



The Georgian Courier

THE GREY, BRUCE, DUFFERIN & SIMCOE POSTAL HISTORY STUDY GROUP

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[REF. 206]

County of Bruce TOWN OF SOUTH BRUCE PENINSULA

James E. Kraemer, FRPSC, FRPSL

For many years Bruce County in Ontario has been comprised of sixteen townships, each with a Reeve and a number of Township Councillors. This all changed on January 1, 1999 when eight new municipalities were created. Postal historians and many others will be interested in the new realignment. The new municipalities are as follows:

MUNICIPALITY OF NORTHERN BRUCE PENINSULA (formerly Townships of Eastnor, Lindsay, St. Edmunds, and the Village of Lion's Head).

TOWN OF SOUTH BRUCE PENINSULA (formerly Townships of Albemarle, Amabel, Village of Hepworth, and Town of Wiarton)

MUNICIPALITY OF ARRAN-ELDERSLIE (formerly Townships of Arran, Elderslie, Village of Tara/Paisley, and Town of Chesley).

TOWN OF SAUGEEN SHORES (formerly Township of Saugeen and Towns of Port Elgin and Southampton).

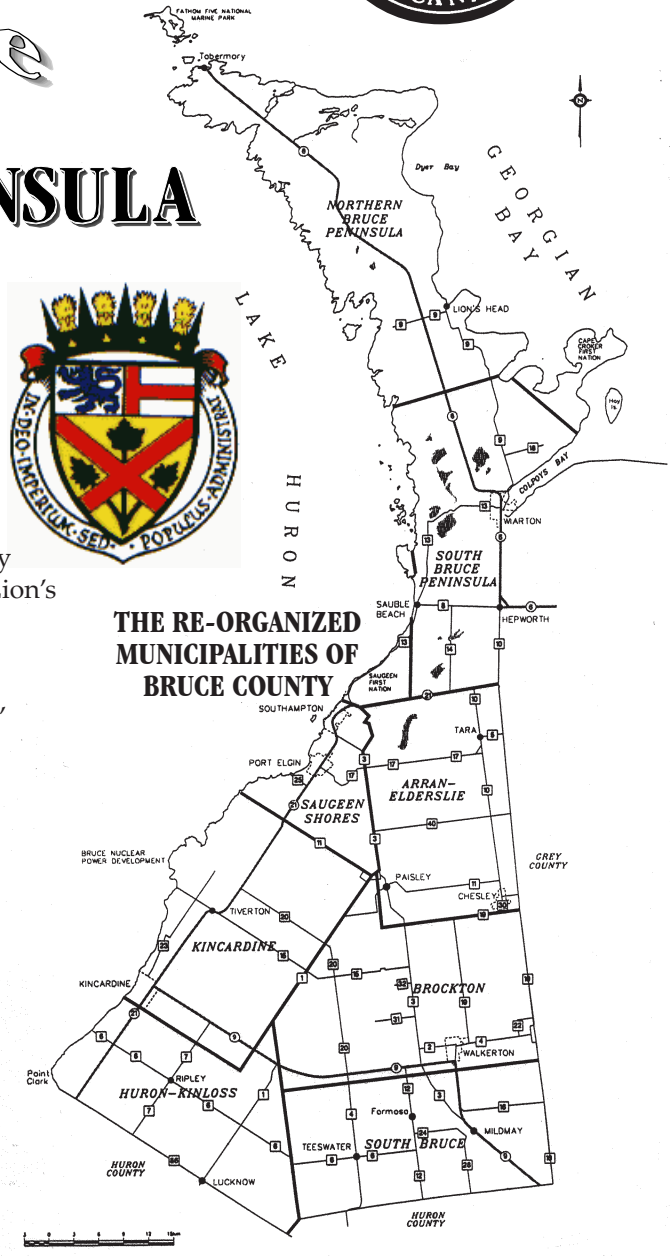
MUNICIPALITY OF KINCARDINE (formerly Townships of Kincardine, Bruce, Village of Tiverton, and Town of Kincardine).

MUNICIPALITY OF BROCKTON (formerly Townships of Brant, Greenock, and Town of Walkerton).

TOWNSHIP OF HURON-KINLOSS (formerly Townships of Huron, Kinloss, and Village of Lucknow)

MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH BRUCE (formerly Townships of Mildmay-Carrick, and Teeswater-Culcross).

The socio-postal history for the post offices in the **Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula** has appeared in earlier editions of, *The Georgian Courier*.



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With regard to the post offices in the **Town of South Bruce Peninsula**, the offices in Albermarle Township and most of those in Amabel Township have been printed in *The Georgian Courier*. Over the next few months the author hopes to complete the postal history of the remaining postal facilities in the Town of South Bruce Peninsula. This will include the Town of Warton and the Village of Hepworth which have been partly in Grey County prior to January 1, 1999.

The Town of South Bruce Peninsula

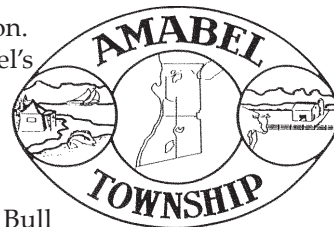
AMABEL

The Township of Amabel became a part of the Town of South Bruce Peninsula on January 1, 1999. Lord Bury, Secretary to the Governor-General, Sir Edmund Walker Head, 1854-1861, named the township after his sister, Lady Amabel who was the Governor-General's wife.

The township has an area of 132.7 square miles containing 68,183 acres with twenty miles of frontage on Lake Huron. George Gould surveyed the township in 1856. (In 1901 it was known as, "the most southern township in the Bruce Indian Peninsula.") On September 2, 1856 the Government's Indian Affairs Department

offered land for sale by auction.

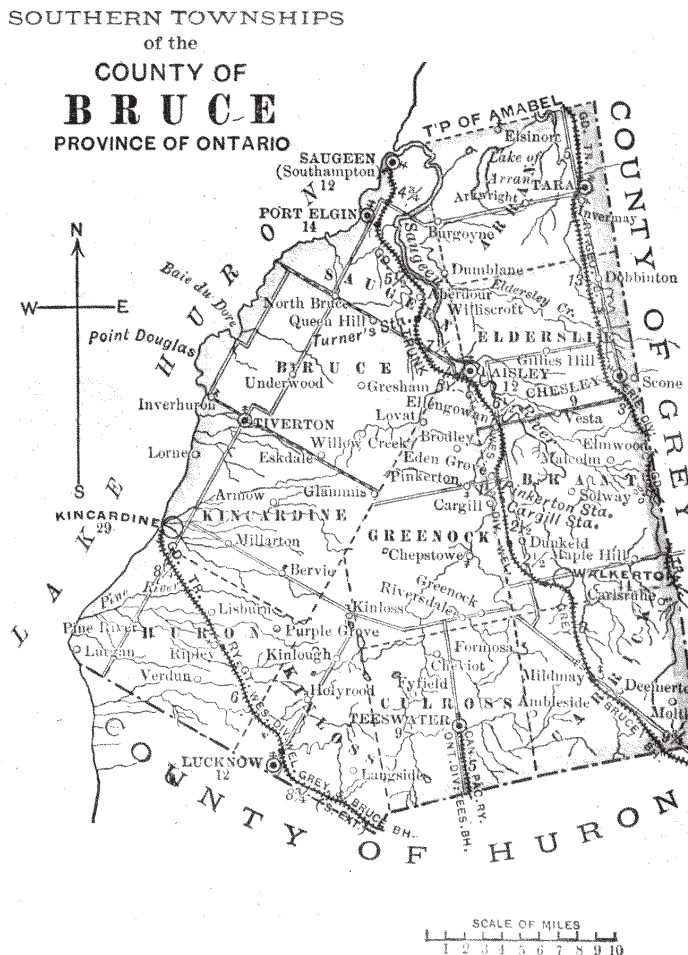
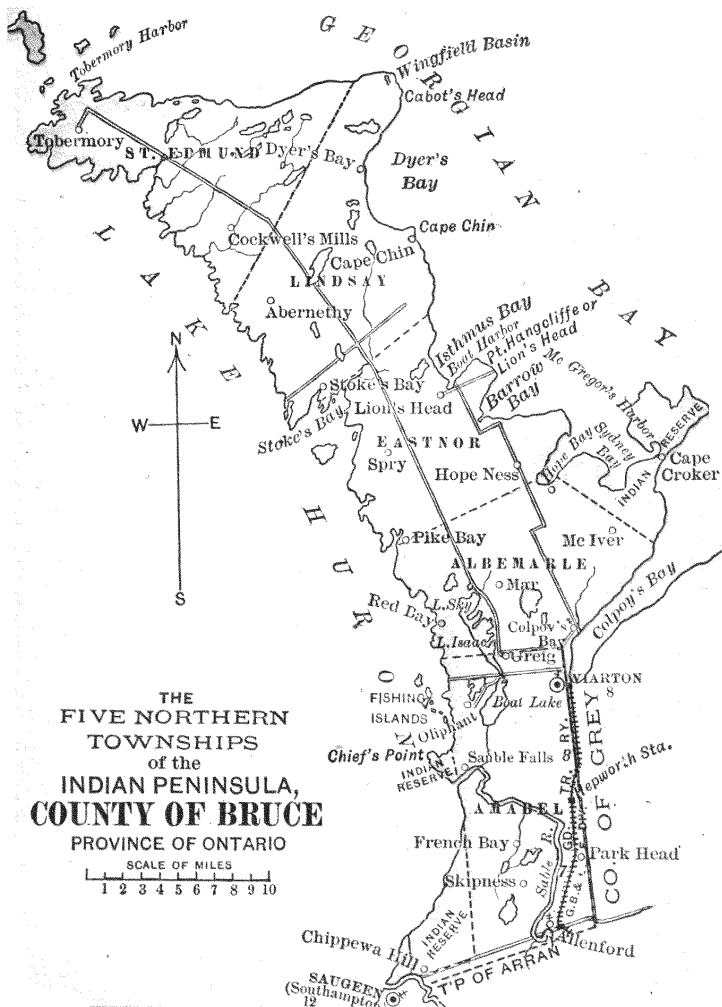
David Forsyth became Amabel's first settler when he squatted on land near Elsinore in the fall of 1846. The next settler James Allen settled on lot 9, Concession "A", and William Bull settled on Lot N 1/3 of 1, Concession 25, in April 1847.



Amabel Township was attached to Arran Township in December 1856. Amabel and Albemarle separated from Arran on 26 September, 1861. In 1870 Albemarle separated, and Arran began its existence as a separate municipal corporation leaving Amabel by itself.

The northern part of the Township is rocky with the northwestern part hilly and sandy. Five lakes, Chesley, Maryville, Gould, Boat and Spry plus several smaller lakes including Silver and Carson Lakes are spread over the township. The Sauble River with the Rankin and Clavering rivers feeding their waters into the Sauble drain most of the township.

Amabel's population in 1861 was 182. By 1871 it had increased to 1805. Twenty years later in 1891 Amabel had 3,890 people. The population dropped to 3,587 in 1901 as the timber industry declined. Agriculture then became the chief industry but soon diminished as some of the soil was too sandy and unsuited. In the 1940s



The sixteen townships of Bruce County.

tourism began to flourish. To-day (2006) it forms a substantial industry. In 1967 the Canadian census said there were 4,463 summer residents plus 1540 permanent residents.

