

# Trout Mills Women's Institute Book III

This material has been copied with permission  
of the Trout Mills Women's Institute  
and is made available for personal use only by



Institute for  
Community Studies and  
Oral History

October 2006

## Explanatory Note

These books contain a variety of material gathered together to document the history of Trout Mills, now part of North Bay, Ontario, by the women of the Women's Institute.

Some of this material clearly comes from the local paper, *The Nugget*, but often without acknowledgement of this source. A paper called *Community Living* might also be the source of some of these clippings.

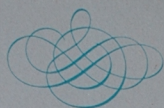
Students interested in using this material for essays and other academic research projects should do so with care and should if possible try to document the information found here using other known sources.

Françoise Noël  
Director, Institute for Community Studies and Oral History  
Nipissing University  
October 2006



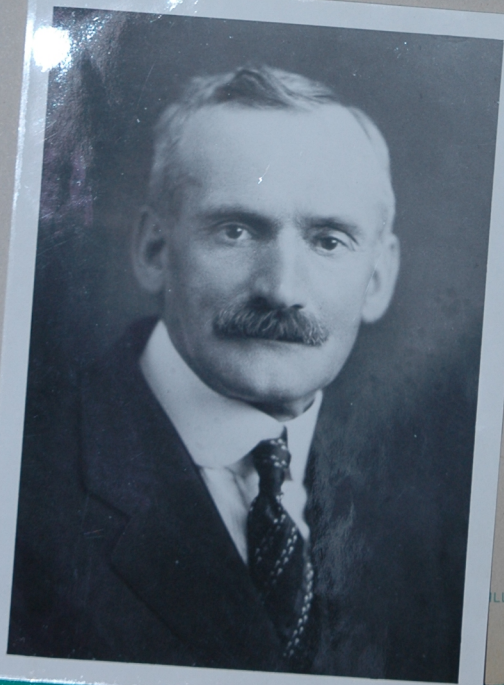
# Scrap Book





Trout Mills Branch.

Womens Institute 1978.



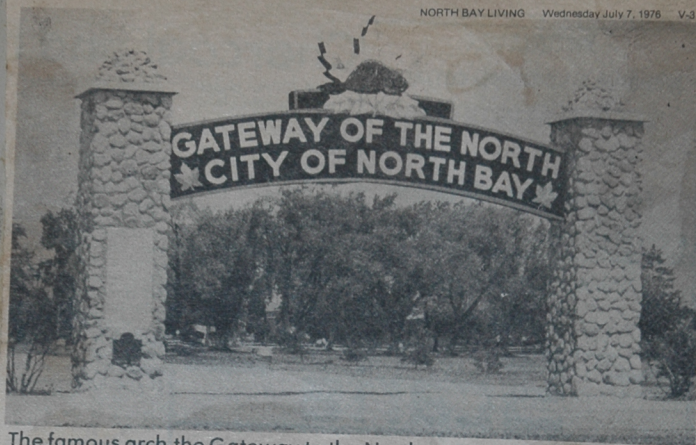
HUTCHINGS & PATRIE  
OTTAWA

REFILLS  
FILLES DE RECHANGE 53R



1977

NORTH BAY LIVING Wednesday July 7, 1976 V-3



The famous arch, the Gateway to the North, now in city park

1977



Ontario Northland's Chief Commanda II regularly cruises Lake Nipissing waterways



June 10, 1978



## Busy Bees remember a Trout Mills Club 52 years ago

Displaying a quilt crafted 52 years ago by the Busy Bee Club are several members of this Trout Mills club active so many years ago. The ladies, teens and pre-teens when members of the club, held a re-union at the summer home of Jean Sayer on Sunday. People paid 10 cents each to have

their names embroidered on the quilt held by, from left: Evelyn Wale, Florence Skerrett, Laura Aymond, Elsie Todd, Orr Moore, Effie Smith, Jean Sayer, Veda Smith, Lillian Bailey, Grace Hardwick, Alma Dodgson and Mina Beyore.

—Nugget Staff Photo by Gary Ball

Fifty-two years ago a group of young girls ages 12 to 16 years belonged to a rather special club led by Orr Craig. The club, known as the Busy Bee Club, was a busy and happy place to be for all the young girls who lived at that time in the village of Trout Mills.

"We were so involved in this club we had no time for mischief," said Florence (Hathaway) Skerrett, a member.

The girls learned crafts, made pin-cushions, pot holders, embroidered, knitted, crocheted and much more. They went on picnics, held corn and wiener roasts, went tobogganing and, in summer, camped out. One of the girls, said Mrs. Skerrett, was given a handkerchief shower when she was leaving for a holiday.

The highlight of their activities was a name quilt made by the girls in 1926. One paid 10 cents to have a name on the quilt and there are 209 names embroidered on it.

The girls had a wonderful leader in Miss Craig (now Mrs. Wilfred Moore of Huntville) and on Sunday, several members of that long ago club

honored her at a re-union of the Busy Bees at the summer home of Mrs. Wilfred Sayer on Lake Nosbonsing. During the afternoon re-union an oil painting by one of the members was presented as a thank-you to Mrs. Moore.

There were 17 charter members of the club: Orr Craig, the leader, and now Mrs. Wilfred Moore; Eva Craig, who is Mrs. Victor Anderson; Grace Avery . . . Mrs. Ronald Hardwick; Jean Dube . . . Mrs. Wilfred Sayer; Mabel Johnston; Elsie McCoy . . . Mrs. Todd; Alma Avery . . . Mrs. Gibson Dodgson; Laura McCoy . . . Mrs. Alex Amund; Margaret McCloud . . . Mrs. Ross Darou; Effie Bowland . . . Mrs. Herb Smith; Florence Hathaway . . . Mrs. Tom Skerrett; Evelyn Hathaway . . . Mrs. James Wale; Mina Maxwell . . . Mrs. Wilfred Beyore; and Veda Maxwell . . . Mrs. Stanley Smith.

Three of the charter members are deceased, but, Linda Maxwell . . . Mrs. John Perry; Elinor Hughes . . . Mrs. John Christ; and Mary Bowland . . . Mrs. Novadale, were also remembered at this special reunion.

## 1978 Child of the Pioneers Area author's book published

A North Bay area resident, Mary Jane (May) Carmichael, recently received word her first book has been published.

The book, *Child of the Pioneers*, is a collection of 30 stories about her childhood.

The story begins in Scotland when, as a little girl, she and her family left for Canada. She chronicles the time of travel on the ship and the days when her family was one of many pioneering the country.

"After you have read the story you will have met the family except for my youngest brother and I'll have to bring him in in the next story," she said.

*Child of the Pioneers*, written with children in mind, holds much that exists now only as



MARY JANE CARMICHAEL

monkey, the street artists, gypsies and the old subways come alive.

Mrs. Carmichael, wife of the late E. T. Carmichael, has lived near Carmichael's Corners most of her life.

She is adept at telling children's stories, being the mother of six, grandmother of 24 and great-grandmother of nine children.

Not surprisingly, Mrs. Carmichael said she likes people and telling stories. In her spare time, she enjoys making quilts, crocheting, sewing and indoor gardening, and assists with church work and suppers.

*Child of the Pioneers*, published by the Highway Book Shop, is available at Fosdick's Book Store, North Bay.





Passmore's Food Market, located at the intersection of Ann and High Sts., has been sold to Mike's Milk after 52 years of operation. Future plans of the food store owners remain undecided.

