



The Georgian Courier

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

No. 42 • Vol. 8, No. 4

ISSN 1481-9511

August 2006



[REF. 222]

A SOCIO-POSTAL HISTORY of the **Municipality of the TOWN of SOUTH BRUCE PENINSULA**

James E. Kraemer, FRPSC, FRPSL

WIARTON

Gateway to the Bruce Peninsula Home of Warton Willie

High limestone cliffs on both sides of Colpoys Bay welcome visitors on their way to Warton by boat as they sail into the beautiful landlocked, deep water harbour. One of the cliffs on the northern side of the bay is known as, "Spirit Rock". It is said that the rock formation resembles the face of an Indian maiden. An Indian legend claims that many years ago an Indian maiden was captured and carried off by an enemy tribe. She was forced into marriage to the enemy's chief. The chief was killed in battle. The maiden escaped and made her way back to her tribe, but her own people rejected her. The following poetic excerpts describe the fate of the unhappy girl.

*For hours she stood upon that rocky height.
Till night's dark curtain had shut out the light –
Then with a cry like a lost soul in woe
She sprung to her death and her grave below
While moaning winds murmured a funeral strain
And sighing waves echoed a sad refrain.*

Warton situated at the head of Colpoys Bay has been known for years as, "The Gateway to the Bruce Peninsula". It is probably better known today as "The Home of Willie", the albino groundhog.

Enjoying a beautiful scenic location the town is perhaps the most picturesque in all of Bruce County.

Records from 1854 report that a huge cedar swamp inhabited by tremendous flocks of passenger pigeons and millions of mosquitos covered the area at the head of Colpoys Bay. Settlers came to the area as early as 1856. Alexander Greig who passed through the area in

the fall of 1857 said that he was surprised to find that Warton existed in name only. Warton village was laid out by Major Denison, Col. Berford and George Gould in 1856 during the survey of Amabel Township. The town lots were not offered for sale until 1868.

Warton was named after Warton Place, near Maidstone in Kent, England, the birthplace of Sir Edmund Walker Head, Governor-General of Canada, 1854-1861. Before it received its name in 1856 during the survey Warton was known as Colpoys after Colpoys Bay which was named during the marine survey in honour of a British admiral, Sir Edward Colpoys.

The first building in Warton was erected in November 1866. James Lennox, born in Ireland, built the log shanty at what is now the corner of Gould and Division Streets. B. B. Miller arrived in 1867 and erected a frame building that served as an hotel and a residence. Other buildings soon sprung up, all at the top of the hill.

Mr. B. B. Miller was instrumental in the post office being established on August 1, 1868 in a frame building on the site of today's Pacific Hotel. On the same date B. B. Miller became Warton's first postmaster. The Pacific Hotel is located on the northwest corner of Berford and

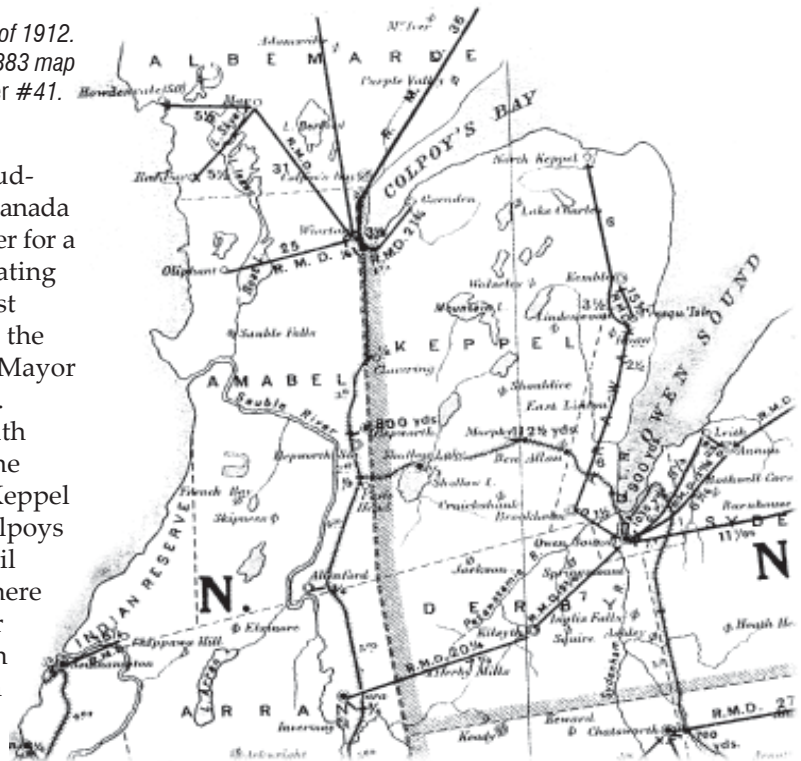
Dominion Fish Co.'s Station, Warton, c. 1908.



CONTENTS - ISSUE N° 42

	REF NO.	PAGE
Town of South Bruce Peninsula: Warton [J. Kraemer]	222	485
Canada Post in the News: Mansfield, Thornton, Collingwood	223	497
The Post Office at Annan [G. Knierim]	224	498
Post Office Buildings on Post Cards #21: Cookstown [Robt. C. Smith]	225	501
Editor's Word, Back Issues, Binders, and Bound Volumes	226	504

Post Office mail route map of 1912.
Compare this map with the 1883 map
shown on page 466, Georgian Courier #41.



William Streets. Mr. Miller who was born in Kircudbrightshire, Scotland on January 25, 1836 came to Canada in 1846. He worked as a store clerk and then a teacher for a number of years before moving to Wiarion. Dominating the early development of Wiarion., he was the first Division Court clerk, the first Indian Lands agent, the first police magistrate and later became The first Mayor when Wiarion became a town on January 1, 1894.

The first mail route was established in 1868 with William Scales the first mail courier. The mail came from Owen Sound via Presqu'ile, Kemble, North Keppel and Oxenden from where it crossed the bay to Colpoys and then on to Wiarion. Mr. Scales carried the mail on foot making one trip a week. Before this time there was no regular mail delivery. Settlers picked their mail up at the Mission House in Oxenden. William Cuddy took over the mail route from Mr. Scales in 1870. He carried the mail until roads were built and J. W. Jennyn started to run a passenger and mail stage between Owen Sound and Wiarion. The *S. S. Hero*, a steamer from Collingwood started calling once a week in 1868.

The steamer *S. S. Champion* started a mail service in 1869 between Wiarion and Owen Sound carrying the mail three times a week during the navigational season. By 1870 the population of Wiarion was approximately 200. In 1875 Wiarion asked the Post Office Department for a year round daily mail service from Owen Sound. They also asked for a weekly service from Wiarion to Lion's Head via Colpoys Bay, leaving Wiarion on Monday returning on Tuesday. The request was accompanied by signed petitions and letters.

It was decided that a site change for the post office was necessary. Mr. Miller resigned in late November 1877 and the post office moved to, "The Post Office Book Store" which was operated by Neil McMillan. The post office opened at its new location on January 1, 1878 with Mr. McMillan as postmaster. Records show that the population in 1879 was 732. By a special Act of



PROOF STRIKE
21.5 mm cds
(arcs 11.0 mm)



PROOF STRIKE
19.5 mm cds
(arcs 10.0 mm)

Bruce Graham reports four possible broken circle postmarks in Ontario Broken Circles as amended in Georgian Courier #41. [1] unknown device at opening of post office; [2] 21 mm (arcs ?, 11.5) type A1, reported used between 1881 and 1888; [3] 21.5 mm (arcs 11.0) type A1, proofed JY 14 / 1888, reported used FE 2 / 1895; [4] 19.5 mm (arcs 10.0) type A1, proofed MR 12 / 1910, reported used between 1910 and 1923.

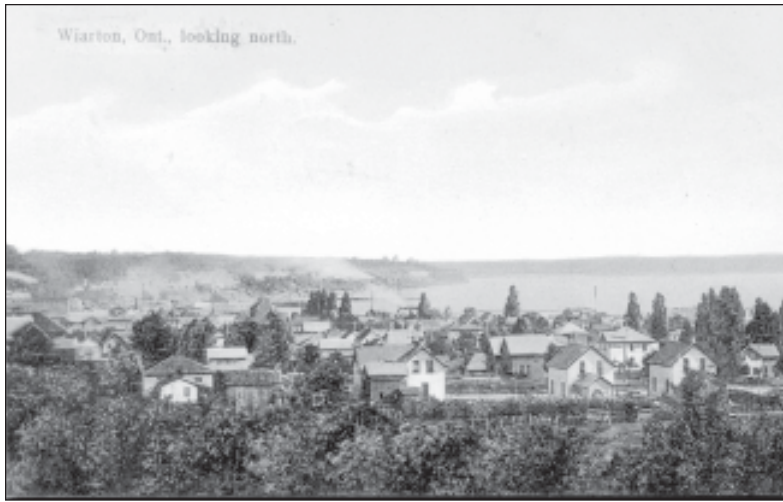
Parliament passed on March 5, 1880 Wiarion was incorporated as a village. (The Municipal Act, R.S.O. 1877, gave the requirements for incorporation of a village as an area with a population of 750 within 500 acres.) Part of the village lying in Keppel Township in the County of Grey was added to the original town plot giving Wiarion a population of 752.

The first newspaper, *The Echo*, began publishing on July 4, 1879. Local industry was booming resulting in good times for Wiarion.

Mr. R. Trout became the mail courier between Wiarion and Owen Sound. His contract called for the mail to be carried on four trips per week starting on September 18, 1880. Mr. Trout's successor, James W. Jermyn of Wiarion, ran a



WIARTON / ONT. / OC 31 / 90
Registered letter mailed from Wiarion to Southampton and struck with the second c.d.s. dater.



Turn-of-the-century post card showing the town of Warton.



PROOF STRIKE
24.0 mm cds



PROOF STRIKE
23.0 mm cds



PROOF STRIKE
24.0 mm cds



PROOF STRIKE
24.0 mm cds



PROOF STRIKE
24.5 mm cds
latest recorded use
PM / 25 VI 99
[modern era]

Ed. Note – Considering the size of Warton and its postal affairs, it seems that an extraordinary large number of cancelling devices were placed in use. There is no record of a fire having destroyed any part of the facility. Since most of these cancelling devices last a number of years it does beg the question of “Why so many?”

daily passenger and mail stage to Owen Sound. A partner of Mr Jermyn’s, and the driver on the stage coach during the winter months, was Isaac Lennox a son of Warton’s first settler! Mr Jermyn’s contract ended when the Grand Trunk Railway reached Warton on the November 29, 1881. Regular mail service from beyond Chesley to Warton started on August 1, 1882.

