severely felt by the pupils."

# ~1874~

## Fire at the residence of W.J. Trounce

*North Ontario Observer: March 12, 1874*

A lady in passing the residence of William J. Trounce, Esq., about nine o'clock last evening observed fire issuing from around the chimney on the back kitchen. She immediately gave the alarm and a general rush was made for the spot and as quick as a flash each man rushed in to do battle with the foe.

Pails were flying in all directions and the house top soon bristled with active hands, whose noble exertions succeeded in confining the fiend to the rear building.

In the meantime other parties went in search of the "Fire Bell" and after a long and painful search succeed in discovering it hid away amongst the snow and scrap-iron in Mr. White's back yard. After digging out his bellhop half a dozen went at it with stones and pelted way till they fairly sweat, and by their combined efforts succeeded in letting the sound be heard 100 yards distance.

The men who had gone in search of the Fire Engine found they were too late, she had retired for the night and for safe keeping the doors were barricaded inside. It equipped a large expenditure of time and force to storm her castle, but after repeated attacks the doors were smashed in and the sleepy engine dragged from her retreat. She succeeded in arriving at the spot in time to see the naked rafters fall.

# ~1875~

## Two Prince Albert buildings destroyed in midnight fire

*North Ontario Observer: September 16, 1875*

"About 12:30 on Sunday last the discordant clatter of the Prince Albert fire bell announced the presence in our midst of the fire fiend who appears to have a preference for Prince Albert above any other village and shows that preference in the most decided manner by clearing off one or two of our best buildings annually.

On this occasion it was the residence of Mr. W.H. Hayes which was consumed. This was a good house immediately south of the Victoria Hotel. The fire first developed itself from under the shingles on the roof of the kitchen.

There was a strong "south-wester" blowing at the time and it is almost miraculous that the fire was confounded to one building seeing that it was surrounded by wooden buildings in close proximity all round; but there were an abundance of willing hands and lots of pails and plenty of water which was used to good purpose.

It was impossible for men to do more, or direct their energies to better purpose, than was done on this occasion. By unflooring and removing the south shed of the Victoria Hotel the fire was prevented from spreading further in that direction, but how the stables at the back of the burning building - there being only a passage between them and the house - were saved is almost unaccountable and proves how well and skillfully the fire was fought.

Had the fire taken the stables the greater part of the village must have gone. The hand fire engines supplied by Elija Cash and James Hilborn were of the greatest service and did much towards confounding the fire to the one building.

On this as on all similar occasions there are many exhibitions of genuine pluck and true heroism. Amongst the daring ones, Mr. Elija Cash held an honourable position, he not only supplied two powerful hand pumps whose valuable serves helped save a large portion of the village from being laid in ashes.

With only a single board placed between Mr. Cash and the blazing building, he stood about three feet from the flames and keep his useful little engine playing on the most exposed part of the stable which could not otherwise have been saved. And had the stable been burned a large portion of the village must of necessity have gone.

While mentioning the heroes we must not overlook the heroines, many of the ladies were no less active than the men, they wrought the pumps and did their part nobly. As well as the active and daring, their was the ludicrous and trifling, there were many who appeared to lose all self control and would have been better in their bed.

Men would clamor to the tops of houses and when they got there they could not stir for fear of falling and they would get straddle on the ridge and sit there like mummies only in the way of those who could do some good.

Some did capital serve on the tops of houses but these were parties who went up to work, "not to see and be seen."

## ~1876~

### Chimney fire in Borelia

*North Ontario Observer: March 23, 1876*

What might have been a destructive fire startled the inhabitants of that portion of Port Perry called Borelia on Saturday last.

When the gale was at its fiercest one of the chimney's on the residence of John Nott, Esq., caught fire and burned so fiercely that the flame burst through the brickwork and set fire to the wooden surroundings. Had it not been for the active exertions of the neighbors the building certainly would have been destroyed, and had that building been destroyed there was no means of saving the neighboring buildings which must have fallen prey to the flames.

From the direction of the wind Mr. James Jewett's fine block of buildings must have all gone. We are glad to learn that the damage done to Mr. Nott's property is not great.

### Lightning strike devours two barns

*North Ontario Observer, June 29, 1876*

We regret exceedingly to learn that during the thunderstorm on Thursday morning last, about 3 o'clock a.m. one of the barns belonging to Messrs. D. & A. Munro, Lot 8, 9th Conc. Reach, was struck by lightning and set fire. The fire soon caught their other barn which

stood contiguous to the one struck and very soon both barns with all their contents were reduced to ashes, or destroyed.

They were good frame barns, one 40'x50' and the other 30'x60 feet. The barns contained a good buggy, three pair of sleighs, fifteen tons of hay, fifty bushels of wheat and considerable other property.

Nothing but the dwelling escaped the devouring element and that caught fire frequently, but thanks to the energy and activity of kind neighbours the dwelling was almost miraculously saved.



*The steamer Ogemah*

### Fire damages steamers Anglo-Saxon and Ogemah while docked

*Ontario Observer, November. 6, 1876*

The *Anglo Saxon* and the *Ogemah* were docked beside each other at the Port Perry waterfront for the winter of 1876-77. Mr. Lebare, a night watchman at the waterfront mill, while on his nightly rounds, discovered fire on the *Ogemah* at 2 o'clock in the morning of November 6, 1876.

He at once alarmed the hands on board the *Anglo-Saxon* and then rushed up town and gave the alarm. Mr. Joseph Bigelow, of course, was the first to hear the alarm and on the shortest possible notice he was seen dangling at the end of the bell rope. Councillor John Rolph too, was speedily on hand and in a crack had the fire engine underway for the scene of the conflagration, but it was found on its arrival that its services were not required.

Mr. Bigelow after sounding the alarm on the bell rushed back to the boat and with the aid of the hands on the *Anglo Saxon* soon put all idea of fire out of the question, he had so drenched the boat and everyone within his reach that the entire surroundings had much more the appearance of a flood than of a fire. The damage sustained by the steamer is comparatively light but had it not been for the vigilance of Mr. Lebare and the active exertions of Mr. Bigelow and the crew of the *Anglo Saxon* the results might have been disastrous. Captain Clement Dawes, the proprietor of the steamer



*John Rolph*

is furious and will spare no cost in discovering the guilty parties.

The origin of the fire is a mystery as there had been no fire on board for quite a time and the captain uses every precaution for her protection.

## ~1878~

### Fire! Fire! Fire!

*North Ontario Observer: July 1, 1878.*

The ever startling alarm of Fire! Fire! echoed from all quarters of Port Perry about 10:30 p.m., of the 10th inst., this was soon joined by the unmusical clatter of the town bell, and presently the internal yelling of the steam whistles joined the concert making a noise hideous enough and loud enough almost to awaken the dead.

There was no trouble in discovering where the fire was though. It was the last place where fire might



Adam Gordon

be expected, it was found burning forth in every direction from about the centre of Mrs. Adam Gordon's elevator opposite the railway station. The Fire Company were promptly on the spot within an hour after the alarm was given and the many tongues of the fire fiend were playing in unrestrained luxuriance up to the very heavens.

The tardiness of the fire company, however, made no difference, for from the word "go" the fire appeared at its maturity, had the upper, centre part of the building completely under control and was roving about like a giant.

From the first alarm had there even been a steam fire engine on the spot it could not have saved the property, so magnificent a start did the fire get; and if a steam engine could not have saved it what could be expected from the town apparatus which has not power enough to extinguish a lucifer match. So much dry timber made a majestic blaze towering to the heavens in all its grandeur, but it soon went down. Of course the burning of the grain within was a slow process but the blaze was spent before an hour.

It is no easy matter to get at the loss, but the total amount of insurance is \$15,500, all in the Royal. On the building \$800, on the machinery, scales &c., \$700, and on the grain \$14,000. The building, machinery &c., belonged to Mrs. Adam Gordon and the grain to Mr. George Currie.

The destruction of the property is doubtless to be regretted, but the disaster is not so great as it might have been. This Elevator has always been a losing concern to the proprietor. The very suspicious, unpromising condition of the grain market takes much of the sting out of the grain consumption. The origin of the fire will likely remain a mystery.

## ~1879~

### Fire destroys barn and stables

*North Ontario Observer: August 14, 1879*

About two o'clock on the morning of the 13th inst., the startling sound Fire! Fire! roused the peaceful slumberers of the entire village, in fact the hideous shouts and incessant clatter of bells could not fail in awakening all who might be expected ever to be awoken.

People had no sooner opened their eyes than the glare of light told them there was hot work somewhere. Mr. Prince's barns and stables, on the highest point of the village were found to be in a blaze. Our fire brigade hastened to the spot but they were powerless for two reasons; first, the fire had already got such old of the premises as ensured their destruction and second, had there been a chance, there was not water.

There were any number of spectators, but all were powerless and barns, stables and their contents were soon reduced to smoking embers. The loss will be considerable; one of the barns was but lately erected. The contents consisted of a large quantity of hay, this year's crop, oat sheaves, plows, wagon and large numbers of smaller articles.

The origin of the fire is a mystery, as no fire of any kind had been on the premises for a number of days. The family retired somewhat early in the night and knew nothing of the fire till awakened by a neighbour, when the fire was coming through the building.

### Fire destroys house of widow

*North Ontario Observer: December 11, 1879*

The residence of widow Quackenbush on the corner of Perry and Shanley Streets, Port Perry was destroyed by fire on Monday last. It is not know how the fire originated, it was observed about 2 o'clock p.m., and in a very short time the building and portion of the contents were reduced to ashes. The loss will exceed \$500 and no insurance.

# FIRES

## of the 1880s

~1880~

### Fire destroys harness maker stable

*North Ontario Observer: February 5, 1880*

Our lively and energetic town was made a little too lively and little too hot as well on the morning of Monday last. About 10 a.m. the always disagreeable shout, Fire! was heard in our streets and it was soon found that fire had in some way or another caught in the stable of Mr. Eck, harness maker, Lilla Street. In and incredibly short space of time it had extended its field of operation to the dwelling and harness shop and these it claimed as its sown and which there was no possibility of saving.

It soon extended to the dwelling owned by Mr. Dunn with the near prospect of getting hold of a fine residence to the north of that, but our active and intrepid firemen were on its track and by their energy and activity confined the devourer to its present bounds.

Eck's property was insured at \$700 which will fully cover the damage. Dunn had \$300 insurance on his house, but this will not cover the loss.

The origin of the fire is a mystery but its confinement to the narrow sphere of operation was most creditable to all concerned. Our active fire brigade did nobly and their engines did all that could be expect of them.

Our active brigade feared neither the fire nor water for drenched as wet as water could make them, they met and rove back the fire at every point. The dashing fellows deserve the thanks of all.

### Bible Christian parsonage reduced to ashes in late night fire

*North Ontario Observer: March 18, 1880*

The Village of Prince Albert, one of the most pleasant and healthful locations in the province, seldom meets with anything to disturb the even tenor of her way, but we are sorry to state that the disturbing element of fire declared itself there on the 16th inst. About 11 o'clock a.m. the Bible Christian Parsonage was discovered to be on fire and not withstanding the most prompt, active and persistent exertions, the devourer held on to his prey till that fine, comfortable residence was redacted to a few smoking embers.

All hands, the ladies were no way behind, wrought like heroes and the value of their efforts may be appreciated when it is known that the church and the stables were both safe and neither of them is twenty yards from the parsonage.

There was no engine at the fire but the activity of the defenders and the timely snow storm which prevailed just

then succeeded in confining the fire to the parsonage. The loss will amount to \$900 of which Rev. R. Allin, the worthy pastor of the church, loses about \$200 on his effects - no insurance. The cause of this, as of most other fires, was a defective chimney.

Our Bible Christian friends are by no means behind in intelligence, enterprise or liberality and doubtless ere long another comfortable residence for their excellent Pastor and his amiable family will occupy the spot which is now a heap of blackened cinders."

### Coryell House hotel lost to fire

*North Ontario Observer: April 27, 1880*

The village of Seagrave had a thrilling display of power of unquenchable fire on the morning of Tuesday, last, it took hold of the large hotel (Coryell House) there, and in an incredible short time had licked up the hotel and the outbuildings and everything within sight.

### Midnight fire destroys Borelia hotel owned by Mr. Sheehy

*North Ontario Observer: September 2, 1880*

The former village of Borelia, now the western suburb of Port Perry, is somewhat notorious of late, not only for the frequency of its conflagrations but for the vast amount of damage done, now it is a private residence, next it is hotel and so on with too much regularity and frequency.

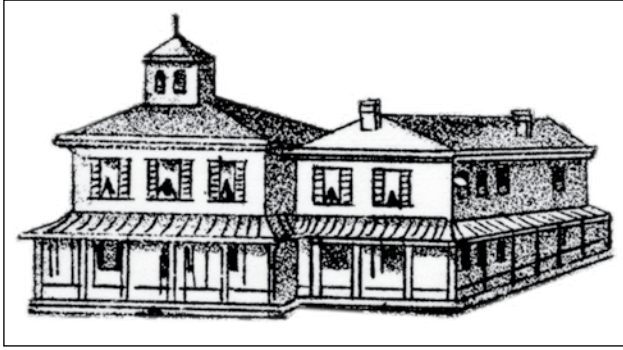
The town fathers at a late session of the council decreed that the smaller of the two fire engines with which the corporation is supplied should be located in the western, suburbs but from present appearances the large one too will have to be located in that quarter at least to the close of the burning season.

About midnight of the 31st inst, fire was discovered in that large hotel on the corner a Queen and Simcoe Streets. The alarm was given and quick as directly the small engine was hopping round the blazing walls and in process of time the large engine crept to the spot and watered the flames but all to no purpose. The flames had the mastery and they kept their hold till the pile was reduced to ashes.

The origin of the fire is a mystery. The property was owned by Mr. Sheehy\* and had been lately undergoing a thorough overhaul. It was uninhabited and we may add uninhabitable, but the renovating hand of the proprietor was making itself visible in the new doors, windows, &c. We are not aware what Mr. Sheehy meant do with the building.

That the fire was the work of incendiary can scarcely be doubted, but the trouble is to find the guilty party. We have no idea of the amount of loss and should suppose there was no insurance.

*\*Also spelled "Sheehy"*



Beechenhurst home of Dr. John H. Sangster.

## Dr. Sangster's magnificent home destroyed in late night fire

*North Ontario Observer: March 10, 1881*

On Monday, 7th inst., Port Perry was again visited by the unwelcome intruder, Fire, by which the residence of Dr. John H. Sangster, on the northern boundary of the town was burned to the ground. The fire is supposed to have caught from the furnace.

It was first discovered about 4 a.m. and was at first thought not to be serious, but it baffled every effort to extinguish it and within four hours the fire had completed the destruction of the building.

On short notice after the alarm was given, lots of willing hands and the fire engine were promptly on the spot but as there was not water the services of the engine could not be made available and the fire had advanced so far that nothing further could be done than to save the furniture.

We are not aware of the figure at which Dr. Sangster placed on the damage. The Tuesday's *Toronto Globe* in it wild way, placed the damage at \$18,000. It is almost a wonder that it did not add another cipher and make it \$180,000. We understand there was an insurance of \$7,500.

## Bad week for fires in Port Perry and Prince Albert

*North Ontario Observer: March 10, 1881*

The fire fiend has been nibbling around our town for some days past. On Tuesday morning, the 8th inst., at an early hour fire was observed flickering over the fence of the school grounds. It was observed that the fence had caught fire from an ash box. This was soon extinguished.

Also on the 8th inst., we learn that fire caught in the residence of James Squelch, Esq., Prince Albert. We are pleased that the damage was light, thanks to the energy of those present.

We much regret to report that the school house of School Section No. 2, Reach, Vernon's school house, was destroyed by fire the morning of the 9th inst. We are not aware how it caught fire.

Of course the building was insured as the law make it imperative on School trustees to insure the building and

if they neglect to do so, and the house gets burned, they can be made personally liable for the damages. The actual loss the section will be about \$100.

On the evening of Monday, 11th inst., the residence of Mr. Wheler, Prince Albert, took fire about six o'clock and in spite of every effort to stay the devourer it continue its work till the dwelling was reduced to ashes. The furniture was partly saved but still a lot of property was consumed. The fire was first discovered upstairs. We understand there was no insurance. All sympathize with the family in their loss.