From left, the owners and operators: Bert, Tom and George Passmore. The original Passmore Grocery store was situated beside the present building on Ann St.

—Nugget Staff Photo by Mike Pinder

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## After 52 years in business, Passmores to call it a day

D.W. ROBERTSON  
Nugget Staff Reporter

Fifty-two years is a long time for anybody or anything. That is how long Passmore's Food Market will have been in operation when the Passmore family owners retire from the business next month.

Located at 696 Ann St., Passmore's, affiliated with Red and White, is owned and operated by father Tom Passmore, 76, and two of his sons, George, 55, and Bert, 53.

Increasing competition from the larger chain grocery stores is one reason for selling Passmore's, Bert said. "We all put in 50-hour weeks. You have to in order to make any money out of it."

Another reason, he said, is the increasing costs of heating and hydro electricity.

### FEW HOLIDAYS

George, who has worked at the store for the past 40 years, said in all that time he has had two three-week holidays and has been off sick only once.

Tom Passmore's father moved from Orillia to North

Bay just after the turn of the century and operated a wholesale and retail meat operation on Main St. That business was sold in 1912.

Twelve years later Tom opened a grocery store beside the present Red and White building on Ann St. The meat department was a big part of the store operation with Tom using everything he learned from his father's slaughterhouses to make his meat department successful.

The move to the present building, which contains approximately 2,000 square feet of floor space, took place in 1946. Affiliation with Red and White came in the mid-1950s.

### COULD CARRY ON

"We're surviving quite well and could continue to survive," Bert said. He said it would be possible because of the "personal touch," such as making up a shopping order for a customer from a prepared list.

"We have some customers who have been with us ever since the store opened," Bert said.

While many of the food products are now pre-packaged,

Passmore's has been able to obtain local produce, both fruit and vegetables, when in season. Before the Second World War, the Passmores used to process most of their own meat on farms where the cattle, pigs or chickens were bought.

### BEST YEARS

The best years, Tom said, were from 1943 on. George and Bert became equal shareholders with their father shortly after the store became associated with Red and White.

One section of the store that will be missed by customers is the one with the wine-making supplies. "We pioneered that in North Bay. We worked hard on that," Bert said. The wine making supplies were first stocked in 1968.

When the Passmores move out Nov. 20, a Mike's Milk outlet will move in. According to Mike Murphy, owner of Mike's Milk, his newest store could be in operation by Dec. 15.

The back of the store, where the meat department is located, will likely remain as such, Mr. Murphy said. He has plans to lease it to an independent butcher.



# Pearl Lindsey retires after 50-year career

By SUE STEINBURGH, Nugget Staff Writer

For Pearl Lindsey, Local Registrar, District Court Clerk, Surrogate Court Registrar, and Taxing Officer for the District of Nipissing, a working life of 50 years and five weeks ends today.

Mrs. Lindsey, who defines her job as service to the Courts and the legal profession, began her working career as the bookkeeper at Grand Union General Store, located next to the site of the former St. Mary's Academy.

She also served as bookkeeper at other North Bay businesses before starting in the legal profession Jan. 3, 1935, as Deputy Sheriff and Deputy Local Registrar, dividing the workload with Sheriff and Local Registrar Jim Dennis. In October, 1960, following the death of Mr. Dennis, the jobs were split and Mrs. Lindsey became Local Registrar, one of the most responsible and demanding positions at the District Courthouse.

The job, Mrs. Lindsey told The Nugget in an interview, required her to learn all the rules and procedures for a multitude of legal areas. Learning the procedures for opening court, assisting with empanelling a jury, and swearing in witnesses, procedures which give much of the atmosphere of tradition and formality to District and Supreme Court Assizes—were among the first duties of Mrs. Lindsey.

## EXTENSIVE ROLE

However, the court work is but a small part of the job. As Local Registrar, Mrs. Lindsey's office has a role to play in all civil actions going to Supreme Court Assizes from the time a writ is issued until judgment is made.

As District Court Clerk, she plays the same role for all District Court actions, and as Surrogate Court Registrar, she is involved in settlement of estates.

All types of legal actions, from divorces to change of name applications to adoptions to suits resulting from motor vehicle actions, pass through her office, and part of the job after the actions are completed is keeping records.

In three walk-in fire-proof vaults at the Courthouse, there are stored records dating back to 1895, and all but adoption proceedings may be searched by any member of the public with Mrs. Lindsey's authorization.

One of the real pleasures of Mrs. Lindsey's career at the Courthouse, she said has been her association with District Court Judges the late J. A. S. Plouffe, Maurice Lacourciere (now Mr. Justice Lacourciere of the Supreme Court of Ontario) and F. L. Gratton, who is currently on the bench for the District of Nipissing. As well, a number of the senior members of the Bar in Nipissing have been practicing law throughout the time Mrs. Lindsey has served as Local Registrar.

## COURTHOUSE DELAY

The real disappointment, she said, has been the lack of progress in obtaining a new courthouse for the district. Grand juries have been recommending construction of new facilities for as long as most people can remember, and Mrs. Lindsey said as long as 50 years ago, she read about the need for a new courthouse in The Nugget, but the nearly-100-year-old building is still in use.



MRS. PEARL LINDSEY  
A career of distinction ends today

Mrs. Lindsey, in her limited spare time, enjoys gardening and is chairman of the humanitarian services committee for the Rebekah Lodge in North Bay and devotes much of her weekends to these activities.

Although she has not had time for holidays in the past few years, she has travelled in Canada, the U.S., and the Caribbean and plans to continue travelling after a good, long rest.

She reckons it's time for a rest, because, at 5 p.m. today, a career spanning more than 50 years comes to an end.

District Court Judge F. L. Gratton today paid tribute to Pearl Lindsey, retiring Local Registrar for the district, terming her "an invaluable person whom we will miss a great deal."

Judge Gratton said Mrs. Lindsey's devotion to her job, skill and competence, and professionalism in her duties provided the framework for a smooth-running administration of justice in this district.

As well, Sheriff for the District Nestor Prisco, added his praise for Mrs. Lindsey's work over the years and noted her dedication and skill would be missed by all members of the courthouse staff.

Judge Gratton and Mr. Prisco said a social evening will be held in Mrs. Lindsey's honor later this year to pay tribute to her 26-year career with the ministry of the attorney-general.



# 4-H spells learning, enjoyment

1979

St. Peter's Church in North Bay was the scene of the 4-H Homemaking Club Achievement Program for Nipissing District on Wednesday. Club members, leaders, family and visitors gathered together to enjoy the evening of activities.

This was the "grand finale" of the project "Essential Edibles" during which club members learned that eating according to the new Canada Food Guide can certainly be a fun food experience. Mouth-watering recipes such as Creamy Ham and Mushroom Supper, Cheese and Bacon Swirls and Energy Squares were prepared with the new, easy-to-use metric measures. A club party marked the end of the meetings—an enjoyable way to test some of the culinary skills learned.

The achievement program included a film presentation, a "Name Tag Mixer" activity, club exhibits and skits, as well as refreshments.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of special achievement awards. Four club members received Provincial Honors, signifying the successful completion of 12 4-H Homemaking Club units. The recipients were: Tammy Brownlee, Trout Mills I Club; Glenda Hart, Trout Mills I Club; Frances Johnson, Kipling Club; and Frances Morris, Phelps Club. County Honors for the completion of six 4-H Homemaking Club projects went to Cindy Carpenter, Kipling Club and Laurie Atkins, Chisholm Club. A Leadership Certificate was also presented to Joy Ogle of the Trout Mills I Club in recognition of 10 years of 4-H leadership responsibilities.