The first post office in the township was Elsinore which opened on May 1, 1863. In 1867 there were 45 post offices in Bruce County of which three, Elsinore, Hepworth and Park Head were located in Amabel Township. The Stratford & Huron Railway which came to Amabel in 1882 gave considerable impetus to the township's development.

Oliphant and the Fishing Islands

Lawrence Oliphant, 1829–1888, British author, became Secretary to Lord Elgin in 1852. In 1854, when he was Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs he negotiated the Oliphant Treaty with the Ojibwa Indians allowing the lands gained by the Manitowaning Treaty of 1836 to be surveyed and sold. Sir Francis Bond Head, Governor-General of Upper Canada, had negotiated the Manitowaning Treaty on Manitoulin Island. It provided for acquisition by the Crown of Indian land on Manitoulin Island and the Saugeen peninsula, The town plot for Oliphant was laid out adjacent to the Gagheto Fishing Islands in 1856. (Gagheto, pronounced gee-gee-to, is from the Ojibwa word for fish, "geego"). The survey was done by Charles Rankin P.L.S., of Owen Sound. The Town's plot layout was grandiose in scale. Due principally to the fact that the water was too shallow for ships, the settlement, named in honour of Lawrence Oliphant, did not develop as expected. Although many settlers took up land the village developed more into a community of summer homes and cottages.

William McCutcheon, an early settler, became Oliphant's first postmaster when the post office was established on April 1, 1875. Two months later Mr. McCutcheon resigned and another early settler, John Hutchinson was appointed. He walked to Warton with the outgoing mail and returned with the mail for Oliphant and Sauble Falls. The day after his return he would walk to Sauble Falls with their mail. Eventually Hutchinson purchased a horse, the first one in the community, and carried the mail by horseback. After serving as postmaster for sixteen years, Mr. Hutchison resigned effective January 2, 1891.

James A. Simpson and Mrs. Catherine Cox followed

consecutively, as postmasters, until April 18, 1899. Each served for a four-year period. Hector McKenzie became Oliphant's postmaster on June 1, 1899. He was the first of four generations of McKenzies that would be postmasters at Oliphant. Hector McKenzie married Ellen Greig, a daughter of Alexander Greig, postmaster of Greig. They lived for a short period at the Greig Settlement before moving to Oliphant. After serving thirteen years as postmaster Mr. McKenzie resigned on March 2, 1912.

William H. Wright looked after the post office as postmaster for 2½ months resigning on July 8, 1912. Revenue at Oliphant's post office was very modest in the early days as was the postmaster's remuneration. The following are the respective monetary figures for the years indicated.

	REVENUE	REMUNERATION
1877	\$14.32	\$10.00
1886	\$22.92	\$16.00
1905	\$34.68	\$25.00
1909	\$80.50	\$35.00

Oliphant's mail came from Warton, seven miles away, four times a week. The courier went on to Sauble Falls, a further five miles. The early couriers and the date they commenced their contract were:

S. Hyatt	1903
M. S. Johnston	April 1, 1907
J. McVannel	April 1, 1910

Murdoch McKenzie was appointed postmaster of Oliphant on September 9, 1912. In the 1920s his son, T. H. McKenzie and his daughter Cindy M. McKenzie acted as postmaster assistants. Each summer Mr. McKenzie moved the post office from his home to his general store on the beach in order to be more convenient for visitors, cottagers and customers. Mr. McKenzie had been postmaster for seventeen years when he passed away on May 28, 1929.

End of the road, Oliphant, September 2004. There are 70 islands off shore, Cranberry Island being the largest at 124 acres.





McKenzie's pavilion erected in 1921. It was built by William McKenzie and his two sons, William and Thomas. The pavilion was located just north of McKenzie's "Maple Leaf Store", now demolished. The post office (marked by arrow) was located in "Mac's Snacks", a lunch bar attached to the pavilion.

After his death the family continued to look after the post office. The Honourable James Malcolm, Minister of Public Works and later Minister of Trade and Commerce recommended that Mrs. Elizabeth L. McKenzie, the late postmaster's wife, be appointed postmaster. Mrs. McKenzie who did not enjoy good health decided to resign on January, 6, 1931.

A survey of potential postmasters was made by the post office authorities with the result that Mitchell Bovair was given the appointment. Nine days later, for what must be the shortest postmaster's record of service in the county, Mr. Bovair decided he did not have the necessary time to devote to postal affairs and resigned.

His successor, Mrs. Catherine Martha Wright, a widow, was appointed postmaster on September 15, 1931. She had been Acting Postmaster since Mr. Bovair resigned in July. Mrs. Wright named her daughter Mrs. Etta Pritchard as her assistant. The annual compensation paid to the postmaster for the fiscal year 1930-1931 amounted to \$104.88. On September 30, 1931 the

Oliphant post office closed for the season. On this date the status of the post office changed to a Seasonal post office operating each year from mid-June until mid-September. The mails were exchanged daily except Sunday with R.R. 3 Warton.

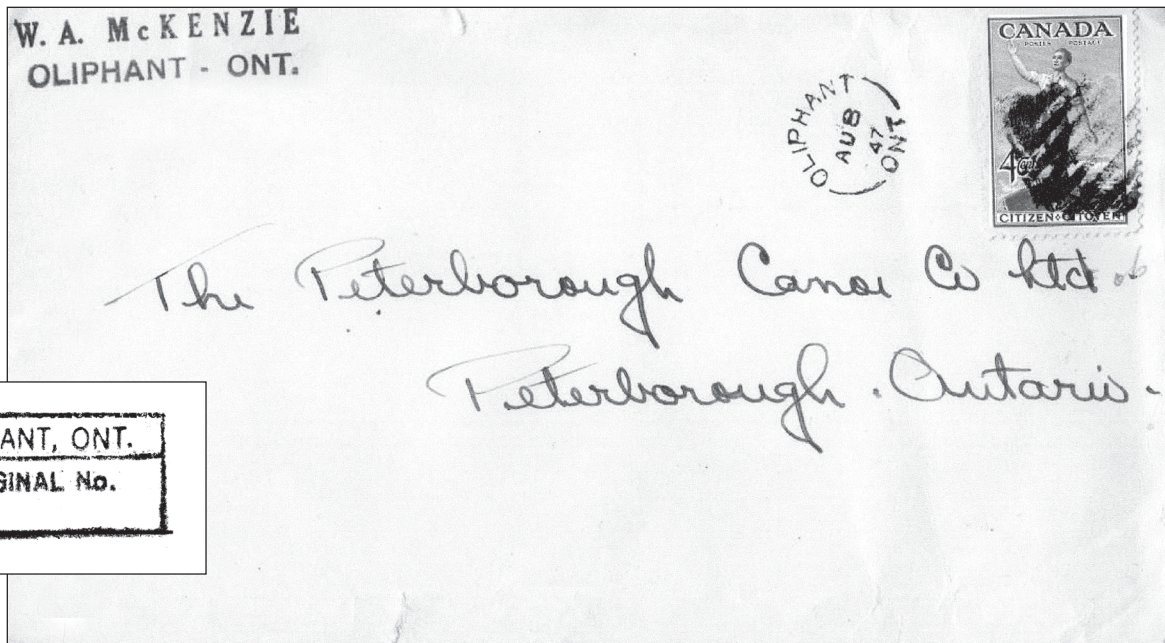
Mrs. Wright who was born on October 8, 1853, advised the Department that she was in her 94th year and was resigning effective December 30, 1946. She suggested

that her daughter, Mrs. Etta Alice Pritchard, who had been her assistant for 15 years and clerked in a grocery store, be appointed her successor. Mrs. Pritchard received her appointment on June 16, 1947. Three years later she resigned. She advised the Post Office Department that she had decided to look after her mother who was ill and was now in her 99th year.

Mr. William Angus McKenzie, a WWI veteran, applied to the Department by letter dated March 31, 1951, for the postmaster's position, proposing his daughter Cicely A. McKenzie as an assistant. When the post office opened for the summer season on June 15, 1951 it had moved about 150 yards north to Lot 27/28, Plan 357, on the Shore Road to a lunch counter area adjoining Mr. McKenzie's general store. It is a matter of interest that revenue for the 1950 season amounted to \$222.21. The postmaster received \$168.16 as remuneration plus \$22.00 rent allowance. Marjorie McKenzie, another daughter was sworn in as an assistant in June 1953. The mail continued to be exchanged with R.R. 3, Warton.

**OLIPHANT ONT. /
AU 8 / 47**
A letter mailed by
postmaster-to-be
William Angus
McKenzie.

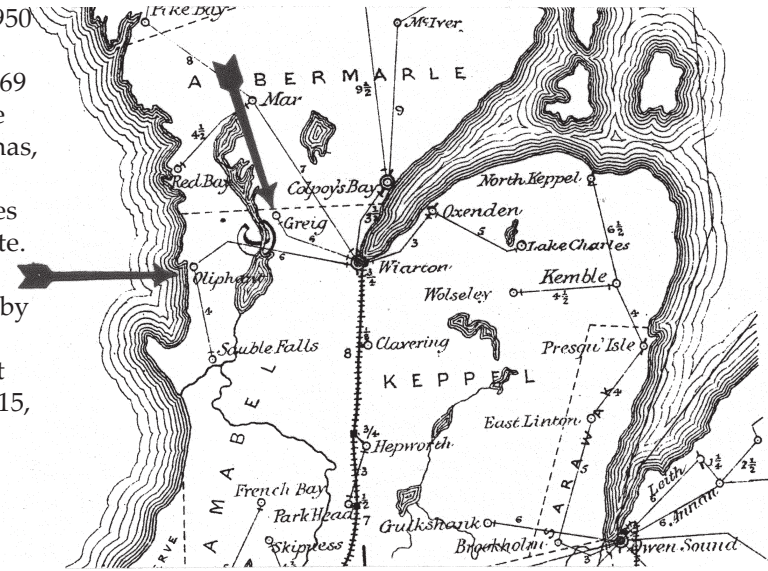
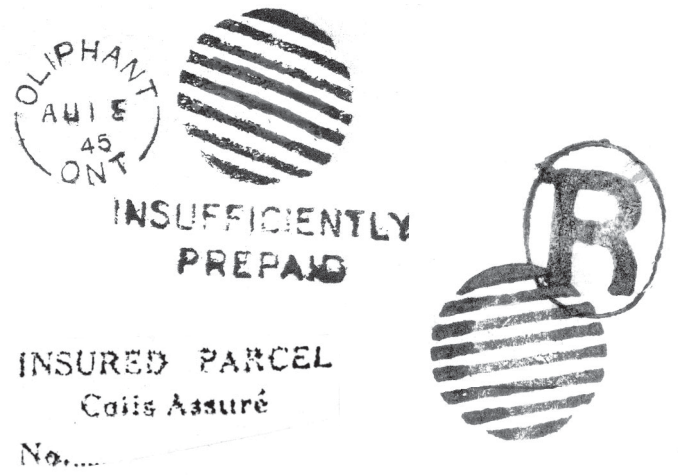
COURTESY - Robt. C. Smith



In early spring 1959 William McKenzie sent his resignation to the Department advising them that his son, Murdoch Ross McKenzie, had taken over the business and suggested that he be appointed postmaster.