On the October 13, 1882 the following report appeared in *The Echo*. “The mails for Colpoys Bay and Oxenden now leave Warton in the evening after the arrival of the mail train. Postal matter for McIver and Cape Croker must be in the office on Friday afternoon.”

C. W. Dalton in a letter dated November 10, 1882 to the postal authorities complained, “that those on the west side [of the Bruce peninsula], could not answer their letters until the following week, it actually being a fortnightly mail. The mails were carried from Warton every Monday morning to Mar, Albemarle and Pike Bay

at noon, thence to Spry due at 3:00 p.m., then across the 20th sideroad to Lion’s Head at 6:00 p.m., returning the next day by Lion’s Head, calling at Hope Ness and Hope Bay post offices. The carrier from Tobermory and Stokes Bay meets the arrival of the mail at Spry on Monday and returns on Tuesday arriving in Tobermory on Wednesday.” Mr. Dalton asked for a change since he thought it was a great injustice to have a fortnightly mail on the western side, while the eastern side had a mail twice a week.

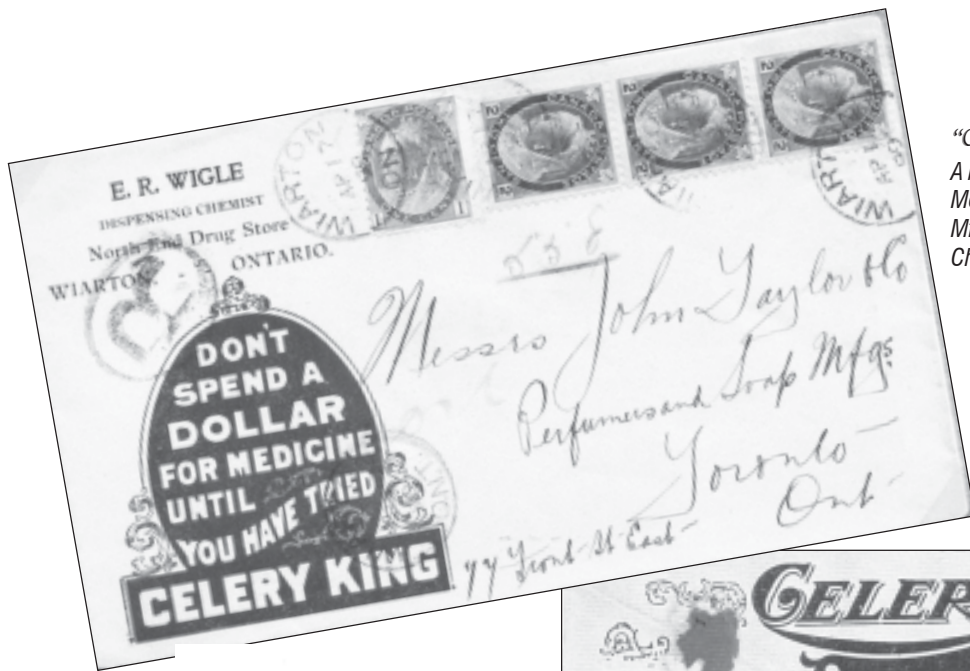
Mr. McMillan, the Warton postmaster, moved the store and post office, in 1882 to the building that is now (1985) occupied by James Flett. Neil McMillan died on

Front and back cover of booklet published by the Warton Echo press.



The Warton-Lion’s Head mail was delivered twice weekly.

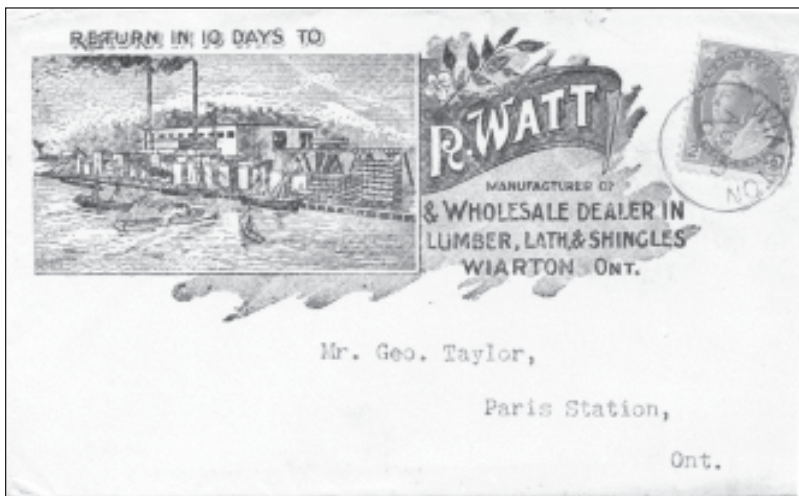
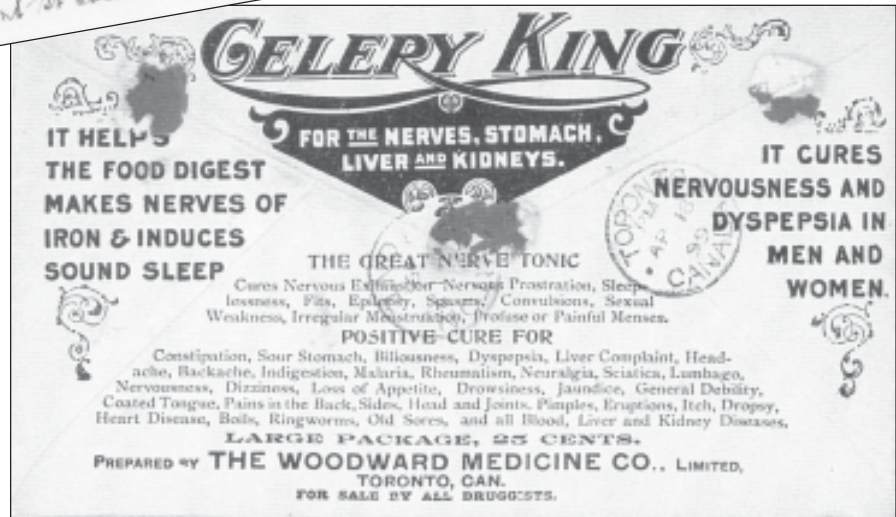




"Celery King" for Nerves . . . and whatever ails you.
A beautiful advertising registered cover send to Messrs. John Taylor & Co., Perfumers and Soap Mfgs., Toronto, Ont. by E. R. Wigle, Dispensing Chemist, North End Drug Store, Wiarton, Ont.



PROOF STRIKE
only used for two short periods
AP 16 / 94 to JY 6 / 94
JA 23 / 99 to FE 2 / 99



Illustrated advertising cover from R. Watt, Manufacturer of & Wholesale Dealer in Lumber, Lath, & Shingles, Wiarton, Ont. These and other advertising covers spoke well of the prosperity of the community at the turn of the century.

July 2, 1888. His wife carried on for a few weeks until a new postmaster was appointed.

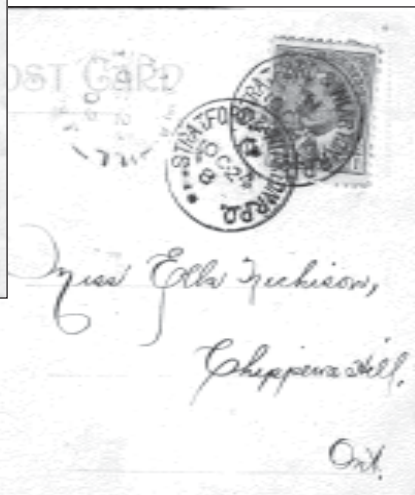
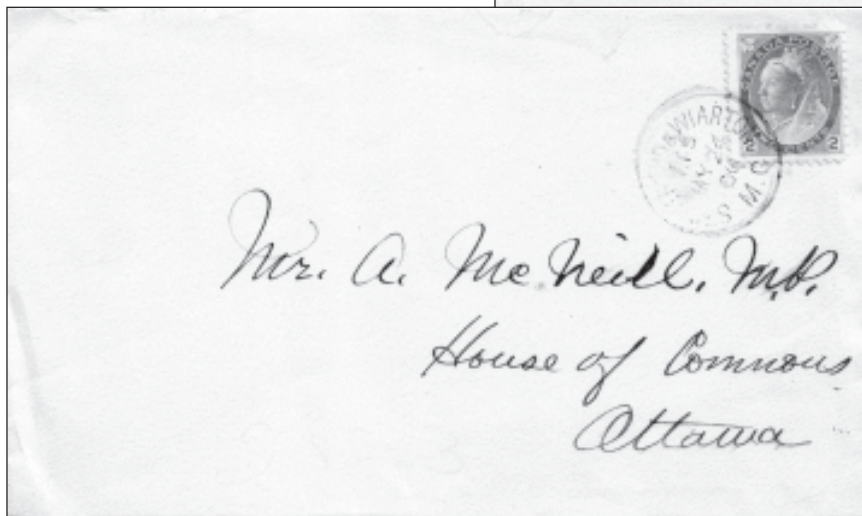
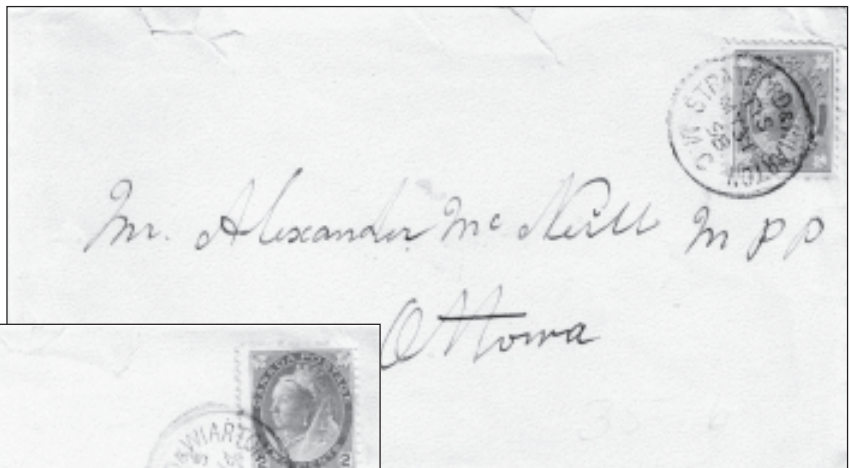
David Dinsmore, Wiarton's first treasurer was appointed postmaster on September 1, 1888. The post office moved to a building on the site recently occupied by Miller's Garage. The store at the top of the hill near where Miller's Hotel was located moved to the same location. David Dinsmore served as village reeve in 1880, 1881 and 1882, In 1893, he erected a new building. The post office moved to this building where it remained

for many years. Postmaster Dinsmore passed away on May 28, 1908. He had been postmaster for twenty years.