On Saturday, the 12th inst., about 8 a.m., Dr. Richard Jones surgery building was observed to be on fire and as people were around, it was soon attacked and extinguished with slight damage.

On Sunday morning at an early hour fire was discovered in the residence of Mr. Lafayette F. Richardson. The inmates were unconscious of the fact and had to be aroused, a young person who slept upstairs had to be rescued. A large part of the furniture and other property was destroyed and the building was soon burned to the ground.

It was a handsome and very superior building and comparatively new. We learn that there was an insurance of \$1,000 but that won't cover half the loss. We sympathize with the young man on the large amount of loss and inconvenience occasioned by the fire.

## Still another fire in town

*North Ontario Observer: April 21, 1881*

Our town was again startled with the alarming sound "Fire" about 11:40 last evening. It was soon found that the destroyer had caught a neat and a desirable residence in the south-east quarter of the town, the property of James V. Thompson, Esq.

The fire made short work of the building, a good frame, which was completely licked up on short notice. The house and grounds were undergoing repairs, had just been rented at \$70 a year and the tenant was about to move in.

The origin of the fire is a mystery. There was an insurance of \$300 on the premises but that won't cover one third of the loss. Everything possible was done to save the building; the firemen fought like heroes, the engine behaved admirably and certainly our fire company and their apparatus never appeared to better advantage.

## Came near to having a fire

*North Ontario Observer: April 22, 1882*

Our town narrowly escaped having a rather serious fire on the evening of the 18th inst. Sparks from the furnace in the Paxton Tate & Co's. foundry had caught in the roof of the eastern wing of the moulding department and had it not been for the number and activity of the willing hands who rushed to the rescue, and the well directed and efficient efforts of the fire brigade, not a building on the premises would have been left standing.

But where there is a will there is always a way and the activity of the fire fighters confined the fire to the roof in which it first caught. The damage was light. The company is deservedly popular and all wrought with a will.

## Another blaze in Port Perry destroys the Charles block

*North Ontario Observer: June 30, 1881*

The town of Port Perry which considering its extent, and the continual rush of business that is being done in it, has so far been fortunate in escaping fires especially extensive blaze, but we had a vista from the devourer on the morning of the 27th inst.

Some time near 2 a.m., Mr. James Dewart, of the Railway Hotel, observed a light under the southeast corner of Mr. Henry Charles block on the corner of Queen and Water streets. The block contained Mr. Charles grocery and liquor store, Mr. Sutherland's grocery store, Messrs. Johnston's implement warehouse and Mrs. Smith's residence in the rear of the stores.

On first seeing the fire, Mr. Dewart gave the alarm and then ran to awaken the inmates. The fire was right under Mr. Sutherland's bed, he has slept in a room at the back of his store, and in order to get him up quickly, Dewart broke in the window with a cord stick and Sutherland had only time to put on his pants and run.

Mr. Charles too had to make a hasty escape and leave all behind. By this time the devourer had full control of the premises. Lots of help were soon at work but little more could be done than protract the surround buildings. Scarcely anything within the block was saved.

The fire engine was soon on hand and our active brigade trim and ready for work, but they were much hampered in their persevering efforts by inferior fire apparatus. All can sympathize with an active energetic company who know their duty and who are fearless and determined in its performance, but who are handicapped in every effort by a worthless apparatus, especially when there is a big fire to grapple with.

While it might not have been possible for any engine to save the building in which the fire originated, yet all must see that had there been a south or southeast wind at the time, the want of a proper fire engine would have been manifest through the fearful loss of property.

The prevention of the destruction of a large portion of the town is doubtless due to the efforts of Mr. John Ruddy, of the Port Perry House, who with his hand fire engine braved the almost unbearable heat, stood and kept a constant stream of water playing on the front of the hotel which was being roasted by the flame.

All the inmates of hotel and a strong staff of active help guarded every spot on and around the building and nothing but the most determined efforts saved it from destruction, and had it gone half the village would have gone with it.

The entire loss, including the damage done to the opposite buildings, will be over \$5,000, about one-fifth of which is covered by insurance.

Mr. Charles loss will be over \$3,000, part of which discovered by insurance. The damage to the opposite property is covered by insurance. The Messrs. Johnston's loss is about \$600 and no insurance. Mr. Sutherland's losses all say \$300 and no insurance, and Mrs. Smith's loses about as much in household effects with no insurance.

The origin of the fire is unknown. The thanks of the Insurance, concerned and every friend of the town, are due to our worthy Fire Brigade and to all others whose efforts the prevention of the town from destruction by fires is due.

## Seagrave grain facility lost to fire

*North Ontario Observer: July 21, 1881*

The Grain Warehouse and store houses at Seagrave station of the Whitby, Port Perry and Lindsay (WPP&L) Railway, were destroyed by fire on the afternoon of Monday the 18th inst. The loss will most likely be confined to the buildings as it is not at all likely that there was any grain on the premises.

## Lazier's factory destroyed by fire

*August 11, 1881*

We regret much to state that Lazier's Factory, 7th conc. of Reach, just beyond the northern boundary of the corporation of Port Perry, was with its contents completely destroyed by fire about midnight on the 5th inst.

During the severe thunder storm of that night the lighting struck the smoke stack and passing down into the factory set it on fire. Mr. Lazier and his family were in bed and owing to the combustible nature of the contents the devourer soon had command of the premises. In an incredibly short time the entire factory and its contents, together with the store room and its contents, except what daring hands of active friends snatched from the very jaws of the devourer fell prey to the greedy flames.

The family residence was only saved by almost

superhuman efforts and was badly damaged. The stock on hand was unusually large; bent stuff, woodwork for carriages, sleighs, grain cradles, forks &c., everything in fact supplied by a first-class factory of the kind.

Mr. Lazier places the loss, including building, machinery and stock at between seven and eight thousand dollars.

# ~ 1882 ~

## Came near to having a fire

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# The Fire of 1883



*This unknown artist's depiction of Port Perry in 1883 at the height of the fire on the north side of Queen Street.*

## Fire fiend lays to waste to Port Perry's business section

*North Ontario Observer: Thursday, December 20, 1885*

The Port Perry of today has certainly no inviting appearance, a large number of its finest structures having been laid waste by an irrepressible conflagration, these are now only represented by sickening heaps of ashes and piles of broken brick.

The fiend-made his appearance somewhere in the rear of the Port Perry House, on November 26, 1883, and fanned by a powerful blast from the east, succeeded within three hours from its first appearance in wiping out at least one-third of the business portion of the town and causing devastation and havoc in every direction, consuming property to the value of \$125,000 and leaving a blank of about \$80,000 on the assessment roll.

Active and brave men flew to the rescue; our vigilant fire brigade were soon on hand but had to contend against fearful odds. Our worthy firemen were not once armed against such a foe, a common syringe is scarcely the thing against a mountain of flame; but all did their best and deserve thanks for their efforts.

Some of the camp followers kept at a respectful and safe distance throughout and were so anxious for the safety of the more valuable portions of the goods that they carried them off to such distances that the owners have not yet been able to recover them; even horses and wagons were engaged in the pious work.

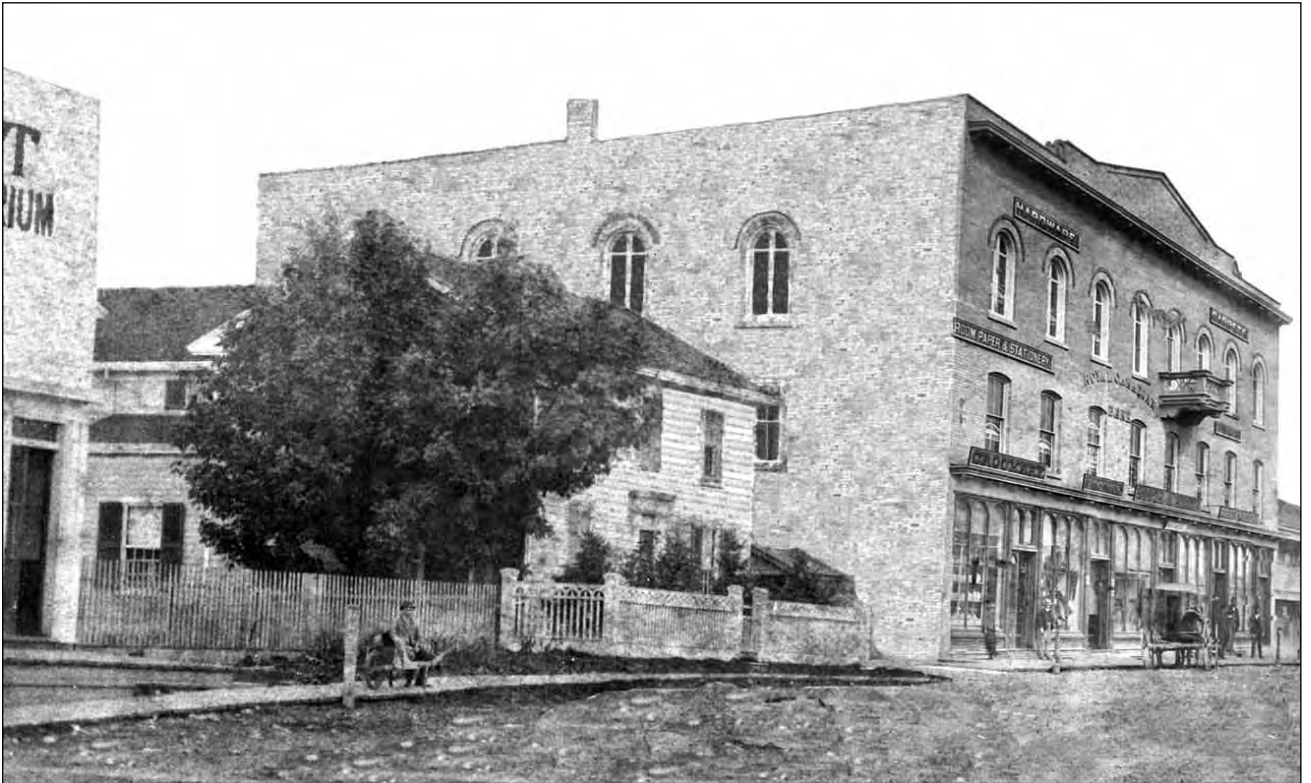
The morning after the devastation the hearts of the people quaked in gazing on the ruins, and many disconsolate one uttered dark forebodings of the future of the town. But these birds of ill-omen had reckoned without their host, they did not take into account the daring enterprise of the owners of the property. Ere the smoke of the embers ceased William.

B. McGaw, the active and energetic proprietor of the now obliterated but well known Walker House, was seen passing over the ruins and ordering the immediate removal of the bricks and rubbish with a view of rebuilding on a more magnificent scale, and in order to secure still more extended frontage he paid Mr. A. Ross \$1000 for some 24 feet adjoining his (Mr. McGaw's) property to the east.

Mr. Blong, the active and Liberal proprietor of the splendid Hotel Brunswick, now a heap of ruins, has also ordered the removal of the ruins of his famous structure in order to the erection as early a day as possible of new premises still more magnificent and costly than those destroyed.

Mr. Ruddy, the worthy host of the Port Perry House now a victim of the flames, offers to purchase the site of the destroyed hotel from Mr. Thompson with a view to the erection of another fine hotel; if he can't secure that, he proposes building on Mr. Charles' lot on the opposite side of the street.

# Queen St. scenes before 1883 fire

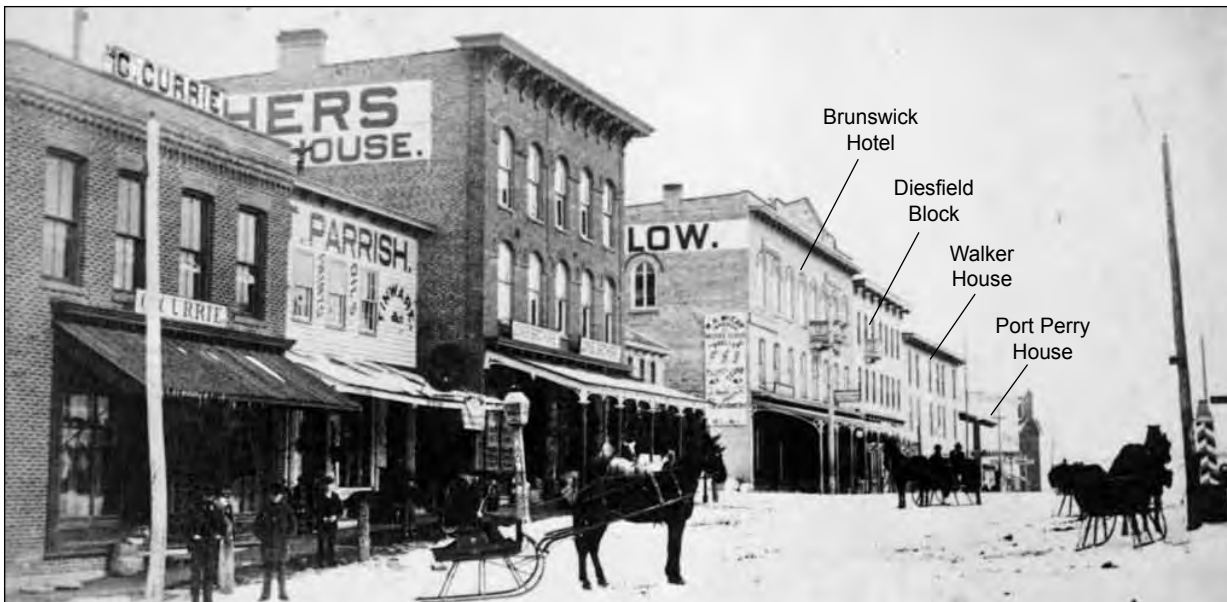


North east side of Queen St., about 1880. House in the centre of photo was owned by Joseph Bigelow and was moved to Perry Street before the fire ripped through the downtown in November 1883. Beside it is Bigelow's "Royal Arcade" building, which was destroyed in the fire.



Queen St., looking east towards the lake during the winter of 1880. Stores from left are George Currie's block, Wm. T. Parrish block, Jones Brother's block, Bigelow's Arcade block, Diesfield's block, Walker House block, the Port Perry House hotel, and the grain elevator.

# The Fire of 1883



North side of Queen Street, Port Perry about 1878, five years before a fire leveled many of the buildings on the street.

Messrs Diesfield, Hiscox and Worthington are all expected to rebuild so that ere the close of 1884 the fearful gap made by the unsparing devourer will be filled up to advantage and the Port Perry of that day will be better than ever. In the meantime the fugitives driven out by the flames have found shelter as best they could awaiting the erection of their new premises.

Mr. Blong has rented and comfortably fitted up the house belonging to Mr. Thomas Graham opposite the railway station where every attention is given to comfort and convenience of guests and the table and bar supplied with the choice of the market. Mr. Ruddy has leased and fitted up Mr. D. Irelands premises (the old Queen's Hotel) where good and convenient hotel accommodation is furnished to all comers.

Mr. Laing & Meharry had to take refuge in the store they lately occupied on the opposite side of the street; but finding it much too small for their business they have built a large addition behind.



Joseph Bigelows "Arcade" building was one of the many buildings lost in the 1883 fire.

Diesfield's watch, clock and jewelry establishment has been moved to the north side of Queen Street opposite the Observer office. Don't fail to call and see their choice stock of everything desirable in the line Mr. Charles has moved his grocery and liquor business into the premises one door east of the barber shop.

The persevering and thoroughly active firm of Curts and Henderson lost no time in securing a lease of an important portion of the market building where they have fitted up in perfect business style one of the most convenient flour, feed and general produce establishments any where to be found; they are now rushing the business.

The Griffith Stove and Tinware business has got snugly located on the west side of Perry St. They too have pressing business with energy

Mr. Vansickler, one of our enterprising Livery proprietors has established his livery establishment in part of the Mansion House stables and is now prepared to furnish rigs for all.

Mr. McKenzie has moved her business to the Leonard block opposite the Market.

Mr. Samuel Graham has removed his Blacksmithing establishment to the rear of his late premises and is now in full blast in a well appointed new establishment and prepared to execute all orders on short notice and to the satisfaction of customers.

# The Fire of 1883

## Newspapers Reports from surrounding communities

### Fire destroys one-third of business section of downtown Port Perry

*Toronto Globe: November 26, 1883*

A fire broke out in Port Perry between 11 and 12 o'clock last night, which destroyed about \$130,000 worth of property in the centre of town. It commenced in John Ruddy's Hotel and made a clean sweep of Queen Street on the north side from the Ross Elevator to William H. McCaw's jewellery store.