Murdoch Ross McKenzie was appointed Acting Postmaster on June 15, 1959 becoming the fourth generation of McKenzies to serve Oliphant as postmaster. His wife Ann, nee Hahn, and his two sisters Annie and Marjorie were sworn in as assistants. Since no recommendation for Oliphant postmaster had been received from A. E. Robinson, M.P. of Kincardine, Murdoch Ross McKenzie was appointed on a temporary basis when the post office opened for the summer season. He was confirmed on July 6, 1959 and Mr. Robinson was notified accordingly. By 1959 post office revenue had increased close to \$400.00. By contrast, revenue in 1950 was \$222.21. It would not be until 1969 that revenue would reach \$1,000.00. A post office inspection in 1969 noted that the post office was in Group 23, that there were approximately 150 summer patrons, two marinas, and one general store.

During the 1970s and 1980s the number of cottages increased while the business sector was at a stalemate. Fishing stocks decreased considerably. It became apparent that post office customers could be served by group boxes and the post office would be no longer required. Richard Bowness from the London District Office closed the post office officially on September 15, 1986. Murdoch Ross McKenzie had been Oliphant's postmaster for 27 years.



1883 post office route map showing the Greig Settlement 6 miles from Wiar-ton.

The Postmasters of Oliphant and their Periods of Service

Post Office established: April 1, 1875

William McCutcheon	Apr. 1, 1875 until June 5, 1875	RESIGNATION
John Hutchinson	Oct. 1, 1875 until Jan. 1, 1891	RESIGNATION
James Alva Simpson	June 27, 1891 until Apr. 30, 1895	RESIGNATION
Mrs. Catherine Cox	June 19, 1895 until Apr. 18, 1899	RESIGNATION
Hector McKenzie	June 1 1899 until Mar. 2, 1912	RESIGNATION
William H. Wright	Apr. 26, 1912 until July 8, 1912	RESIGNATION
Murdoch McKenzie	Oct. 9, 1912 until May 28, 1929	DEATH
Mrs. Eliz. Land McKenzie	June 24, 1929 until Jan. 6, 1931	RESIGNATION
Mitchell Bovair	July 4, 1931 until July 13, 1931	RESIGNATION
Mrs. Cath. Martha Wright	July 14, 1931	ACTING
Mrs. Cath. Martha Wright	Sep. 15, 1931 until Dec. 30, 1946	RESIGNATION
Mrs. Etta Alice Pritchard	May 29, 1947	ACTING
Mrs. Etta Alice Pritchard	June 16, 1947 until Mar. 20, 1951	RESIGNATION
Wm. Angus McKenzie	June 15, 1951 until Apr. 1, 1959	RESIGNATION
Murdoch Ross McKenzie	June 15, 1959	ACTING
Murdoch Ross McKenzie	July 6, 1959 until Sep. 15, 1986	

Post Office closed: Sep. 15, 1986

Non Accounting Office No.: 81099

Computer Office No.: 396109 (Est. April 1, 1973)

Postal Code: N0H 2A0

1926 *M. H. Kemp*
Postmaster.

1929 *E. L. McKenzie*
Postmaster.

1940 *(Mrs) E. H. Wright*
Postmaster.

1947 *Etta Pritchard*
Postmaster.

1951 *W. A. McKenzie*
Postmaster.

OLIPHANT was a non-accounting office (#81099) that had two Type A1 broken circle hammers. The first device measured 21.5 mm (arcs 11.5, 10.5) and has been reported in use MR 28 / 1892. The second device, A1, 19.5 mm (arcs 9.0, 7.5) was proofed AU 25 / 1911 and has been recorded in use JUL 10 / 1939 to AU 8 / 1947. A third 23-mm full-circle hammer was proofed 28 IV / 1954, saw service until the office was closed September 15, 1986.

A variety of instructional rubber stamps as well as a roller cancel, as shown here and on p. 409, were also utilized by the post office.



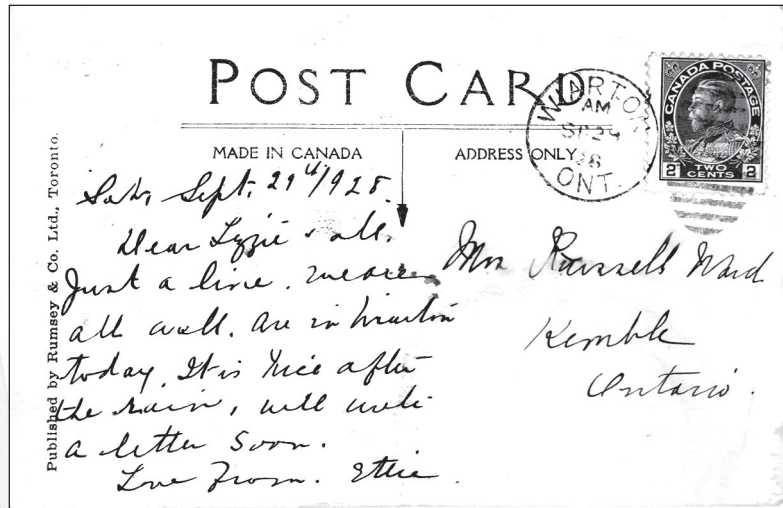
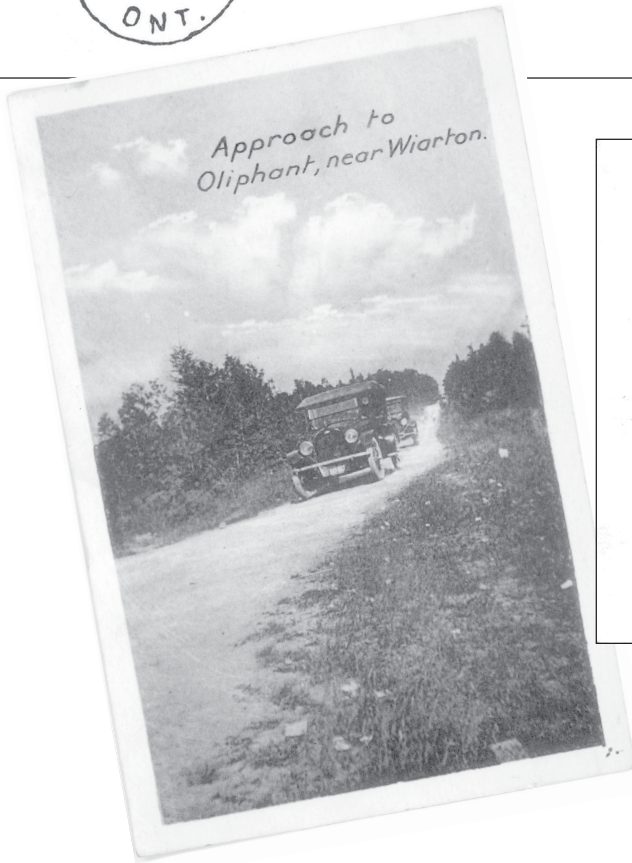
PROOF DATE
28 IV / 54

81099

RETURNED - TO

MISSENT TO

NOT CALLED FOR



This Oliphant post card was posted at Warton, September 28, 1928, and postmarked with Warton duplex DON-1964, for its destination in Kemble.

Greig (Kennoway)

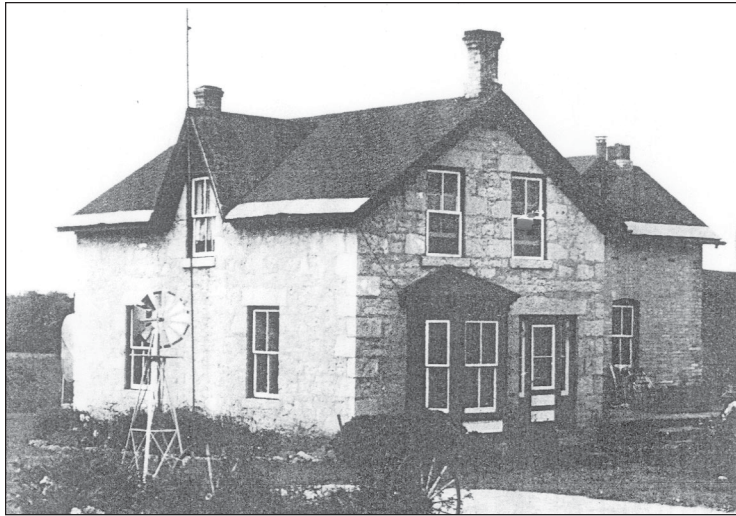
Alexander Greig, a weaver, born near Kirkcaldy, Scotland in 1832, came to Canada with his wife in 1857. He and Mrs. Greig, the former Helen Galloway, came from Fifeshire, Scotland and settled in Amabel Township, Bruce County, on the northern boundary with Albemarle Township. They owned Lot 14, the west half Lot 15, Lot 16 on Concession 25 in Amabel and Lot 31, Concession 1, WBR in Albemarle. The area became known as, "The Greig Settlement". In Albemarle Township the settlement is spread over eleven lots on the east side of Isaac Lake.

In 1879 Mr. Greig made an application to the Post Office Department for a post office suggesting the name "Kennoway", after a place in Scotland near where Mr.

Greig was born. The postal authorities agreed and the Kennoway post office was established on March 1, 1880. The post office was located in Mr. Greig's stone house with Mr. Greig as postmaster. Alexander Greig's first house, a log building, had been destroyed by a falling tree. The stone house was built in 1861.

Confusion concerning the name became a problem soon after the new post office opened. A post office known as Kennoway had been established in Peterborough County in 1876. Mail directed to Kennoway in Bruce County went to Kennoway in Harcourt Township, Haliburton County. Since the area was known as "The Greig Settlement", post office officials suggested that the name be changed to Greig. The post office name changed to Greig on May 1, 1880.

Postal revenue was quite small and remained so over the next few years. In 1886 the Department decided that



Alexander Greig's stone house, built in 1861, was the home of the post office from 1880 until 1886.

KENNOWAY

Post office established: March 1, 1880

Alexander Greig March 1, 1880 until April 30, 1880

Post Office name changed to GREIG

GREIG

Post office opened: May 1, 1880

Alexander Greig May 1, 1880 until April 1, 1886

Post office closed: April 1, 1886

Closed due to limited use.

due to limited use the post office would be closed. Closure was on April 1, 1886. To-day, the area is still known as The Greig Settlement. The home that housed the post office still stands. In the 1980s the Orville Greig family lived there.

Greig's only hammer was a 22-mm type A1, with arcs measuring 12.0, 13.5 mm. There are no recorded covers for Kennoway nor Greig, nor is there a proof strike for Kennoway. Kennoway may not have had a postal dater because of its short period of existence.

PROOF STRIKE



[REF. 207]

150th Anniversary Hanover POST OFFICE 1856 – 2006

On September 1, 2006 Hanover Post Office will celebrate 150 years of postal service to this Grey County community.

Peter Kritz informs us that the **SAUGEEN STAMP CLUB** would like to celebrate this event at their Annual Show which this year will take place on **Saturday, May 6.**

The Club is inviting all readers of the *Georgian Courier* to consider entering an exhibit that will celebrate the event. The Club would accept 6 pages or more as an exhibit and these will be competitively judged. An award for the best postal history exhibit at the show will be presented.

There will be no frame charge, however the Club will need to know by April 14 if an exhibit (and the number of pages) will be entered.

For more information contact Peter Kritz at RR3, Hanover, ON N4N 3B9; or call him at (519) 364-4752; or email him at <pkritz@coldwellbankerpbr.com>

I am sure Peter will look forward to talking to you!



