No. 22 • Vol. 4, No. 6 ISSN 1481-9511 SEPTEMBER 2001

## Ots Hamlets and Post Offices Albemarle TOWNShip BRUCE COUNTY

James E. Kraemer, F.R.P.S.C.

[REF. 138]

The post office at Mar, now 131 years old, continues the exploration of the Albemarle Township Post Offices

begun in Issue N° 21.

### **MAR**

Old-timers have said that in the 1880's and 1890's as many as 114 teams pulling loads of lumber went through Mar in one day. Huge hemlock trees, some four feet across at the stump, were cut for lumber. Much of the lumber cut at Red Bay, Howdenvale and surrounding area went through Mar on its way to Wiarton, eight miles

farther south, for shipment by rail and ship. By 1906 the great lumber industry was declining rapidly and by 1910 had shrunk to a trickle.

The name Mar was chosen by the postal inspector involved in establishing a post office in the area in 1870. He suggested *Brae Mar*, to honour the Scottish people living in the vicinity, but decided that the name was too complex being made up of two names. He then decided on the last part, *Mar*, for the post office name.

On April 1, 1870 Edward White's log home on Lot 18, Concession 3 EBR, became the location for Albemarle Township's second post office. Edward White was born in 1842 the youngest of five sons of Alexander White. His wife was the former Belle Kyte of Wiarton, Ontario. After serving for three years White resigned in early

1873. Thomas Humphrey Lee had been elected the first reeve of Albemarle and the Northern Townships after the separation of Amabel Township. He was reeve for four consecutive terms beginning January 1, 1870 until December 31, 1873. Mr. Lee was appointed Mar's second postmaster on April 1, 1873. He resigned on September 30, 1876 and Edward White again took over the post office. Ed White sold basic provisions from his

home where he also kept the post office.

After five years as postmaster Edward

White resigned effective April 6,

one-and-a-half years later, that William Heasman, a teacher, took over the office. After only 10 months Heasman resigned. The postal authorities found it difficult to

After 1882 postal service at Mar became quite haphaz ard and unreliable. Local people complained that mail arrived one week and did not leave the post office until the following week. It was not until January 1, 1884, over

found it difficult to find a location and a qualified person to serve as post-master. On April 10, 1885, *The Wiarton Echo* stated that, "Mar has trouble getting a postmaster. Two or three could be induced if the annual salary could be raised to \$20.00".

Nathaniel Given Jr. acquired part of Lot 18, Concession 2 EBR in 1887 and erected a building that would serve as a store and post office as well as providing



MAR, Ontario (1888) – Store and post office operated by Nathaniel Given on Lot 18, Conc. 2 EBR. Post office was located here from 1887 until 1984. It was rebuilt in 1925 after being destroyed by fire.

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living quarters. Nathaniel Given Jr. was born in Antrim County, Ireland. He came to Canada with his parents, two brothers and a sister, from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1847. The Givens family had originally emigrated to the U.S.A. Nathaniel Jr. married Margaret Laughlin in 1879. After three years of involuntary postal service Nathaniel Given was appointed postmaster on October 1, 1887. Two years later in 1889 Mr. Given died and his wife Margaret took over the store and post office. She sold the store in I 894 to F. George Hicks and resigned as postmaster on March 10, 1894. Mr. Hicks received his postmaster's appointment on May 1, 1894. The Hick's enlarged the store boarded mill workers and provided accommodations for travellers. George Hicks died on August 6, 1896 after just over two years in office. His wife Rosina continued the business. She managed the store and post office for twelve years and then sold out to Mr. and Mrs. James Bartley of Howdenvale.

When James Bartley was appointed postmaster on September 1, 1908 there were still several sawmills in the area. By 1910 the lumbering industry had declined to the point where very little lumber was produced. During Mr. Bartley's term of office, the courier route to Red Bay became RR#1, a free rural mail service in 1916. D. Caldwell of Mar was awarded the contract by tender. His contract specified that the courier was to make two trips per week in winter and three trips in summer over the 7 mile route. For the year's service ending March 31, 1917 Mr. Caldwell received \$103.16. During his tenure Mr. Bartley was awarded the courier's contract to provide rural route service to Red Bay over RR#1. After providing good service for almost 17 years Mr. Bartley's frame building which housed the general



( 2.A p)

MAR, Ontario (1918) – James T. Bartley's store and post office on Lot 18, Conc. 2 EBR. Store was greatly enlarged in 1894 and destroyed by fire in 1925.