The flames had made such headway before being discovered that they were entirely beyond the control of the firemen and citizens who worked persistently, but against such great odds as to render their efforts almost unavailing. The prevailing strong south wind prevented contact with the south side of the street and saved the rest of the town.

To the existence of an alley between the Brunswick House and McCaw's jewellery store, coupled with the fact that the wall of the hotel fell inwards, is largely attributable the staying of the progress of the flames. Otherwise the whole of that side of the street would have been swept away.

A large quantity of goods were removed in a damaged condition. Fortunately no lives were lost through risks were run and venturesome attempts made to rescue moveable goods.

### \$150,000 conflagration almost totally destroys Port Perry

*Toronto Globe: November 27, 1883*

Yesterday about 1:15 a.m. Alderman Farley, Chairman of the Fire and Gass Committee, received a despatch from the Reeve of Port Perry stating that the whole town was in flames and asking him to send help at once.

Mr. Farley immediately communicated with the Fire Department, and arranged for a part of the brigade, with an engine and horse, to go to the scene of the conflagration, but he found on inquiry at the Grand Trunk offices that he could not have a truck and car till 3:30.

Mr. Farley then telegraphed the Reeve to this effect, asking him if this would be of much service, and in stating that men and appliances were ready to start at that time. The promptness and dispatch shown by Ald. Farley in the exigency are worthy of great praise.

### Observer silenced for three weeks

*North Ontario Observer: December 20, 1883  
(first issue after the November 26, 1883 fire)*

This Christmas is an especially befitting season to make our annual bow to our respected readers; especially in view of our recent rough experience in passing through a too hot fire, and coming out badly scorched, with our office destroyed, our plant rendered useless and our valuable stock consumed.

We entailed a heavy loss and much annoyance; first having to find suitable premises for an office in a town like Port Perry where property to the value of at least \$125,000 had been consumed in a few hours. We have, however, been fortunate in securing convenient and suitable premises, but these had to undergo extensive repairs ere we could occupy them.

The purchase of new plant and stock was a matter of much expense and required considerable time and labour to get fitted up anew, so that however reluctantly we have been silenced for three weeks, thus missing three issues of the *Observer*.

Thanking our readers for their kind forbearance we take much pleasure in placing in the hands of our subscribers a first installment of the *Observer* in its new garb; and now having secured and fitted up suitable premises in one of the most convenient locations in town, on the south side of Queen St, nearly opposite the Post Office; and having secured a full supply of the best type anywhere to be had, we are now prepared to execute all orders in the printing line in the most satisfactory manner.

Taking our readers by the hand, we wish them all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous future.



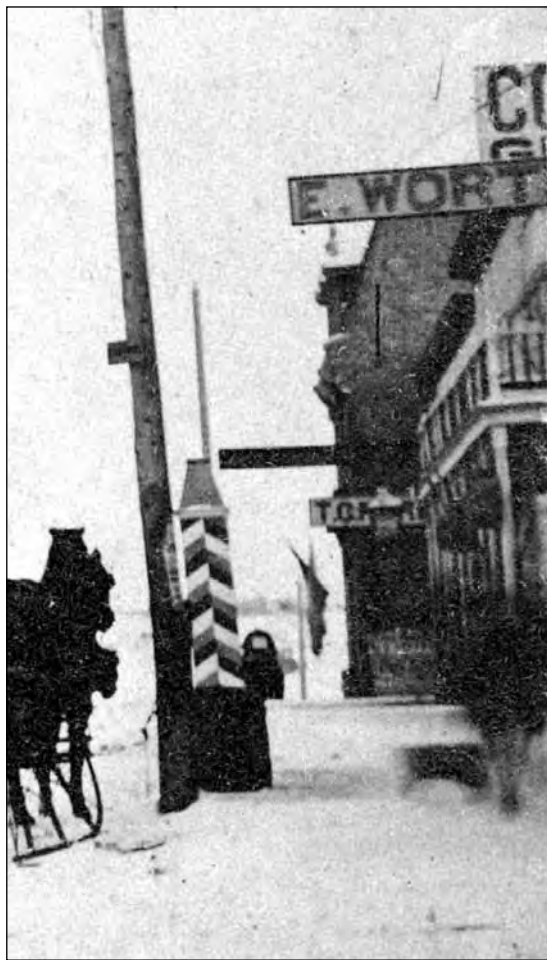
*This composite picture shows the section of Queen St., Port Perry that was destroyed during the fire of 1883.*

# The Fire of 1884

## Devastating fire of 1884 levels Port Perry in less than four hours in 1884

As the warm days of May, 1884 arrived, Port Perry's resilient town folk had begun to put the terrible fire of November 1883 well into their past. By the end of the month, Thompson's new hotel was under construction, as was Jonathan Blong's new building in the middle of the eastern section of Queen Street. No one was prepared for what was about to happen.

At the beginning of the last week of June 1884, a heat wave hit the citizens of this part of Canada. The heat wave continued into July. As the sun set, on the evening of Thursday, July 3 a breeze drifted in from the south east. Most of the windows of the homes of Port Perry's residents would have been flung open in an attempt to catch the



*The Mansion House Hotel, above with veranda, was the location of the start of the devastating fire of July 4, 1884 started. It is now the site of post office.*

refreshing movement of air. A sense of relief from the intense heat would have no doubt embraced those who had opened their windows, for the breeze began to increase in strength.

In the middle of the south side of Queen Street, Neil Sinclair ran the Mansion House Hotel for its owner Benjamin McQuay. (Location of the Post Office, 192 Queen St.). Behind the hotel were the necessary stables and a blacksmith shop.

A few minutes before midnight, on the evening of Thursday, July 3, the townspeople were rudely awakened by the persistent ringing of the Town Hall bell. The Town Hall bell acted as an alarm clock for the townsfolk, ringing every day at 7 a.m., noon hour, 1 o'clock and at 6 o'clock in the evening. However, if it rang at any other time, it could only have one meaning; FIRE! The volunteer firemen made their way quickly to the Town Hall to gather the limited fire fighting equipment available to them and to find out who was ringing the bell.

A fire had been noticed in the stables behind Ben McQuay's hotel. Aided by the strong wind from the south east, it spread rapidly, first in a westerly direction, then across the road and finally, to the east. Wooden buildings in the middle of a hot dry summer, virtually exploded when sparks settled on them. The fire appliances were totally inadequate to handle an inferno of this proportion.

One can only try to imagine a scene of panic and desperation as merchants ran downtown to try to rescue their merchandise. Flames reached dozens of metres into the air and could be seen as far away as Greenbank, Oshawa, Whitby and Port Hope. Attempts to save buildings were futile.

Panic stricken merchants, most of them uninsured, or at best under-insured, smashed down the rear doors of their stores, desperate to save merchandise. Some merchandise was rescued and piled on Perry Street but the heat of the conflagration drove people away and the rescued merchandise itself caught fire, consumed as the fire spread to Perry Street. In less than an hour, the entire business section of downtown Port Perry was an inferno.

From the north side of Mary Street to the south side of North Street, from Water Street to Perry Street and on Queen Street all the way to John Street, the fire consumed every building; house, store, shed and stable with the exception of two buildings at the extremes. Tummond's store at southeast corner of John and Queen Streets, (268 Queen St.), and Currie's Grain Elevator at the waterfront were the only buildings to survive. They defined the limits of the conflagration.

As daylight came, a scene of utter desolation confronted the townsfolk. Cries of disbelief and despair would no doubt be heard for miles around. This was a time when few places of business had adequate insurance,





*Ontario Bank and Brown & Ross, south side of Queen Street.*



*Currie, Worthington and Jones Bros. blocks on Queen Street*

the majority would have had none at all. Thirty-three commercial buildings housing almost 50 businesses, as well as factories, warehouses, stables, six lodges and a dozen homes were turned into soot and embers. According to the *Port Perry Standard*, there was a loss of over \$350,000 but only \$150,000 was covered by insurance. Those estimates are in 1884 dollars. Today, the value of the buildings alone would be in the tens of millions.

The only consolation was that the tragedy wasn't accompanied by death. Today, the upper floors of the downtown core are almost entirely occupied by apartment dwellers. At the time of the fire, the upper floors were occupied by the street level businesses or rented out to other businesses. Most of the dry goods and clothing stores which dominated the downtown core, devoted their upper floors to millinery and (cover your eyes gentlemen!)...ladies undergarments.

A few people received burns as they tried to save merchandise. A number of valuable animals were lost. In the stables at the Mansion House Hotel, where the fire started, one horse valued at \$300 was destroyed along with other horses and a cow. A similar fate befell other

animals in the stables of the other downtown hotels.

Fortunately, the contents of 26 vaults in various buildings were found to be undamaged in spite of the intense heat.

Mr. Tummonds survived the fire but his reputation stumbled momentarily. Whether through envy, mistrust or malicious lies, or a combination thereof, he was accused of inflating his prices. The *Ontario Observer* said that he was "taking advantage of the adverse circumstances in which the town has been placed by the late fire because being the only store in this place, advanced the price of many of the necessities of life as high as 50, 75, and 100 per cent."

He advertised an offer of \$100 to anyone who could prove that he charged more for an article after the fire. There is no evidence to show that anyone claimed the reward.

The tragedy of the 1884 fire was largely an economic one. Dreams of financial success and entire life savings were lost. For those on the north side of Queen Street who were just beginning to get themselves re-established after the 1883 fire, the tragedy was even more devastating. This second fire was too much for W.B. McGaw. He had run the Walker House for Dan Ireland and the hotel had

The devastation was so sudden and overwhelming, that comparatively little was saved. Laid to ashes were: the Ontario Bank; 3 Law Offices; 3 Doctor's Offices; 1 Broker's Office; 2 Printing Offices; a Dentist Office; 2 Photograph Galleries; a Grist Mill; 3 Cabinet Factories; a Carriage Factory; 2 Blacksmithing Establishments; 2 Drug Stores; 3 Harness Shops; 2 Boot and Shoe Shops; a Marble Works, the Livery Stable; Masonic Lodge; Orange Lodge; Oddfellows Lodge; Sons of England Lodge; United Workmen's Lodge; Royal Templars Lodge and the contents; a Bakery; 2 Tinsmith Shops; 2 Hotels, 22 Stores and 12 residential dwellings. The entire loss amounted to more than \$300,000 of which only one-half was covered by insurance.



# The Fire of 1884

been destroyed in the 1883 fire. Rather than stay in Port Perry and re-invest in its future, in October 1884, he moved to Bowmanville and invested in a hotel there. Fortunately for Port Perry his case was the exception.

The Victorian age was one of optimism and hope. The people who lived in it had a resiliency and determination. They had heard from their parents, of an earlier age when nothing but hardship and disease prevailed. Some of the older citizens could relate those experiences first hand. If they could survive the perils of pioneer life, they could rebuild

their lives again; and so they did. The townsfolk rallied.

The newspapers themselves were knocked out of business for three weeks, but on July 24, 1884, the editor of the *North Ontario Observer*, James Baird, commented in his editorial:

"We have to apologize to our patrons for this second interruption to our business during the past eight months. It would almost appear that the fire fiend has a dislike to the *Observer* office. It has hunted us from pillar to post and driven us around town and came precious near to driving us out of it. No matter in which part of the town the fire starts it is sure to rope in the *Observer* ere all is done. During the past eight months we have twice been driven to the street by fire..."

Mr. Baird then went on to relate that:

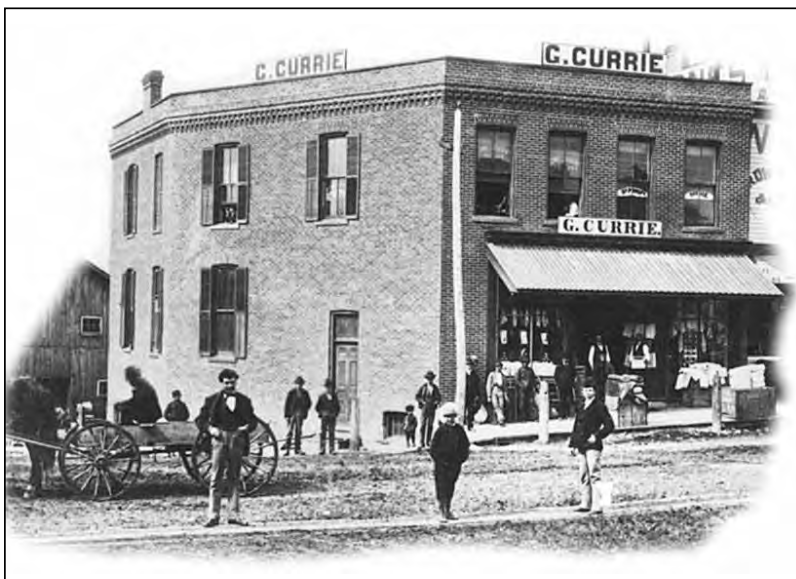
"...The entire village is one grand scene of busy life, whole armies of carters, labourers, stone masons, brick layers and carpenters, are combining their efforts for the restoration of the town and the work is progressing with amazing rapidity."

Immediately following the editorial was a list of businesses which had started up in new temporary locations. Various basements, barns, warehouses and other storage facilities provided temporary accommodation for the displaced businesses. Davenport and Jones set up their general store in the Town Hall basement. T.C. Forman, a staunch Presbyterian was even able to convince his congregation to allow him to set up his store in the basement of the church.

By July 31, the *Ontario Observer* was able to report:

"The perfect rush of industry which now prevails in the village of Port Perry is highly commendable to the enterprise and manly courage of those who so recently passed through the fire, the burned district is one scene of rush and activity and hosts of busy men are hurrying hither and thither in every direction while the perfect babel of hammers, saws, axes, trowels...is highly pleasant...there are 17 permanent brick blocks under construction, these blocks will afford accommodation for 20 stores, one hotel...etc."

Progress reports of the buildings appeared in the newspapers on a weekly basis.



George Currie's block on north side of Queen and Perry St.



Curtice & Trenbeth blocks, north side Queen St., at Perry St.



*The massive Ontario Carriage Works building, located at Perry and Mary Street, was destroyed by fire in July 1884.*

## Buildings Destroyed in July 1884 Fire



*The Port Perry House hotel corner of Queen and Water Streets.*



*The home of Wm. Sexton, on Water Street*



*Carriage Works buildings on Perry Street.*

# The Fire of 1884



*The charred remains of the town of Port Perry is all that was left when this picture was taken July 2, 1884, a day after the fire.*

*The following newspaper report, written by Edward J. Mundy, publisher, was published in the July 4, 1884 issue of the Port Perry Standard.*

## **DISASTROUS FIRE! BUSINESS PORTION OF PORT PERRY TOTALLY DESTROYED.**

**\$350,000 Worth of Property Consumed**

*Port Perry Standard: Friday, July 4, 1884*

This romantic village, so recently the pride of its people, and the admiration of travellers, is now a thing of the past and exists only in the memory of those who beheld it.

During the night of Thursday, the third instant, the alarm was given by voice and bell, and in less time than it takes to write or relate it, many of the inhabitants were awakened with the sound and horrified at the sight.