The Post Office at Pretty River Valley

Collingwood
Township
County of Grey

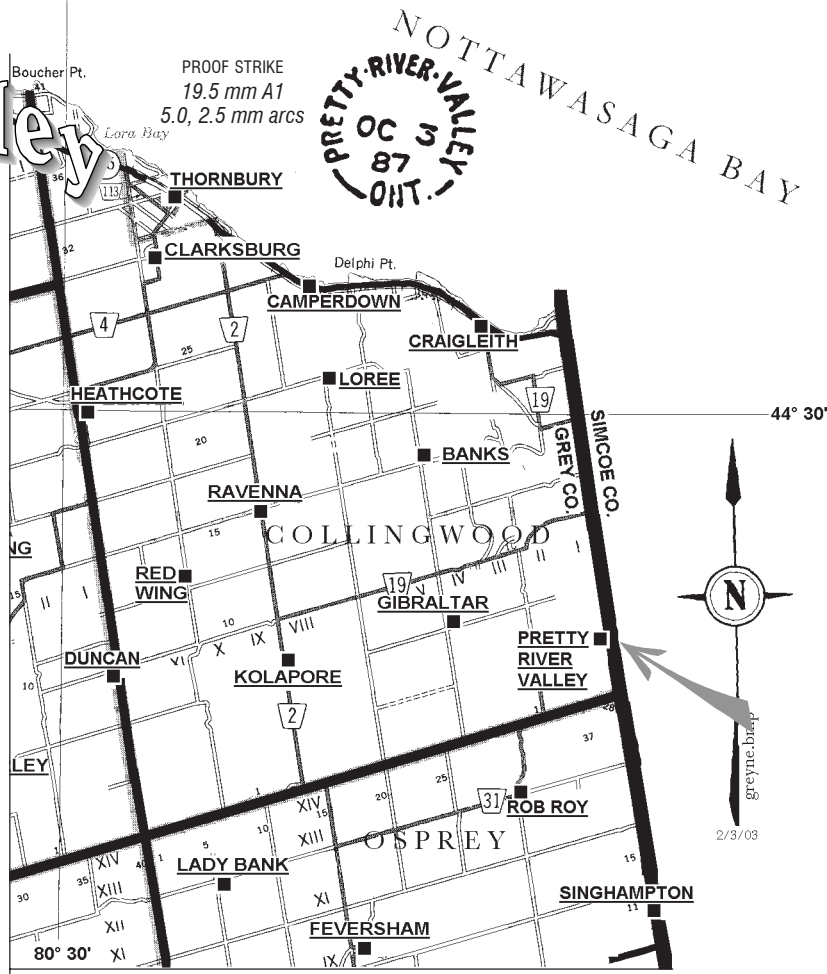
Gus Knierim

[REF. 208]

Tucked away in the southeast corner of the township, Pretty River Valley was home to Scottish settlers from the highlands and lowlands who came by oxcart and on foot into the valley to farm. Many came from the island of Islay, off the west coast of Scotland.

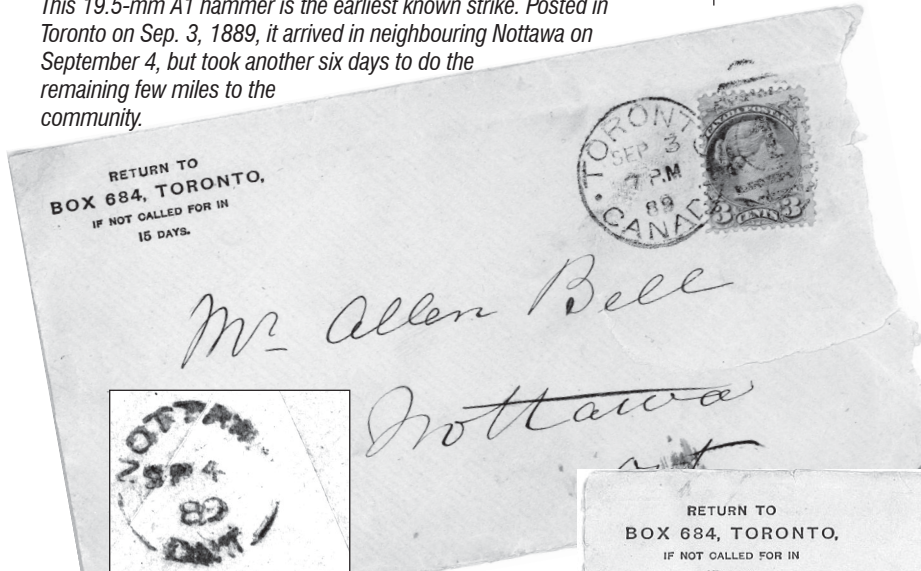
There was little industry in the valley with the exception of two saw mills. Two unsuccessful mines were established as well as an oil well just inside of the Nottawasaga townline.

The first post office, opened September 1, 1887, was in the home of its postmaster, Malcolm Gillies



PRETTY • RIVER • VALLEY ONT. / SP 10 1889

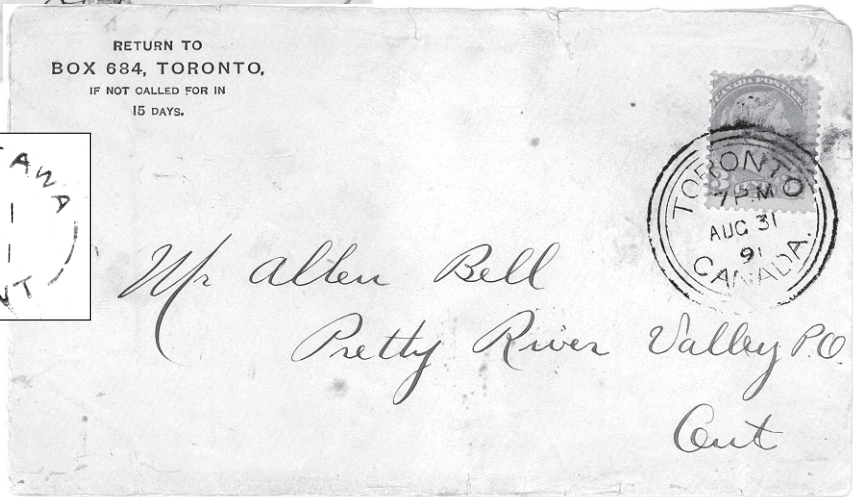
This 19.5-mm A1 hammer is the earliest known strike. Posted in Toronto on Sep. 3, 1889, it arrived in neighbouring Nottawa on September 4, but took another six days to do the remaining few miles to the community.



who lived on Lot 2, Concession 2 and who held the postmastership until February 12, 1908. He was followed by Dougall Stephens who had the post office until July 31, 1917 at which point in time rural mail delivery replaced the post office in this settlement.

PRETTY • RIVER • VALLEY ONT. / SP ?? 1891

Another inbound letter with a Nottawa transit mark (21.5 mm A1, 9.0 mm arcs) that appears to be the latest known date recorded.



POSTMASTERS AT PRETTY RIVER VALLEY POST OFFICE

Malcolm Gillies: 1887, Sep. 1 ñ 1908, Feb. 12
Dougall Stephens: 1908, Mar. 22 ñ 1917, July 31

The Building of Shelburne POST OFFICE

[REF. 209
[REF. 208]]

The Free Press and Economist

October 29, 1936

submitted by *George Power*

Herewith is an interesting perspective of a local municipal event. How many of our readers can recall a situation that had captured so much public interest? Those were wonderful times, when we could sit back and enjoy the beauty of the moment. The following reports were published in Shelburne's *Free Press and Economist*.

"An argument among some citizens as to the date of the building of Shelburne's present post office building, with quite a variation of opinion as to the date, brought an appeal to the editor to go back through the office files [sic] and settle the argument. The search disclosed that while the first amount placed in the Dominion estimates for the building was only \$5,000, the final cost was in the neighbourhood of \$35,000; and while the initial appearance in the Dominion estimates was in March, 1912, the building was not officially opened for use until January, 1915 – practically three years.

Brief quotations from our files serve to point out that governmental and building activities do not "do things in a hurry," and our readers may be interested in tracing up just how they moved in Shelburne's post office building – a building, by the way, for which Shelburne mainly has to thank the energetic endeavours of the late John Best, who was at that time M.P. for Dufferin.

Here are some excerpts regarding the progress of the new post office.

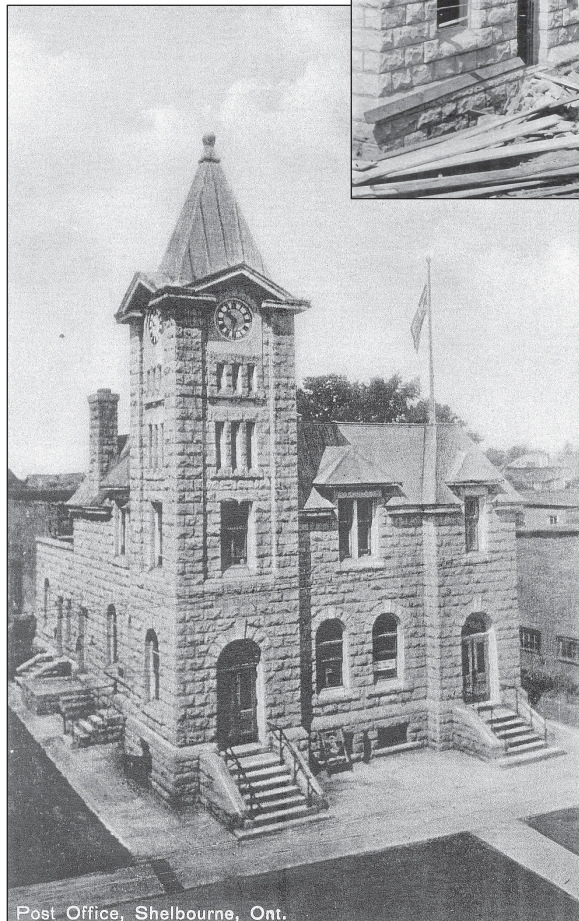
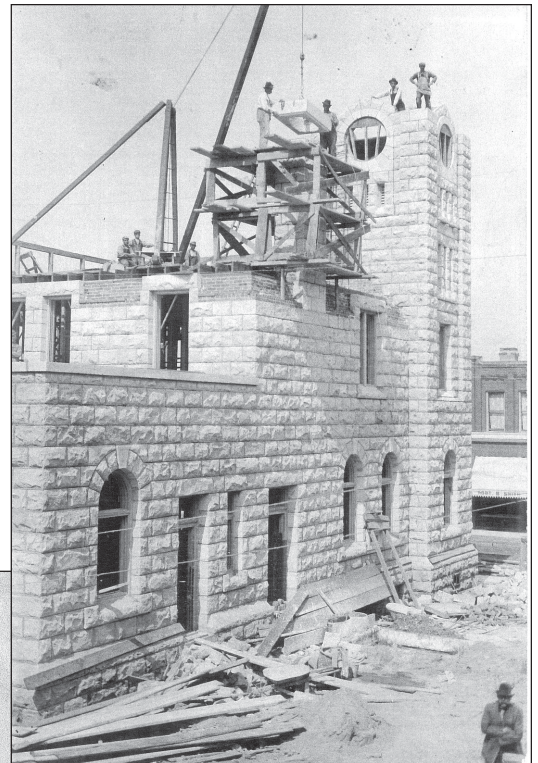
- **March 12, 1912**

The supplementary estimates brought down in the Dominion House of Commons

at Ottawa, on Tuesday, included \$5,000 for a new post office building at Shelburne. It looks as though the long looked for it to happen at last.