MAR, Ontario (1925) — Wilfred D. MacDonald, postmaster, 1925-1937, with son, Douglas. New store erected on old site in 1925.



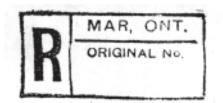
store and post office was completely destroyed by fire on January 18, 1925. Most of the post office supplies and equipment, as well as all postal values were saved. After the fire, Mr. Bartley moved the post office and its equipment one-quarter mile north to James Caldwell's residence. This was to be a temporary arrangement. Mr. Bartley advised the Department that he would not rebuild and submitted his resignation suggesting that Mr. Caldwell be appointed postmaster. The Caldwell home was on Lot 17, Concession 2 EBR. James Caldwell who received his appointment on January 22, 1925 resigned on September 9, 1925. James and Martha, (nee Adams) Caldwell of Hope Bay, had moved to Mar in 1901.

Postal revenue for the fiscal year 1923-1924 was \$137.75. The postmaster's salary was \$69.00. While these monetary values seem insignificant to-day, a post office in a general store brought in store customers. The small salary was the main reason that Mr. Caldwell resigned on August 3, 1925. He advised the Department that Wilfred D. MacDonald had purchased the old site from the former postmaster and had erected a new store. He also recommended that the post office should be relocated there in order to better serve the public.

On September 10, 1925 the post office was transferred to Mr. MacDonald and moved back to Lot 18, Concession 2 EBR. The mail continued to be exchanged with the Wiarton RR#4 mail courier. Winnifred A. MacDonald, the postmaster's wife was sworn in as his post office assistant.

Twelve years later David Murvin White purchased the general store. He advised the Department that he would take possession on May 1, 1937 and applied for the post office. At this time revenue was approximately the same as twelve years previously but the postmaster's salary had increased to \$100.00 per annum plus \$6.00 annual rental allowance. Assisting Mr. White was his daughter, Miss Margaret White.

Over the next ten years his principal assistant was his



Colis Assuré



The handstamps in use at Mar Post Office, September 10, 1928. Signed by Postmaster, W. D. Macdonald.

INSUFFICIENTLY PREPAID

RETURNED. TO

NOT. CALLED. FOR

MISSENT\_TO





Make impressions opposite of all dating and rating stamps used in your office: "Date Stamp", "R. Original No." "Insured Parcel No.", "Not Called for", "Misgrat tomand any others in use.

WDm ae donald
Postmaster.

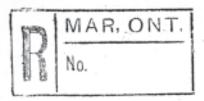
wife, Mary Jane. Others who acted as assistants in the post office at various periods were Miss Lillian Adams, Reginald Lyle Given and Clifford Anderson. Mr. White also had the RR#1 Mar courier's contract. The contract was awarded to Mr. White at \$729.83 per annum plus a wartime bonus.

George Percival (Percy) Steip of Lions Head, Ontario purchased the general store from Mr. White in March 1947. Percy Steip immediately applied to the Department for a transfer of the postmaster's position, as well

as the post office. Mr. White resigned at the same time but as is usual carried on until the post office was transferred to Mr. Steip on May 29, 1947. Mr. Steip's wife, Helen was sworn in as his assistant. Percy Steip was destined to serve for nearly 15 years. On January 15, 1963 Percy Steip died. His wife, Helen E. Steip, became his successor and operated the

The handstamps in use at Mar Post Office, September 28, 1937. Signed by Post office Assistant, Reginald Given, for Postmaster, D. M. White.

80707





INSURED PARCEL
Colis Assuré

HOT.CALLED.FOR

RETURNED . TO

PREPAID

Signed by Reginald Given Post Office Assistant

MISSENT-TO

Date 28th Sept.

....193.....

D. M. White
Postmaster

This form must bear the personal signature of the Postmaster. If, for any reason, the Postmaster of the person in charge should write in the Postmaster's name, put his or her own signature on the d furnish a brief explanation of the Postmaster's failure to sign personally.



MAR, Ontario (1981) – The reconstructed 1925 store and post office lasted well into the 1980's. The post office was located at these premises until 1984 when local pressure dictated a change.