The leaders for the "Essential Edibles" project were: Chisholm, Mrs. M. Atkins and Mrs. D. Goodhand Kipling, Mrs. M. Carpenter and Mrs. J. Halvorsen; Phelps, Miss F. Morris and Miss V. Hummel; Powassan, Mrs. D. Vogl; Trout Mills I, Mrs. J. Ogle and Mrs. B. Hamilton; Trout Mills III, Mrs. J. Devolin and Mrs. P. Andrews; Trout Mills IV, Mrs. J. Topps.

The next project to begin in Sept. is "Accessories — The Final Touch." Members will learn how to choose those important "extras" that will suit their figure type, coloring, personality — and pocketbook! Members will also have the opportunity to sew one or more accessories, such as a sun visor, toque, tote bag, purse or shawl.

Anyone interested in participating in the 4-H Homemaking Club program, either as a leader or member, should contact Brenda Kiszyk, Acting District Home Economist with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, at 222 McIntyre Street West, North Bay (telephone: 474-3050).

Spread the word — 4-H is fun! says Miss Kiszyk.



Joy Ogle, left, was honored Wednesday during the achievement ceremonies for the 4-H Homemaking Course "Essential Edibles" with a leadership certificate for 10 years service as a 4-H club leader. Brenda Kiszyk, acting home economist of Nipissing, Muskoka and Parry Sound performed this pleasant duty.

—Nugget Photos by Pat McGrath



Carmichael United Church celebrated its 90th Anniversary on Sunday and the special guests were these three ladies who between them have been parishioners to the church for a grand total of over 200 years. From left are Mrs. Gertie Norman, who has attended Carmichael for 65 years; Mrs. Norma Chadbourne, with 70 years at the church; and Mrs. May Carmichael with 70 years. Mrs. Chadbourne has been the church organist since 1919.

photo by Gloria Ellis

## "Captains of Clouds" on Friday night

1979

The 1941 movie, *Captains of the Clouds*, starring James Cagney and Brenda Marshall, will be shown again Friday night at the Norman Weaver Auditorium, Canadore College. Admission is free.

Much of the movie was filmed at Trout Lake, North Bay, and a North Bay girl, Middy (Morland) Gorman, was the stand-in for Brenda Marshall in a scene in which an airplane (flown by a stunt pilot taking the place of Cagney) swooped low over a haystack on which

the heroine was standing. Brenda Marshall portrayed the girl friend of bush pilot Cagney, but was considered too valuable a "property" to risk the low-flying plane, so Miss Morland got the role.

She is now Mrs. J. R. Gorman and she and her husband, Jack, reside in Toronto.

Another North Bay resident, Gerry Roy, was an "extra" in the film. The movie drew capacity crowds to the Weaver Auditorium and to the Golden Age Centre earlier this week.

By LIN

Can  
Church,  
Bax  
munity

Even  
month  
his hip  
when

Fifty  
dland ca  
city's w  
Depressi  
his lovin

He n  
Newfoun  
Anglican  
reader an  
frame chu

St. Brice'  
He left  
the Dioces

was ordai  
Sturgeon  
In 1968

then at m  
became se  
grew into

In 1960  
Bay from  
delivered f  
bred apath

Baxter  
people. He  
the casual  
friendship,

Newfound  
people of N  
There is

as one of ten  
province of  
"My mo

imposing st  
would threat  
For 16 y

Brice's. He l  
by the Most  
Anglican Dio

But retir  
tea." He co  
Sturgeon F  
vices for the  
duties.

In 1977, t  
Church was d  
an enclosed  
body of the c



1980  
*Brotherhood his life's work*

# Canon Gosse is friend to all

By LINDA WILKINS-VOLLRATH Nugget Staff Reporter

Canon B. G. Gosse, rector of St. Brice's Anglican Church, retired in 1972.

Baxter Gosse, the man, has never retired from community life.

Even now as he rests at Cassellholme following a two-month stay in Civic Hospital after a nasty fall which broke his hip, his eyes still spark with recognition and pleasure when people pass by his chair and offer a greeting.

Fifty-seven years ago the young man from Newfoundland came to North Bay and took on administration of the city's welfare department, a position which, during the Depression years, gave him much opportunity to exercise his loving compassion and justice for his fellow man.

He married his beloved late wife Emma, also a Newfoundland, in 1924 and the couple attended St. John's Anglican Church on Main St. E. where he became a lay reader and often conducted services at St. Simon's, a small frame church on Cassells St. which preceded the building of St. Brice's.

He left North Bay in the early '50s to study theology at the Diocesan Theological College in Montreal. In 1953 he was ordained deacon and appointed to serve missions at Sturgeon Falls, Cache Bay and Warren.

In 1956 he became rector of St. Brice's parish which was then at mission status. Soon after he arrived, the church became self-supporting and during his 16 years of ministry grew into an active, full and dedicated congregation.

In 1960, when this writer and her family came to North Bay from Toronto, the impassioned, rousing sermons delivered from St. Brice's pulpit shook us out of our city-bred apathy and stirred the faith inherent in every human.

Baxter Gosse knows how to "win friends and influence people." He has never forgotten a name or a face and treats the casual acquaintance with personal warmth and friendship. With members of his family far away in Newfoundland and the U.S., Canon Gosse has made the people of North Bay his family.

There is a certain sternness about the man who grew up as one of ten children on the island that was yet to become a province of Canada. His father taught school then.

"My mother was six feet tall," says the man of equally imposing stature, "and if we did anything wrong, Father would threaten to tell Mother and we'd shake in our boots."

For 16 years, until 1972, Baxter Gosse was rector of St. Brice's. He had been elevated to the office of Canon in 1969 by the Most Rev. William L. Wright, Archbishop of the Anglican Diocese of Algoma and Metropolitan Ontario.

But retirement was not exactly Baxter Gosse's "cup of tea." He continued to serve Temiscaming, Cache Bay, Sturgeon Falls and Warren, conducting communion services for these parishes and attending to other church duties.

In 1977, the Canon Baxter Gosse narthex of St. Brice's Church was dedicated to his devoted ministry. A narthex is an enclosed passage between the entrance and the main body of the church which can offer space for the rector's



CANON BAXTER G. GOSSE

office and a place for hanging coats. At St. Brice's, the narthex, on the lower level, also houses a choir room, a second office and restrooms.

During his address at the dedication ceremony, Canon Gosse said, "The church's greatest mission in the world is the proclamation of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man."

In recent years, Canon Gosse has given up his home on Fourth Ave. (now the residence of retired Rev. and Mrs. William Kito) and after a brief residence at the Empire Hotel, moved into Cassellholme, where again he has had ample opportunity to pursue his favorite hobby—visiting people and offering them the warmth of his friendship.

Until his accident, he continued to visit both city hospitals as well, ever ready with the familiar greeting, "Well, you're not hard to look at!"

He could have returned to the place of his birth; he could have taken a niece up on her offer to have him with her in the U.S. where the weather would have been more soothing to an arthritic condition, but Baxter Gosse prefers to remain in the community that fostered and grew with his ministry.

In recent years, the simplest pleasures have been his: a walk to church, a visit to an ailing acquaintance, letters to and from his family, a coffee with friends, sharing a moment of mirth, recalling his childhood in Newfoundland.