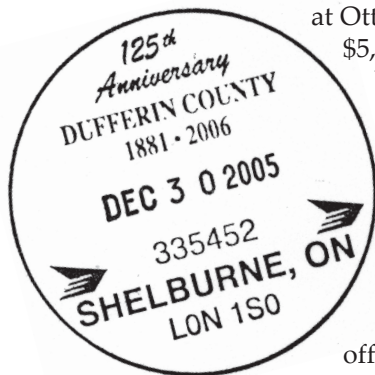
- **April 11, 1912**

The Government representative to pick on a site for Shelburne's new post office is expected along any day now.



- **May 30, 1912**

The official to whose lot falls the highly pleasant (how could it be otherwise?) duty of choosing the site on which to erect the new post office building a beneficent Government has decided to bestow on Shelburne, was in town last week, and was shown the sights (this time also spelled sites) by Mr. John Best, M.P. The result of his visit has not yet been made known to the populace, but most of the wise looks, the winks and the nods, have been pointed Owen Sound Street way and in the block running from Main Street to First Avenue.



- **July 25, 1912**

The site for Shelburne's new post office has been chosen. The new building will be placed in Owen Sound Street, between the Royal Block and McKay's blacksmith shop, on the site now occupied by the Royal Hotel sheds. The probabilities of the building being erected this year are rather slim, although if the red tape machine is well oiled the contract may be let and the foundation completed by the time winter sets in.

- **September 19, 1912**

It is understood that owing to an error in the drafting of the original plans work on Shelburne's new post office will not likely commence this fall.

- **November 14, 1912**

That the Government has not completely forgotten Shelburne's new post office building is evidenced by the fact that a surveyor was busy on the proposed site a few days ago.

- **February 6, 1913**

The estimates brought down in the Dominion House of Commons at Ottawa this week included an appropriation of \$15,000 for Shelburne's new post office.

- **July 17, 1913**

It is understood that the contract for Shelburne's new post office building has been let to Green and Campbell, who will undertake the whole work, at a price in the neighbourhood of \$30,000, the building to be completed ready for occupancy in 18 months from closing of the contract. The building will be constructed of stone from Shelburne quarries, will comprise a post office, caretaker's residence and armoury, and will have a clock in the tower.

- **August 14, 1913**

Work on the excavation for the foundation of Shelburne's new post office building started last week.

- **September 4, 1913**

The work of excavation for the foundation and basement of Shelburne's new post office building has been completed, and last week work was started on the stonework of the foundation.

- **September 18, 1913**

It is understood that the work on Shelburne's new post office building is over for this season. Mr. Hastings, the Government Inspector, was in town Monday taking a look at the work that has already been done.

- **November 6, 1913**

A little bit of progress is being made on the new post office building on Owen Sound Street this week, some of the new steel beams and uprights having been put in place.

- **April 9, 1914**

Work on Shelburne's new post office building was started again this week.

- **June 11, 1914**

Work on Shelburne's new post office building is going forward quickly, work now being in progress on the roof and the interior. The clock for the tower has been ordered and will be put in place in due time.

- **August 20, 1914**

It is expected that the big clock in the tower of Shelburne's new post office building will be installed this week.

- **September 17, 1914**

Mr. Robert Gallagher, Treasurer of Mulmur Township, will be the caretaker of Shelburne's new post office. He will receive \$400 per annum and free rent, fuel and light.

- **September 24, 1914**

It is expected that Shelburne's new post office will be ready for installation of the electric lights this week. Work on the clock face in the tower started several days ago. The building should be ready for occupation before very long now.

- **October 8, 1914**

The clock in the tower of Shelburne's new post office has been installed and is now running. The bell used for striking the hours is as large as the town bell, and is placed several feet away on the roof separate from the clock tower under a covering of its own. At night the interior of the clock is lighted by electricity.

- **November 12, 1914**

The delay in the opening of the Shelburne's new post office is caused by the non-arrival of the necessary box fittings for the interior.

- **January 7, 1915**

The interior fittings of Shelburne's new post office are now being installed and it is likely that the new building will be ready for use some time next week.

- **January 21, 1915**

Shelburne's fine new stone post office building was opened in full swing Friday last, and the town hall is no longer the favourite spot of the seekers after mail. The interior of the new building is very complete. It is finished in oak and ash and is well lighted. There are about one hundred more lock boxes than there were in the old office. There are separate wickets for general delivery, box holders, parcels, money orders, and registered letters. There is a separate room for the five rural mail carriers to sort the mail for their routes. The working conveniences of the post office staff are very much greater than they were in the old office. In the part of the office reserved for the use of the public there are two desks for writing purposes, under one of which reposes a waste paper basket, the gift of Mr. O. Rands. The first letter posted was by Chester Best, written by his father, John Best, M.P., to premier Borden announcing the opening of the office." ✉

A Jewel in the Hinterland of Simcoe County

HYDRO GLEN & SEVERN FALLS

Gus Knierim

[REF. 210]

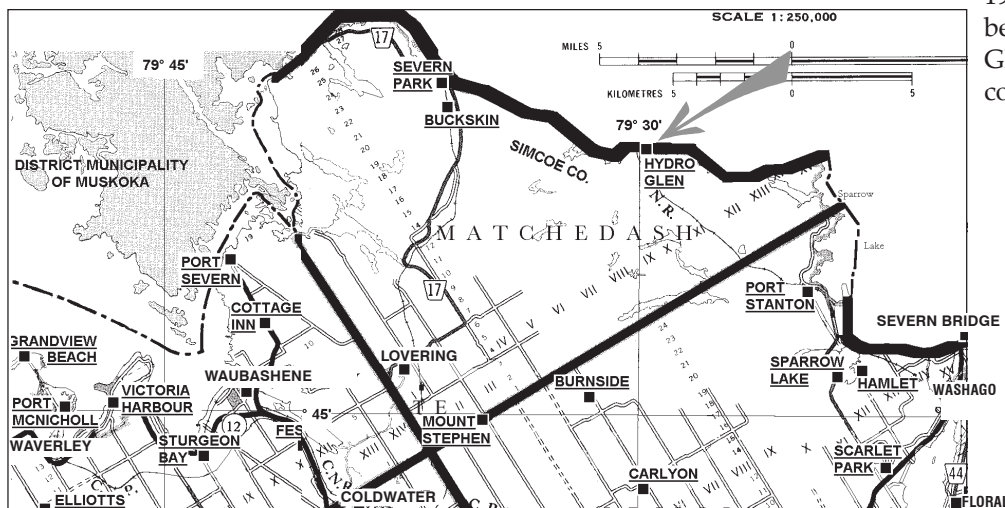
The Severn River is part of the Trent-Severn Waterway that connects Georgian Bay to Lake Couchiching. It is also the present boundary between Muskoka and Simcoe County in a part of Ontario that can best be described as remote and isolated. Although only a few miles from Orillia the mail had to be brought in by bush-plane during the last 20 years of the existence of the Hydro Glen post office.

There are three significant events that brought "civilization" to this part of Southern Ontario. In late 1906 the Canadian Northern Railway opened its railway line from Toronto to Parry Sound crossing the Severn River at Ragged Rapids. Canadian Northern Railway named their flag stop Hydro Glen. It was 100 miles north of Toronto on its way to Parry Sound and Sudbury.

In fierce competition the Canadian Pacific Railway also decided to build north from Toronto to Parry Sound and Sudbury, reaching both destinations within weeks of the Canadian Northern's arrival at these communities. The CPR traversed the Severn River at Severn Falls with a flag stop at Buckskin, just ¾ mile south of the river. The terrain was very difficult and at Buckskin a sinkhole required 3000 cars of ballast!

It had been a dream to connect the Trent Canal to Georgian Bay and thus shorten the route to the West. However this final push for completion did not come about until 1913 with completion of the water link in

1920. At Swift Rapids, halfway between Severn Falls and Hydro Glen, a marine railway was constructed to allow boats to



SEVERN PARK / ONT. / SP 3 / 46
Pretty Channel,



bypass the rapids. This marine railway was replaced in 1964-1965 by Lock 43 which has a lift of 14.2 meters, making it the highest lock in the system.

Just prior to this period of railway and canal construction the Orillia Water, Light & Power Commission set out to harness the waters of the Severn to produce hydro power. The first dam was constructed at Ragged Rapids (Hydro Glen) and began operating in 1901. Although a road from the powerhouse was carved out of the wilderness to Orillia some 22 miles to the east, it was almost impassible between Burnside and Hydro Glen. In 1915 the Orillia Water, Light & Power Commission decided to replace the original power plant which was located 2½ km southeast at Hydro Glen and built a new power station at Swift Rapids.

With the construction came work crews that required facilities and a small community sprang up at Hydro Glen and later at Swift Rapids. In the beginning supplies and the mail came by boat to Hydro Glen from Sparrow Lake. During the winter supplies were brought in overland from Orillia. By 1906, however, the situation changed and mail and supplies came by the Canadian Northern Railway which stopped at Hydro Glen.

Hydro Glen

By 1912 the community had grown sufficiently that the Post Office Department allowed for the establishment of a post office at Hydro Glen. This opening occurred on April 4, 1912.

The first postmaster was George Page who was appointed April 4, 1912. He resigned from that position on June 17, 1914 when he accepted the position of superintendent at the new Swift Rapids Power Station which was constructed 1915 and opened for operation in 1917.

William P. Flannery succeeded George Page as postmaster on August 24, 1914 and remained in that position for almost ten years resigning March 8, 1924.

Thomas Joseph Kelly operated the General Store at Hydro Glen, and assumed the duties of postmaster on June 2, 1924. Thomas died September 18, 1946 at age 63. His wife Rose (Margarett Rosetta Kelly) was appointed as acting postmaster September 27, 1946. This appointment was made permanent on January 1, 1947. Rose Kelly remarried and became Mrs. Beauvais in November 1950. The Post Office Department in their wisdom blessed this marriage and Rose was reappointed postmaster effective December 29, 1950.