MAR ONTARIO. XII / 30 / 1976 A large 30-mm datestamp.



business including the post office for another twelve years. During the late 1960's post office revenue hovered around \$1,600.00 per annum. Postal service was via Wiarton-Tobermory Highway Service. Nineteen families received service at Mar. In addition mail for the summer offices of Howdenvale and Pike Bay and year-round service for Red Bay were exchanged at Mar.

In 1969 it was suggested that the Mar post office should be considered for closing. Mr. H. F. Murray the District Postal Director in London, Ontario would not recommend closure. On March 28, 1963, Mar became an Accounting office and lost its status as a non-accounting office. Its office number **80707** became Money Order Office number **3579**.

On December 30, 1969 the Mar post office was

reclassified from Group 5 to Group 6. The postmaster's salary increased to \$2,160.00 per annum plus a rent allowance of \$240.00 annually. Mrs. Helen Steip was put on acting status. A Board was convened and agreed that Mrs. Steip qualified for the postmaster's position with its added responsibilities. She was confirmed in January 1970. Revenue kept increasing. In 1972 revenue reached \$3,948.00. On March 14, 1975, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley (Bill) Johnston purchased the store.

Crawford Douglas, the local Member of Parliament, recommended to the Postmaster General that the post office be transferred to Bill Johnston. The postal vacancy was advertised and a rating board consisting of W. C. Gilbank, postmaster at Owen Sound, and G. E. R. Butchart, postmaster at Wiarton was set up. Only one application from Mrs. Colleen Violet Johnston, nee



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MAR, Ontario (October 2000) – Esso Service Station, store, post office, and restaurant.

Thomas was received. The Board ruled that she was qualified. Mrs. Johnston received her appointment as postmaster on June 27, 1975 effective September 16, 1975.

A post office report for 1984 showed that the Mar post office served 35 residences and one business. The rural route, RR#1 Mar, served 125 residences and 9 business addresses. The Mar post office was closed in December, 1984. Green mail boxes for customers were set up outside the former post office. These were used from December, 1984 until January 20, 1986 when the post office reopened. The post office was now located in the home of Aylmer and

June Moore with Mrs. June Moore as postmaster. In January 1997 the householder count had increased to 371. On June 25, 1999 the post office was moved to the building on the northwest corner of Highway 6 and the Red Bay road. This was the post office's former site, Lot 18, Concession 2 EBR. Mrs. Renee Stewart who had recently purchased the *Church at Mar*, was appointed postmaster on June 25, 1999. On July 1, 1999 Ms Sherrill Bartley leased the *Church Restaurant* from the Stewarts and took over responsibility for the post office on August 1, 1999. Mrs. Stewart is still the postmaster and pays Ms Bartley for performing the postal duties. The building houses *The Church Restaurant*, the post office, a store, and an Esso service station.

Over the years the rural area has changed. Beef farming with grain crops have become the principal industry. Thousands of tourists pass through Mar each year on their way farther up the Bruce peninsula or on their return to the south. Presently Mar is the only post office in Albemarle Township.

### EDITORAL COMMENCATY

Gus Knierim

[REF. 139]

With this issue, N° 22, we have concluded four volumes and four years of this Newsletter. At the beginning we where wondering if we would ever find enough material for each issue, after all we are only covering four of Ontario's Counties. We know the answer to that – there is an abundance of information that is just waiting to be harvested, organized, identified, and put together into an article. What we are really wondering is how we can gather it all.

There is relatively little response to the Newsletter. Since we are still growing I am assuming that we are on the right track.

As a Study Group we have grown from 3 members to 20 members who were willing to give it a try after the first issue to 59 members who are receiving the Newsletter at the present time. We were up to 62 with one member cancelling due to age and other interests, and two members who were dropped because of non-renewal. I might just take a moment to explain the latter. When your subscription expires you will receive a "POSTAGE DUE" stick-on note attached to your newsletter telling you that 1000¢ are due. Thereafter you will receive two issues, and an email if I have your current address and then I am afraid you will be dropped without further ado. Sorry about that but our dues cover just the copying and mailing costs. They do not cover incidental mailings, long distance calls, courtesy issues for promotion, etc.

Enough nattering – with this issue most of you will have to renew. Your prompt renewal is appreciated.