James Walmsley was appointed Wiarton's fourth postmaster on August 17, 1908. In 1912 the property on the southeast corner of Berford and George Streets was acquired by the federal government as a site for a new post office. Mr. Walmsley passed away on July 8, 1913.

Thomas Caldwell Allan who had been a Signal Officer in Capetown, South Africa with the D. C. O. R.'s was appointed postmaster on September 2, 1913. Miss Elsie

STRAT. & WIARTON
PROOFED NOV. 4, 1929



B. 395. Canadian National Railway Station, Warton, Ont.

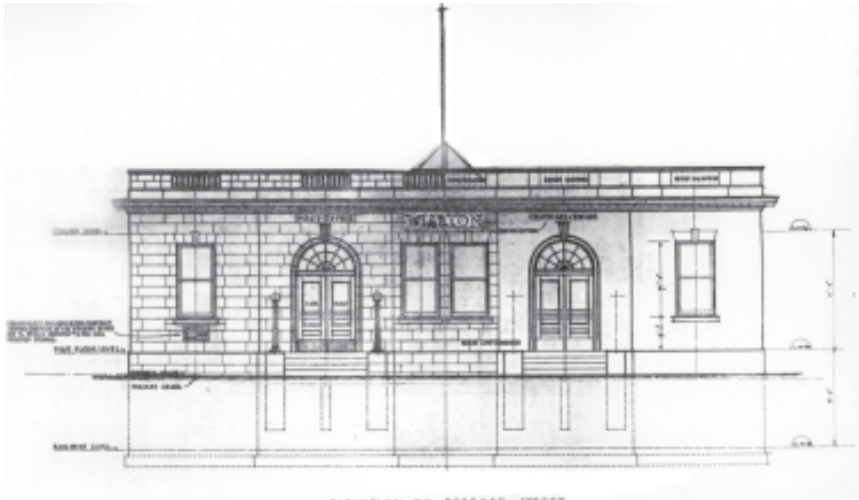


Hull was named Senior Assistant to the postmaster. The post office was located in a small grocery store operated by Mr. Allan, located on the southwest corner of Gould and Division Streets.

Warton's present post office was built in 1926. It is a one story building of 4,988 square feet designed by architect Mr. R. C. Wright of Ottawa. The contract to build the post office was for \$26,474.00. The building is described as 58 ft. 5 inches x 34 feet 5 inches, with a wing at the rear that is 25 feet 3 inches x 15 feet. Built of rock limestone and cut stone, the post office officially opened on February 4, 1927. To mark the occasion the Board of Trade held a banquet in the town hall with The Honourable James Malcolm, M.P., Minister of Trade and Commerce, attending as the principal guest. In

1928 additional land was purchased in order to better accommodate vehicles. A report in 1929 listed Mary Mackenzie, who first joined the post office in May 1922, and Gordon Smith, as well as Elsie Hull, as sworn-in assistants. The postal authorities kept a tight discipline on the post offices, postmasters and their staff. An example of this occurred when Mr. Allan reported on July 14, 1930 that the lock bag key was missing having last been used to open mail from London and Warton R.P.O., train #173. The postmaster was fined \$1.00 plus 20¢ to cover the cost of a new key.

During the 1930s mail was dispatched by bus at 5:15 a.m. and received via train at 2:20 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. Mail was also dispatched via train twice a day. An attempt to break into the post office during the early



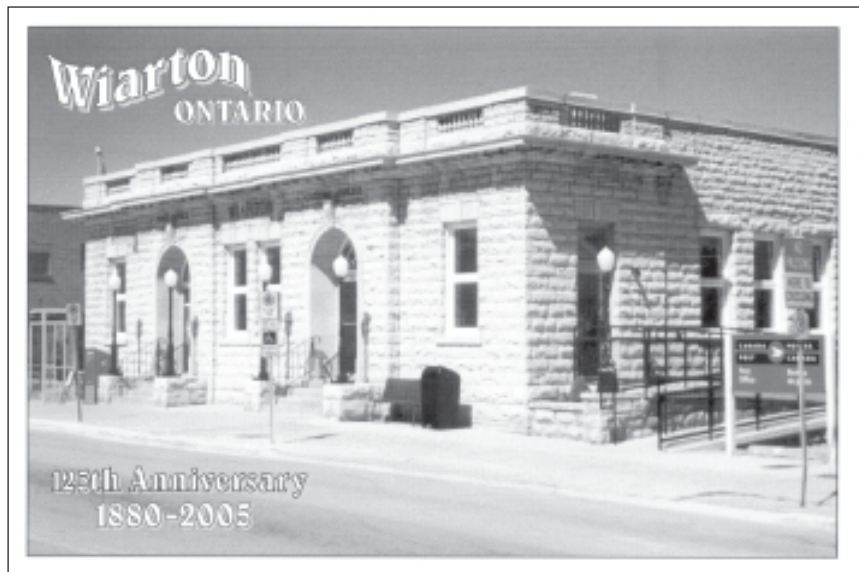
ELEVATION TO BERFOLD STREET

Warton Post office was officially opened February 4, 1927. Above we show the Berford Street elevation (front), to the right the plot survey, and below the George Street (north side) elevation.

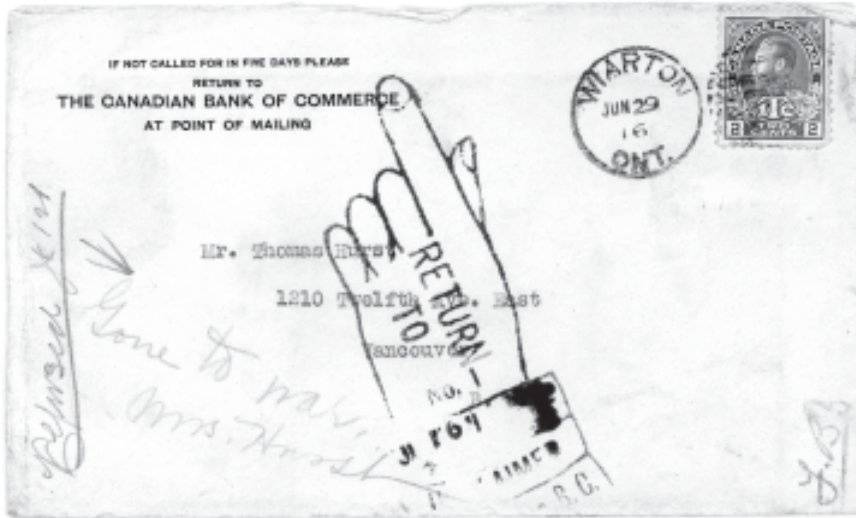
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OF CANADA
GEORGE ST
BERFOLD ST



ELEVATION TO GEORGE STREET



This colour post card was available at the Warton post office to celebrate the town's 125th Anniversary.



WIARTON / ONT. / JUN 29 / 16

A Canadian Bank of Commerce letter addressed to Mr. Thomas Hurst in Vancouver was undeliverable and returned to Wiarton to be forwarded to Mar. The return datestamp of July 12, 1916 shows that the letter was just 14 days in the system. Modern transportation cannot match that service!



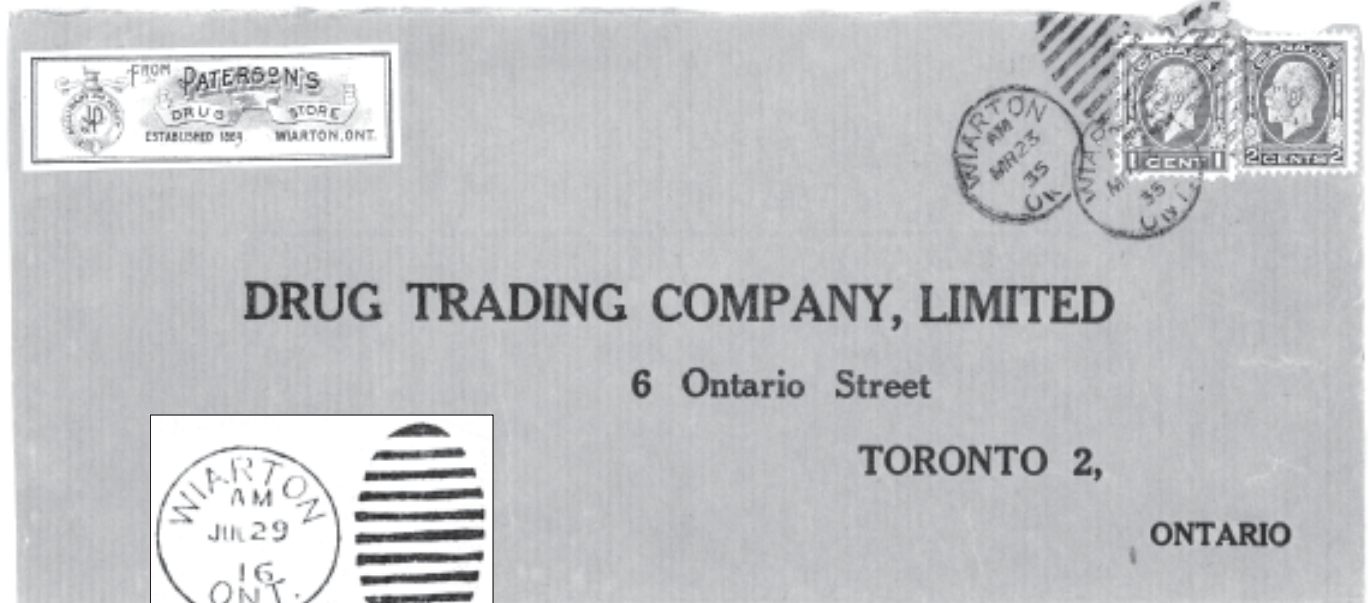
hours of Sunday, February 5, 1938 was not successful. Earl McVannel, courier on R.R. #5, Wiarton who had been arrested and charged in the theft of post letters was accused of being connected with the attempted break-in. McVannel was at liberty on bail at the time. The break-in was eventually considered an act of vandalism. McVannel was found guilty of theft.