Mrs. Georgina Hope Smith (daughter of George Page) succeeded Rose Kelly with an appointment that became effective November 16, 1961. She remained in that position until her resignation on August 1, 1972. During her term of office the Canadian National Railway's service to Hydro Glen was terminated and from the mid-1960s until closure in 1985 the mail was brought in by air using a Cessna 172 from Orillia Air Services. Mail was delivered to Hydro

Post Office Department—Ministère des Postes		For use of E. & A. Section A l'usage de la Section des comptes et recommandations	
THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL SERVICES, AU DIRECTEUR DES SERVICES FINANCIERS		Recorded by Enregistré par	
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, MINISTÈRE DES POSTES, OTTAWA 4, ONT.		Date	
FINANCIAL INSPECTION REPORT FOR NON-ACCOUNTING POST OFFICE RAPPORT DE L'INSPECTION FINANCIÈRE D'UN BUREAU NON COMPTABLE			
Date of Inspection Date de l'inspection	Oct 8 1957	Office No. N° du bureau	80048 8008
Name of Post Office Nom du bureau de poste	Hydro Glen	Province	Ont.
Name of Postmaster Nom du maître de poste	Mrs M. R. Beauvais	Postal District District postal	Jerome
PART I—TO BE COMPLETED BY INSPECTING OFFICER PARTIE I—A REMPLIR PAR L'INSPECTEUR		Amounts of credit supplies Montants des approvisionnements à crédit	
		On hand and in transit En stock ou en route	Authorized Autorisés
1. Amounts of Credit Supplies accounted for: Valeur des approvisionnements à crédit contrôlés:			
Postage Supplies Articles d'affranchissement		\$ 32 59	\$ 40
Denominative Money Orders and Postal Scrip Mandats dénominatifs et bons d'appoint		363 50	400
Unemployment Insurance Stamps Timbres d'assurance-chômage			
Post Office Cash Fonds de la poste		27 30	x x x x
Amount of Official Cash stated to be in transit for: Montant des fonds officiels censés être en route pour payer:			
Postage Supplies per form C.A. 54 Articles d'affranchissement, selon formule C.A. 54			x x x x
Reg. No. 153 N° de recommandation	Date Oct 8 1957 19	16	x x x x
Denominative Money Orders and Postal Scrip per form C.A. 54 Mandats dénominatifs et bons d'appoint, selon formule C.A. 54			x x x x
Reg. No. 153 N° de recommandation	Date Oct 8 1957 19	120	x x x x
Unemployment Insurance Stamps per form P.S. 26 Timbres d'assurance-chômage, selon formule P.S. 26			x x x x
Reg. No. N° de recommandation	Date 19		x x x x
Total		\$ 440 59	\$
Credit Supplies—Surplus or Shortage (if any) Approvisionnements à crédit—Surplus ou déficit (s'il en est)		\$ 59	x x x x
Amount of C.O.D.'s (if any) collected by Postmaster but not remitted and for which funds are not on hand Valeur des envois C.R. (s'il en est) dont le remboursement perçu par le maître de poste n'a pas été expédié et n'est pas en caisse.		\$ Nil	x x x x
Total Surplus or Shortage Surplus ou déficit total		\$ 59	x x x x
QUESTIONS - DEMANDES		ANSWERS - RÉPONSES	
2. The amount of C.O.D.'s for which collection was made, and cash is on hand but not remitted. Did you make necessary remittance?	Montant perçu pour les envois C.R. et qui est en caisse mais n'a pas été expédié. Avez-vous fait l'envoi de fonds nécessaire?	Nil	
3. Action taken concerning Surplus or Shortage (if any)	Dispositions prises relativement au surplus ou au déficit (s'il en est)	Left with P.M.	
4. Supplies sufficient to complete the full amounts of the Credit supplies requisitioned at close of inspection:— Postage Supplies Denominative Money Orders and Postal Scrip Unemployment Insurance Stamps	Approvisionnements suffisants pour faire le compte des approvisionnements à crédit, commandés à la fin de l'inspection: Articles d'affranchissement Mandats dénominatifs et bons d'appoint Timbres d'assurance-chômage	Nil Nil Nil	
5. Are there any circumstances at this Office which require special Credit Supply provisions?	Y a-t-il à ce bureau des circonstances qui nécessitent des crédits spéciaux d'approvisionnement?	No	
Q.F. 34—25M—4-11-54		(See over—Voir au verso)	

The Financial Inspection Report for Non-Accounting Office, Hydro Glen #80048, October 8, 1957 – Postmaster M. R. Beauvais.

Glen twice a week and the few remaining residents relied on that service. Upon Mrs. Smith's resignation in 1972 we have a grand-daughter of the first postmaster Mrs. Matilda McMillan, being appointed as postmistress on August 1, 1972, remained in that position until the closure of the post office November 29, 1985.

The population in the early days at Hydro Glen and Swift Rapids was larger in the early days then in the declining years due to the fact that considerable manpower was required for the operations at the power stations. Later on as those operations became more automated less manpower was required. In 1941 the population is recorded as 60.

Hydro Glen was a non-accounting office (#80048) that reported just \$162 in revenue for the year ending March 31, 1925. The revenue steadily declined to \$126 in 1930. For the year ending March 31, 1973 it was a mere \$105.00.

PART II—TO BE COMPLETED BY POSTMASTER AND VERIFIED BY INSPECTING OFFICER
PARTIE II—A REMPLIR PAR LE MAÎTRE DE POSTE ET À VÉRIFIER PAR L'INSPECTEUR

QUESTIONS - DEMANDES	ANSWERS RÉPONSES	For remarks of Inspecting Officer (State if P.M. instructed) Observations de l'inspecteur (Mentionner si le maître de poste avait reçu des instructions)
6. Do you keep Post Office cash and other values in a locked receptacle and separate from personal or business cash?	Gardez-vous les fonds de la poste et autres valeurs sous clé et séparément de vos fonds personnels ou de commerce? <i>yes</i>	
7. Have you Parts I and II of the Manual of Financial Procedure and are they kept up to date?	Avez-vous les Parties I et II du Manuel de la procédure financière, et les instructions sont-elles tenues à jour? <i>yes</i>	
8. (a) Do you requisition for Denominative Money Orders and Postal Scrip, Postage Supplies and Unemployment Insurance Stamp Credit Supplies when about one-quarter of your stock has been sold?	Commandez-vous des approvisionnements à crédit de mandats dénominatifs et de bons d'appoint, d'articles d'affranchissement et de timbres d'assurance-chômage lorsqu'un quart environ de votre stock est vendu? <i>yes</i>	
(b) Do you retain cash on hand exceeding \$150.00 from all sources at any time?	Gardez-vous en caisse plus de \$150 en argent de toute provenance? <i>no</i>	
9. Do you issue Denominative Money Orders bearing the lowest serial number in each denomination first?	En émettant les mandats dénominatifs, commencez-vous par le plus petit numéro d'ordre de chaque catégorie? <i>yes</i>	
10. Does your stock of Postal Scrip include all denominations in adequate supply?	Votre stock de bons d'appoint comprend-il un approvisionnement suffisant de toutes les catégories? <i>yes</i>	
11. Do you issue Denominative Money Orders the same day and remit by the first outgoing mail for C.O.D. collections?	Lorsqu'il s'agit de sommes perçues à l'égard d'envois C.R., émettez-vous les mandats dénominatifs le même jour et les expédiez-vous par le premier courrier partant? <i>yes</i>	
12. Have you Postage Due Stamps on hand and do you understand their use?	Avez-vous des chiffres-taxes en stock et connaissez-vous leur emploi? <i>yes</i>	
13. Are you familiar with the instructions in connection with the mailing of household matter, and the disposal of the relative Forms 7p?	Connaissez-vous les instructions relatives au dépôt des objets adressés "À l'occupant" et savez-vous ce qu'il faut faire des formulaires 7p utilisées à cette fin? <i>yes</i>	
14. Do you sell express or bank Money Orders?	Vendez-vous des mandats de messagerie ou de banque? <i>no</i>	
15. Are you employed by a credit union or as manager of a sub-agency of a bank?	Êtes-vous employé par une caisse populaire ou comme gérant d'une succursale de banque? <i>no</i>	
16. Is a record kept of some of the bank notes retained overnight on the premises and of those included in remittances to the Postage Stamp Depot?	Prenez-vous note de quelques-uns des billets de banque gardés pendant la nuit au bureau et de ceux qui sont inclus dans les fonds expédiés au Dépôt des timbres-poste? <i>yes</i>	
17. We, the undersigned, certify that to the best of our information the above is an exact financial statement of this Office, and the answers to the questions herein contained are true.	Nous, soussignés, certifions que, autant que nous sachions, les renseignements ci-dessus représentent l'état financier exact de ce bureau, et que les réponses aux questions sont vraies.	

Signature of Postmaster - (du maître de poste) *M. R. Pearson*
Signature of Inspecting Officer - (de l'inspecteur) *E. W. Brown*

Inspecting Officer's rating of Financial Administration of Office: Cote accordée par l'inspecteur pour la gestion financière du bureau
Very Good () Good () Fair () Poor ()
Excellente () Bonne () Passable () Médiocre ()

PART III—TO BE COMPLETED AT DISTRICT OFFICE
PARTIE III—A REMPLIR AU BUREAU DE DISTRICT

18. Requisitions reported to be in transit at the time of inspection have been checked and verified with the Postage Stamp Depot. Les commandes déclarées être en route au moment de l'inspection ont été confirmées par le Dépôt des timbres-poste.

Signature of District Director - (du Directeur de district)

On April 1, 1973 the Post Office Department assigned the office Number 336807 and in the financial year ending March 31, 1974 revenue had dropped to \$91. Postal Code for this office was L0K 1K0. In current Canada Post search engines the name Hydro Glen and its postal code are non-existent.

A Post Office Inspection dated October 8, 1957 shows that a total of \$32.59 in postage was on hand. The office was authorized for \$40.00 in postage and up to \$400.00 in Denominative Money Orders and Postal Scrip. The report shows that a value of \$363.50 was held in Denominative Money Orders and Postal Scrip. By any stretch of the imagination this was not a large operation.

Over the 77 years of existence Hydro Glen appears to have had relatively few datestamps. It was not a large office and therefore the needs were modest. Only one type A1 broken circle hammer is reported. Proofed May 10, 1912, it measures 19 mm (arcs 7.5), and has been reported used November 8, 1917 to July 23, 1932. On October 24, 1935 a full-circle 23.5 mm dater was proofed.

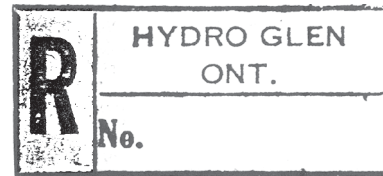
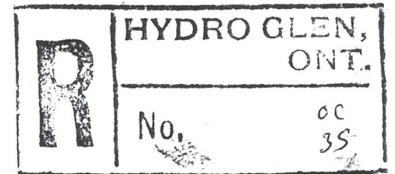
This latter hammer is shown used as late as 1975 in Graham Noble's article, "The Mail to Swift Rapids: Ontario's Remarkable Hydro Glen Post Office", *BNA Topics*, January-February, 1979.