The flames were already leaping high in the air; and, long before they could be surrounded it was a foregone conclusion with many that the south half of the town was as surely doomed to destruction as had been the north half only a few months before. Nor were they agreeably disappointed, for in less than ninety minutes the whole of

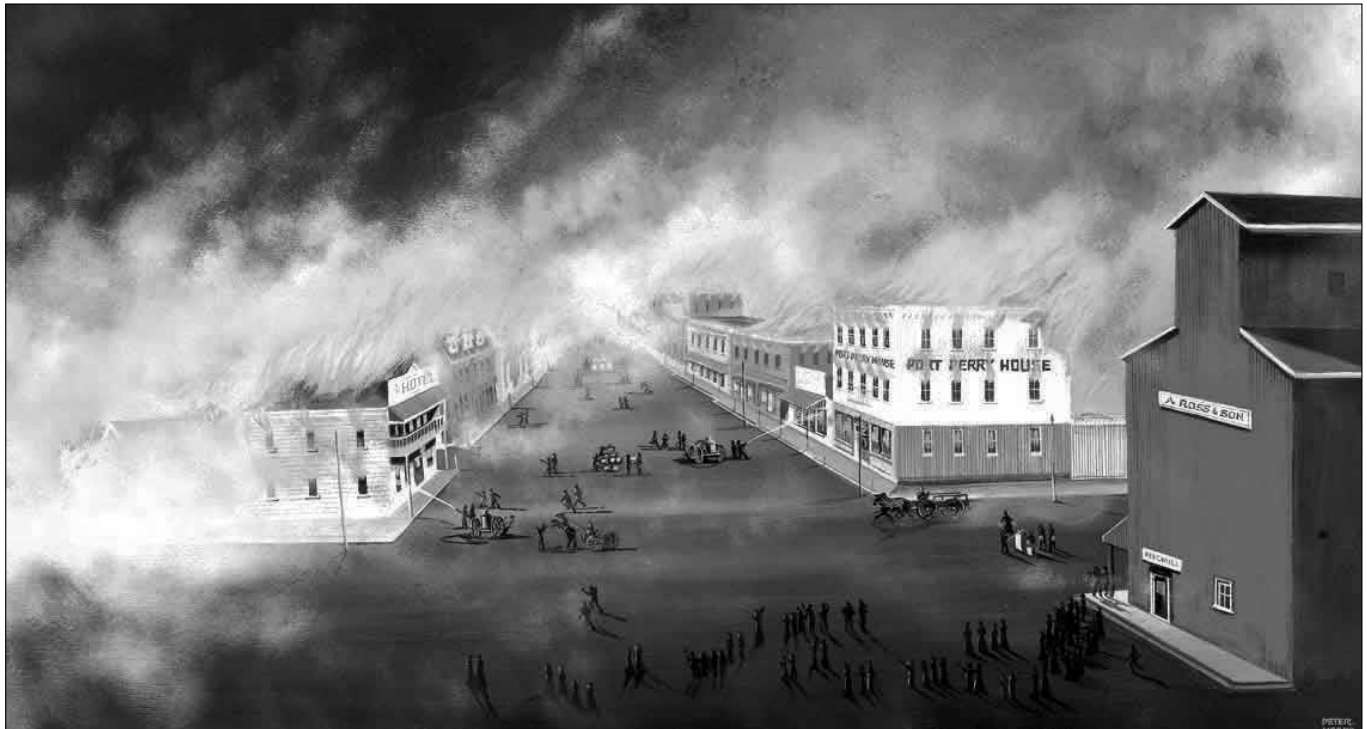
the remaining business part of the town was reduced to ashes, involving in the destruction some forty-five or fifty places, and incurring a loss of over \$350,000.

The fire sprang up so suddenly, and spread so rapidly that men, women and children, struck with consternation, were actually terrified. A still breeze blowing from the south-east when the fire began aided the devouring element immensely in its spread and purpose. In their madlike fury the flames were driven, in every direction, over the tops of all the buildings in the south-east block and ignited them almost simultaneously as they passed.

The flames burst through the buildings on Perry and Queen Streets, and reaching to the blocks west and north, their fiery tongues soon ignited these also. The terror stricken owners fondly hoped to the last moment, that their buildings as well as their contents would escape; but they were suddenly undeceived.

Once the fire obtained a hold all hope was gone. The doors and windows were opened and entered in, defiance of all efforts to stay its progress. The sight was terrifically grand, and yet awfully devastating, as the flames arched the streets, and played havoc with everything in their reach.

All the buildings from Benjamin F. Ackerman's harness



*An artist's depiction of the July 1884 fire which destroyed the entire downtown of Port Perry, reducing it to ashes and broken bricks.*

shop to Johnstone & Hobbs, in the south-east block, from Davis & Son's cabinet factory, to the vacant lot east of William Tummond's, in the south-west block; from William McGaw's temporary retreat to Reynold's blacksmith shop, in the north-east block; and from Shaw's marble works to Diesfeld's jewellery shop in the north-west block, were swept out of existence.

Rush after rush was made for back-door entrances, and though willing hearts and ready hands did everything that humanly speaking, could be done, they were driven back by the fire fiend with only a small measure of success. Many of the determined efforts were successful, though fighting against fearful odds, and yet a very small percentage of the moveable goods was saved. This will be admitted when it is known that not a pound of any of the necessaries of life could be had in the place, except at the store of Mr. William Tummonds, the next day.

The firemen worked like heroes and with all others who assisted, deserve great credit for their bravery. Fortunately – gratefully indeed – was it ascertained after the turmoil and excitement and worry of that fearful and never to be forgotten night, that no human lives were lost, if even every resemblance to the former pretty and prosperous village had been obliterated.

The fire originated in the stables attached to the Mansion House. The cause is enveloped in mystery, though it is very generally attributed to incendiarism.

#### PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting of the ratepayers was called by Reeve Henry Gordon, on the afternoon of the following day (Saturday, July 5, 1884), at the Town Hall, for the pur-

pose of ascertaining the amount of loss occasioned by the fire and for suggesting ways and means of relief.

The Reeve was called to the chair and Norman F. Paterson, Esq., was appointed secretary. The chairman, after a few explanatory remarks, called upon any one present to address the meeting.

After a short discussion, the following resolution, moved by Mr. James Baird, seconded by Mr. James Prince, was passed: – That the following gentlemen be appointed a committee consisting of Messrs. Joseph Bigelow, Wm. M. Jones, P.A. Hurd, Joshua Wright, Norman F. Paterson, Henry Gordon, J.W. Isaacs, Aaron Ross, Thomas C. Forman, John H. Brown, Dr. John H. Sangster, William T. Parrish, John W. Davis, Jonathan Blong, George W. Dryden, Thomas Courtice, James B. Laing, James Baird and W.J. McMurtry, to ascertain, as nearly as possible, the amount of loss sustained by the present fire, and to place the same before the Provincial Government, with the financial standing of the Corporation, and solicit such assistance as the Corporation requires under the circumstances.

A motion moved by Mr. Norman F. Paterson, seconded by Dr. Richard Jones, was passed, requesting the losses by the fire to furnish the committee at the Reeve's office, not later than Monday, the 7th inst. at 2 p.m., an approximate statement of their losses and insurance, to enable the committee to submit a statement to the Government.

A motion was also passed approving of the by-law of the village respecting stone and brick buildings within certain limits, and recommending the Council to extend the same. The meeting adjourned, the committee to meet on the following Monday at 2 p.m. in the Reeve's office.

# The Fire of 1884

## ANOTHER PUBLIC MEETING

A similar meeting of the ratepayers was held in the Town Hall on Monday evening last (July 7th). Reeve Henry Gordon occupied the chair. The Secretary, Mr. Norman F. Paterson, read a statement of the losses and insurances.

The Chairman stated that outside assistance had been offered, and he asked the meeting if it was their wish to accept the same.

Mr. Hurd said he was greatly in favor of receiving aid, from neighboring municipalities or otherwise, so as to render immediate assistance to those who were now in want, by having all they owned destroyed, and being thrown out of employment. He did not wish by any means to ignore the committee appointed to wait on the Government, but he would suggest that another committee be appointed, consisting of persons not affected by the fire, to solicit immediate aid from outside. He therefore moved, seconded by Mr. John W. Davis, that Messrs. Gordon, McMurtry, Major, Davis, Trounce, Hurd, C. Crandell and N.F. Paterson be a relief committee to solicit immediate subscriptions.

Mr. Paterson was heartily in sympathy with the resolution, but he wished to be informed as to how and to whom the money raised would be distributed. He for one, though a heavy loser, and many more he could name, were too independent to accept of such aid.

Mr. Hurd said all such matters could be left with the committee. The motion was then passed unanimously. After a short, informal discussion the meeting adjourned.

A meeting of the Relief Committee then held, when Mr. Gordon was appointed Chairman, Mr. Paterson, Secretary, and Mr. McMurtry, Treasurer. Messrs. Hurd and Paterson were appointed a committee to draft the necessary circular, collecting the required aid and to report at a meeting to be held on Wednesday at 10 a.m. Committee adjourned.

## INCIDENTS

- Luckily no human lives were lost.
- The foundry was on fire several times from flying brands.
- Mr. Thomas Courtice saved a portion of his stock of leather by hurriedly cramming it into a well close by where it remained safe and sound.
- Just think of it! In less than three hours \$350,000 worth of property was reduced to ashes. How many three hours will it take to replace it?
- Not a solitary paper belonging to the Corporation including this year's assessment roll was saved. The Council will have their hands full for some time to come, as about 150 by-laws will have to be re-passed.
- The country for miles to the north-west, was on fire

in many places by cinders blown hither and thither from the Port, and a piece of paper, one of Davenport, Jones & Co.'s bill heads, was found on Mr. Beare's farm, near Greenbank.

- Messrs. Harrington & Seymure lost a \$300 horse in the Mansion House stable, where three other horses and a cow were burned. This horse, "Dan," had travelled over nine States in the Union, and was rescued from three fires, and was a great favorite.

- Some idea of the brilliancy of the flames may be formed from the fact that for miles the shore of Lake Ontario and in Oshawa, Whitby, etc., parties affirm they could see to read a paper, or pick a pin. In Port Hope the fire alarm was wrung with the idea that the fire was on Protestant Hill.

- It is hardly possible to conceive of the wildness of the excitement which prevailed during the progress of the fire. One woman entrusted her babe to the care of a friend, while she went to rescue other valuables. She forgot where and what had become of her child. Her feelings and conduct about that time may be imagined, but not described.

- Young Mr. Parrish who had entered his father's store to call out for his parents became partially suffocated by the smoke and having also lost his way would have perished had he not by mere chance stumbled upon the cellar way, down which he fell. James McArthur suddenly found his escape cut off and was obliged to rush through the flames to save his life. He was badly burned but will soon be well.

- Mr. Thomas Dancaster feels the loss of his stallion "Siver Dust," very keenly. He was offered only a few days before the fire \$2,000 cash for him, and declined it. Mr. O. Powell, in whose charge the horse was, would very likely have shared the same fate had it not been for some men who were close at hand. Powell made a rush to secure the horse it seems, but was driven back in a fainting condition, when he had to be carried away.

- A great deal of satisfaction was expressed, and many sighs of relief were breathed amongst business men, when safe after safe was removed from the debris and opened and the contents found safe and sound, though in one or two instances a little charred. Mr. William T. Parrish's safe fell in the coal oil well and was burning for a day or so after the fire, with no material damage to the contents. Some 26 stood the fiery test. Messrs. Goldie & McCullough, of Galt, and J. & J. Taylor, of Toronto, were the principal makers.

- The Midland Railway consents to give special rates to builders at Port Perry. They will haul carload lots of lumber from Peterboro, Orillia and Midland, and brick from Port Hope, Beaverton and Lindsay at greatly reduced rates and a rebate of 15 percent in addition.

## ~ 1886 ~

### Port Perry narrowly escapes being destroyed third time in three years

*Toronto Globe: March 1, 1886*

This thriving and progressive town had a narrow escaped today from being wiped out of existence by a furious fire that raged from half past one o'clock in the morning until late in the night.

The smoke that burst out of the Parrish block on Queen Street was the first indication that the building was on fire, and alarm was immediately sounded. The steam fire engine was quickly on the spot and in a very short space of time the willing firemen and citizens had a stream of water from Lake Scugog playing on the flames.

That the efforts of the people to check the conflagration were almost futile as everything inside the building was converted to ashes, leaving the four bare walls standing. Everything to Wm. T. Parrish's hardware store and James Boxall's stove and tinware establishment, which were on the block, was consumed, as there was little or no time to rescue the goods.

In spite of the efforts of the firemen and their steam engine the flames made their way to the Currie Block, occupied by John H. Brown, general merchant. The I.O.O.F. lodge-room was also situated in the upper portion of this building, which was completely gutted.

The fire then crossed the street and consumed the Willard Block, containing an unoccupied store and the new post office, which was occupied for the first time last night. Benjamin Robinson's barber shop, Wm. Hiscocks, confectionery store and S.E. Allison's, drug

store, the latter an elegantly fitted up establishment, WITH five plate-glass windows, all shared a similar fate.

The fierce struggle between the fireman and the flames showed signs of slackening about noon, when the effects of the water were noticeable,, but it was not until late in the afternoon that the firemen finally gained the supremacy.

The loss to Mr. Allison is estimated at \$1,000, which is covered by insurance. About \$10,000 was done to the Currie block. There is an insurance on the building of \$6,500. Mr. Brown's loss amounting to about \$12,000 is said to be covered by insurance and salvage. Mr. Parrish's property, valued at \$11,000 is insured for \$7,000 and Mr. Boxall's insurance is \$2,000.

Mr. Charles Hiscox had his hand badly cut by broken glass necessitating the attendance of the physician when found necessary to put several stitches in the wound. Port Perry has been extremely unfortunate as it has been visited by two great fires previous to this one during the last two years.

### Fire not as great as appeared

*Toronto Globe: March 2, 1886*

The damage by the fire at this place was not so great as appeared yesterday. The Parrish block and the Currie block, occupied by John H. Brown, were consumed. The premises occupied by Messrs. David Davenport and Charles W. Jones and Boxall's store were damaged. The damage to the Willard block was principally in broken glass, as was also the case in regard to the drug store of Mr. s.E. Allison, the confectionery store of Wm. Hiscox and the barber shop of Benjamin Robinson.

## ~ 1887 ~

### Currie block destroyed by fire

*Whitby Chronicle: May 20, 1887*

....." the annual fire over again, only instead the thing has now become semi-annual. This is the only change which has been made in the event, however. The hour of three o'clock in the morning is carefully observed.

The whole building was destroyed this time and will have to be rebuilt. The Oddfellows, as usual with every fire which has occurred in the town, one excepted, were burnt out. Mr. Hugh Campbell, who was just getting a \$4,000 stock on the shelves, had it all destroyed. An auctioneer, named Smith, who was holding trade sales, had his stock destroyed. Several others suffered losses. Nothing was saved.

The burning of the Currie block brings to mind a few recollections of the past showing that this unfortunate corner-site has for fifteen years been the scene of disaster for almost every mortal man who has ever had anything to do with it, the proprietors, the tenants, the insurance companies and all.

What with the losses in fires by the owners, the losses in both business and fires by the occupants, the insurance premiums and insurance losses, between \$50,000 and \$75,000 must have gone upwards in smoke form this Currie block.

But though the insurance companies lose largely in Port Perry, they can well afford it, for there is not an old cabin or chattel of any kind in Port Perry, even to a sewing machine or wheelbarrow, but what is insured for all that will be taken upon it.

Thus the companies collect enormous sums in premiums and can afford to lose a good deal.

### Currie block fire inquest held

*Whitby Chronicle: June 3, 1877*

Coroner Jones held an inquest on Monday, into the causes which led to the Currie block fire. Many witnesses were examined and a good deal of startling information secured, but nothing regarding the fire.

For instance it came out that almost the whole of Saturday night is devoted to carrying on business of various kinds, barber shops, delivery wagons, and every



kind of Saturday night work being carried on away long into Sunday morning.

However, nothing has turned up yet to show that the fire was anything but an accident – more than that the thing has become half-yearly instead of yearly. The hour of the morning was correct, as was also the day of the week.

~ 1890 ~

## Two fires in a single day destroys a home and saw mill building

*North Ontario Observer, July 17, 1890*

Yesterday, (Wednesday) at 12 o'clock p.m., the old saw mill building in this town, just west of the Scugog Bridge, was discovered to be on fire. The fire alarms were sounded, but parties ascertaining the cause of the conflagration viewed it from a distance. So rapidly was it consumed that it would have been impossible to have saved it from destruction after the discovery that it was on fire.

The building was owned by J.A. Cull, Esq., on which there was no insurance. Two wagons and a number of implements, the property of Mr. Jesse Ireland that were in the building at the time were all destroyed.

A second fire, the residence of Mrs. Haynes, Prince Albert, was destroyed by fire. The fire occurred about three o'clock in the afternoon and had made such headway when discovered that very little of the contents were saved.

All exerted themselves in order to save as much as possible for Mrs. Haynes, and a number of ladies worked heroically to lighten her loss.

## Anglo-American Hotel in Prince Albert destroyed by fire

*North Ontario Observer: August 1, 1890*

"Shortly after midnight on Sunday, August 3, 1890 our attentive and watchful village bell sounded an alarm of a fire, which was then quietly at work in the kitchen of the old Anglo-American Hotel.