Thomas Allan who was born on November 22, 1860 died on October 10, 1944. Mr. Allan was in his 84th year. Due to wartime conditions acting postmaster-ships were often allowed to be extended. Miss Elsie Hull, his assistant, was appointed postmaster on a temporary basis until a new postmaster could be selected. Miss Hull began working at the post office in 1906 when she was 22 years old. When Mr. Auston Kerby Gray, the successful candidate for postmaster was appointed, Miss Hull became his senior assistant.

In a span of 65 years Wiarton utilized four duplex devices. The first one (DON-1963) was a 22-mm type A9 that is known used from 1902 until 1916 (as seen above). The cover shown below and the proof strike is the second Wiarton duplex hammer.



The fourth hammer is in storage with Canada Post and has a date of PM / DE 22 / 69 inserted. This is most likely the last date of use.



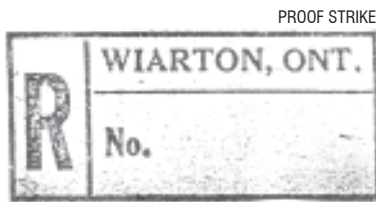
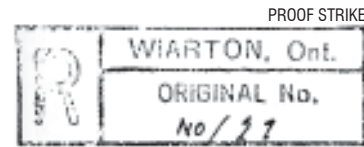
WIARTON / ONT. / AM . MR 23 / 35 [DON-1964]

Large brown No. 10 envelope mailed from Patersen's Drug Store, established 1869, Wiarton, Ontario, to the Drug Trading Company, Limited in Toronto.



WIARTON / ONT. / JUL 11 / 1927

Peter Cameron mailed this registered letter to The Beekeeper at Peterboro, Ontario. Note the routing from Wiarnton on the LONDON & OWEN SOUND R.P.O. to TORONTO TERM. and then to PETERBORO where it arrived July 12. It appears that some transit marks may be missing.



Elsie Hull who suffered from diabetes retired in 1949 after 43 years of postal service. Mr. Gray who was vice president of the local branch of the Canadian Legion received substantial backing from the Legionnaires. Other clerks at the Wiarnton post office in 1948 were Edward Hull, who had joined the post office in 1930, and Miss Jacqueline Hilditch.

A survey of the Wiarnton post office in the fall of 1945 noted that there were three assistants plus a part-time clerk. The mail for 14 post offices, north of Wiarnton in the Bruce peninsula, passed through the Wiarnton office. Mail was received daily at 6:15 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 2:15 p.m., the latter being the heaviest mail. Mail was dispatched at 5:00 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 12:55 p.m.

A. K. Gray died on May 27, 1948. The post office was transferred on a temporary basis to his assistant Mrs. Margaret S. Smith, nee Perkins.

The late postmaster's widow, Mrs. Mary Gray, the former Mary Mackenzie, in the weeks following Mrs. Smith's appointment let it be known that she felt that she was entitled to the position. Mrs. Gray who was not employed at the time had 22 years of post office experience. Mary Gray who had left the postal service in January 1948 returned on June 15, 1948. She became Mrs. Smith's assistant and upon receipt of a salary increase, cooperated with Mrs. Smith up to a point. Although solicitations were made on her behalf, Mrs. Gray remained an assistant. Mrs. Hazel McGarvy also acted as an assistant to Mrs. Smith.

The Wiarnton postmaster's position was advertised at a salary range of \$2,400.00 to \$2,880.00 per annum. An examination of the 12 applicants was held on August 30, 1948. Gordon B. Forbes, Chief of Police for Wiarnton was selected by the Public Service Commission. Mr. Forbes had been a postal clerk with the Canadian Forces Overseas and had also served for two years as postmaster at Brinkman's Corners. There was a strong local feeling that several of the other qualifying candidates were more popular. Many objections to Mr. Forbes' appointment were raised.

The Post Office Department asked for a complete report on the first five candidates according to their ranking. A subsequent review placed George E. R. Butchart first on the list of candidates. Mr. Butchart, an insurance agent and who had spent four years as a flying officer in the Royal Canadian Air Force assumed the duties of postmaster on April 28, 1949. Mrs. Margaret Smith was named Senior Assistant. A month later Mrs. Mary Gray left the postal service on May 21, 1949. Mrs. Gray (nee Mary Mackenzie) had worked at the Wiarnton post office from May 1922 to October, 1940 and as Mrs. Mary Gray from October, 1944 to January, 1948 and from June 1948 to April 1949 a total of over 23 years.

Wiarnton's post office revenue which was \$8,987.00 for 1935-1936 reached \$11,086.00 in 1943-1944. The postmaster's salary allowance for the same year was \$4,862.00. Revenue at Wiarnton rose steadily every year. For the fiscal year 1946-1947 revenue was \$13,368.00.

In 1949 the mail service in the Wiarton area was rearranged. The mails between Park Head and Wiarton, Lion's Head and Wiarton, and Lion's Head and Tobermory were now sorted by R.P.O. clerks (Railway Post Office). The R.P.O. clerks worked out of Wiarton. Formerly Bruce Peninsula mail was sorted at Wiarton.

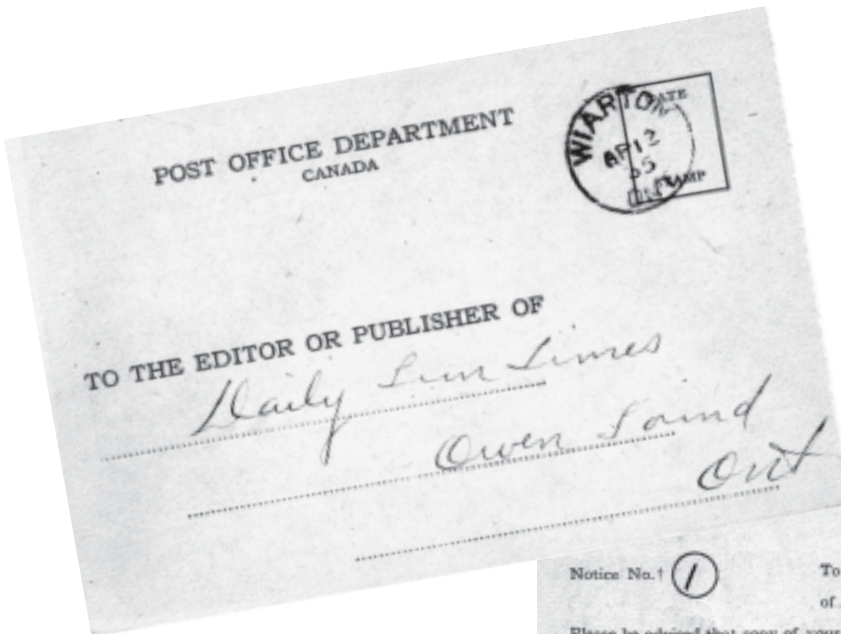
Revenue kept increasing rapidly, reaching \$17,000.00 in 1954-1955. In 1959-1960 revenue amounted to \$20,221.75. In order to improve mail service the Owen Sound-Wiarton Highway Postal Service was instituted in February 1960. The service arrived in Wiarton each day at 6:50 a.m.

George Ernest Ray Butchart, known as Ray, was appointed Acting Postmaster on April 28, 1949. Exactly

one year later he was confirmed as Postmaster. The Butchart family who were early settlers in Bruce were well known particularly in the Port Elgin area. Ray Butchart served as postmaster for 28 years, retiring on December 23, 1977 – his 65th birthday. Only Thomas C. Allan, who had been Wiarton postmaster for 31 years (1913–1944), served for a longer period. Before retiring Mr. Butchart had the honour of presenting a 25-year service pin to Russell Beacock who began work at the post office in 1950.

Allen F. Henderson was named Acting Postmaster on December 22, 1977 to serve until a postmaster was appointed. On January 3, 1978 William N. Morey, former

The Money Order Datestamps of Warton

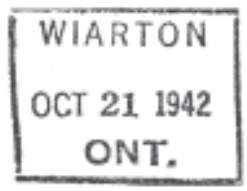
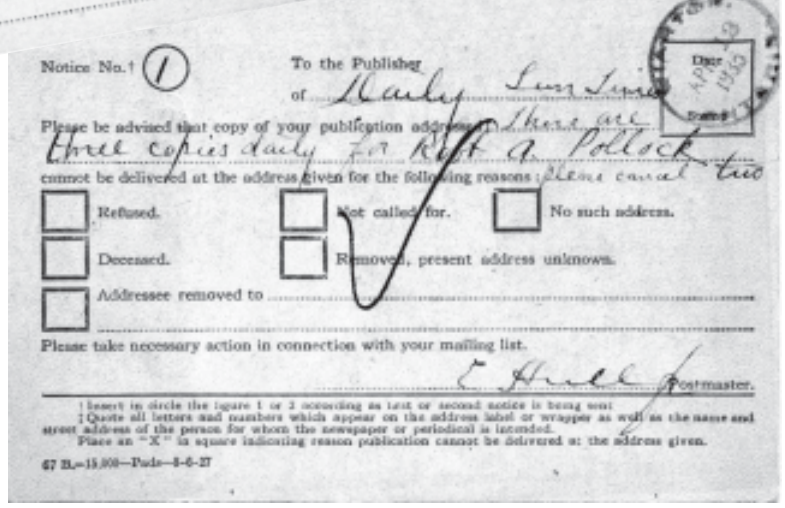
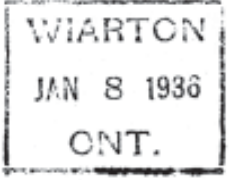


WIARTON, / ONTARIO / APR 12 / 1935
Official post office correspondence addressed to the editor or publisher of the Owen Sound Sun Times regarding the inability to deliver the newspaper to Robt. A. Pollock.