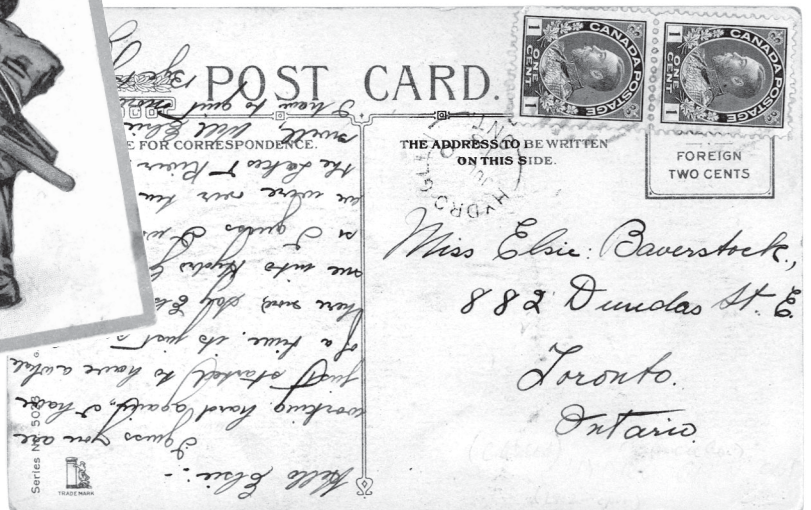
PROOF STRIKE



PROOF STRIKES



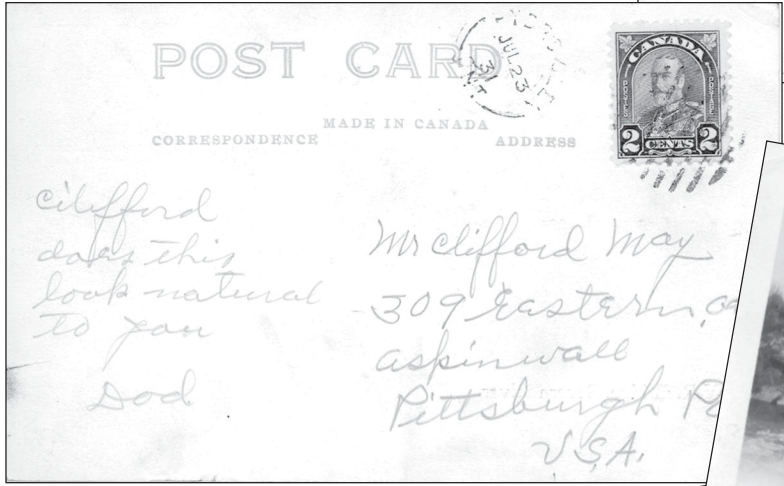
HYDRO GLEN / ONT. / JUL 30 / 1918
COURTESY - Don Slaughter.





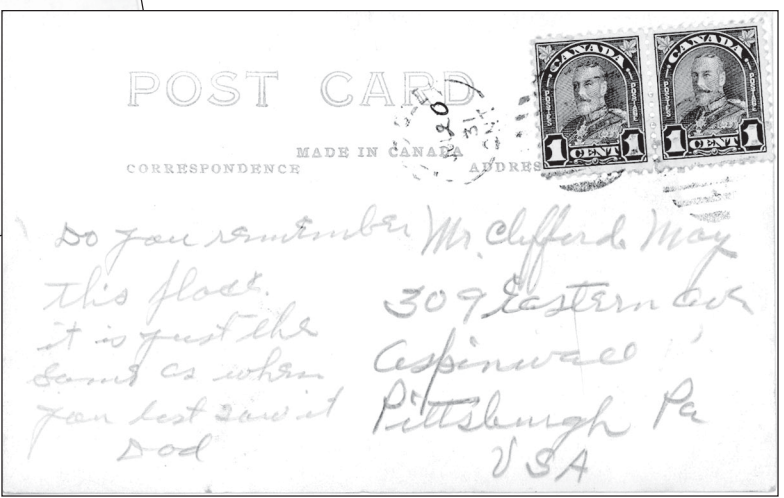
*Clifford does
this look
natural to
you
Dad*

HYDRO GLEN / ONT. / JUL 18 / 1931



*Clifford
dads this
look natural
to you
Dad*

HYDRO GLEN / ONT. / JUL 23 / 1931



*Do you remember
this float.
it is just the
same as when
you last saw it
Dad*

HYDRO GLEN / ONT. / JUL 20 / 1931

children were then transported to Severn Falls by boat or by snowmobile in the winter.

Only six houses of the original community remain; all other buildings have been demolished. Two houses are now used as summer cottages. Of the other four, two sit empty, one is used by the remaining power station operator and one is used only in summer by a lock operator, a great-granddaughter of George Page."

Buckskin (1913–1917)

This small community close to the Severn River came about as part of the construction of the CPR line to Sudbury. Canadian Pacific Railway places it at 103.1 miles from Toronto. Its significance today is that it has a 75-car passing siding for trains. However, as a community with postal history it existed for a mere four years. The post office opened January 15, 1913 with John Ritchie as postmaster. According to Larry Whitby and Michael Millar, *List of Post Offices in the County of Simcoe*, Buckskin was located on the NE corner Lot 19, Concession 6 of Matchedash Township. The post office closed April 30, 1917 and was no doubt replaced by Burndick, just ¾ of a mile down the track. Its only known postal cancellation device, a type A1 19.5 mm (arcs 7.5, 8.0) proofed January 23, 1913, has been reported in use June 26, 1913 and August 9, 1915.



PROOF STRIKE

Burndick (1914–1919)

At the point where the CPR crossed the Severn River a settlement began by the name of Burndick. It was named after the Burns and Dickinson families, early settlers. Canadian Pacific Railway placed it at 103.8 miles from Toronto or just 0.7 miles past Buckskin.

A post office was established June 15, 1914 with Louis P. Burns appointed as postmaster. Mr. Burns resigned from the position February 18, 1916 and was



PROOF STRIKE

replaced by F. H. Dickinson on March 21, 1916. His tenure was equally short as he resigned June 12, 1918. Walter Dean took the next call with an appointment as postmaster on September 1, 1918. It was during his tenure that the name of the office was changed to Severn Falls. This event took place on June 1, 1919. Burndick's only type A1 broken circle dater has been reported used AU 11 / 1915 and SP 6 / 1916.

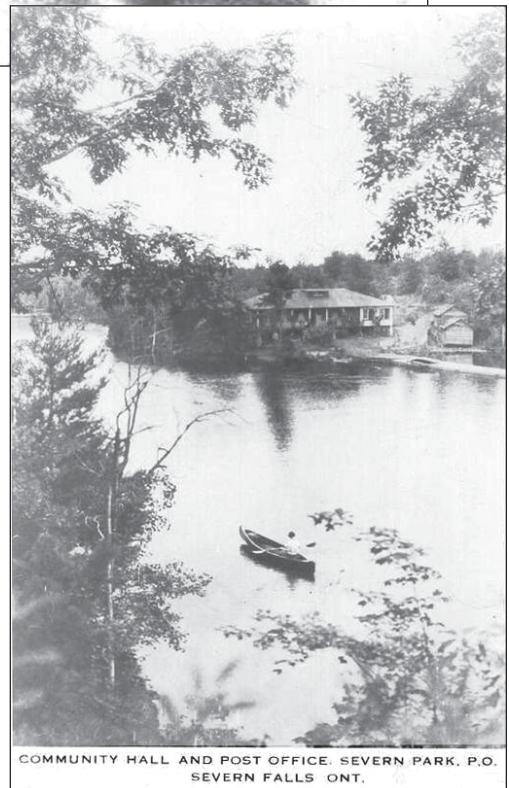
Severn Falls (1919–1922)

The tenure of these early postmasters appears to be only two years and one wonders if there was a connection or link to performing other duties that may have been governed by the railway. Whatever the case, Walter Dean resigned July 12, 1920, and was replaced by James Richard Honsberger on September 30, 1920.



PROOF STRIKE

Severn Park Post Office and Community Hall at Severn Falls, Ontario. COURTESY – Robt. C. Smith.



COMMUNITY HALL AND POST OFFICE, SEVERN PARK, P.O. SEVERN FALLS, ONT.



BURNDICK / ONT. / AU 11 / 1915
20-mm Type A1 (arcs 6.5, 8.0)
COURTESY – Robt. Prince.

Severn Park

Once again a name change was in order to closer reflect the nature of this area. On August 1, 1922, the postal name for this community was changed to Severn Park. There appears to be some confusion regarding this latest name change. Canadian Pacific Rwy. called their stop Severn Falls and kept with that name right until the end when passenger service stopped. CPR Employee Timetables from the 1970s no longer list this stop.

On our post cards illustrated with this article we also notice that Smith's Store & Post Office (the one that is called Severn Park), is located at Severn Falls.

Mr. Honsberger remained in his position as postmaster until June 2, 1924. 57-year-old Walter Bolus



Smith's Store & Post Office at Severn Falls. Doug R. Smith was postmaster at Severn Park from 1937 until 1964.

COURTESY - Robt. C. Smith.



SEVERN FALLS / ONT. / SP 01 / 1921

20-mm Type A1 (arcs 6.5, 8.0)
COURTESY - Robt. Prince.

was appointed August 22, 1924 to the honourable position of postmaster to serve the vacationing public at this office. He held the position until his death February 26, 1937. Douglas Ross Smith received an acting appointment on April 25, 1937 which was made permanent July 27 of the same year. Vernon's *Simcoe County Directory*, 1939, lists him as "merchant and postmaster" and remained in that position until retirement on January 15, 1964.

Russell William Creighton assumed the role of postmaster on September 11, 1964 but only remained in service for a short six months resigning March 1, 1965. Mrs. Winnifred Grace Ramsay accepted the challenge and was appointed to the position on May 1, 1965. She remained in service until the closure of the office on March 31, 1970.

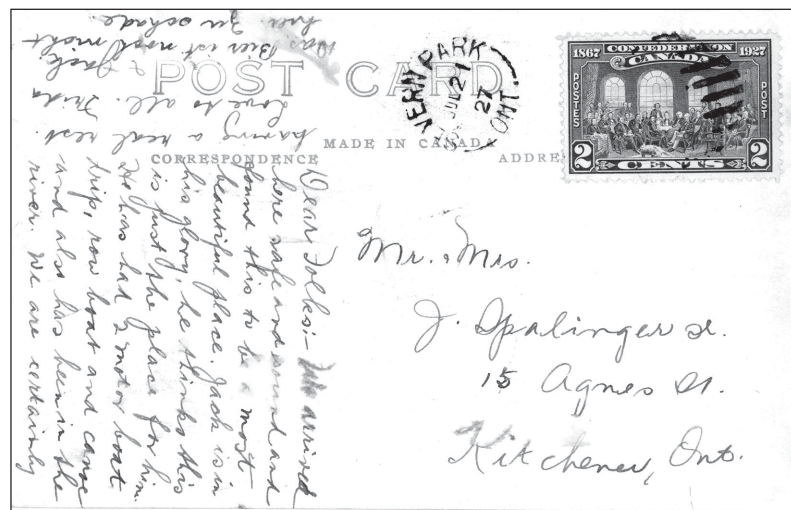
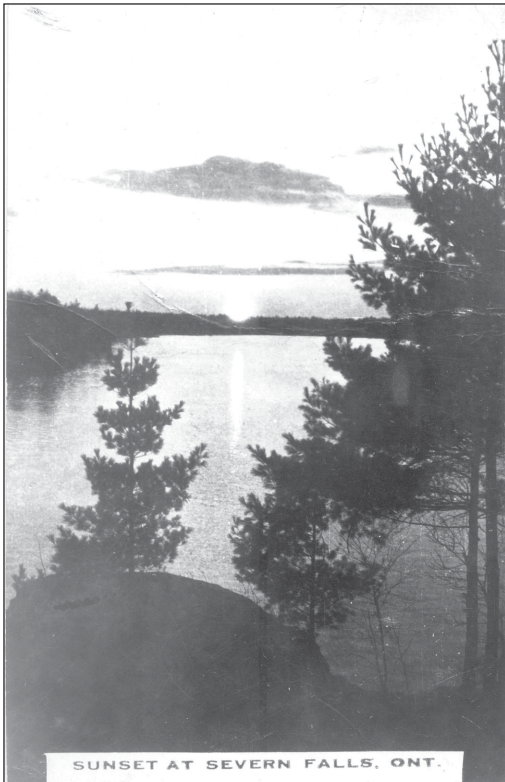
Severn Park is listed as a non-accounting office (#82074) that was authorized to issue and pay postal notes according to the *Canada Official Postal Guide*, 1936-1937. In 1939 the status was up-graded and Severn Park became an accounting office (#4325) and remained as such till closure in 1970. The change in status may well be connected to the growth in the community which had a

CPR Employee Timetable listed the station as Severn Falls. More recent timetables have dropped the station with the loss of passenger traffic on this railway line.