When the people got around, it was found that the flames had full possession of the kitchen and were rapidly spreading over the main building, and had also so far progressed that there could be no hope of saving the property.

The devourer went on licking up everything consumable in its course. For two hours the flames held unrestricted sway and made a magnificent display until they had consumed that large hotel, its barns, stables, driving sheds, and a lot of extensive and substantial buildings.

Joseph Coombs residence north of the hotel, was burned down at the same time. Had it not been for the timely rain which wet the roofs of the neighbouring buildings one-half of the village would have been consumed. The lighted embers were flying through the air in all directions and thrown on the roofs of the houses, but the wet shingles saved the buildings.

The property destroyed could not be replaced for two thousand dollars. A large portion of the hotel furniture

was consumed and there was only five hundred dollars insurance on it. Mr. Coomb lost everything and had no insurance.

The cause of the fire is a mystery, but the effects of it are obvious to all, it has left an abominable gap in the centre of the village.

We feel for those who have suffered loss by the fire. We can't say how much William H. Park may lose, we tried to find out what amount of insurance there was on the buildings, but got snubbed for our pains.

We were not particularly anxious to know the amount of insurance but the public have a right to know all the particulars of such fires. As near as we could press out reluctant information, there is somewhere in the neighborhood of a thousand dollars insurance on Mr. Park's buildings and furniture.

Active and willing hands saved some of Mr. Park's furniture but poor Mr. Coomb lost all and had no insurance. "

Note: The following week, the *North Ontario Observer* reported: "Since our last issue we have ascertained that the insurance on the Anglo-American Hotel, contents, barn, sheds etc., is as follows: On main building, \$500; barn and shed, \$200; contents of hotel, \$300; and on Melodeon (accordion) \$100. Making total insurance in all \$1,100."



*Norman F. Paterson's home at North and Lilla Street.*

## Paterson's home destroyed by fire

*North Ontario Observer: November 6, 1890*

On the morning of Tuesday last, 4th inst., Port Perry was again visited by the unwelcome intruder, fire, by which the palatial residence of Mr. Norman F. Paterson, Q.C., on North Street, was burned to the ground. The fire originated outside the northern addition. It was discovered about 3:30 by a party coming to town for medical aid. He drove directly to the burning building and gave the alarm.

The fire brigade was soon at the scene and on short notice had a stream of water directed where it would effect the most good and very soon had the flames under control. When it was ascertained that the water tanks within reach were exhausted so that the services of the engine could not be made further available, and the fire soon advanced so far that nothing could be done but save the contents. Willing hands zoom removed a large quantity of furniture, &c. We are not aware of the figure at which Mr. Paterson places his loss.

## Fire consumes house despite efforts of Port Perry's fire brigade

*North Ontario Observer: December 4, 1890*

Again on Monday last about nine o'clock the alarm bells were sounded, this time it was ascertained that the roof of Mr. Helmkey's residence, on Rosa Street, was in flames. Soon a large number congregated at the scene and in short order removed the contents of the building and fought the fire with pails of water.

But the flames had secured too good a hold of the building to be despatched by any such means; it was not till the steamer arrived that any perceptible diminution of the devouring element was observed, but she soon the fire under control and would have utterly annihilated it had not the water in the tank become exhausted.

Parties who had any doubt of the utility and efficiency of our steam fire engine, and witness her play with the fire on this occasion, so long as the water held out, will now doubtless disabuse their minds of any such doubt. She sent the water with such force as to literally rip the siding off the building. We venture assertion that no other town, or city, either in Canada has a superior steamer to ours.

The "Ronald" has no peer on this continent. Our steamer has already paid for herself more than 20 times over; she has on more than one occasion prevented the total destruction of the entire business portion of the town and we are fortunate in being possessed of so valuable a fire extinguisher.

Our excellent Fire Brigade worked like heroes and did everything possible to save Mr. Helmkey's property, but their efforts were almost fruitless owing to the insufficient supply of water.

~ 1891 ~

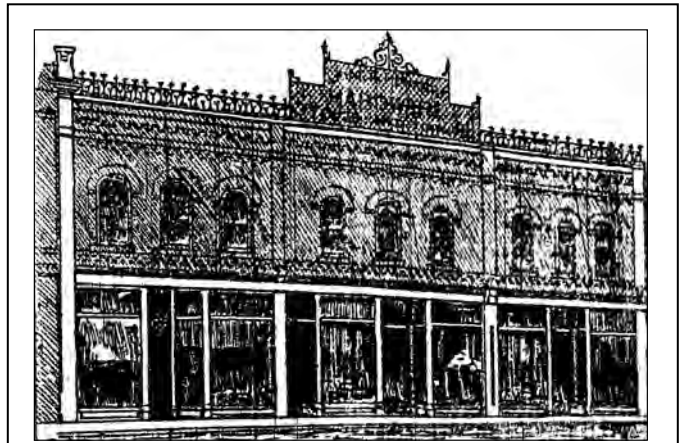
## Remnants of hotel fire unsightly for village of Prince Albert

*North Ontario Observer: January 8, 1891*

The recently burned property in Prince Albert still lies exposed in its black and ruined desolation. The owners of the property ought to be obliged to fence it. It is neither safe nor sightly and if the property is worth anything it is certainly worth fencing.

In any event it should be fenced as well for the safety of the public as the appearance of the locality. But whatever else is done common decency demands that the little burial ground, which now lies posed and unprotected, be carefully enclosed to protect the silent graves of the sleepers from the sacrilegious gaze, or tramp of man, or beast.

Let not our otherwise intelligent and enterprising village appear as the residence of vandals.



*Laing & Meharry block of stores, 1886.*

## Fire returns to Port Perry in 1891, destroys Laing & Meharry's block

*North Ontario Observer: October 22, 1891*

Once again, on October 22, 1891, residents of the town were awakened in the middle of the night by the dreadful clatter of the fire bell when a huge blaze was discovered underway in the heart of downtown.

The flames had already made themselves visible through the roof at the rear of the Laing & Meharry hardware store. All the buildings were new brick structures, which had fortunately been built with fire walls, and the fire was brought under control by 4 a.m. due to the extraordinary efforts of the local fire company and its excellent fire engine, which poured tons of water onto the blaze. Laing & Meharry's establishment was completely gutted and their stock completely destroyed.

Mr. Allison's Block west of the burned building was damaged to quite an extent.

Aaron Ross & Sons' costly and handsome new block was threatened, but had little damage.

~ 1892 ~

## Joshua Wright's grain elevator near the railway station leveled by fire

*North Ontario Observer: August 4, 1892*

There are few places in the province in which there are as many fires to the square mile as there are in Port Perry and when we have fires they are blazers. The destruction of Mr. Joshua Wright's elevator on Tuesday last was another scorcher.

At 10 o'clock on that morning the busy, industrious villagers were engaged in their ordinary business without the slightest suspicion that the fire fiend was lurking in our midst. Within a few minutes after the discordant and unwelcome sounds of the fire bell, broke over this nest of industry and brought the people to the streets.

Already there was no difficulty in locating the devourer, for thick volumes of smoke mingled with the incipient flame, were seen issuing from Mr. Wright's elevator and the doomed structure was soon surrounded by an active host ready to do anything to save the property, but nothing could be done. Within a very few minutes after the alarm was given the fire

had the complete mastery of the premises the building was full of smoke and flame.

Our faithful and vigilant fireman were promptly on hand but the fire was too rapid for firemen or any other power when first its existences was known. Water was supplied and the men showed what they could do by confining the destroyer to the building in which it originated, had it been allowed to spread the disaster would have been terrible.

It is satisfactory to see our active firemen, our vigilant protectors dashing around where they can do most good and making no fuss or splutter, but the elevator was doomed, from the first appearance of the fire, and within the brief space of a couple of hours the elevator and its contents were converted into smoke and ashes.

Thus in the brief space of two hours a building and fixtures valued at \$4,000, grain valued at \$6,000 and other property at \$500 were all destroyed making a total destruction of at least \$10,500. Of this \$10,000 is covered by insurance, \$3,000 on the building and fixtures \$6,500 on the grain, and \$500 on carts, &c.

Thus our town has been stripped of an important acquisition and the grain trade has been deprived of a valuable facility. The origin of the fire is hid away amongst the unsolved mysteries. There had been no fire on or near the premises for several days and but a few minutes before the fire burst from the building parties passing close to it neither saw nor smelled any indication of fire.

The only theory yet proposed is that, sparks from the chimney stack some yards from the elevator went under the shingles of the doomed building and caused the disaster. While the town lament the loss of Mr. Wright's elevator we have still large and reliable facilities for handling grain.

Messrs. Ross & Son's large and commodious elevator is still a prominent figure in our midst and as energetic, honorable and indefatigable grain merchants they occupy a prominent place amongst the grain buyers of the province. They have stood the test long and fearlessly when making money by their grain transactions. They make no bluster and when they lost money by such transactions, as they frequently did, they made no whining. They are shrewd, experienced buyers and have a thorough knowledge as to the market value of grain.

## Home, barn and contents devoured by fierce early morning fire

*North Ontario Observer: September 1, 1892*

The assets of our comfortable but not over wealthy village were reduced last week by somewhere about \$1,200. This was accomplished by a fire which attacked our northern border and which at one time looked as if it would swallow us all up.

About 2 a.m. on Friday last, those sounds which all dread (fire! fire!) were heard ringing over the village the location of the devourer was a simple matter for already the greedy flame was seen glittering through the Sharpe dwelling and volumes of smoke curling through the Brown barn a couple hundred yards to the northeast.

The two buildings burned with the greatest energy it would almost appear as if the devourer tried which he could soonest consume. Be that as it may, within a couple

of hours from the visible start, the Brown barn and its contents were reduced to awaking ruins and the Sharpe residence was wiped entirely out, not a vestige of it remained.

Surrounding buildings had a pretty close call and parties dreading the worst, removed their furniture, but recent rains having thoroughly wet the roofs the surroundings were unharmed.

The origin of the fire is a mystery. There is one peculiar feature about mysterious fires, in such fires there is little salvage, people don't care about entering a building where the fire may cut off their retreat at any time.

## ~ 1893 ~

### Currie block damaged by fire

*North Ontario Observer, January 26, 1893*

On Tuesday evening shortly after 11 o'clock fire made its appearance in the Currie Block, corner of Queen and Perry Streets. An alarm was sounded and the fire company was soon on hand with the fire engine and in a very short time had the fire completely extinguished, not however before thousands of dollars worth of goods, clothing, &c., of Messrs. Brown, Waite & Co. had been completely ruined by fire, smoke and water.

Mr. Thomas J. Widden's extensive and choice stock of groceries, boots and shoes, &c., was also damaged to a very large extent by water and smoke.



*Dr. Sangster's home at the north end of Port Perry.*

### Palatial home of Dr. J.H. Sangster, including contents destroyed by fire

*North Ontario Observer: March 9, 1893*

On the morning of Monday, February 28th, at about 4:30 a.m., the palatial residence of Dr. Sangster, situated on the northern border of the village, was discovered to be on fire, and soon the whole structure was enveloped in flames so that the building and contents were in a short time destroyed by the devouring element. Only a few articles were saved.

This was one of the most magnificent and best appointed residence in the province and was furnished in a manner rarely excelled anywhere. The loss is a heavy one, there being only an insurance of \$3,500 on the building and \$3,000 on the contents.



The Bedford block, 1886. Occupied by Jones & Co.

## Jones & Company engulfed by fire and reduced to ashes

*Toronto Globe: April 27, 1893*

A disastrous fire occurred here on April 23 inst., between 3 and 6 o'clock this morning. Mr. Charles Hiscox was awakened by a noise resembling an explosion, and seeing a reflection upon his windows arose, and to his astonishment he saw that the store occupied by Messrs. Jones & Co., as well as the one occupied by Messrs. Phillip & Meharry, were one mass of flames.

The firemen responded promptly to the call, but of course were powerless beyond preventing the fire from spreading to the store of Mr. Wm. Brock, on the one side and Messrs. T.H. Philp & Co. on the other, and notwithstanding their untiring efforts both these stores and the stocks were very considerably damaged.

It is not known in which store the fire originated and the prevalent opinion is that burglars were at work and either fired the building intentionally or accidentally.

One thing is certain - the building occupied by Messrs. Jones & Co., dry goods, and Phillip & Meharry, general commodities, are in ashes. Nothing was saved. Miss Dennison, too, who kept a dressmaking shop over Messrs. Jones & Co., lost everything and her loss will be upwards of \$100, with no insurance.

Thomas Bedford, the owner of the block, is insured for \$6,000; loss \$9,000. Jones & Co's loss on stock is \$18,000; insurance \$13,000. Phillip & Meharry, loss on stock between \$5,000 and \$6,000; insurance \$4,000.

Damage to the McCaw and Parrish blocks about \$500 each; covered by insurance. Philip & Co. tinware, loss on stock about \$1,000; covered by insurance. Wm. Brock's loss on his general stock unknown yet, but is covered by insurance. The plate glass windows of Messrs. T.C. Nichols, W. Hiscox, Mallory & Cook and Philip & Co., Brock, and the post office were broken by the intense heat.

~1894~

## St. Charles Hotel fire averted

*Whitby Chronicle: May 4, 1894*

The St. Charles hotel took a bad roasting on Sunday morning. About 2 a.m. the servant girls were awakened by smoke in the third flat, and they roused the house. The place was full of smoke, so dense that lamps would not burn, and the inmates of the house had to grope around in the dark. Some became terror-stricken, and when it was found that the smoke was becoming so thick in the hallways that a passage down the stairs was next thing to impossible, a panic struck the place.

Still no fire was visible - all was smoke. However, some of the men managed to get down to the first floor and found that there was a big blaze in the cellar, which had made its way through the floor of the dining room and kitchen, and from there had climbed a dumb waiter, which was formerly in use to the third story, where the smoke entered the servants' room and awoke them as mentioned above.

To this dumb waiter may be attributed the saving 20 lives, for it was a pile of wood that was burning in the basement, and so hot was the fire that the whole bottom might have been burned out of the house before, and allowed the upper parts to cave in before anybody would have known if had not the fire found an easy means of ascent in one corner, and thus given warning.

As it was, the women flew down the fire escape in their night robes, while men slid down the ropes which are kept in rooms for that purpose. One or two were nearly strangled.

The firemen responded to the alarm and very quickly put out the blaze. Mr. Louis Sebert's loss has been settled for \$2,000 to the building. The origin of the fire is one of the mysteries which belong to this hotel's history. There had been no fire in the furnace for days.



St. Charles Hotel, Queen Street, Port Perry.

~1895~



William Willard's block on south side of Queen Street.

## Willard's store gutted by fire

*Whitby Chronicle: March 22, 1895*

On Sunday 17th inst., our citizens were awakened from their peaceful slumbers at 3:45 p.m. by that unwelcome cry of fire! fire! fire! and the clang, clang, clang of the fire bell, and when it became known that the fire was in the Willard block a feeling of anxiety was felt by every businessman in town.

Willing hands went to the help of the firemen, the fire engine was placed on the ice, and quickly the "toot" "toot" from the engine was followed by a powerful stream being forced into Mr. Willard's dry goods and grocery store. In less than 50 minutes from the time the alert was rung word was given "the fire is out!"

The engineer had located the fire at the centre post of the store. A hole about 12 feet square is burned and the counter fronts scorched. Two hundred to \$300 will replace the damage to the building inside. The stock is badly damaged by smoke and water.

Our excellent fire brigade deserve words of praise for preventing what might have been a serious conflagration, and the splendid "Ronald" fire engine did its work to perfection.

A man from the country was calling a doctor, and he ran to the Whitney House, where he saw a light as he came into town, and routed the inmates. Great credit is due to Messrs. John Cook and Seymour Whitney for the promptness in giving the alarm, and ringing the fire bell. Had it not been for this fortunate circumstance there is not telling what the result might have been.

Had this fire been burning for 30 or 40 minutes longer it would have been impossible to have saved this fine block of Willard's. With the wind blowing at the time, the market, Hiscox and Allison would also have gone, besides the damage that would result to those fine blocks on the north side of Queen Street.

This fire should be a warning to businessmen as well as private person not to leave their stores and residences at night with a lot of fire in them.

Much sympathy is felt for Mr. Wm. Willard and family

in their loss, having restarted so recently and had their business in good running order.

Workmen are already busy repairing the store, and in a week or two Mr. Willard again expects to open out in business.