PROOF STRIKE
23-mm MOOD
proofed
Feb 1, 1928

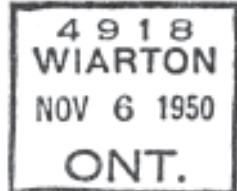
PROOF STRIKE
28 x 22.5 mm
MOTO



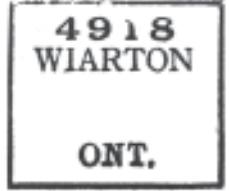
PROOF STRIKE
30 x 22 mm
MOTO



PROOF STRIKE
27.5 x 24 mm
MOTO



PROOF STRIKE
29 x 24 mm
MOON



PROOF STRIKE
28 x 24 mm MOON
proofed April 1953

These are just some of the instruments that were in use until April 1, 1973 when the new POCON numbering system was introduced.



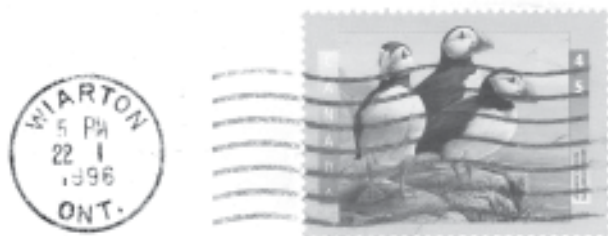
postmaster at Rodney, Ontario was appointed Warton postmaster. One month later Mr. Morey resigned for personal reasons. His was probably one of the shortest appointments on record. Kees Van Aalst, a senior postal clerk in Owen Sound was asked to take charge of the Warton post office as Acting Postmaster until the appointment of a new postmaster. Norman L. Limpert, the successful candidate in a competition to select a postmaster, was appointed Postmaster on May 15, 1978. Van Aalst returned to his duties in Owen Sound.

In 1979, Herbert Bull of Colpoy's Bay received a well deserved award. Mr. Bull was presented with a plaque from the Postmaster General in honour of his distinguished service as the mail carrier for Warton R.R. #4. Mr. Bull had served his patrons for 53 years beginning in 1915 when R.R. #4 was established.

Warton's first rural mail route was established in 1914. In 1917 the following contracts were reported.

ROUTE	CONTRACTOR	MILEAGE	TRIPS PER WK.	CONTRACT DATE	REMUNERATION
Rwy. Stn.	H. W. Hull	¼	24	July 1, 1914	\$350.00
Rwy. Stn.	S. Hyatt	¼	24	April 1, 1915	-
R.R. #3	James Hawke	25	6	Oct. 1, 1914	724.25
R.R. #4	Herbert Bull	31	6	Dec. 1, 1915	731.12
R.R. #5	C. Gilbert	36	3	May 3, 1916	318.38
R.R. #6	E. Hummel	22	6	Dec. 15, 1916	281.39

With the arrival of the railway there was a need to transport the mail between the railway station and the post office. A contract to convey the mail between the station and the post office, making 12 trips per week was awarded to Mr. I. Post. The contract started October 11, 1882 and was renewed regularly to Mr. Post



until 1895 when L. Hyatt had the lowest tender and was awarded the contract. S. Hyatt took over the contract from 1905 until 1914.

For various reasons Warton's post office experienced many temporary and acting assignments from 1977 to near the end of 1980. Norman Limpert's eight-month acting assignment came to an end on January 15, 1980. His successor John Thomas Gibson of Owen Sound was appointed postmaster on a temporary basis. Mr. Gibson served for five months before returning to his former position with the Owen Sound post office.

Miss Virginia Berlet of the Strathroy post office was appointed Acting Postmaster in Warton on May 6, 1980. She had first joined Canada Post on June 14, 1972 working at post offices in London and Strathroy. Miss Berlet became Mrs. Virginia E. J. Bailey on October 11, 1980, the date of her marriage. Her acting appointment was cancelled and on the following day she was reappointed under her married name. On August 3, 1982, Mrs. Bailey left her position in Warton in order to take up her new position as postmaster at Southampton, Ontario. John Thomas Gibson of Owen Sound replaced Mrs. Bailey on a temporary basis until a new postmaster could be chosen.

The year 1980 was important in the development of Warton. The population reached 2,100. Tourism replaced lumbering as the predominate industry. The new postmaster, Arnold C. Johnson received his appointment on November 9, 1982. Mr. Johnson served as postmaster for over five years, resigning on August



The Warton Willie monument on the lakeshore.



WAKE-UP WILLIE DAY FRIDAY, JANUARY 31ST AT THE WIARTON POST OFFICE

The coffee pot will be on all day - drop in and join one of our staff for a coffee break.

While here, take a moment to see the many postal products that are available.

New for this year and available only at the Wiarton Post Office are special pre-stamped envelopes to honour our famous white groundhog. Envelopes are two sizes (#8 & #10) and still the same prices. Both are printed with the logo below.



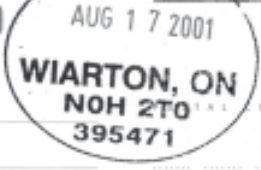
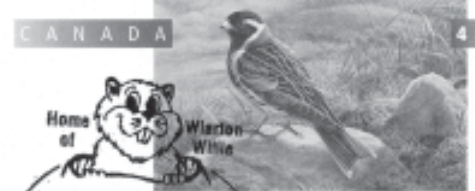
Postmaster Norma Hellyer is promoting the area through the mail. She had recently received (2001) Wiarton Willie datestamps that will spread Willie's name around the world. She is shown here with the new datestamp as well as some Wiarton Willie postal stationery. The poster was used in 2003 to promote Wiarton Willie and his enthusiastic weather report. Long Live Wiarton Willie, once again!



The Wiarton Willie cachet was first produced in 1996 and over the years has seen a few changes. In 1999 the old chap left this earth and was duly memorialized as seen here with the epitaph, R.I.P.



The following year we have the coronation of his cousin who reigned until this year.



The August 17, 2001 datestamp is in blue with a red date.

The smaller March 22, 2004 datestamp is in black.



Shown above is the current version of the cachet imprinted on a 47¢ No. 8 envelope. It is also found on the non-denominated envelopes in both No.8 and No. 10 sizes. Datestamps, as well as the imprinting of the envelopes are the work of Conestoga Press.

Wiarton: A significant date

On April 1, 1973, Wiarton along with all of the other post offices operated by the then Post Office Department, received a new number to identify its existence. This six-digit numeric identifier (known to collectors as a POCON) began an organizational system that is still in use today. Canada Post refers to the numbers as the RC (Resource Centre) number.

Herewith are shown some of the Wiarton date-stamps that include the RC# that have been used by the post office over the past 33 years.

395471

127 XII 1973
WIARTON
ON

395471
1X 24 1979
WIARTON
ONT.

395471
1998-03-14
WIARTON, ON
N0H 2T0

POSTES CANADA **CANADA POST**
395471
FEB 22 2002
WIARTON, ON
N0H 2T0

CANADA
CANADA POSTES CANADA
395471
JAN 27 2004
WIARTON, ON
N0H 2T0

CANADA POST **POSTES CANADA**
395471
DEC 9 - 2005
WIARTON, ON
N0H 2T0

The February 22, 2002 datestamp is in blue with a red date. All others are in black.

20, 1987. Roger Westlake was appointed as part-time assistant in June, 1987.

Mrs. Norma Hellyer who had become the Senior Assistant at the Wiarton post office in 1984 was appointed Acting Postmaster on August 21, 1987. On April 1, 1988 Joseph Daniel Trafelet of Southampton was appointed postmaster at Wiarton.

Mr. Trafelet had been the successful candidate in the competition for Wiarton postmaster including Field Support. He was a long-time senior assistant at the Southampton, Ontario post office including a period when he served as Temporary Postmaster. Due to a staffing problem at Southampton Mr. Trafelet worked half-time in Southampton and half-time in Wiarton from April 1 until June 20, 1988. He retired on May 31, 2000 in order to spend more time at his retirement home in Park Head, Ontario.

Mrs Norma Hellyer was appointed Acting Postmaster on April 1, 2000 and confirmed as Postmaster on September 10, 2001.

The Ontario section of Canada Post's 1984 Report entitled, "The Householder Figures For Non-Letter Carrier Offices", contained the following information concerning Wiarton.

	RESIDENCES	BUSINESSES	TOTAL
Wiarton	904	195	1,099
R.R. #1	111	14	125
R.R. #2	260	8	268
R.R. #3	257	18	275
R.R. #4	91	10	101
R.R. #5	197	2	199
R.R. #6	153	3	156
Total	1973	250	2223

At the present time (2006) Wiarton post office with its staff of six employees including Postmaster Hellyer and her Senior Assistant, Dora Abbott, serve ten rural routes. Wiarton has become a main distribution centre for the area.

WIARTON RURAL ROUTES

RURAL ROUTE	CONTRACTOR
R.R. #1 Wiarton	William Thomas Sr.
R.R. #2 Wiarton	William Thomas Sr.
R.R. #3 Wiarton	Anne White
R.R. #4 Wiarton	David Bull
R.R. #5 Wiarton	Michael Hellyer
R.R. #6 Wiarton	Joanne Vandenbrock
R.R. #1 Hepworth	Kenneth Ervin
R.R. #2 Hepworth [included with R.R. #1 Sauble Beach]	Mavis Ervin
R.R. #3 Hepworth	Mavis Ervin
R.R. #1 Sauble Beach	Mavis Ervin
R.R. #1 Mar	William Thomas Jr.

Wiarion has become a four season tourist centre. It is an entry point for a wide variety of outdoor activities, rest and relaxation, fresh air and clear water. Fresh water fishing, hiking and camping on the world renowned Bruce Trail, playing golf or relaxing on the clean sandy beaches are popular with tourists. In winter you can find over a thousand miles of groomed, well-marked snowmobile trails.

In any season visit Wiarion with its turn-of-the-century buildings, quaint old-fashioned shops and fine dining establishments. In summer stroll along the shoreline, visit the picnic and camping facilities, and finally visit the large monument on the lakeshore of Wiarion Willie, the albino groundhog, who is said to predict the weather on the second day of February each year. ☒

REFERENCES

- History of Wiarion and District* (1961) by Sims and Preston.
Wiarion 1880-1980 by Shiela Gates. Published by Wiarion Echo Printing Co.
History of the County of Bruce, 1907-1968, by Norman Mcleod.
History of the County of Bruce by Norman Robertson
Performance by South-West District of Postal Employees, London, ON, 1974-1979.
Triangle News, Canada Post, S.W. Ontario District, 1980-1983.
Illustrated Atlas County of Bruce, 1880, by H. Belden & Co., Toronto.
 Canadian Public Archives, RG-3 Series, Postmastership and Salary Files.