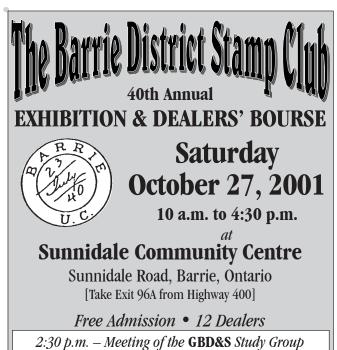
Please take note of the announcement of the Barrie Stamp

Club's 40th Annual Exhibition and Bourse. It is an excellent show to meet other postal historians and because of that I invite all to attend our informal CHAT SESSION around 2:30 in the afternoon.

Hope to see you there!

Gus Knierim, editor

PS Please keep us informed with email addresses (and the inevitable changes), mailing addresses, etc.



### POST OFFICE BUILDINGS ON POST CARDS



[REF. 140]

The second building from the left shown on this real photocard has a sign reading **POST OFFICE** projecting from the front. Postmarked with a DUNDALK *I* ONT. circular datestamp on September 21, 1908 (a device proofed on August 19, 1904), the building seen here would have been used under the postmastership of Mrs. Elizabeth Hanbury, who held that office for 45 years from 1888 to 1933. In fact, various members of the Hanbury family were in charge of this office from 1885 to 1950.

The post office had been established in Proton Township, Grey County as Dundalk Station on April 1, 1874,

its name being shortened to Dundalk on November 1, 1885. (It was the second office to bear this name, the first having operated in Melancthon Township, on the Dufferin-Grey county line, from 1856 to 1874, when its name was changed to Mayburne.) The later Dundalk post office is still open and very much in the business of serving the local citizenry.

The listing for the broken-circle postmarks of Dundalk which appears in Bruce Graham's book is somewhat confusing, since he lists *three* post offices, when only two different ones existed; Bruce lists the one dealt with here as Dundalk (3), and shows only one broken circle hammer (aside from the earlier Dundalk Station markings). The one listed does not appear in the proof impression books, but has a known period of use from September 9, 1892 to June 8, 1896.

Five different DUNDALK / ONT. circular datestamps appear in the proof impression books, two apparently different ones of August 19, 1904, one of

April 21, 1917, one of June 20, 1917, and one of January 19 (or perhaps February 19 – the strike is unclear), 1968. As well, two duplex devices (Lee type B-11) were proofed on April 12 and June 20, 1917.

Three money order date stamps were proofed and are shown on page 212.

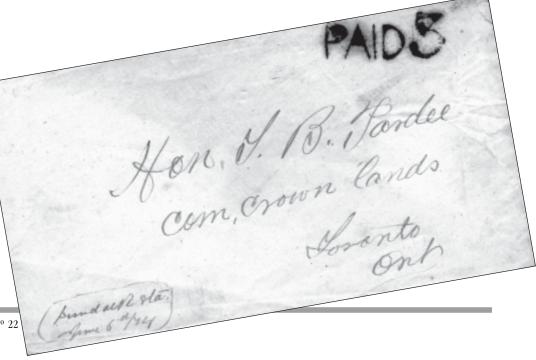
As is so often the case there are no record of modern MOON or POCON date stamps. Dundalk was assigned the 0000 MOON number and in April 1973 the 391239 POCON.

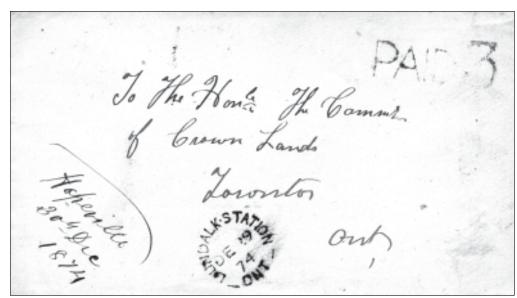


The business section of Dundalk is on Main Street West. The post office at this time was located in the second building on the left. The sign simply reads POST OFFICE.

Dundalk Stn.
April 6th/74

Dundalk Station opened April 1, 1874. If
the manuscript cancellation is any proof
then the broken circle hammer had not
arrived. This is the earliest known cover
from this village.





Hopeville 30th Dec 1874

The settlement at Hopeville opened its post office on December 1, 1874. This cover from Hopeville via Dundalk Station to Toronto appears to have an error in the dating. Either the postmaster at Hopeville or at Dundalk Station misread the calendar.