Few people who have met Canon Baxter Gosse can forget him, for such was the rector and such is the man.



Nov. 197



The three surviving Dionne Quintuplets (foreground) stand shivering in the cold Friday during a brief burial service for their father, Oliva Dionne. The women have been estranged

from their parents for 25 years and did not stay long in this area before returning to their homes in the Montreal area. From left: Annette, Yvonne and Cecile.

(See additional photo on Page 2). —Nugget Staff Photo by Bud Berry

# Quiet funeral service concludes Oliva Dionne's turbulent years

By SUSAN BUCKLE, Nugget Staff Reporter

Oliva Dionne was laid to rest Friday by a small solemn group of family and friends.

The tribute to the man who was the father of the internationally celebrated Dionne Quintuplets was marked by a rare reunion of his family.

His wife, Elzire Dionne, 71, was not among the mourners at Sacre Coeur Church in Corbeil, although she was resting at home in distress, suffering from poor health which has kept her at home for several years.

The three surviving Quintuplets, Cecile, Annette and Yvonne, arrived late Thursday evening for their 76-year-old father's funeral and the crowds which had at one time flogged their every movement were nowhere in sight.

The only indication that the funeral marked the death of someone whose early life had been one of great publicity was the dozen photographers and reporters gathered outside the church.

## Residents, friends gather

Local residents and friends of the Dionnes started gathering at the church before the procession had left McGuinity Funeral Home in North Bay and wound its way 15 kilometres to the small community where they were joined by the surviving quintuplets.

The small group of 150 mourners was a sharp contrast to the thousands who once lined up outside Mr. Dionne's home to catch a glimpse of his five famous daughters.

The three surviving Quintuplets entered the church unnoticed by cameramen as they joined the family for the simple ceremony.

The funeral mass celebrated for Oliva Dionne was the first church service held in the newly built Sacre Coeur Church where at one time stood the aged stately church which the Quintuplets, along with their family, attended as children.

The parish priest, Rev. Adrian Koens, had warm words of condolences for the family and friends. It was only two weeks ago that Rev. Koens had joined Mr. and Mrs. Dionne at their home to celebrate Communion with them.

"Mr. Dionne was a noble man. He worked hard for his family and without a doubt he suffered many times in his life," said Father Koens during the brief ceremony.

Father Koens had been the family's priest for the past five years he has been at Sacre Coeur Church and he knew Mr. and Mrs. Dionne as people who had always been warm and friendly to him.

Father Walter Bradley assisted Rev. Koens in the ceremony along with four altar boys and Mrs. Emile Hurtubise as the organist.

## Huddled against the cold

As the family left the church to Sacre Coeur Cemetery, they huddled close in the -6 degree weather warming themselves and avoiding the press.

Yvonne and Annette stood with arms linked during the graveside ceremony while Cecile stood in the company of others.

The three surviving Quints were among the 100 family members of friends at the graveside.

The father of 14 children, Mr. Dionne was predeceased by two of the quintuplets and a son, Leo.

Mr. Dionne is survived by his wife, Elzire; the three Quintuplets, Annette Allard, Cecile Langlois and Yvonne Dionne, all of St. Bruno, Que., and three other daughters, Mrs. Maurice Girouard (Rosemarie) of St. Catharines; Mrs. Thomas Callahan (Therese) of North Bay and Pauline of Corbeil.

Five sons who survive are Ernest, Oliva Jr., and Claude, all of Corbeil and Daniel and Victor, both of North Bay. There are 33 grandchildren, six of whom were pallbearers, and 11 great-grandchildren.

He is also survived by sisters, Alma Dionne of North Bay, Marie Corbeil of Quency, Mass., Sister Anne Dionne of Hull, Que., and a brother, Leon of Windsor.

Oliva Dionne was born in a log cabin on Aug. 27, 1903, and was raised on the Corbeil farm his father settled in 1895. He has finally come to rest in the community he lived in all his life.



Built newspaper empire in 3 countries

# Lord Thomson of Fleet dies in London at 82

LONDON (CP) — Lord Thomson of Fleet, the Toronto-born radio salesman who built a newspaper empire in three countries, died in a London hospital today at the age of 82. He will be buried in Toronto.

A genial, roly-poly man blinking through thick glasses, Roy Thomson, the barber's son, continued to accumulate newspapers at an age when most other men were contented with retirement.

At his death he was publisher of more than 200 dailies in a dozen countries, along with the owner of one of Britain's biggest holiday enterprises. He had stakes in radio, television, magazine and other undertakings, including North Sea oil deposits.

His biggest newspaper money-maker in Britain was the lucrative Sunday Times but his major pride was The Times, the most reputable of all British dailies. It was the one Thomson operation that failed to make money but Thomson kept it alive, a pledge which his son and heir, Kenneth, also maintained.

At one stage during the 1960s he confided to a friend that the value of his holdings were about \$300 million. They continued to grow with some reports placing his current family holdings at some \$500 million.

## LOVED TO TRAVEL

But Thomson tended to live modestly, placing his wealth in a family trust. He loved to travel, visiting many countries, frequently conferring with political leaders. He was a friend of the Royal Family and several British prime ministers.

Born June 5, 1894, Thomson left school at the age of 14 and became a clerk, salesman, farmer, stenographer and book-keeper. During the depression years of the 1930s he found that radio reception was poor in Ontario, built his own broadcasting station with a second-hand transmitter and later took over a weekly newspaper in payment of a bad debt.

The Thomson newspaper saga was on its way. Within a decade he acquired a group of small evening newspapers stretching from Vancouver to Quebec.

In 1953 he flew to Scotland, acquired the Scotsman group, in a lightning and highly lucrative operation and made his home in Edinburgh. He made a search for the burial place of his Scottish ancestors, donated an organ to a local church and designed his own tartan, obtaining a coat of arms in 1958. His motto: "Never a backward step."

## BECOMES BARON

At one time Thomson had ambitions to be governor-general of Canada. That was in 1961 when his old friend, John Die-

fenbaker, was prime minister. But Roy's commercial ambitions came first. He became a British citizen in 1963 and the first Baron of Fleet in 1964, taking his title from Fleet Street, the famous London newspaper area.

At one stage that other distinguished Canadian publisher, Lord Beaverbrook, tended to mock Thomson's holdings of small dailies. But when Thomson moved into independent television in Scotland, he bragged "it was a licence to print money." He later said he talked too much but he really never regretted that remark. He tended to disarm his competitors and the public with his rumpled clothes, friendly smile and his frank remark that he was out to make money.

"I have two hobbies," he once said, "I read whodunnits and balance sheets."

"It's not greed. It's just business."

Often stigmatized in his early Canadian days for paying his staff low salaries, Thomson brought concern to Fleet Street editors when he first arrived. But his willingness to give his editors complete freedom won favor. All he wanted, he said, was a good balance sheet.