THE POSTMASTERS OF WIARTON

and THEIR PERIODS OF SERVICE

Post office established: Aug. 1, 1868

B. B. Miller	Aug. 1, 1868 – Nov. 21, 1877	SITE CHANGE
Neil McMillan	Jan. 1, 1878 – July 2, 1888	DEATH
David Dinsmore	Sep. 1, 1888 – May 28, 1908	DEATH
James Walmsley	Aug. 17, 1908 – July 8, 1913	DEATH
Thos. Caldwell Allan	Sep. 2, 1913 – Oct. 10, 1944	DEATH
Miss Elsie Ethelyn Hull	Oct. 14, 1944	ACTING
Auston Kerby Gray	Oct. 25, 1944	ACTING
Auston Kerby Gray	Aug. 19, 1947 – May 27, 1948	DEATH
Mrs. Marg. Simmie Smith	May 28, 1948	ACTING
Geo. Ernest Ray Butchart	Apr. 28, 1949	ACTING
Geo. Ernest Ray Butchart	Apr. 28, 1950 – Dec. 21, 1977	RETIRED
Allen F. Henderson	Dec. 22, 1977	ACTING
William N. Morey	Jan. 3, 1978 – Feb. 2, 1978	RESIGN.
Kees Van Aalst	Feb. 3, 1978	ACTING
Norm. Lawrence Limpert	May 15, 1978 – Jan. 15, 1980	ACTING
John Thomas Gibson	Jan. 16, 1980 – May 5, 1980	TEMP.
Ms. Virginia Berlet	May 6, 1980 – Oct. 10, 1980	MARRIAGE
Mrs. Virginia E. J. Bailey	Oct. 11, 1980 – Aug. 3, 1982	PROMOTION
John Thomas Gibson	Aug. 4, 1982 – Nov. 8, 1982	TEMP.
Arnold C. Johnson	Nov. 9, 1982 – Aug. 20, 1987	RESIGN.
Mrs. Norma Hellyer	Aug. 21, 1987 – Mar. 31, 1988	ACTING
Joseph Daniel Trafelet	Apr. 1, 1988 – May 31, 2000	RETIRED
Mrs. Nonna Hellyer	June 1, 2000 – Sep. 9, 2001	ACTING
Mrs. Norma Hellyer	Sep 10, 2001	
<i>Money Order Office No.:</i>	4918	
<i>Computer Office No.:</i>	395471 [Est. April 1, 1973]	
<i>Post Office Postal Code:</i>	N0H2T0	

[REF. 223]

CANADA POST *in the News* . . .

MANSFIELD – Issue 41 of the *Georgian Courier* reported the construction and completion of the new general store in Mansfield. Our photograph, submitted by George Power, showed both the old general store as well as the new building. The old general store has now been demolished (July 30) and the postal franchise has been moved to the new store.

☒

THORNTON – As of July 24, 2006 the Thornton Post Office has a new home. It is now located in the new Thornton Crossing Plaza at the corner of Innisfil Beach Road and Country Road 27 (Hwy. 27). Previously it had been located at 1 Robert Street. Thornton is a revenue office, #335843, with a householder count of 977 including 8 businesses.

The new office has a nicer presence than what is found in Collingwood with a householder count of 10,395, including 931 businesses. Collingwood also has one other franchise.

☒

YOUR reports are needed of changes that frequently occur in today's postal scene. Please keep us informed.

BAYSHORE BROADCASTING CORP. / 560 CFOS

Owen Sound, reported on August 31, 2006, the following report written by Jenn Kelland

Collingwood wants improved postal service

Canada Post is considering expanding its services in Collingwood — but there's no indication when any changes will be put in place. Spokesperson Tom Creech says Canada Post and Collingwood officials met recently. He says the main worry is that postal services keep pace with the heavy amount of growth in the community.

Creech says most of the concerns are that Collingwood's existing post office doesn't offer enough access to Canada Post services and products, including Xpress Post and retail products. But he says, there are not necessarily any plans to move the existing office into a bigger building.

Creech says talks of increasing the postal services are still in "very preliminary" stages, and more work still needs to be done. He adds Collingwood's current post office is similar in size to other locations of comparable populations across Canada — although Creech admits it may be a bit smaller. He says officials will continue discussions to come up with a plan to move forward.

The [REF. 224]
Post Office
 at **Annan**
 Sydenham Township
 GREY COUNTY

Gus Knierim

LEITH CORNERS

Leith Corners was the local name for a community of early, predominantly Scottish pioneers that settled one mile from Leith, on the Sydenham "Lake Shore Road," at the turning off toward Leith. This settlement is 6 miles from Owen Sound, and in the midst of fine agricultural land.

At the Corners were found a store, a tavern, a school house, waggon shop, and blacksmith shop. Leith was the closest post office that served this community.

A frame church, belonging to the Canada Presbyterians was in the immediate vicinity, with Rev. R. Dewar serving as minister. The frame school house was supplied with maps and globe; and the scholars during 1864, averaged 48 in attendance.

The small community was comprised of the following citizens and trades people:

- Armstrong, Charles*, farmer.
- Biggar, Andrew*, farmer.
- Clark, Robert* (of Davidson & Clark).
- Campbell, Roland*, waggon maker, at J. P. Telford's.
- Davidson & Clark*, Carpenters and waggon makers.
- Davidson, James* (of Davidson & Clark).
- Dewar, Rev. Robert*, Canada Presbyterian.
- Hudson, John*, farmer.
- Nisbet, George*, farmer.
- Speedie, William*, general merchant, one door from Vanwyck's Hotel.
- Telfer, William*.
- Telford, James*, blacksmith.
- Telford, William P.*, teacher.
- Vanwyck's Hotel*, Leith Corners, Lake Shore Road.
- Vanwyck, Robert*, proprietor, Vanwyck's Hotel.
- Wilson, John*.

SPEEDIE POST OFFICE

The 1860s were prosperous and the community grew. William Speedie successfully petitioned the Post Office Department and a new post office, the sixth in Sydenham Township, was opened on March 1, 1865. The chosen name was "Speedie", named after William Speedie who became the first postmaster. The new post office was located on Lake Shore Road, Lot 34, Concession B, Sydenham Township." Interesting to note that the community continued to use "Leith Corners" as its name. Mails to and from Owen Sound, Leith, Daywood and Johnson, were received on Tuesdays and Saturdays.



Postal Routes map, 1921, showing the delivery route of the daily mail.

ANNAN POST OFFICE

The community continued to grow reaching a peak of approximately 100 in population by 1880. Mail service was improved and became a daily occurrence by 1869. By 1873 three stores now served the community which was still known locally as Leith Corners. For unknown reasons to this writer the community's name was changed to Annan on May 1, 1874.

Annan post office in 1912 declared annual revenue of \$192.00 out of which the postmaster received a salary \$93.00. He was also paid \$6.00 as rent allowance. At this point in time Annan was listed as a non-accounting office, #78079. This princely sum may be compared to the financial year ending March 31, 1973 when Annan declared a revenue of \$1979.00 as a Group 3 accounting office (#2067). The change in status from non-accounting to accounting occurred sometime after 1966 and prior to 1973. On April 1, 1973, Annan received its current number, #390062 (pocon). In 1974 revenues dropped to \$1594.00 and its rating was reduced to a Group 2 office. However, Group 3 status was restored by March 1, 1978. The office continues to be a revenue office to the present day.

For many years the Annan post office operated out of the Annan General Store. As is the case with many country stores, this store closed. However, the post

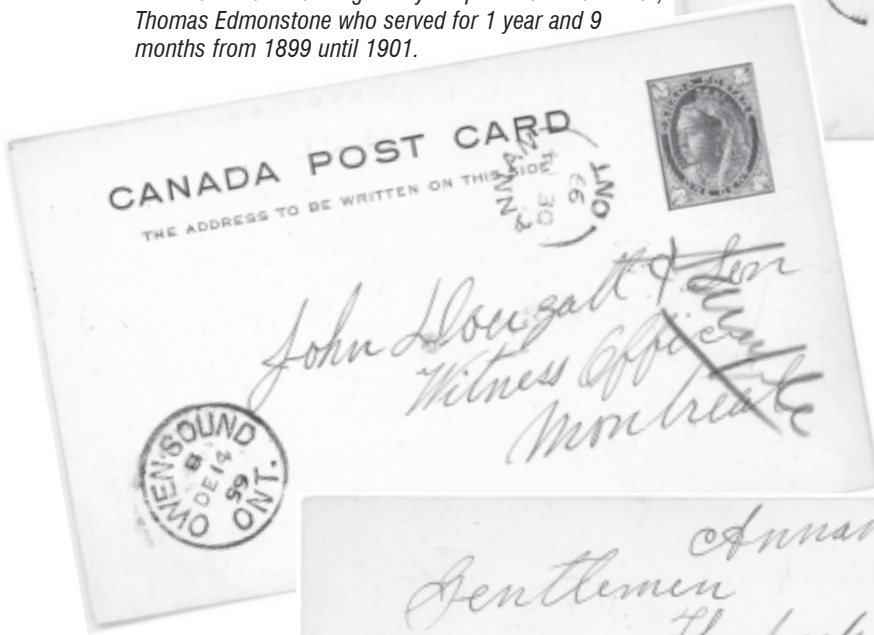
ANNAN / ONT / NO 7 / 95

Registered letter mailed from Annan to New York City where it arrived on November 9, 1895.



ANNAN / ONT / DE 14 / 99

Post card mailed and signed by the postmaster at Annan, Thomas Edmonstone who served for 1 year and 9 months from 1899 until 1901.



Annan General Store was the site of the post office from June 4, 1975 until October 14, 1994.

Annan Dec 14
Gentlemen
The people here want me to receive their renewals for your papers what are your terms to postmasters for receiving renewal subscriptions. yours truly
T Edmonstone P.M.
Annan Ont
sent Samp
24/12/99

In its 141 years of operation Annan has utilized only two different cancellations. Shown on this page is the only broken circle hammer, type A1 20 mm (arcs 11.0, 10.0). The other cancellation is a 23.0 mm c.d.s. instrument that was proofed February 5, 1948 (shown on the cover on page 500. Speedie used an unreported type A2 Berri instrument measuring 20 mm.