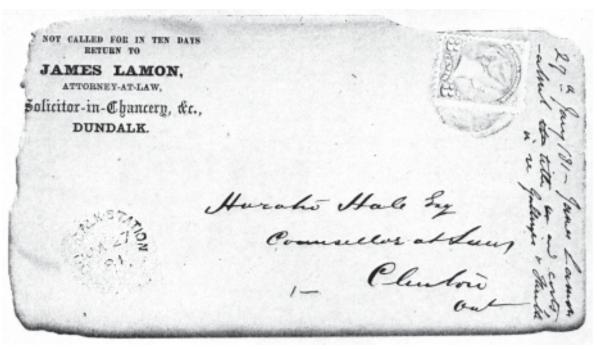
This marking is unrecorded and the earliest known cover from Hopeville. It is also the earliest known use of the A1 Dundalk 20-mm hammer.

### DUNDALK • STATION ONT DE 29 74

Latest known use of the first 20-mm A1 hammer.

The second A1 hammer was proofed SP 2 1881 and is shown below.





#### DUNDALK ONT JU 8 96

Dundalk had only one broken circle hammer. The instrument had a 19 mm diameter with

5.5 mm arcs and is known used between SP 9 1892 and JU 8 1896.

A later view of the business section of Dundalk.
The real photo card was mailed from Durham
on October 18, 1910.
courtesy Yvonne Krauter, Flesherton PO.





Dundalk Station was an appropriate name for the early settlement as the Toronto, Grey & Bruce Rwy. (later Canadian Pacific Rwy.) passed through the centre of the village on its way from Toronto to Owen Sound. Here we have a CP train dropping of passengers and no doubt mail from Owen Sound. This mural is one of four in present-day Dundalk created by artist Allen C. Hilgendorf.

DUNDALK

the issuing

rectangular date stamp

office.

ONT.

The Money Order Office datéstamp used COUPON on this Money Order Coupon was proofed Jan. 26, 1928. 4866 The \$25 money order was cashed at Hamilton on May 14, 1929. Note the use of the circular date stamp for office and the for the paying

> DUNDALK DEC 28 1939 ONT.

Proof strikes of early money order date stamps . . . and some very recent POCONS from the community.

Proof strikes of the four full-circle cds date stamps. The 1917 hammer was used until early 1968 when the new modern date stamp was introduced.





391239 2001 -03- 0 7 DUNDALK, ON NOC 180



The present-day DUNDALK post office on Main Street East is willing and ready to serve all with a smile . . . and a nice cancel to promote local events.



Two Duplex hammers

were produced in 1917 at the same time as the regular full-circle cds hammers. There appears to be no ap-parent reason for the need of 4 hammers within a period of two months.

Susan Sheffield in her book Canada Post Office Losses Caused by Fire: 1889-1917 has no record of a calamity in Dundalk in 1917.



# CRAIGHURS [REF. R-132] NORTH SIMCOE BRANCH RWY.

The following response was received from Member, Michael Millar as additional information to the article on the Craighurst cover by Susan Sheffield and J. C. Campbell.

"In addition to being Postmaster at Craighurst, John Craig was Clerk of the 5th Division Court. Correspondence to him is actually quite common. My daughter Ellen, who is Assistant Simcoe County Archivist, to whom I showed the article, wonders if this was an application for a marriage license. Looking at the notation below the "\$2.00" at the names could be an ampersand or it could be "vs" between the names in which case it would be a suit involving the two parties named. According to Hunter's History of Simcoe County, Thomas Craig and his two sons, John (1798-1876) and Thomas Jr. (1808-1871), came out from Kendal, Westmoreland in the spring of 1821 and took up Lots 43 and 44 on the Medonte Township (East) side of the Penetanguishene Road. These were 100-acre (long hundred) lots, the third and fourth lots north of the present-day village of Craighurst, which apparently in the early days was known as Morrison's Corners after one Morrison who kept a tavern there. The Medonte Township map in the 1881 Belden Atlas of Simcoe County shows Craigs on both of these lots although by this time Lot 44 was owned by Abraham Craig who is listed in Belden as being the Division Court Clerk. The map shows the Courthouse right on the lot line between Lots 43 and 44. Lot 43 is still listed as being owned by Thomas. John Craig, Postmaster and 5th Division Court Clerk served for many years on Medonte Township Council and was Township Reeve continuously from 1861 to 1866. He was Warden of Simcoe County in 1857. He never married and died on the 23rd of May 1876, aged 78 years. Thomas Jr., on the other hand, did marry and had quite a large family. Three of the sons were John (1841-1922), Thomas (1844-1921 who would have been the Thomas Craig who succeeded John as Postmaster) and Abraham (1852-1918). The 1881 Belden Atlas shows this John across the road in Flos Township at Lot 42. At some point Abraham must have taken over this property from his brother because when Hunter did his seminal work on the history of Simcoe County in the early years of the last century (the original history was published in 1909), he notes "... Abraham, Division Court Clerk on the opposite, or Flos, side of the road." Abraham's great-grandson (Thomas Sr's. greatgreat-great grandson), John Neil, the Deputy Mayor of Oro-Medonte Township, still lives on this property. As an aside there has been a Thomas in every generation from Thomas Sr's. father back in England who was also Thomas.