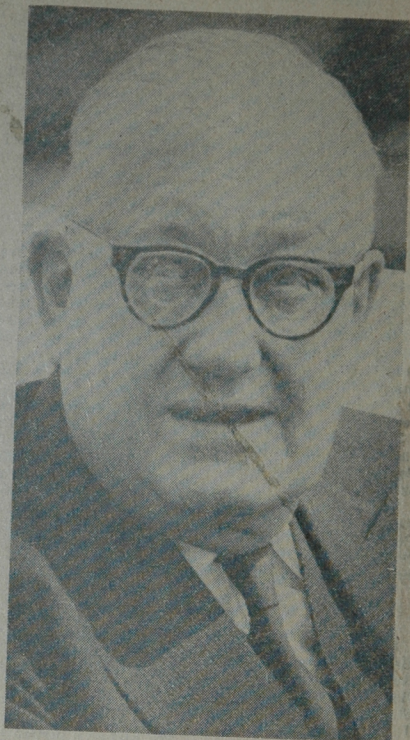
## PRAISED FOR CHANGE

Thomson also was a great innovator. He supported technical revolution in news communications and newspaper publishing, as well as management. Charles Wintour, editor of The Evening Standard, a Beaverbrook paper, said Lord Thomson helped to promote a "real managerial revolution" on Fleet Street.

His fondness for wearing bright red socks, brown shoes and unpressed blue suits won him a punster's tag: "The Croesus in a crumpled suit." But Thomson had no social taboos. He traded jokes and the time of day with high and low.

In his autobiography, After I Was Sixty, Thomson wrote: "I

See LORD THOMSON—Page 2



LORD THOMSON OF FLEET  
Started his career in North Bay

## Opened North Bay radio station in Depression years

By BETTY ALCORN  
Nugget News Editor

It was Feb. 23, 1931, and The Nugget carried a one-column picture of a youngish (37) businessman looking earnestly into the camera through thick-lensed glasses.

The man was the president of a radio station that was about to have its formal opening in three days, the first commercial radio station to come to Northern Ontario.

He was the head of a staff of four, and his name was Roy H. Thomson. His radio station was CFCH North Bay.

That was the wobbly springboard from which Roy Thomson took his meteoric leap into the world of high finance, that led him to the very top of the tallest ladder in the world of communications, that brought him to the title of Baron Thomson of Fleet, of Northbridge in the City of Edinburgh, which became his full formal title.

Thomson came to North Bay with an agency for radio sets in 1928.

In 1931 the Depression came close to squeezing him into financial disaster. He was caught holding a boxcar-load of radios he had bought in

managers. The late Mr. Barnaby, a skilled engineer, designed, devised and made do to keep the broadcasting equipment operational.

The pay cheques were skimpy, and but for the friendship and trust of "the man next door," would often have been worth nothing but the paper they were written upon. The man next door was the late Phil Mitchell, who operated a tiny restaurant and who cashed the cheques and held them on a wire spike until he got word from Thomson that he could take them to the bank.

Meanwhile, Thomson walked the Main St. beat, trying to sell advertising—and incidentally, selling that carload of radio sets.

In the process, he became well-known and respected enough to be elected an alderman on North Bay City Council in the following December.

Citizens of that period recall Thomson as the legislative money-man among the aldermen. He was chairman of the finance committee and was regarded as a wizard at stretching tax dollars. C. M. (Mort) Fellman, recently retired executive editor of The Nugget, said he had known





Bill McLean and his wife Myrtle have sold their business, Larry's Corner, at the corner of O'Brien and Cassells Sts. The couple has operated the community-oriented store for nearly 12 years in an atmosphere of friendship and informality.

—Nugget Staff Photo

\*\*\*\*

1999

\*\*\*\*

## Sale of Larry's Corner brings an end to an era

By LLOYD McLACHLAN  
Nugget Staff Reporter

Bill McLean was probably just being honest when he kept asking me what I was doing at his store, Larry's Corner, at O'Brien and Cassells Sts., Monday.

Not that Bill and his wife, Myrtle, are publicity-shy, you understand, but they just couldn't see why the fact they had sold their business merited attention.

But Aug. 7, the last day the McLeans opened Larry's Corner for business 11 and a half years after buying the property, brought an end of sorts to a community tradition in North Bay.

Another community-oriented setting, an idyllic place to some who enjoyed a friendly chat, a few moments of relaxation, is no more.

Mr. and Mrs. McLean, both in their mid-sixties, were busy taking stock early this week in preparation for a public auction in late August that will help disperse merchandise.

Mr. McLean said age was the

reason he and his wife are leaving the business.

"We're both ready to retire," he said. "We're storing our furniture and we're going to do some travelling.

"We'd like to see both oceans, both sides of the country."

The couple came to North Bay from Sudbury, having purchased the store property from the previous owners, Leo and Doris Larivie.

"Bill was in real estate and I ran a store for three years before we came here," Mrs. McLean said.

"He sold the business in Sudbury two months before we bought the store here."

The couple left Sudbury because they felt the business there had no room left for expansion, Mr. McLean added.

It didn't take long for the McLeans to receive an unexpected invitation to their new property's location here. Three months after they moved in, a driver careened around the sharp O'Brien St. curve and smashed into the side of the store. Mrs. McLean said the crash sounded like an explosion.

In their years here, Mr.

McLean told The Nugget, at least three vehicles have had brushes with the building at the tight corner.

"That's old hat," he chuckled.

He pointed ruefully out the front window, "Officially, according to the city's survey, we're sitting right on Seventh Ave."

It looks as though Larry's Corner has seen its last day as a confectionary. Mr. McLean said the new buyer works with ceramics.

"It's always been a good business here," he added.

After their travelling days are finished, the McLeans don't have specific plans.

"Truthfully, we don't know where we're going to settle," Mr. McLean said.

The couple has three children, all grown and away from home now. One son lives in Ottawa, and another son is a member of the armed forces, stationed at Trenton. A daughter lives near Sudbury.

"No place is home any more," said Mr. McLean. "We'll keep our eyes open. We'd like a little cottage in the country somewhere."





Ed Roche, who was 90 on New Year's Day, reflects on a long and happy life as he waits for another Rotary Club meeting to begin at the Empire Motor Hotel.

—Nugget Staff Photo by Dave Palangio

\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*

## N. Bay's No. 1 Irishman, Ed Roche marks 90th birthday

By BRITT JESSUP  
Nugget Managing Editor

His friendly Irish brogue can be heard every day in North Bay as he greets old friends and makes new ones.

He turned 90 on New Year's Day and he shows no signs of slowing down.

He doesn't drive his car any more, but he covers miles on foot every day.

He's North Bay's No. 1 Irishman, Edward J. Roche.

Mr. Roche has been a North Bay resident since 1926, and over the years has become extremely well-known.

For many years he was head of a trucking fleet with contracts with the City of North Bay.

Mr. Roche constantly gives "the good Lord" credit for his

long life and good health.

And, he says, "I always tried to mind my own business."

Mr. Roche came out from the "Old Sod" in 1926 and came

directly to Ontario — Beaverton, to be precise. But he came north almost immediately and settled in North Bay.

He has been back to his native Ireland three times, the last time about 12 years ago.

He shuns publicity, but admitted to having served on "almost every board and commission" in North Bay over the years.

"And I enjoyed every bit of it," he adds.

He has been a staunch Progressive Conservative all his life, but politics never dimmed his friendships with people of other political beliefs.

Retired now, he is known for his numerous visits to hospital patients and the elderly, and for years he has been quietly generous to those less fortunate.

"I still keep busy," he remarks. Mr. Roche shovels his own snow, and only this week was up on his roof clearing the white stuff away.

Mr. Roche has been a member of the North Bay Rotary Club since 1938 and is a long-standing member of Nipissing Masonic Lodge 420 and the Rorab Shrine Club.

He and his wife, Bernice, live quietly at 483 McPhail St. They have a son, Ed Jr., and a daughter, Mrs. John Hughes. There are five grandchildren, all boys, and like all grandfathers, Mr. Roche is inordinately proud of them.