Annan Post Office was located in the front of the Hayward residence from October 17, 1994 until June 16, 2006.



office remained on the premises until October 14, 1994. At that time, coinciding with the appointment of the new postmaster, Mrs. Sonja Hayward, the post office moved to the Hayward residence at 303214 Grey Rd 20. This is the road that leads down to Leith from the corners in Annan.

Sonja Hayward received a promotion in June 2006 and was appointed the postmaster at Elmwood in Bruce County. Mrs. Colleen Van Schepen became the new postmaster on June 19, 2006. This change also resulted in a move of the post office to the Van Schepen residence at 439014 Lakeshore Road. We congratulate both ladies on their respective appointments and wish them well in their new endeavours.

In a small community there is seldom anything that would raise curiosity. On November 3, 1997, Canada Post chose nearby Leith to hold a mini-launch for the just-released Christmas issue (52¢) depicting the stained glass window at Leith United Church, in whose cemetery Tom Thompson is buried. Leith no longer had a post office so Annan was called upon to be the "acting" post office for the occasion. For a fuller discussion of this event see *Georgian Courier* #38, pp. 412-414. ☒

RESOURCES

Library and Archives Canada, *ArchiviaNet: Post Offices and Postmasters*.
Directory of the County of Grey for 1865-66,
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~wjmartin/grey1.htm>

POSTMASTERS AT ANNAN

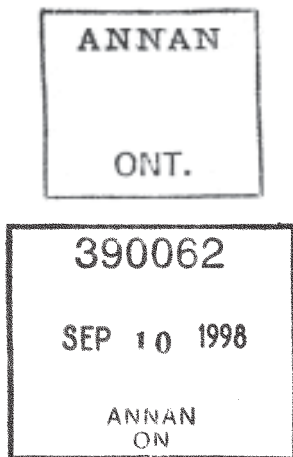
William Speedie	1865-03-01 until 1885-03-01	P.O. CLOSED
Mrs. Margaret Speedie	1885-06-01 until 1899-03-21	
Thomas Edmonstone	1899-05-01 until 1901-01-30	RESIGNATION
A. R. Bowie	1901-10-16 until 1902	DEATH
Mrs. Margaret Bowie	1902-05-01 until 1921-09-24	RESIGNATION
E. E. Wonch	1921-11-15 until 1923-04-02	RESIGNATION
Roy W. Lotus	1923-04-22 until 1930-03-08	RESIGNATION
George Albert Scarrow	1930-04-01 until 1931-05-18	RESIGNATION
Elgin George Bye	1931-06-11 until 1946-03-05	RESIGNATION
Everett Patterson Johnson	1891-04-25 until 1946-04-02	ACTING
Everett Patterson Johnson	1946-04-05 until 1946-10-31	RESIGNATION
Charles Gordon MacPhatter	1946-12-05	ACTING
Charles Gordon MacPhatter	1947-03-28 until 1948-11-25	RESIGNATION
Earl William Sampson	1948-12-02	ACTING
Earl William Sampson	1949-04-01 until 1975-06-03	RETIREMENT
Mrs. Geraldine M. Brill	1975-06-04	TEMPORARY
Mrs. Geraldine M. Brill		1994-10-14
Mrs. Sonja Hayward	1994-10-17 until 2006-06-16	RETIREMENT
Mrs. Colleen Van Schepen	2006-06-19	PROMOTION



Annan's new post office as of June 19, 2006.
 Postmaster is Mrs. Colleen Van Schepen.

ANNAN / ONT. / PM / 12 II / 80

Registered letter mailed from Annan to the Passport Office in Ottawa.



Two rubber datestamps that have seen use at the Annan post office. In all likelihood there are many more that need to be discovered.



The post office at Cookstown, Ontario, c. 1912.



POST OFFICE BUILDINGS ON POST CARDS

Nº 21 in a Series

Cookstown

Robt. C. Smith

[REF. 225]

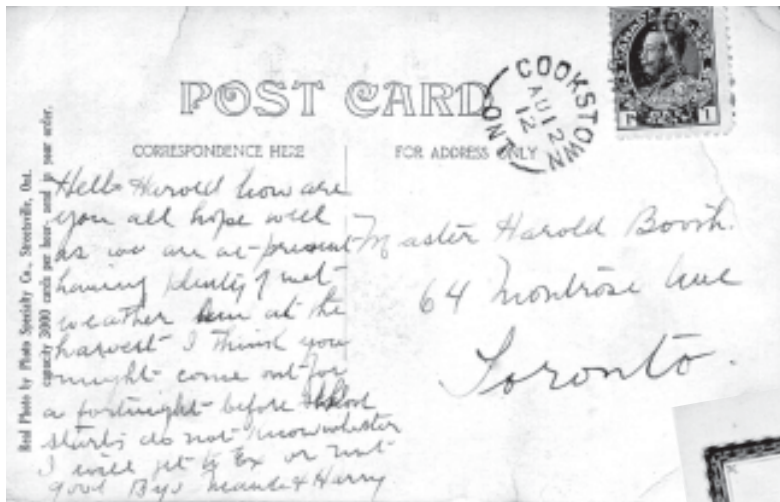
According to David E. Scott in his *Ontario Place Names*, Cookstown was named for one Thomas Cooke, who arrived in that area in 1831; William B. Hamilton in *The Macmillan Book of Canadian Place Names* spells the name Cook; and according to Alan Rayburn in *Place Names of Ontario*, it was named after Major James Cooke, who laid out the village lots in 1847 – so take your pick. The village was located at the four corners of the Townships of Essa, Innisfil, West Gwillimbury and Tecumseth in Simcoe County, and in 1857 had a population of about 150; by 1887 it had grown to about 800. The post office was established in Tecumseth Township on June 6, 1851, just two months after the province took control of Canada's Post Office. Its first postmaster was one James Harper.

The photocard whose front and back are shown in the figures was mailed on August 12, 1912, and was postmarked with a 20 mm diameter COOKSTOWN / ONT broken circle on that date. Maude and Harry, the writers of the card, obligingly printed "Post Office" on the side of one of the buildings in the same ink they used for the message; although it may not

be discernible in the figure, with some magnification on the actual card it is also possible to see a small POST OFFICE sign on the front of the building.

According to Bruce Graham's *Ontario Broken Circles* book, postmarks from the early days of the Cookstown post office must be scarce. He lists a double broken circle with provision for manuscript dating, but with

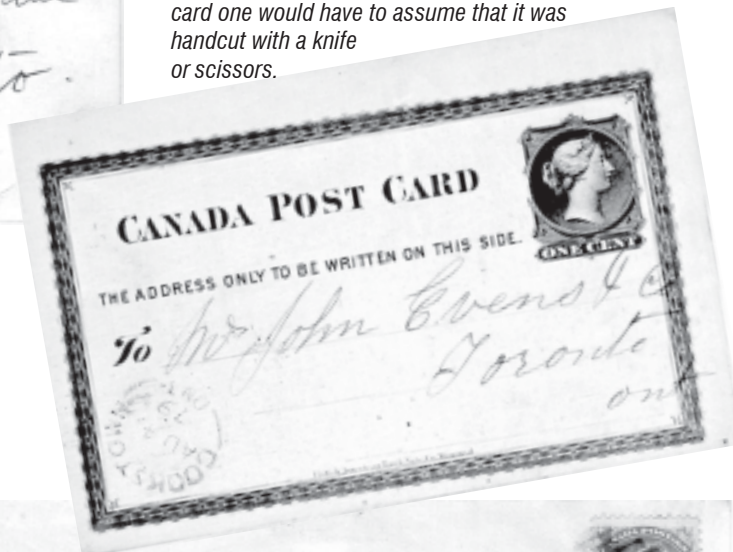




COOKSTOWN / ONT. / AU 12 / 12

Post card showing the Cookstown post office (previous page) as it appeared in 1912 mailed from Cookstown to a young lad in Toronto. This cover is struck with Cookstown's fifth broken circle postmark.

COOKSTOWN / ONT. / AU 4 / 79 – fourth broken circle post mark. Judging by the margins on this post card one would have to assume that it was handcut with a knife or scissors.



COOKSTOWN broken circle datestamps

Bruce Graham reports the following:

- [1] COOKSTOWN – B2x . . . unreported
- [2] COOKSTOWN / U.C – A2 . . . c.1864
- [3] COOKSTOWN / C.W – Berri A2, proofed FE 3 1865 – 21 mm . . . unreported
- [4] COOKSTOWN / ONT – A1, 21 mm . . . shown at right
- [5] COOKSTOWN / ONT – A1, 20 mm (arcs 7.5, 6.5) . . . shown above

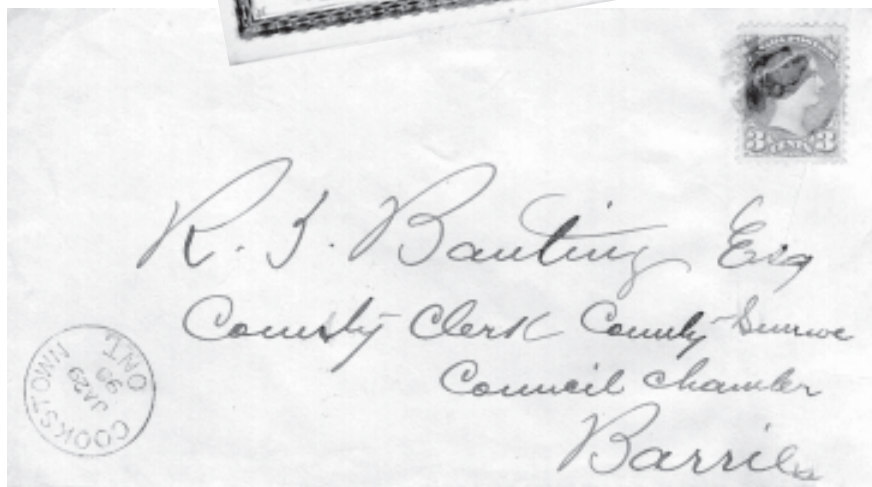
COOKSTOWN / ONT. / JA 29 / 90

This 24-mm c.d.s. was proofed June 13, 1888.

no reports of its use. There follows a COOKSTOWN / U.C single broken circle of unknown diameter, with a single report in 1864 from Frank Campbell. Then comes a COOKSTOWN / C.W single broken circle, diameter 21 mm, ordered from D. G. Berri of London, England on FE 3 / 65, and again with a single report from Campbell dated in 1868. A 21 mm COOKSTOWN / ONT broken circle has been recorded from 1869 (again Campbell) to NO 6 / 80 (illustrated here on a postal card), and finally a similar 20 mm broken circle (the one on the post office card) is known from AU 19 / 07 to JU 13 / 20.