That is the family history. Specific comments relating to this cover. It was addressed to Abraham's brother John – the former postmaster. John having been deceased some eleven years by this date. I think that both brothers ran the Division Court but Abraham was the Clerk. By this time, 1887, the Craighurst Post Office was located in a store just up from the corner on the Flos Township side of the Penetanguishene Road, with Joseph H. Swan as the Postmaster. (Location would be almost at the SE corner of Lot 41, Concession 1, old survey, Flos Twp.) This building still exists. The article is correct in the distance between Anten Mills and Craighurst. Both are on what is now called the Horseshoe Valley Road, Simcoe County Road 22, but at that time it was known as the Flos/Vespra Town Line. But there never has been any direct mail connection between the two places, it has always been via Barrie.

There is a lot of this Craig correspondence around. It turned up the late 50's or early 60's when the late Bob Thompson got onto it. Bob – and I stand to be corrected on this point - was a traveller for a cutlery firm and used to go around the country giving talks and demonstrations to Women's Institutes. He always used to conclude his visits by asking if anyone had any old cards or letters at home that they might like to get rid of. Over the years he had been able to assemble a pretty good Ontario postal history collection. He hit the jackpot the night he spoke to one of the Women Institutes in this area because one of the Craig women was there and took him back to the house. They had kept all of the Division Court correspondence over the years in one room in the house and Bob pretty well cleared it out. As might be expected it was rich in early Simcoe County postmarks.

On the illustrated cover in addition to the circled 16 there are two other numbers, 182 and 948. I expect the 182 is the Anten Mills registration number and the 948 the Craighurst reception number. I don't think the circled 16 is contemporary with the cover, the style looks too modern, unless it was a Division Court file or reference number. I expect, too, that the Barrie transit mark is struck in blue. With the Division Court being at Craighurst they handled a lot of mail and certainly handled more than 16 registered letters in a year. At one time mails for Coulson and Jarratt's Corners were handled through Craighurst. But I think this arrangement was only in effect while Charles Jarratt was postmaster at Jarratt's Corners and it was later changed to Orillia for Jarratt's Corners and Oro Station for Coulson.



In Issue N° 21 we inadvertently Lereated a situation which could very easily be misleading. On both the cover and page 195 we show the Mulmur B2sx handstamp with the typeset date of JA 1 1851. The editor took the graphic license to emphasize the 150th Anniversary of Mulmur Township by adding the date to the B2Sx hammer that has only been seen with manuscript dates. Please note NO typeset date has been seen with this hammer. The 1st June 1853 usage as seen on the cover on page 196 is the latest known usage of that hammer. Surely there must be another hammer that was in use between those early years and 1900.

The typographic gremlins were also present in the Albemarle Township article. On page 202 we show a cover with a COLPOYS • BAY ONT. / MY 13 / 1898 cancel. The caption should reflect that date and not the stated 1908.

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ATLAS of POST OFFICES in the Counties of GREY, BRUCE **DUFFERIN & SIMCOE** 

from the Editor

[ONLY 50 COPIES PRINTED WILL BE REPRINTED IN LOTS OF 25 IF THERE IS DEMAND]

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by SUSAN M. SHEFFIELD

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