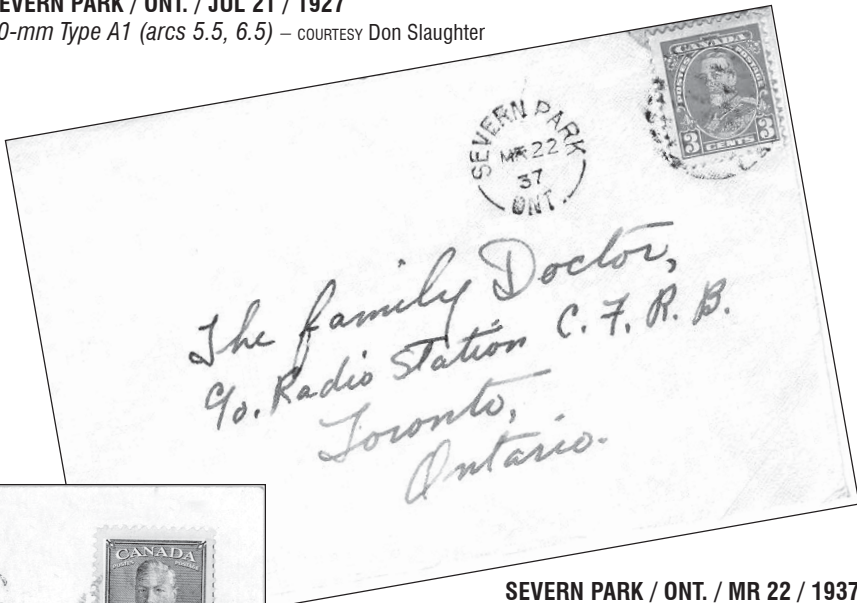
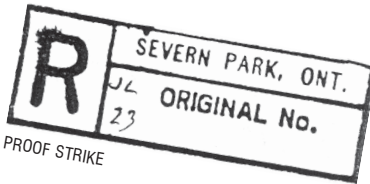
TIME TABLE No. 130. APRIL 26th, 1959.

315	Passenger / Sat. only	Mins from West Toronto	Telephone and Telephone Office	MACTIER SUBDIVISION		Telephone Calls	Car Capacity	STATIONS	
				4	6				
				TORONTO... KZ				A.M. 7.00	A.M. 7.30
s 8.47	0.0	D N	V	WEST TORONTO CKW	J U			s 6.40	s 7.10
8.53	3.0			TREMOP		60		6.31	7.04
f 8.55	3.8	D		WESTON	N G	NII		6.29	7.02
9.01	8.0			EMERY		54		6.20	6.55
9.07	11.8	D	D	WOODBRIDGE	W E	53		6.12	6.50
9.14	16.7			KLEINBURG	Z K G	56		6.02	6.44
9.21	21.6	D N		BOLTON	W Y Z	55		5.52	6.37
9.28	26.0			HUMBER		85		5.42	6.30
9.35	31.3			PALGRAVE		85		5.32	6.22
9.42	35.4			TOTTENHAM	Z	85		5.22	6.15
9.47	38.9			BEETON	Z	75		5.13	6.10
s 9.56	45.1	D N		ALLISTON	W Z S K	57		s 5.00	f 6.00
10.05	51.8			BAXTER		NII		4.45	5.52
10.10	52.8			YPRES	R Y Z	85		4.43	5.50
10.19	58.9			ESSA	Z	85		4.33	f 5.41
10.25	63.4			MAC		NII		4.22	5.33
s 10.32	67.2	D N		MIDHURST	W Y Z M H	85		4.14	f 5.27
s 10.42	73.9			CRAIGHURST	Z	85		4.02	5.17
f 10.51	81.7			CARLEY	W Z	85		3.50	5.07
f 10.58	87.1			EADY		NII		3.40	4.59
s 11.03	90.4	D N		MEDONTE	Y Z W D	105		s 3.34	f 4.53
f 11.10	95.2			LOVERING		85		3.25	4.46
11.20	103.1			BUCKSKIN	W Z	85		3.13	4.36
s 11.22	103.8			SEVERN FALLS		NII			
11.30	110.3			DARLING		85		3.03	4.27
s 11.40	114.9	D N		BALA	Z Q	70		* 2.55	4.22
11.50	119.2			RODERICK		85		2.40	4.15
12.01 P.M.	126.9	D N	V	MACTIER	CKWZ K A			2.25	4.00
s Sat. only				Rule 93a applies.				/ Daily	/ Daily
315								4	6

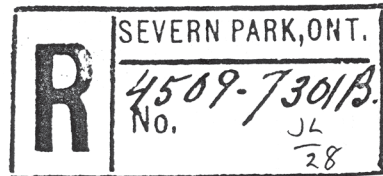
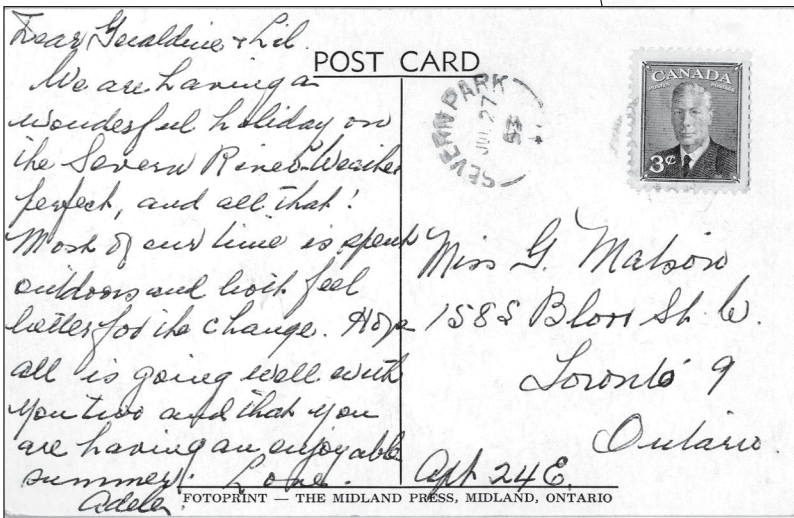
MACTIER SUBDIVISION FOOTNOTES ON PAGE 16



SEVERN PARK / ONT. / JUL 21 / 1927
20-mm Type A1 (arcs 5.5, 6.5) – COURTESY Don Slaughter



SEVERN PARK / ONT. / MR 22 / 1937
20-mm Type A1 (arcs 5.5, 6.5)
– COURTESY Robt. C. Smith



SEVERN PARK / ONT. / JUL 27 / 1953
20-mm Type A1 (arcs 5.5, 6.5)

Thank You



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Postal History Study Group

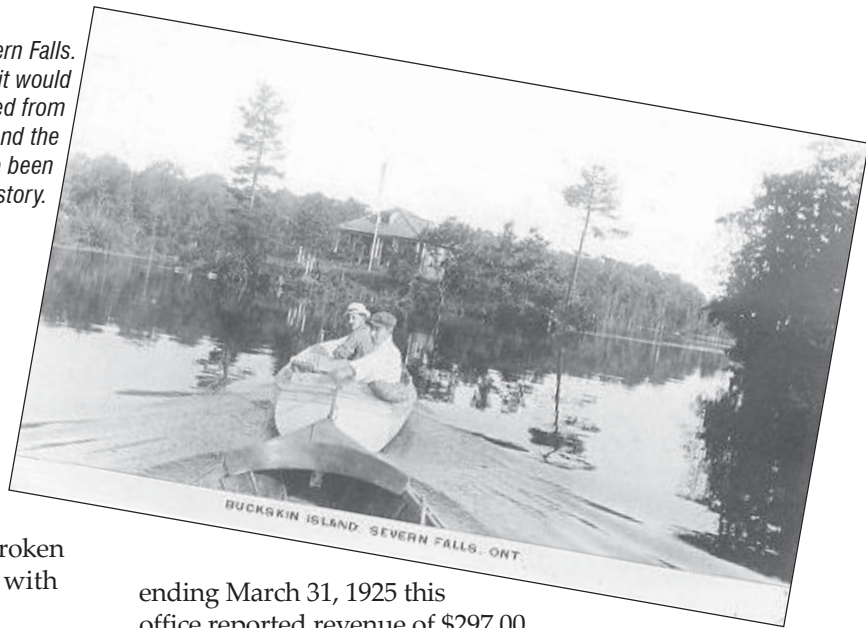
From anywhere . . . to anyone

in Grey & Bruce and the
surrounding area . . .





*Buckskin Island, Severn Falls.
Had this card been mailed it would
have likely been posted from
Severn Park post office and the
three names would have been
all on one piece of postal history.*



population of 123 in 1951. By 1961 that population number had declined to 61.

Severn Park made use of several cancellation hammers during its years of existence.

A Severn Falls a 20-mm Type A1 (arcs 6.5, 8.0) broken circle hammer was in use and has been reported with AU 18 / 1921 and SP 01 / 1921 dates.

With the name change came also a new 20-mm Type A1 (arcs 8.0) that was proofed JUL 9 / 1922. There are no reported sightings of this postmark. For unknown reasons a second 20-mm Type A1 (arcs 5.5, 6.5) was proofed JUN 20 / 1923. This second instrument has been reported in use AU 5 / 26 to JUL 30 / 52.



On August 7, 1953 a new cancellation device was proofed following the trend towards full-circle daters. This

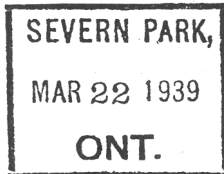


modern device measuring 23.5 mm was in use until closure of the office in 1970.

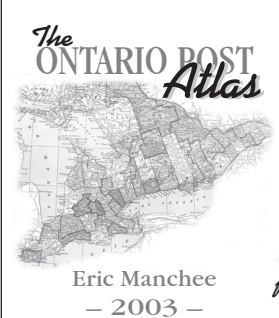
Aside from the above-mentioned hammers there would also be an array of other postal markings some of which have been shown in this article. As previously mentioned Severn Park changed its status from non-accounting to accounting in 1939. The proof strike here is an early, if not the first, Money Order Town Office datestamp. It would have been followed by other similar datestamps including a Money

Order Office numbered (#4325) datestamp.

Although somewhat larger than Hydro Glen, Severn Park nevertheless was a small office. For the fiscal year



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Eric Manchee
— 2003 —

ending March 31, 1925 this office reported revenue of \$297.00.

Like Hydro Glen the revenue declined in the late 1920s reporting only \$208.50 in 1928. In the 1930s this revenue increased somewhat and for the final year as a non-accounting office, 1938–1939, revenue of \$438.39 was raised. By March 31, 1941 Severn Park was now an accounting office and revenue of \$419.73 was declared.

Many thanks to our friends Mike Millar, Bob Prince, Robert Smith, and Don Slaughter, without whom much of this material would not have surfaced. Thank you for sharing of yourself and your collections.

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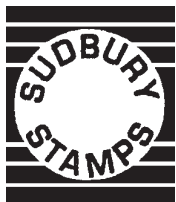
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