Full circle datestamps of COOKSTOWN / ONT. were proofed on JU 13 / 88 (23.5 mm), NO 2 / 14 (23 mm), OC 30 / 30 (23 mm) and 4 VII / 60 (23 mm); the first, third and fourth of these are shown on the covers illustrated.

The list of Cookstown's postmasters as shown on the National Library and Archives Canada website is reproduced on the following page.



COOKSTOWN / ONT. / SP 7 / 05

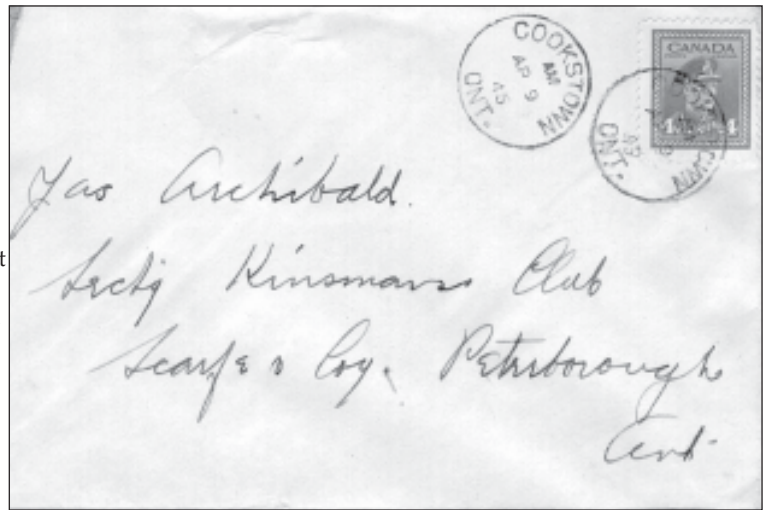
Letter addressed to the seed merchant, John Bruce & Co.



Name of Office: **Cookstown, 331198**
 Electoral District (Ontario): Dufferin-Simcoe
 Date of Establishment: June 6, 1851

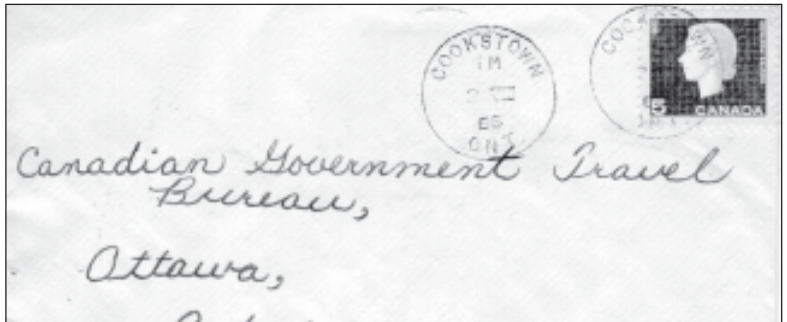
NAME OF POSTMASTER	DATE OF APPOINTMENT	DATE OF VACANCY	CAUSE OF VACANCY
James Harper	1851-06-06	1857-11	Death
John Harper	1858-02-01	1862-02-18	Death
William McClain	1862-05-01	1863-01-09	Removal: non-resident
Henry Harper	1863-02-01	1868-07	Dismissal
John Fergusson	1868-10-01	1873-07-18	Resignation
Henry N. Coleman	1873-10-01	1912	Death
Frank Coleman	1912-02-16	1942-07-12	Death
Miss Lillian Madge Coleman	1942-07-15		Acting
Henry Albert Coleman		1943-03-22	Acting
Henry A. Coleman	1943-07-14	1976-10-20	Retirement
R. L. Croutch	1976-10-20	1981-07-10	
Mrs. E. Coleman	1981-07-10	1981-09-15	
Mr. Charles Tabone	1981-09-15		

Remarks: Semi Staff

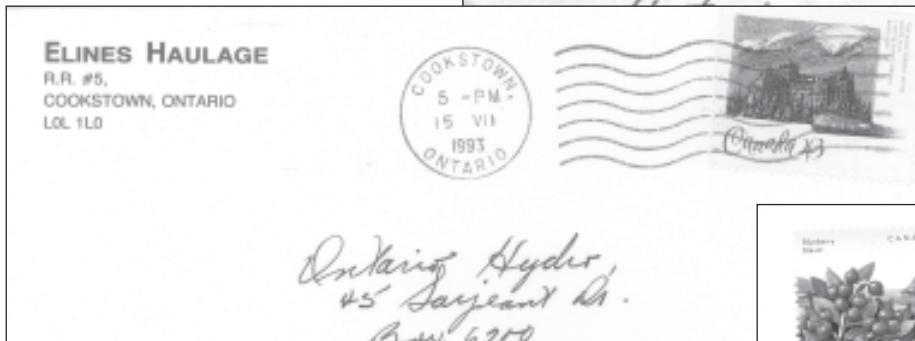


COOKSTOWN / ONT. / AM / AP 9 / 46
 Postmarked with the 23-mm c.d.s. that was proofed
 October 30, 1930.

COOKSTOWN / ONT. / PM / 2 VIII / 66
 Last of the c.d.s. daters that were provided for
 Cookstown. Proofed 4 VII 1960.



COOKSTOWN / ONTARIO / 5 -PM / 15 VII / 1993
 Modern machine cancel



Cookstown post office, is located at 18 Queen Street where it serves the public from 8:30 until 5:30 p.m., with a full range of products.



331198 / 2000-08-24 /
COOKSTOWN, ON / LOL 1L0
 Modern rubber datestamp alongside of the
 1960 c.d.s. datestamp that had been upgraded
 for the millenium.

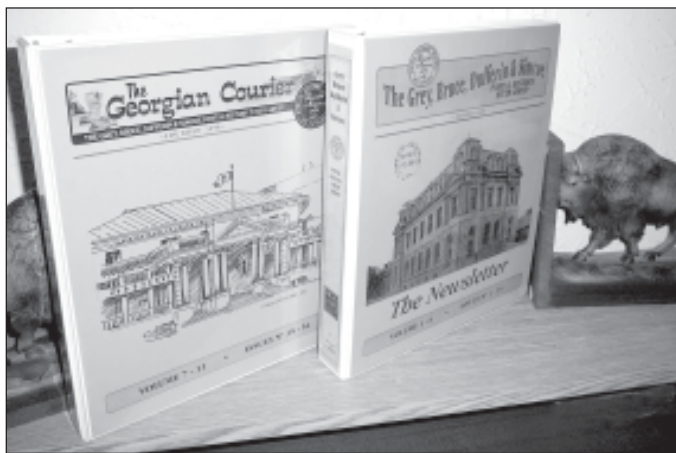
Editor's Word

We welcome with this issue Ms Rita Halpin of Chesley to our study group. Our hopes are that she will enjoy the articles submitted by our members to the *Georgian Courier* and that she too will find the time to report. We also thank Joanne Vogel for introducing the GBD&S study group to Rita. Welcome and thank you.

Without members to read, respond, and perhaps write there would be no study group. We ask each one of you to take that step forward and perhaps invite someone that would be interested in our musings. Being a stamp collector is not a prerequisite. We have a number of members that are "local" historians that enjoy our material for its historical content.

Gus Knierim, editor

[REF. 226]



GBD&S NEWSLETTER, THE GEORGIAN COURIER Back Issues, Binders, and Bound Volumes

Periodically there is an interest in back issues. We should point out that all issues are available at \$2.50 each. We also have available white D-ring display binders with appropriate inserts for the front cover and the spine, title pages, and index separators for each volume. Binder 1 will hold all issues from 1-34 inclusive (Vol. 1-6); Binder 2 will hold issues starting at 35 with room to expand for the coming years. The binders, including inserts, index separators with tabs, cost \$6.00 each plus shipping.

Presently a complete set of back issues (1-40) with binders costs \$85.00, shipping included. Available from the editor (see address below).

Polaris Stamps

- good stock of covers and cancels of counties
- worldwide stamps and covers
- active buyer of good philatelic material

DAN McINNIS

Box 2063, Stn A, Sudbury, ON P3A 4R8

TEL: (705) 566-0293

E-MAIL: dan.mcinnis@sympatico.ca



12-41

POSTAL HISTORY

Ontario Counties & Canada available online at

www.donslau.com

thousands of covers scanned – have a look

Don Slaughter, Box 8002, RPO Sherwood Forest

London, ON N6G 4X1

E-MAIL: donslau@execulink.com

PHONE: (519) 472-0206

CSDA • PHSC • RPSC • BNAPS

12-43

Specializing in Military and Civil Censored Postal History



John Frith

(705) 682-0213

EMAIL: johnfrith.sudburystamps@sympatico.ca

TRADING ON EBAY UNDER <cef25408>

P.O. Box 286, COPPER CLIFF, ON P0M 1N0

12-44

The ONTARIO POST Atlas



Eric Manchee

— 2003 —

\$30.00
(+ shipping)

- 116 maps
- all Ontario Counties and Districts south of Highway 17, including Manitoulin Island
- heavy-weight quality paper
- printed on one side only
- bound in quality D-ring presentation binder

from the Editor

CONESTOGA PRESS

RR1, Thornbury, ON, Canada N0H 2P0

519.599.6975

we accept PayPal at
knierim@bmts.com

© 2006 J. (Gus) Knierim To use or reprint complete articles in other media, electronic or printed, kindly ask for permission first from the editor. Permission must be granted by the author and editor of the article.

The "Georgian Courier" and its predecessor the GBD&S Newsletter, are the printed forum of the **Grey, Bruce, Dufferin & Simcoe Postal History Study Group**, affiliated with the Postal History Society of Canada. It is currently published 4 times a year: February, May, August, and November. Copy deadline is 3 weeks before the 1st day of the above-mentioned months.

Membership costs \$12 per year (4 issues). Cheques should be made payable to the editor J. (Gus) Knierim. We can also accept PayPal using the email address. Thank you!

RR1, 027416 30th Sideroad, Thornbury, Ontario N0H 2P0

PHONE: (519) 599-6975 • E-MAIL: knierim@bmts.com