JANET FOREMAN

1984

Janet Foreman who has been District Home Economist for the districts of Nipissing, Parry Sound and Muskoka for the past seven-and-a-half years is resigning from her position this Friday to be at home with her husband and daughter.

Mrs. Foreman has been very active in the district and will be missed by the many friends she has made in both the Women's Institutes and the 4-H groups.

Mrs. Foreman has been of great help to me in bees of area activities within her sphere and I will miss your help Janet. Best of luck in your "new" career of full-time homemaker.

On Monday, Mrs. Foreman was in attendance at the open house display of crewel embroidery at the Golden Age Centre. This play gave the opportunity for the more than 150 ladies in our area who have taken the course during the fall and winter to show their learned expertise.

The articles displayed were simply gorgeous and made this writer wish she had found the free time to take part.

Parry Sound will host a display March 12 from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Sundridge Arena and there will be a further open house display for Muskoka at the Bracebridge United Church, March 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Mrs. Foreman, in her capacity as home economist, taught the leaders of each of the groups the art of crewel embroidery so they could teach their group members. The crewel embroidery course is one of many sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Home Economics Branch over the years.

Groups taking the course in Nipissing District included: Callander CWL, FFCF Astorville, FFCF Sturgeon Falls, Holy Name of Jesus CWL, Kipling WI, Lakeview WI, Rutherglen WI, UCFO Verner, Trinity Coffee Group, and Trout Mills WI.

In Parry Sound District participants were: Chalmers UCW, Chalmers WI, Golden Valley WI, Happy Gang, Pioneer Girls, Powassan UCW one and two, Restoule WI, South River WI, St. Paul's ACW, Sundridge WI and Zion UCW.

Muskoka Districts groups were: Barkway WI, Beatrice, Bracebridge United Church, Falkenburg, Gravenhurst WI, Sanford WI, St. Joseph's CWL, St. Thomas Church, Ufford and Windermere.





## *Nipissing District Women's Institutes meet*

Representatives from the eight area Women's Institutes met Wednesday at the West Ferris Legion for the District Annual Meeting of Nipissing Women's Institutes. A full day of business sessions was interspersed with a delicious luncheon and the displaying of the handicraft interests and talents of institute members. The workmanship and

participation on all of the tables were outstanding. Mrs. David Hamilton, district president, at left, takes a moment to discuss the merits of the crafts displayed on Kipling's first place table with Myrna Carpenter, president of the Kipling Women's Institute.

—Nugget Staff Photo by Dave Palangio



## **Embroidery display**

### **a success**

More than 150 area ladies from Nipissing, Parry Sound and Muskoka have taken part in crewel embroidery classes sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Home Economics Branch this winter. An open house at the Golden Age Centre this week afforded the opportunity to display the learned expertise. Glenda Hart of the Trout Mills Women's Institute was one of several learners turned teachers during the event.

—Nugget Staff Photo





### *College residences in natural setting*

The natural setting of the College Education Centre residences is appreciated by both the students of the college and the citizens of North Bay. Able to accommodate about 300 students, the residences consist of two storey townhouses made with wood

siding to harmonize with the surrounding scenery.

Each townhouse has six single bedrooms, two washrooms and a combined living-dining and kitchen area.

The main idea behind the peaceful surroundings and the condominium-like quarters is to

produce community qualities. Since the students are out of the downtown area, they usually stay close to the campus and socialize there. Therefore, residence atmosphere is similar to a small community away from the city.



### *What used to be*

Numerous boaters and fishermen are no doubt familiar with a chimney amidst the ruins on a small island in Turtle Lake, east of Trout lake. Pictured above is the rambling summer home built on the island in 1895 by a wealthy resident of New York City. The house was subsequently sold in 1900 to Dr. Reuben Jeffry, of Syracuse, N.Y., the man who patented Unguentine, a popular burn ointment at the time. When Dr. Jeffry died in the '20s, the

house was sold to Len Hughes of North Bay, who rented it as a summer residence to American tourists. At the time of its construction, the house was the only habitation on Turtle Lake. The building burned to the ground in the winter of 1933 and the land was subsequently turned back to the Crown for preservation as a wilderness area.

—Photo submitted by Don Hughes





Stewart Scott, left, vice-president of the Nipissing Flying Association presents a mounted citation to Sam Rowe during an evening honoring the veteran pilot. At centre, Mrs. Rowe holds flowers presented to her.

—Nugget Staff Photo

## Veteran pilot, Sam Rowe honored

A man with 30 years and 11,000 hours of flying experience has been honored by his friends and students with a citation for outstanding service.

He is Sam Rowe, owner of Orillia Air Services at Trout Lake, who was honored at a "Sam Rowe Night" Saturday at the Empira Hotel.

The mounted citation awarded to Mr. Rowe was "for his achievements in student training and his contribution to the advancement of civil aviation."

Mr. Rowe's lifetime in the

air began in Brantford in the late '30s, and continued during the Second World War as an air force instructor. He became associated with Orillia Air Services in 1946, and in 1953 he established OAS at Trout Lake, east of North Bay.

For the past decade he and his staff have served the community in many ways, including summer cargo flying, sightseeing trips for tourists, and flight training for over 100 private pilots.

Sponsor of the "Sam Rowe

Night" was the Nipissing Flying Association, whose president is Fred J. Reeve.

"Woman of the Month"  
North Bay Women's Centre  
233 King St. W.  
North Bay



MS. MARVEL NEDDOW

—Nugget Staff Photo

A former medical secretary who decided to take a career as a deaconess with the United Church has been chosen 'Woman of the Month' for June.

Ms. Marvel Neddow was commissioned as a Deaconess of the United Church at the recent meeting of the Manitoba Conference at Timmins.

Ms. Neddow is a graduate of North Bay Business College, and completed her studies at the Centre for Christian Studies in Toronto this year. Additional training has included a summer course in Pastoral Clinical work at St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital, St. Thomas, Ont.

As a full-time student at the Centre, Ms. Neddow worked as co-ordinator and director for leadership training of volunteer workers, the youth drop-in centre and summer camping at St. Luke's United Church, Toronto.

At Trinity United Church, Toronto, she co-ordinated and directed leadership training, and was involved as a resource person in the development of the new concept of Sunday School for children. She also worked with the Community Development 'Reach Out' program.

Ms. Neddow, 53, says she woke up one morning and decided, "there was more to do. I have always been involved in my church work, so that was the path I decided to follow."

Born in North Bay in 1921, Ms. Neddow is the daughter of Stan

Haskin and the late Mrs. William Norwood. She was married in 1939 to the late Leslie W. J. Neddow. Ms. Neddow has eight children and 17 grandchildren. She was widowed at 46 and, following her secretarial training, accepted employment with Drs. Crowe and Mitchell. She worked as a receptionist at the doctors' office for 5½ years.

A member of the Order of the Eastern Star and a trained Red Cross volunteer nurse, Ms. Neddow has future plans to enter hospital chaplaincy. To become a hospital chaplain, Ms. Neddow will have to take a year of clinical pastoral training.

Explaining her function as a deaconess, she said she performs many of the duties an ordained minister performs. However, it is only under special circumstances that she can perform marriages or offer the sacrament of Holy Communion.

For Ms. Neddow, International Women's Year suggests a time when women should feel their own worth as human beings and not what their vocation suggests they are.

"Women's Liberation has its place but women must be very careful not to become the oppressors," she said.