~1896~

## Fire in downtown Port Perry

*Whitby Chronicle: February 28, 1896*

About two o'clock last Thursday morning, the town was again called out by the clang, clang of the fire bell, when fire was discovered in C.L. Whitby's merchant tailoring establishment, in the Blong block.

Mr. and Mrs. Whitby were awakened by their little child crying, being stifled by smoke. Mr. Whitby called Lem Donaldson, when he gave the alarm to Chief Robert McKnight to ring the bell. In a few minutes willing hands were soon at work, at first forming a bucket brigade, until the engine could be placed.

In a very short time the small hand engine was throwing a good stream and did good work and was afterwards reinforced by the fire engine, and the two streams soon had the fire under control.

Our brave firemen worked hard and did excellent work, and those citizens who worked so faithfully with the small engine deserve praise for the good work accomplished by their efforts.

The wind was blowing a gale and it was very cold. Every citizen present did all in his power to help and each one was as anxious as if the property was his own. The opinion was freely expressed that the two engines more than paid for themselves twice over at the fire.

While our townspeople regret to see the loss Mr. Whitby has sustained, we are all pleased to know it is no worse. It is thought the fire caught from the coal stove falling over and the live coals falling on the floor. Everything was in safe condition when Mr. Whitby left the store on Wednesday evening, the partitions were a safe distance from the store and the floor was clean of any litter.

The loss to the building inside will not amount to more than \$400 or \$500, the main loss will be on the stock from water and smoke. Mr. Whitby lived over the store and none of the household goods were damaged except from smoke. It will be sometime before the store is ready again.

## Fire strikes downtown Port Perry

*Uxbridge Journal: March 21, 1896*

On Saturday night last (March 21), Port Perry was again visited by a disastrous fire which destroyed both life and property.

It appears that about a quarter past eleven fire was discovered in the millinery store of Miss Thompson, which is in the block owned by Mr. James McGaw, and situated in the business portion of the town.

The alarm was at once given, but before anything could be done, the block was doomed to destruction, the flames having gained entrance into Mr. Wallace's tailor shop and also the *Standard* office, which are in the same block.

The firemen were promptly on hand, but could do nothing except put forth their efforts to save the adjoining buildings, and in less than an hour the entire block together with all the contents of the tailor shop, the millinery store and the printing office, were in ashes. The firemen deserve praise for saving the livery stable, for if it had got a fair start the entire north-east portion of the town would have been burned to the ground.

Nine or ten plate glass windows on the opposite side of the street were cracked by the heat. G.H. Wallace, tailor, lost everything, insured for \$1,000; Miss Thompson, milliner, everything lost, insured for \$500; Newton Bros., printers, lost everything, insured for \$1,800; Jas. McGaw, owner of the block, insured for \$2,000. Messrs. Matt. Williams, and John Diesfield suffered small losses by the removal of their stocks. Mr. Diesfield's block also being damaged.

While the fire was in progress Mr. John Moshure, a young man about 30 years of age, who resided with his parents here, was assisting in removing the goods from Mr. William's store, when one of the walls fell, crushing him to the ground. He was immediately removed from the debris across the street to Dr. Clemens and Proctor's office, but nothing could be done as one leg and one arm were broken, all the ribs on the left side and also his thigh were broken and his skull badly fractured. He passed away about four o'clock. He was removed to his home on Perry St. and on Monday was interred in the Pine Grove Cemetery, Prince Albert, with the funeral cortege reaching nearly three quarters of a mile.

## Sad and fatal accident during fire

*Whitby Chronicle: March 27, 1896*

During the progress, of the fire on Saturday night, March 21st. inst., several persons were assisting Mr. M. Williams to remove his stock. Two of those persons were his brother Allen and Jno. Moshure, jr., who were removing goods by the rear door. While in the act of rolling a barrel, the north-west part of the wall fell and part of it struck poor Moshure.

Friends at once removed him to the surgery of Drs. George Clemens and E.L. Proctor, across the street. The medical men made an examination of the poor fellow and found his skull fractured, three bad cuts on the right side of his face, the shoulder broken in two places, his ribs broken, the pelvic and thigh bones broken, his leg broken at the knee, as well as internal injuries.

The injured man lived for nearly four hours. The doctors are of opinion that Moshure never knew what struck him. He never regained consciousness, and died without a struggle. The doctors did all they could but it was of no avail. His injuries were too many.

The wonder is the poor man was not killed at the time, as when found pieces of brick and mortar weighing nearly 150 lbs. were on his chest and leg. Allen Williams escape is a puzzle, as he was only two or three feet from Moshure.

His death cast a gloom over the town, and many expressions of profound sympathy were tendered to the bereaved family in their sad affliction. The funeral on Monday was a very large one, and was attended by many of our citizens and many from a distance, showing the respect and esteem in which the deceased and family are held in this vicinity.

## ~1897~

### Fire destroys Allison drug store on Queen Street

*Whitby Chronicle: December 3, 1897*

Yesterday morning, Thursday, at 3:30 a.m., our citizens were awakened by the cry of fire and the dong of the fire bell. On arriving at the business part of town, it was found that Charles H. Allison's drug store was on fire and so far gone that flames were bursting from the front, rear and roof.

The firemen were soon on the spot and did good work; the citizens worked like Trojans and nobly assisted Mr. Charles Hiscox in helping to save his property at the rear, and they succeeded, as his loss is very small.

The building is known as the Nicholas block and was occupied upstairs by Dr. John H. Sangster and Wm. A. Sangster, as a dental office and the first floor by Charles H. Allison, as a drug store.

Dr. Sangster had \$500 insurance;

W.A. Sangster, \$275 insurance, and C.H. Allison also had some. Each one will lose largely over his insurance.

How the first started is a mystery as everything was alright when each on left his place the night before, but it is thought the fire started from a defective flue. Several plate false windows on the opposite side of the street were cracked in the Currie block, Parrish block, Jones, block and McCaw block. This is the first fire in Port Perry in many, many months.



*Allison's Drug Store building destroyed in 1897 fire.*



# Fires Beyond 1900

~1901~

## Disastrous fire strikes downtown Port Perry destroying buildings

*North Ontario Observer: September 18, 1901*

At twelve o'clock midnight, September 18, the bakery shop of A.J. Sproule, in the Purdy block, Port Perry, was discovered to be on fire, the alarm was sounded and the fire brigade was soon on the scene with the steamer.

A strong wind prevailed and in a few minutes the Purdy and Allison blocks were in flames, not however before an explosion took place in the Allison block did it take fire, but the explosion was of such a nature that it doomed these buildings to complete destruction.

The strong wind drove the flames to the roof of the Western Bank building which took fire notwithstanding the tons of water that the steamer was continually pouring on it. The fire soon ate its way through the roof and down through the west portion of the building to A. Ross & Sons store, destroying the entire stock, also the upper portion of the east part of the building leaving that portion occupied by the Bank intact, except what was destroyed by water.

The firemen did themselves credit and the noble and persistent efforts they put forth saved further destruction of valuable property. We regret to learn that more than one of the brigade are suffering from injuries sustained

while in action and thus exposed to danger, and it is to be regretted there is no provision made for such casualties the company.

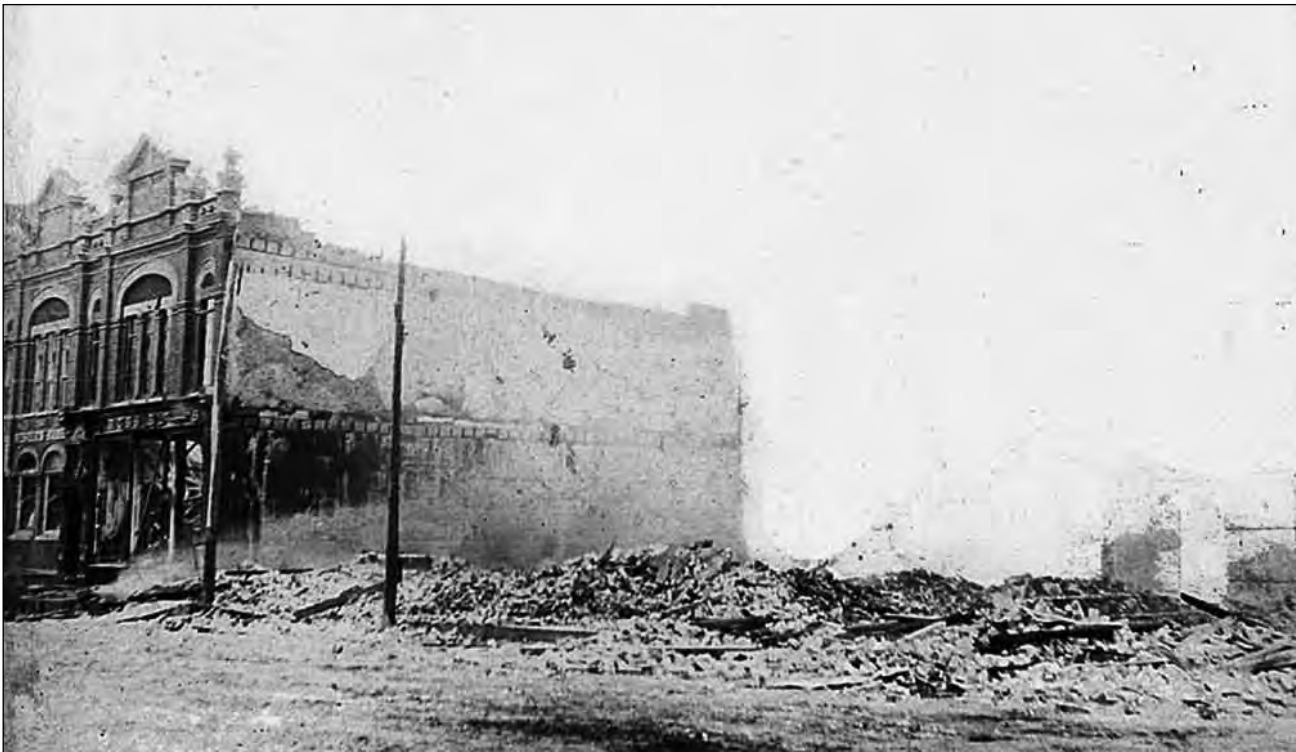
We did not ascertain the losses; but the losers of real estate are Mrs. Allison, Edward H. Purdy and the Western Bank of Canada.

The losers, on personal property being A. Ross & Sons, general merchants; Edward H. Purdy, produce merchant and grocer; Charles H. Allison, druggist; John A. Murray, dentist; Samuel T. Cawker & Sons, butchers; William H. Harris, barrister; David J. Adams, land and money broker; the Western Bank; Samuel M. Newton, publisher; G.A. Powers, tailor; A.J. Sproule, baker; Miss Harrison, dressmaker; R. Dawson, barber; William Tremeer, dwelling; Misses McKnight and Crooks, dressmakers; H.B. Clemes and R.G. Baird. A number of plate glass windows on the opposite side of the street were damaged.

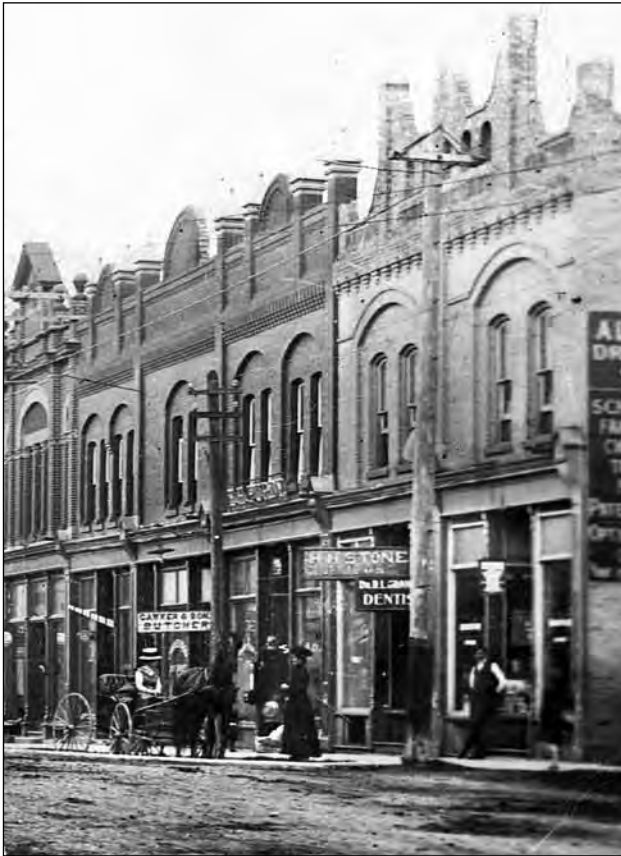
By morning it was obvious that the entire block was virtually destroyed, with the exception of the brick fronts of the Western Bank and Ross's store which were largely intact. The heat had also destroyed a number of plate glass windows on the opposite side of the street.

Within days of the fire many of the businesses had relocated in temporary facilities.

*The week following the 1901 fire, the editor of the*



*The Purdy and Allison blocks were completely destroyed in September 1901, leaving the buildings as a pile of ashes. To see what the block looked like prior to this photograph, taken the day after the fire, turn to page 214.*



*It was this section of stores destroyed in the fire of September 1901. The picture, about 1910, shows how it looked when re-built.*

*Oshawa Vindicator* wrote the following in his paper:

“Port Perry Council is figuring on a better fire protection, but what prompts them to do so we cannot understand, as nine out of 10 of those burnt out there always make big money out of fires. They pay very low rates, considering the dead certainty of a sweeping conflagration every year or two, and, besides, they have no trouble in placing a half more insurance in every case than the building or stock of goods is worth.”

*Henry Parsons, editor of the North Ontario Observer* responded immediately in his next issue (Oct. 31, 1901):

“No man in the country knows better than the writer of the above scandalous libel that there is not a word of truth in it.

The vileness of this attack on the businessmen of Port Perry is only equalled by his lying assertions regarding their conduct, and the sooner the good people of Oshawa are made cognizant of the fact that so unscrupulous a defamer has found refuge within its borders the better so that they may make immediate steps to have the brute muzzled before his presence and vile scribbling contaminate the citizens of that fair and prosperous town. Such an unprincipled moral assassin should not be allowed to find a resting place in a civilized community.”

The 1901 fire was the last major fire to deface the stores of downtown Port Perry, although other potentially dangerous fires in the downtown area occurred at Hogg & Lytle grain elevator, and the Carnegie’s Ford dealership at the rear of Carnegie Hardware store on Queen Street.

# BLAZE AT PORT PERRY

## BLOCK OF BRICK STORES TOTALLY DESTROYED

**An Explosion Wrecks Three of the Buildings — The Sufferers and Their Losses — Several Families Rendered Homeless.**

*Toronto Globe: September 18, 1901*

Fire broke out at an early hour this morning in the bakery shop of A.J. Sproule, and inside of two hours a row of brick stores were a mass of ruins.

At first the wind was moderate. but, rising shortly afterwards, swept the blaze along towards the lake and endangered the entire town.

The stores lost are owned by Charles H. Allison, druggist; John A. Murray, dentist; Miss Harrison, dressmaking; G.A. Powers, tailor; Edward H. Purdy, grocer; A.J. Sproule, baker; Samuel T. Cawker, butcher; William Tremere, dwelling; G. Dawson, barber; Port Perry Standard printing office; D. James, broker; Aaron Ross & Co., general merchants; William H. Harris, barrister; Miss McKnight, dressmaker; the Western Bank; H.B. Clemes, and R.G. Baird, tenants.

During the fire a loud explosion took place wrecking three of the stores and scattering debris for many yards around. Fortunately, it is believed that no one was hurt. Charles H. Allison and J. Campbell were slightly injured by flying glass.

The inefficiency of the fire-fighting appliances was greatly felt. The cause of the fire is unknown at present, but it started in the main part of the bakery. The fire at 2 o’clock is still fiercely burning, but is well under control.

The blaze was a very spectacular one, the flames illuminating the whole town. The loss will be less than \$5,000, and will be largely covered by insurance. The block burned is a total loss.

Dozens of plate glass in stores on the opposite side of the main street on which the fire raged were cracked and ruined by the heat. Several families living over the stores have been rendered homeless by the fire.



*Edward Purdy’s store on Queen Street.*

~ 1902 ~



Carnegie's Union Mills at Lake Scugog waterfront.