Mrs. Neddow has accepted a position at Twillingate United Church in Twillingate, Newfoundland. She will begin her duties there on July 15.

You are Cordially Invited to  
attend the . . .

## OFFICIAL OPENING

of the

## NORTH BAY AREA MUSEUM

at the Museum Site, Riverbend Road, North Bay, Ontario

. . . at . . .

2:30 P.M. TUESDAY, AUGUST 16TH, 1977

Light Refreshments

Dress Informal



# Past and future of transportation on Lake Nipissing



The slow alligator tugboats (left) of the early part of the century will not return, but hovercraft (right) riding on a layer of compressed air may whisk forest products from the western shores of Lake Nipissing to industries at the east end of the lake in only 30 minutes, regardless of the season.

1980  
BY BESSELL J. VANDENHAZEL  
Nipissing University College  
North Bay

Cache Bay is a quiet community of 600 people, situated a few kilometres west of Sturgeon Falls on the northwest shore of Lake Nipissing. The railway track separates the residences, the post office and the general store from the bay and the municipal park. Like many one-industry towns, Cache Bay flourished as long as nearby forests could be exploited profitably. As a result of technological advances and a complete absence of reforestation practices however, the rate at which trees were being harvested soon began to exceed the regeneration ability of the northern forest. When logs had to be brought in from ever-increasing distances, it became uneconomical to operate mills in Cache Bay and the George Gordon Lumber Co. was forced to close its sawmills in 1965.

While the mills provided local employment for some 10 breadwinners for 80 years, workers are now forced to work in surrounding communities. At the same time, there is an outflow of young English-speaking men and women who are leaving the town permanently to find employment elsewhere in Canada.

On the site of the former mill huge deposits of sawdust and woodchips are a mute reminder of past industrial activity, but form at the same time an energy-rich resource which will undoubtedly be used as a fuel within the next decade.

Older residents still remember the hustle and bustle associated with an active mill: the whining sounds of sawblades and the blasts of steamwhistles signalling pulling breaks or the arrival of an alligator tugboat unloading thousands of logs into the shallow water near the mill.

## Why boats were needed

Beginning in the 1880s and 1890s, lumber companies such as Davidson & Hay, Fraser, Strong and George Gordon acquired their logs from timber rights along the shores of Lake Nipissing and in the watershed of the Sturgeon River. The trees were cut in the wintertime and the logs, stamped to indicate ownership, were floated to the mills in the spring and the summer. River crews sorted the logs coming down the Sturgeon River immediately above the falls, before sending them down wooden water slides into boom-lined pockets. Tugboats then towed the boomed logs into the deeper waters at the mouth of the river for further transport.

In order to tow the logs from the mouth of the Sturgeon River to the sawmills at the head of Cache Bay, lumber companies operated a number of steamboats and diesel-driven ships from the 1880's until 1965. Because of their shallow draft, alligator steamtugs were well suited for these towing jobs. The early alligators were essentially flat-bottomed barges with a large wood-burning boiler, that supplied steam to a one-engine engine. The steam power was used to turn paddle wheels and a drum with a cable up to one metre long, which could be used to winch the boat to its low through shallow water.

Prior to 1900, logging firms had purchased several

steam-driven alligators from the West and Peachy Company in Simcoe and other boats were built at Cache Bay. I have been able to trace the records of the Ladass, The Turtles and the Whitneys.

## The Ladass

The Ladass was a graceful, 23-metre long steamer built in Cache Bay in 1894 by S. Grangle. She was powered by a brand new engine made at the Bertram Engine Works in Toronto. Her first owners were John Irvin Davidson and John Dunlop Hay, Toronto entrepreneurs who owned timber rights along Lake Nipissing and had the first sawmill built at Cache Bay.

In 1896 the Ladass was sold to Clarence A. Bogert, a Toronto bank official, and in 1897 to Alexander Hamilton of Cache Bay for \$5,000. In 1902 the steamboat was sold to the Victoria Harbour Lumber Co. of Toronto and may have been used to tow logs across Lake Nipissing and down the French River as far as the Chaudiere Falls. The vessel was reported out of existence by 1910. A photograph made of the harbor of Sturgeon Falls in 1905 shows the Ladass sunk near the government dock.

## The Turtles

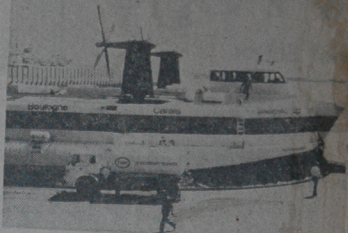
The Turtle I was built in Cache Bay in 1892 by shipwright Charles L. Smith. The 15-metre vessel was powered by an upright one-cylinder steam engine made by the John Doty Co. of Toronto. This propeller-driven steamer was owned by John Irvin Davidson and John D. Hay, two Toronto businessmen, who owned a sawmill at Cache Bay and also the steamer John Fraser, which burned and sank with the loss of over 15 lives in 1893. (Scuba divers raised parts of the John Fraser in 1972 and the Nipissing Room at the North Bay Area Museum now holds its anchors and other artifacts.)

Registry records inform us that George W. McFarlane, a Cache Bay merchant, bought the Turtle I in 1894, and it is assumed that the boat was dismantled around 1901.

The Turtle II was built at Cache Bay in 1902 by Joseph Trotter of Pembroke. The 15-metre side paddle wheeler was powered by a one-cylinder Doty steam engine. The Turtle II was owned by the Pembroke lumber merchants George and Robert Gordon, who had bought the Davidson & Hay sawmill in 1900. John Ebert and Arthur Nesbitt are known to have captained this paddle wheeler. Log entries kept by Capt. Ebert in 1912 reveal to us how weather conditions affected the towing of logs on Cache Bay:

"SS Turtle — Tow for Strong Lumber Co.

"May 6th, 1912. Took the tow from the Seagull and pulled for three hours. Held the tow all night in heavy wind. Wind lulled at four in the morning of the 7th. A heavy wind rose. Held the tow for 14 hours. There was a lull in the morning of the 8th. Pulled up to two-mile point. A gale of wind rose and dragged us back to Garden Island with the tow.



"Left Garden Island at 8 o'clock in the evening of the 8th and towed all night. We snubbed the tow at the pier of Cache Bay at 10 o'clock in the morning of the 9th."

## The Whitneys

The Whitneys were a series of three tugboats owned by the George Gordon Lumber Co. of Cache Bay between 1918 and 1965. The Whitney I was built in 1918. She was a 15-metre long paddle wheeler powered by an upright one-cylinder steam engine made in Toronto by the John Doty Co. Captained by Jack Nesbitt in the 1920's and 1930's, the steamer was used to tow logs through the shallow waters of Cache Bay to the sawmill at the north end of the bay.

The Whitney I was broken up in 1937 and replaced by the slightly larger Whitney II in 1938. Captain Jack Nesbitt operated this paddle wheeler until 1955 when she was dismantled and scrapped.

When the George Gordon Co. needed another tugboat at the end of World War II, the era of the flat-bottomed steam-driven alligators was gradually coming to an end. A steel-hulled warping tug was purchased from the Russell Bros. Co. in Owen Sound and shipped to Cache Bay in 1946. She was named the Whitney III, was powered by a 125 hp Cummings Diesel and again captained by Jack Nesbitt.

When the sawmills in Cache Bay were closed in 1965 the Whitney III was sold to the Upper Ottawa Improvement Co. and shipped to the Ottawa River.

## Future opportunities

The era of steamboats and steam-driven sawmills came to an end in Cache Bay in the 1960s. The disappearance of the tugboats and the mills signalled the end of a lifestyle which was typical of sawmill communities around the turn of the century. Many of the young people of Cache Bay, descendants of proud and hardy settlers from southern Ontario and Quebec are now facing the same decision their grandparents had to make in the 1880's and 1890's: to stay in their hometown or to migrate to communities offering greater employment opportunities.

Fortunately, the regional school board is now able to provide the young people of Cache Bay with a secondary education that prepares them psychologically, linguistically and vocationally for the demands of the North American marketplace.

As for the future of the wooded areas in Nipissing District, will they be doomed to produce poplar and birch logs in perpetuity? Fortunately, the technology exists to restore the forests to a pre-1880 composition and productivity. With proper management, based on Scandinavian practices, a new generation of foresters, forest technicians and sawmill operators could find employment in the Lake Nipissing watershed by the year 2000. The slow steamboats of the early part of the century will not return, but fast hovercraft, fueled by wood alcohol and riding on a layer of compressed air may whisk forest products from Cache Bay to industries at the east end of the lake in only 30 minutes, irrespective of the season.



STIMULATED PUBLIC AWAKENING

# WI earns praise for history effort

Canadians have been no great shakes at preserving their history. In fact, says the president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, in the course of assuming Canada had no history of great importance, we almost lost it.

Opening the Ontario WI's annual Officers Conference at the University of Waterloo Tuesday night, Mrs. Florence Diamond of New Hamburg said Canadians seemingly did not want to acknowledge their past endeavors. "At one time we paid much more attention to accumulating buildings, artifacts and man-made landscapes only when they got in the way. Almost all the big news was demolition — make way for the new."

"We were too anxious to escape what we might have considered the crude discom-

forts of some of our past for the style, colors and temperatures of modern life," she said, as she greeted 600 community history curators sent to the conference by branches across the province.

But a long overdue, public awakening to Canada's history was achieved in great measure because of the Women's Institutes establishment of Tweedsmuir community history projects. They were encouraged to do it by Lady Susan Tweedsmuir whose husband, novelist and historian John Buchan, was governor-general of Canada from 1935-40.

Lady Tweedsmuir took a special interest in the provision of libraries for rural areas of Canada and was herself the author of several novels and an autobiography. In tribute to



FLORENCE DIAMOND  
... opens conference

the WI, she said: "When history is written in our world, may it be recorded that the Women's Institutes were one of the greatest unifying and stabilizing powers of the time."

Mrs. Diamond said that the "WI is custodian of a heritage that must not be embalmed. It must be living. We must go forward acknowledging what has gone before and what has been achieved, but with a hope that the years ahead will not only be worthy of those that have gone before, but will turn the light on for someone else."

Turning to the conference theme, Each Generation Makes Its Own Accounting to

Its Children (Robert F. Kennedy), Mrs. Diamond said, "Our every action and attitude can be soaked up by the blotting paper of a youngster's mind. We are the models they copy, so we must consider the accounting we are making for future children. Today's children cannot help but be bewildered because a thousand voices call to them and it is difficult to recognize the sound of truth."

"The success of this International Year of the Child, to my mind, will not rest with new legislation for children's rights. Too many people are viewing it as child versus parent. We need to persuade all adults to tune in on children, to realize their needs are special, and that they need to be considered and listened to. Adults must understand that each is responsible for children in the family, the neighborhood and beyond."

Agriculture and Food Minister William Newman made a flying visit to the conference — he had to be back in the legislature by 9 p.m.

"The WI is the backbone of our province," he said, "and the backbone of much of our agricultural life. My 89-year-old mother still goes to WI meetings and figures that there's no other organization that can touch it."

The minister said farm homes are the strongest social unit in the province.



# The Family Page

Rosalie Little, Family Editor

## A view of North Bay

# "The way we were"

By ROSALIE LITTLE, Nugget Family Editor

Looking at a series of slides of the early days of North Bay, one cannot help but think the pioneers of our area believed the verse . . . "build your house upon a rock."

Freda Barrett, curator of the North Bay Museum and well-known area artist, was guest speaker, Wednesday at Pinewood Park Motor Inn, to the University Women's Club of North Bay.

Introduced by Ernestine McKenna, program chairman, Mrs. Barrett treated her audience of 75 club members and guests to a view of "North Bay . . . The Way We Were."

"We are trying to make our museum a living museum," so one can visit often and see new things each time.

Mrs. Barrett said the people of the area have been very helpful in loaning exhibits and cited an instance last summer when 146 dolls were loaned for a display.

Some of the highlights to be seen in a visit to the museum are rooms featuring pioneer life, the country store and a simulated parlor with furniture from the home of the late John Ferguson, founder of the city and an early mayor.

"St. Andrew's United Church is built on property donated by Mr. Ferguson."

The Nipissing Room is an accomplishment of last summer and was created by Professor VandenHazel and nine university students.

This room has a simulated underwater environment and the children who visit love it, said Mrs. Barrett.

"We have the history of transportation in Nipissing from dugout to diesel. And we have a lot of parts from The John Fraser an old paddlewheel boat found on the other side of Goose Island by Joe Barrio and the Scuba Diving Club.

Mrs. Barrett also noted an excellent display depicting lumbering in the area which was done by a group of Chippewa Secondary School students for the museum.

Plans for the coming summer include a visit from the Archeological Museum Mobile, a speaker from the Royal

Ontario Museum who's specialty is 19th century photography and a history of railroading to be given by North Bayite, Ernie Moulder. A small travelling exhibit to visit area schools is in the plan for 1980 and, she said, "we would like to have a hunting and fishing display."

A picture of the old Ferguson home which took a whole block's space from McIntyre to Front (now Main St.) brought murmurs from the audience.

"This house was torn down in 1953 and the Ascot Motel was built on this site."

An appreciation of North Bay's yesterday and today was brought to life in back-to-back slides of long ago and now.

How many North Bayites remember the Crystal Palace Theatre? Bruce Office Supply replaces it. Campbell's Drugstore appeared in several slides in the early days of the century and was situated where the Singer Sewing Machine Co. was until recently.

A large sign with the word furniture decorated Richardson's Hardware in these glimpses of yesterday.

"This is the oldest business in North Bay being run by the same family," said Mrs. Barrett.

"Don't forget the boys over there," was the directive on a huge banner which stretched across Main St. in a photo taken during the first World War.

Church steeples caught the eye in these early photographs and situated where Cochrane's Hardware is today was the picturesque St. Mary's of the Lake. Where the Royal Bank is, the Mackay House was once a hub of industry with an hotel at the front and groceries etc., "Sold at rock bottom prices," at the back.

"Sidewalks were made of wood and were about three feet above the street." The roads of the city were crowded with rocks and pictured, made it hard to believe people travelled over them.

Dr. McMurchy was North Bay's first doctor and his home, situated just behind where the Bank of Nova Scotia is today, was fronted by a jungle of rock. The building which replaced the home still carries the doctor's name, said Mrs. Barrett.

A workshop on techniques of research is planned within the next two months and volunteers are welcome to attend, she said. The museum committee would like to have a social, a display and a research committee formed in the near future.

If any group would like to tour the museum, Mrs. Barrett said she would be pleased to show them through and anyone wishing to be a volunteer or to visit may contact her at 474-1192.

Ann Burton, vice-president, thanked the guest speaker.



FREDA BARRETT