### Carnegie mills destroyed by fire

*North Ontario Observer: June 14, 1902*

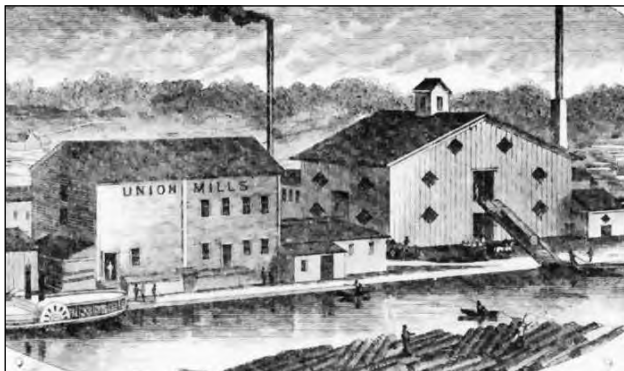
About three o'clock in the morning of Saturday last, the sleeping inhabitants of Port Perry had a rude awakening by the clatter of the fire-bell and soon discovered that Mr. Carnegie's Flouring Mills and Planing Mills were all ablaze. The inability of successfully fighting the flames of the fire fiend was realized, and with increasing fury soon both structures were reduced to ashes.

The blow is a heavy one to the proprietor who will loose considerable by the calamity. The condition was so sudden and overwhelming that comparatively little was effected and the devourer fried everything before it.

The fire still remains a mystery and that the village will suffer very financially from the loss of the hosts of customers throughout the surroundings is patent to all – the population of the mills and the good name Carnegie had a tendency of bringing customers which proved highly beneficial to every branch of business in the town.

Lately an extensive annex had been erected and up-to-date machinery put in fact Carnegie's Mill here among the best appointed anywhere to be found. The destruction of the busy plant will cause many men of the town considerable inconvenience.

All sympathize with Mr. Carnegie in his misfortune. All will be please to learn that Mr. Carnegie has concluded to rebuild and he may be depended on to erect and equip mills that are in every respect to be a credit to the Dominion of Canada.



Carnegie's Union Flouring and Planing Mills, lakefront, Port Perry.

~ 1903 ~

### Escapes through window as house destroyed by raging fire

*North Ontario Observer: October 1, 1903*

On the night of Monday last the fine residence, together with several adjoining buildings including the Driving House and all their contents, the property of Mr. G.L. Robson, V.S., Reach, were destroyed by fire.

About twelve o'clock on the night in question Mr. Robson was aroused by a choking sensation and had barely time to escape from one of the windows in his night apparel in time to save his life. Reaching in another window he recovered a pair of old trousers, no other article being saved.

The fire had such head way when discovered that it was impossible to save any of the contents of the buildings. The loss is a severe one, the accumulations of fifty years of many articles which money cannot replace and which were of priceless value to the possessors have vanished, together with so fine a property; and what makes the loss still more severed, only lately Mr. Robson cancelled \$600 of insurance. Much sympathy is expressed for Mr. Robson and family at their misfortune.

~ 1904 ~

### Port Perry fair building reduced to ashes in late night fire.

*North Ontario Observer: November 10, 1904*

On Sunday night last about eleven o'clock, the largest, most imposing most costly and most, important building in Port Perry – the Fair building – was discovered to be on fire; distance militated against utilizing our water system, the magnificent building and contents were in a few minutes reduced to ashes.

The building was without a peer in the Dominion for capacity and convenience for fair exhibits – barring those in our largest cities – it was the pride of our town, and its loss is a calamity that affects the whole community, for fairs that have taken place in Port Perry have records that would do credit to any country in the world.

Over a year ago the property was sold to the Regal Packing Company of Montreal, and after extensive alterations and additions it was started as a fruit evaporator, but not proving a success it went into the hands of Assignee Clarkson of Toronto, before the end of the year, and was still under his control.

That so great destruction of valuable property is attributable to the hand of the vandals is admitted by all, and the fiend who committed the deed is a disgrace to civilization and his swift and severe punishment will meet the approbation of this entire community.

There was \$2,500 insurance on the buildings and machinery, which were valued at \$8,000.

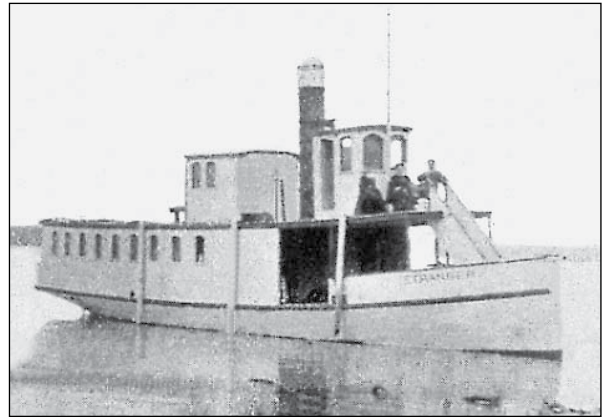
## ~ 1908 ~

### Carnegie Milling Co. steamship "Stranger" destroyed by fire

*North Ontario Observer: July 23, 1908*

The tidy steamer Stranger, the property of Carnegie Bros. Milling Company, that has for a number of years been plying on the Kawartha waters, was on the evening of Monday July 20, destroyed by fire when just off Ball's Point on Scugog Lake. At the time the conflagration occurred there were on board and in charge of the steamer, Messrs. Harvey Plumb, Chas. Mowat and John Barker who did all in their power to save the boat but their efforts, although well directed were of no avail, in fact they only deserted the craft when further efforts were fruitless. There being a stiff breeze at the time, destruction was complete. The fire had made considerable headway before being discovered.

The Stranger, the last surviving steamer built by the Crandells had put in nearly 30 years of service. To replace her, the Carnegies bought the Cora to be used as a tug on Lake Scugog. The ignominious fate of the Cora symbolically marked the end of the once glorious age of steam on Lake Scugog.



Carnegie's "Stranger" steamship

## ~ 1915 ~

### Church steeple struck by lightning

*Port Perry Star: July 7, 1915*

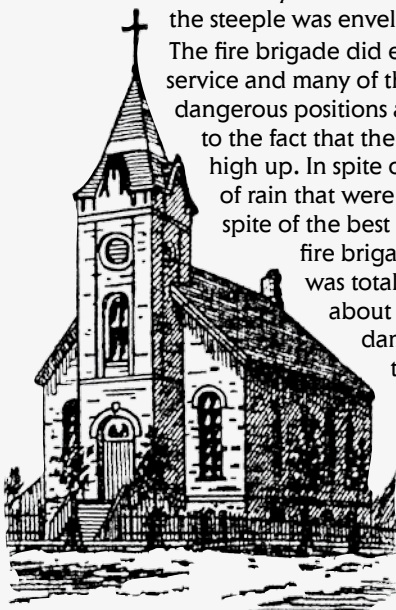
In the big electric storm on Friday of last week, the steeple of the Catholic Church was struck by lightning, and the church caught fire.

It was some time before fire was discovered although it must have been burning steadily for sometime before the alarm was given, for almost immediately after the fire bell was rung,

the steeple was enveloped in flames.

The fire brigade did excellent service and many of the men were in dangerous positions at times owing to the fact that the fire was so high up. In spite of the torrents of rain that were falling, and in spite of the best efforts of the fire brigade, the steeple was totally destroyed and about \$2,000 or more damage was done to the interior of the church.

The loss will be covered by the insurance on the property, which was about \$2,500.



## ~ 1918 ~

### Jeffrey Harness shop fire damage

*Toronto Globe: June 12, 1918*

Fire broke out at 9 o'clock in the morning, June 11 inst., caused heavy damage to the store of G. Samuel Jeffrey and Son, wholesale harness and saddlery hardware on the north side of Queen Street, Port Perry.

The fire broke out in the basement and about \$10,000 damage was done to the stock, mostly from water, which is covered by insurance. The building was saved. The cause of the fire is unknown.



Courice & Jeffrey Harness Shop, Queen St., Port Perry.



## ~ 1926 ~

### “Union” High School destroyed in a spectacular three-hour fire

*Port Perry Star: April 15, 1926*

Port Perry suffered one of the most severe losses in its history when the combined High and Public Schools were destroyed by fire on Wednesday evening of last week. The main building and all its contents were a complete loss.

There is no certainty as to the origin of the fire. The Deputy Fire Marshal from Toronto headquarters was here, and intends to send in his report. We shall publish the report when it is received.

The fire was discovered by the caretaker, Mr. A.W. Allin, when he went to open the school for a meeting of the Board of Education. He had put on a fire in one of the furnaces, and had arranged the registers so that the heat would be directed to the room in which the Board was to have met. He then went home for a time. When he returned about half past seven, the building was burning briskly, and was even then doomed to destruction. The alarm was given, and the fire brigade was soon on hand, and, while every effort was made to save the property, the fire had too big a start, and the firemen were powerless to save anything.

It was a wonderful spectacle. That roaring furnace of flame, situated as it was at almost the highest point in town, lit up the whole countryside. The walls had been splendidly built, and retained fire like the sides of a huge furnace. The flames would leap high above the walls, where the wind would at times catch them, and whirl them forward in quest of new fuel.

How Mr. Albert Orchard's house escaped is a mystery, but it did escape, even to the windows, which were saved by hanging wet blankets over them.

It is a blessing that nobody was hurt, although some of the firemen did have a narrow escape when the tower fell. Even in the wrecking of the walls subsequent to the fire, there have been no accidents. This is very



*The beautiful Port Perry Union School, about 1875.*

remarkable when one considers the recklessness of both children and grown folk.

“Curiosity killed a cat,” and the same thing is liable to kill more than a cat if people will go near swaying walls and dangerous scaffoldings. Parents should warn their children not to go near these dangerous places, and grown folk should set a good example.



*The Port Perry High & Public School after the fire of 1926.*



*The entrance and tower of the Public & High School.*

~ 1930 ~

## Curts family home destroyed by fire

*Port Perry Star: November 6, 1930*

On Tuesday afternoon, November 4th, the fine brick house on the Joshua Curts property, at the west approach to Scugog bridge, was totally destroyed by fire. It is difficult to locate the cause of the fire, which broke out in the upper part of the building.

The house is so far to the outskirts of the town that there was no water supply for fire protection. The fire brigade did all that was



*The Curts beautiful home overlooking Lake Scugog near the causeway.*

possible to save the property.

An alarm was sent to Brooklin, and the fire brigade came with their chemical fire engine; but the fire had gained too great a headway. Now nothing remains but some jagged, broken walls. There was some insurance, but not enough to cover the loss.

Parents are advised to warn their children to keep away from the ruins, which are in a very dangerous condition. Our townspeople are very sorry that this great loss has come to Mrs. Melinda Curts and her family, and that this fine brick house has been destroyed.

After being constructed, the house became known as Lakeview Lodge, a fittingly named, as the waters of Scugog are spread out before it. It was a cosy home in every sense of the phrase. In the distance the wooded shores of Scugog Island can be seen.

Mr. Curts served as reeve in 1895 and was a senior member of the firm of Curts and Henderson.

~ 1936 ~

## Fire destroys second floor of Carnegie Hardware building

*Port Perry Star: February 13, 1936*

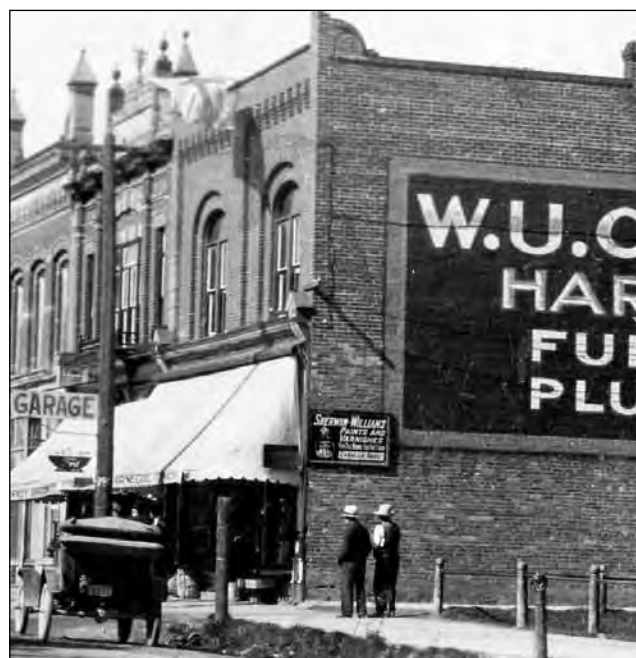
One of the worst fires in Port Perry for many years brought a loss estimated at \$15,000 to the Carnegie Hardware Co., on Monday night, February 10th, 1936

At 6 o'clock, when the store was closed everything was in apparently in good order, but within twenty minutes smoke was seen issuing from the rear of the building and the fire alarm was turned in. When the firemen arrived the fire was found to be around the freight elevator shaft.

In spite of every effort to put out the blaze, it spread all over the back part of the building and to the upper storey and workshop. Within a couple of hours the roof fell in, and it was with real difficulty that the fire in the pitchy substance in the roof was finally extinguished.

The rear and upper portions of the building are totally destroyed, and what fire and smoke did not destroy the water did. Very seldom does one see such a mess as that which was caused by this fire. The work of salvage is now going on, and the stock is being removed to the store formerly occupied by Alix Gilboord.

Hall's Restaurant suffered badly from water and smoke; and Caruso's Fruit Store suffered a loss through water in the cellar. Fortunately much of the very in-flammable material, such as oils, etc., was covered by water before the fire could reach it.



*The Carnegie Hardware block (centre) was a two-storey building before the fire in 1936. It was re-built as a single-storey building.*



~ 1951 ~

## James Goodall mill at lakefront destroyed by fire



*Photo taken by Ivan Parkinson shows the Goodall Mill engulfed in fire.*

*Port Perry Star: October 18, 1951*

Port Perry suffered another sever loss to its business area when a sudden blaze leveled the mill of James Goodall & Co. on the waterfront today.

In an interview, Mr. Ira Aldred said that the plant was empty of all save one workman who was doing repair work on a diesel engine. The worker was using an extension curd with an electric light and while busy around the machine he accidentally dropped the light smashing the bulb, which caused a spark that touched off the oil that was being used to clean the parts of the machine.

The man hastened to get help to extinguish the flames, but in the few minutes that help was arriving the whole front of the building was enveloped in fire and the lumber yard next door was threatened.

Although the local fire brigade was at the scene ten minutes after the alarm was turned, in the storage room of the Lake Scugog Lumber Co. was already starting to burn and two streams of water were immediately turned upon it. The damage to their building was estimated at \$2,000.

The blaze in the Grist Mill had attained such proportions that it was apparent that the building could not be saved and all efforts were turned to prevent the spread of the blaze to the lumber yard nearby. Two streams of water were turned upon it from the water main and five more strains were obtained

by using the pumper In the lake.

As the fierce heat of the fire mounted a call was sent to the Uxbridge fire brigade for help and they responded promptly with their fire engine. At this time it was feared that the fire would get into the lumber yard and become uncontrollable. However by the time the Uxbridge truck had arrived the crisis had passed and after waiting until they were sure that the blaze was in hand they, our good friends from Uxbridge, returned home. Their promptness in coming to our aid was much appreciated and had the wind freshened a little more, then likely their help would have been much needed.

The James Goodall Co. Ltd. have suffered a 'heavy loss. The value of the building is estimated at \$60,000 and the contents \$35,000. It is only partially covered by insurance.

There have be several grist mills in Port Perry, The original building at this location was built by the Paxtons. It was destroyed by fire many years ago and later replaced by James Carnegie and Sons by the present brick structure which was razed today. The loss of this business will be severely felt by Port Perry and the farming community around it.



*People gathered at the Goodall Mill, the morning after the fire to witness the damage.*



*The burnt-out Morrow Farm Equipment building following the fire on May 20, 1951.*

## ~ 1951 ~

### Fire guts Lakeshore Knitting Mill, Morrow Farm Equipment

*Port Perry Star: May 20, 1951*

At one a.m. Sunday a fire was noticed burning in the building occupied by Morrow Farm Equipment and Lakeshore Knitting Mill on Perry Street. It was reported almost instantaneously by Jack Whitmore, who rang the alarm bell and by Miss M. Clark who called the local telephone exchange.

The brief time it took the volunteer Fire Brigade to arrive, the blaze had made rapid headway and it required many hours of effort to extinguish the fire.

Surmise has pointed to two possible causes of this great loss; boys were seen earlier in the evening tossing firecrackers at the building and it is believed on may have slipped under a door to explode among eerily ignited material, smouldering away to blaze up later. The other possibilities urged spontaneous combustion.

Valiant effort on the part of the Fire Brigade brought the blaze under control about an hour after it was report and prevented its spread to nearby buildings, but firemen were keep busy for hours by smouldering

wool and burning debris.

Seven tractors were removed from the premises by Gordon Morrow, the owner, and volunteers who drove them to the DeNure bus yards.

Unfortunately the Knitting Mill was unable to rescue anything of value and many papers as well as thousands

of dollars worth of machinery, raw material and finished garments were destroyed.

Total loss of building and equipment is estimated at from \$100,000 to \$125,000, which is partially covered by insurance.



*This building constructed in 1884 was how it originally looked before the fire.*

~ 1955 ~

## Utica's Memory Hall laid to ashes

*Port Perry Star: April 14, 1955*

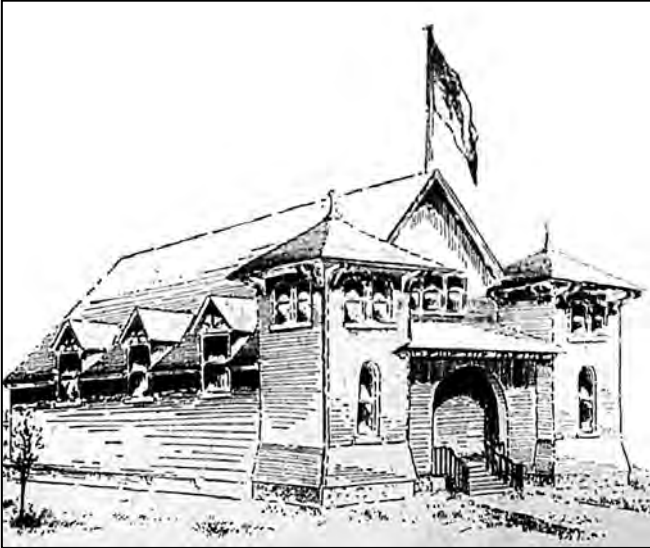
On Saturday afternoon, April 9, 1955 Utica's Memory Hall was destroyed by fire.

The fire is believed to have started by a spark of a nearby grass fire, and within a very short time the entire building was laid to ashes.

Volunteers and fire fighters managed to save a few chairs and the piano from the hall. A large portrait of the late Walter Horn, the man who built Memory Hall and donated it to the community, was not saved.

Frank McGregor and Charles Lakey, proprietors of the general store, across from the hall said the community hall burned right to the ground in less than a half-hour. "Five minutes after the fire started, you couldn't get inside the building. It burned like a match-box", said Mr. McGregor.

The building was insured for \$3,000.



*Sketch of the new Utica Memory Hall before it was constructed.*



*The Utica Hall was built by Thomas Horn as a gift to the people of his home town. It was officially opened on December 1, 1899.*

~ 1959 ~

## Dangerous blaze threatens Master Feeds

*Port Perry Star: February 12, 1959*

That it pays to co-operate with your neighbours was definitely proved when fire was discovered in the engine room of Master Feeds on Tuesday afternoon.

The situation had the makings of a disaster. The hydrants at the east end of Queen St. were frozen, a strong wind was whipping across the lake which would blow any blaze across the street if it were to break out into the open, and if the fire were to have reached the grain bins the problem would indeed be serious.

Chief Guy Raines sized up the potentials quickly and decided to summon assistance at once, rather than wait until the fire got out of hand. The Uxbridge and Oshawa Brigades who belong to the Mutual Aid program for Ontario County were prompt in their response.

The Reach pumper truck was also brought to the scene of the fire and with the assistance of extra pumpers and extra hose, water was taken from the lake and the blaze confined to the engine room where it started. The hydrants, which were left open thawed out in about half an hour, and were used later.

When Mr. Mahaffy discovered the ceiling of the engine room on fire he at once put in a call for the local fire brigade who were soon on the scene.

A quick evaluation of the conditions sent them back for the Reach tank truck which is housed in Port Perry. This pumper carries some 1,000 gals of water and was promptly put into action. Citizens assisted firemen to cut holes in the ice, which meant cutting through about two feet of ice & snow. The Port Perry truck was hooked up to pump water from the lake, as was the Uxbridge truck which arrived soon after the hole was cut.

The Oshawa brigade was also very speedy in their response, but when they arrived it was found that the situation was pretty much under control, and they stood by until it was considered that the danger of spreading the blaze was at a minimum.



*Fire destroyed the office at the grain elevator in 1918.*

### Elevator Fires

The old feed mill has escaped destruction from fire on many occasions since it was built in 1874. The most miraculous of these came in 1883 and 1884 when two major fires in less than a year, destroyed Port Perry's entire commercial core.

During the 1900s fire plagued the building on numerous occasions:

- March 1916 - Fire broke out in the engine room of the James Lucas elevator, but damage was slight.
- A fire destroyed the offices in 1918 and subsequently the main building was extended to the south to accommodate three more bins.
- August 1920 - A serious fire broke out in an implement shed and spread to the office of Hogg & Lytle, destroying the offices at the front of the building. Quick work by the fire brigade prevented its spreading to the big grain elevator.
- August 1947 - The Hogg & Lytle Elevator was struck by lightning. Loss by fire was small, but 10,000 bushels of wheat were soaked.
- In 1958 a section at the rear of the mill was destroyed by fire along with the grinder and roller. It cost more than \$60,000 to repair the damage from the fire.



~ 1968 ~

## San-Man Motel saved by firefighters

### Firefighters from Port Perry and Uxbridge fight San-Man motel fire

*March 21, 1968*

A three alarm fire on March 15 destroyed the living quarters of the San-Man Motel at Manchester and badly damaged all the remaining units in the motel.

The fire started as a result of a blow torch blowing up and fire quickly spreading throughout the entire living quarters of the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh D. Santer.

Both Port Perry and Uxbridge fire departments responded, and Brooklin fire department sent a water tanker.

Lack of water and dense smoke hampered the firemen from saving the living quarters, but firemen stopped the progress of the fire by cutting through both sides of the building with a chain saw.

They managed to save the remaining units of the motel, but large portion of the motel itself was also badly damaged.



~ 1974 ~

## Cy Wilson Ford dealership destroyed



*April 3, 1974*

Fire swept through the premises of Cy Wilson Ford Sales during the early hours of April 1, completely destroying the landmark at the corner of Manchester.

Estimates of the damage ranged into the hundreds of thousands of dollars, one estimate going as high as \$300,000.

Firemen from Port Perry answered the call at 12:45 a.m. after an OPP officer turned in the call. They quickly summoned help from Caesarea, Whitby and Uxbridge fire departments. At one point five trucks were racing to and from the scene drawing water to the fire.

Two trucks from Brian's Towing were kept busy towing cars away from the side of the building, some of them already damaged severely. At least 20 cars and trucks were completely destroyed. Among those was an antique Ford in the showroom of the building.



~ 1982 ~

## Jerry's Produce warehouse destroyed

*Port Perry Star: March 12, 1982*

Investigators suspect that spontaneous combustion in bags of charcoal was the cause of a major fire last week which destroyed the warehouse and offices of Gerry's Produce on Scugog Street in Port Perry. The loss of the building and contents was total, and owner Gerry Jonkheer told the Star Monday he believes damage may reach \$1.5 million.

He said insurance will cover much of the loss, and already he is making plans to re-build his warehouse on the property. He said for the time being he will continue to operate his business using separate buildings on the property, and his 35 employees should be back on the job this week.

The fire broke out about 4:50 in the afternoon last Thursday in the centre area of the warehouse near the main loading ramps. According to fire officials, Ben Vanderzwet, general manager of the company tried to put the blaze out with a fire extinguisher, but thick smoke soon drove him and other employees out of the building.

Flames worked their way through to the east part of the building, and later to the west half of the building which contains the offices. Mr. Jonkheer said almost all his company records were lost and some recently purchased computer equipment.

The warehouse was filled with a variety of goods and products including bags of charcoal, candies, fireplace logs, butane lighters, cans of barbecue lighter fluid, fruit and vegetables. During the height of the fire it was feared the flames would spread to a repair shop near the south end of the building used by Willy and sons.

Willy Houthuys and his employees scrambled to remove tools and machinery from the repair shop as firefighters soaked the walls of the shop with water.

It was the worst fire in many years in this community, and at one point there were more than 50 firemen, three pumpers and three tankers on the scene. Firefighters from the Port Perry, Uxbridge and Caesarea departments responding to the call.

With flames spreading through the roof in several places in the long warehouse, the Scugog Hydro truck with aerial bucket was pressed into service so that fire-fighters could get hoses above the roof of the two storey building.

Officials estimate that more than 200,000 gallons of water were used to fight the blaze. Firefighters were concerned about the lack of pressure from a hydrant on Queen Street, and hoses were eventually hooked up to a second hydrant in the new subdivision north of Queen Street. A third being used for water.

When asked about this lack of pressure from the hydrants, Port Perry Fire department captain Ray Penney said later he doubted whether it made much difference to the eventual outcome.

*Continued on page 236*





From page 235

Eight members of the Port Perry department stayed on the scene all Thursday night putting out spot fires as they broke out. The ruins continued to smoke through the weekend.

For any fire where damage is over \$500,000, the Ontario Fire Marshall is routinely called to make an investigation. An investigator was on the scene the following day and after talking to employees, determined that spontaneous combustion was the probable cause.

Although one fireman suffered a strained back fighting the fire, there were no other serious injuries. Two firemen were knocked off their feet when they broke through a doorway and were hit by a wave of heat and smoke.

The fire also destroyed an apartment at the western part of the building occupied by Stewart and



Rebecca Webster, and Mrs. Webster's 10 year old daughter, Barbara Gimble. Although the family was not harmed, they lost all their possessions.

For Mr. Jonkheer, who has been in business in Port Perry for the past ten years, the fire means he will virtually have to start over from scratch.

He told the Star he was out of town Thursday afternoon when the fire broke out. "I called home to tell my wife I'd be late for dinner and she told me I'd better get here right away as the warehouse was on fire", he said later.

With friends and business associates at his side the following morning, he was on the scene inspecting the damage and making plans to keep his business going this week. He said he has been in contact with an architect to start working on plans for a new warehouse.

## ~ 1989 ~

### Elderly woman dies in Queen St. apartment from smoke inhalation

*Port Perry Star: December, 5 1989*

A fire broke out in one of Port Perry's most iconic buildings early Tuesday, December 5th, claiming the life of an elderly lady, Kay Onyshak-Potrebka, and sent at least two residents of the same building to hospital for observation and treatment.

The fire, which broke out about 1:30 a.m. was first noticed by Tammy Emond and Dave Smith who occupy apartment five, above Settlement House. Tammy told the Star in an early morning interview, that she awoke from her sleep, and although she didn't smell any smoke, felt there was something wrong.

Going to the door, they noticed the faint ringing of a fire alarm, so they opened the door to find the hall was completely engulfed with smoke. They quickly vacated the apartment, and when Dave knew Tammy was safe, he ran back up the stairs into the smoke filled building to try and warn other residents.

He told the *Port Perry Star* he pounded on some of the doors, but he could not make it to the apartment where the elderly lady lived because of thick smoke. He then ran back to his apartment, grabbed their coats and shoes and got out of the building.

When he was informed later that the lady had died, Dave broke down in tears, saying he had really tried, but couldn't get through the thick smoke

Captain Bill Harrison of the Port Perry Fire Department told the Star Monday that investigators with the Fire Marshall's Office removed parts of the fridge and stove from the apartment on Queen Street. But as of late Monday afternoon, he said the investigators had not determined the cause.



*Fireman scale a ladder to get at a fire which started in an apartment above Settlement House, in downtown Port Perry. The fire threatened to destroy one of Port Perry's landmark buildings, constructed in 1885.*

~ 1998 ~



*Immaculate Conception Catholic Church and its adjoining hall were completely destroyed in this spectacular morning fire.*

## Roman Catholic Church destroyed by late night fire

*Port Perry Star: June 2, 1998*

Firefighters from three Durham halls fought in vain early Sunday morning as fire ravaged the Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church in Port Perry.

The fire was first spotted by passersby about 3:30 a.m., who alerted 911 and knocked on the adjacent door of the Parish Priest, Father Charles Faleiro, to warn him of the danger. By the time firefighters arrived at the scene on Hwy. 7A flames, fanned by high winds, were visible from east windows and the roof area.

Firefighters from Port Perry and Caesarea halls responded and a ladder truck from Oshawa battled the blaze, but the structure was fully involved by the time they arrived and the roof collapsed quickly.

Scugog Fire Chief Richard Miller was on scene with his men. "Once the roof collapsed we just fought to contain the fire thin the walls and protect the adjacent structures." The Immaculate Conception Separate School and the priest's residence, both very close to the church, were hosed down by firefighters to prevent the spread of fire in high winds.

OPP officers closed Hwy. 7A on either side of the church and it remained that way through most of the day. As daylight arrived, it was evident that the loss was almost total. Father Charlie, as he is known to his parishioners, stood surveying the ruins of his church.

Members of the congregation slowly began to arrive, many of dressed for mass. They stood in small groups, some with tears streaming down their faces, as

the walls were knocked down by a backhoe.

The Ontario Fire Marshals office would not speculate on cause for the fire, but initial fire department reports put the damage to the building at \$2 million. Insurance adjusters were on site Sunday morning to assess damage.

By noon on Sunday weary firefighters were lying on the grass or sitting with heads in hands, catching cat naps. Chief Miller praised the effort put in by his crews. "I could not be prouder of these guys and the job they did here," he said.



*Immaculate Conception Church, Spring 1985*

~2017~

## Port Perry Hospital evacuated as fire burns

*Port Perry Star: August 25, 2017*

Word spread quickly through the Scugog community on a quiet Friday summer evening, almost like wildfire. The sirens of fire trucks filled the air, followed by gawkers who spotted smoke and soon social media was abuzz with the biggest breaking news story of 2017 — the Port Perry hospital was on fire.

A large plume of black smoke drifted off into the sky from the roof, a blaze officials would later determine was caused by construction work being carried out on the rooftop, leaving the hospital with about \$10 million in damages.

Since the evening of August 25th, when the blaze was quickly contained and extinguished by Scugog firefighters, the Paxton Street health-care centre has been shuttered. As quickly as the “closed” signs were put up in front of the hospital, however, Lakeridge Health officials vowed that the facility would be repaired and re-opened as soon as possible.

The community will be without a hospital for nearly a year as crews work to repair the extensive damage caused by a recent fire.

Officials are estimating the required repair and restoration work could extend into the spring or early summer of 2018, with the hospital set to reopen once work is complete.

“The closure is disappointing to us and the North Durham community who rely on services close to home,” said Matthew Anderson, president and CEO of Lakeridge Health.

“Restoring and reopening our Port Perry Hospital is a top priority for Lakeridge Health.” External engineering, construction, electrical and insurance experts and hospital operations staff have been at work assessing damage at the site, with initial findings indicating most building systems, including electrical, mechanical and environmental systems, were heavily damaged.

“There’s already significant work going on because



*A fire on the roof of the Port Perry hospital forced the evacuation of patients to other hospitals on August 25. The fire started about 7:15 p.m. and was under control about 8 p.m. Patients were evacuated when smoke began to fill the building. Colin Williamson Photo*

we have to prepare the remainder of the space and there’s lots to do to ensure the building doesn’t deteriorate over the next several weeks due to the loss of power,” said Dr. Tony Stone, chief of staff.

“There was significant damage to a portion but there are many areas that remain undamaged. So we do have demolition work to do and there will be a lot of work being done in terms of cleaning and electrical work that will affect the entire building.”

While the initial estimate pegged damage from the August 25th fire at \$10 million, Dr. Stone cautioned that the number was a rough estimate provided by the Ontario Fire Marshal’s office, and noted that an updated budget for the restoration work would likely be available in the next few weeks after assessment work is completed.

“There’s some real work to be done in terms of sorting through a detailed estimate,” he said. “It could be that number is not far off but I don’t know the answer to that. There’s still a lot of work to be done even to finish the assessment of damages.”







*A Tangle*  
OF  
Tales

By J. PETER HVIDSTEN