

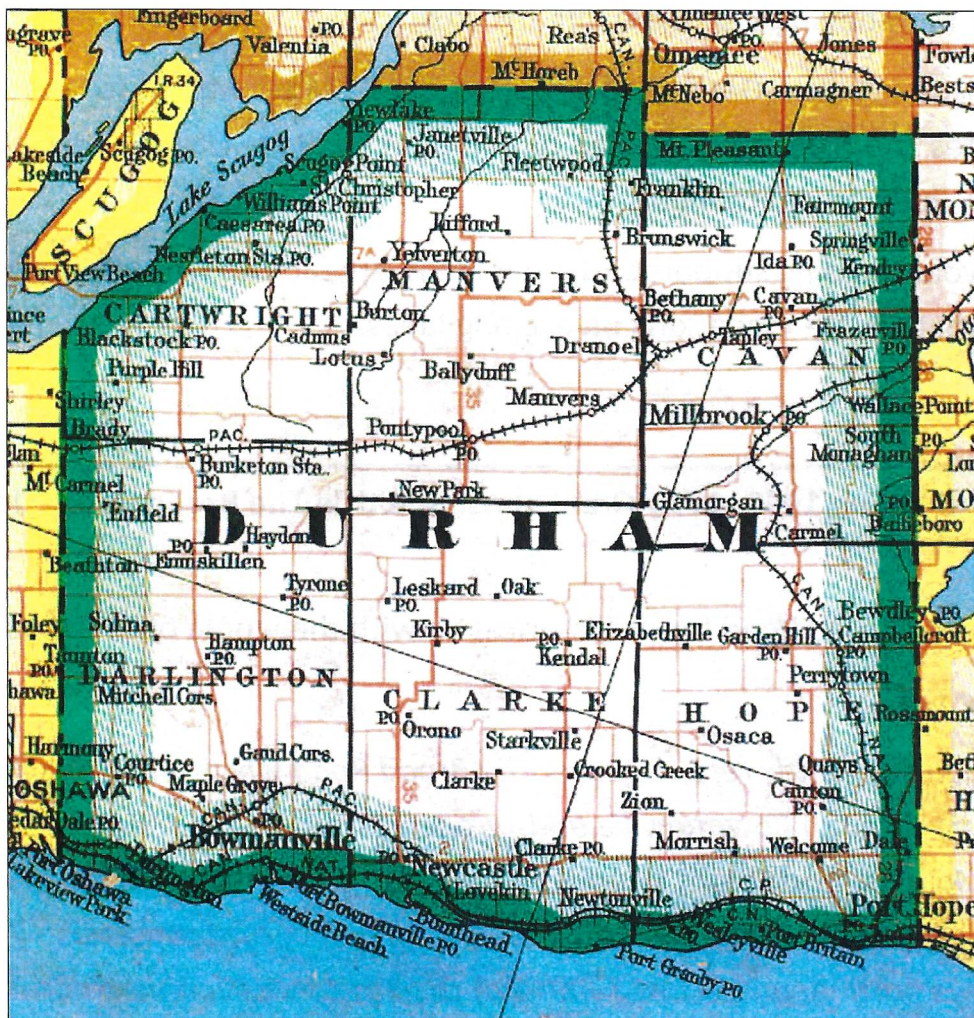
The Broad Road

Newsletter of

Manvers Township Historical Society

1480 Hwy 7A, Bethany, ON L0A 1A0

February 2024



Until January 1, 1974 Manvers Township was part of Durham County, this county was dissolved and the townships divided into different jurisdictions, Manvers became part of Victoria County, now The City of Kawartha Lakes.

President's Message



Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter for 2024. There are many exciting things happening with our society. The City of Kawartha Lakes council has approved our use of the Bethany Library for displays and MTHS work in two rooms they do not use. Our society is growing and expanding and to keep up the momentum we are prototyping a committee structure to break the work and projects into chunks. Watch Facebook and email for more information. And start thinking about where your passion lies— banners, media, events, grain elevator, the library project, the research center, Temple liaison or maintenance. We are excited for our next full membership meeting March 19— just a reminder memberships are now due for 2024.

We are planning the Annual General Meeting, all our 2024 events, watch our Facebook and email for updates and dates. Please plan to join us at Heritage Day in Lindsay at the Armoury on February 19, 2024 10 am to 4 pm.

Thank you for your ongoing support and great ideas, spread the word that we welcome new members and that we are embarking on exciting ideas.

Teresa

From Broad Road Spring 1996– Why Grant chose the title The Broad Road—for the MTHS newsletter.

I chose the title The Broad Road for its historical tie with the whole of Manvers Township.

From the Rolling Hills.....

The Manvers Road frequently referred to as The Broad Road which wends its devious way from Lake Ontario through Bowmanville and Tyrone easterly to the Manvers-Darlington Boundary and Manvers-Cartwright Boundary due north to Gray Line and then east diagonally across the farm now owned by Harvey Malcom, south half of lot 1 concession 7 of Manvers and continues due north between lot 1 and 2 of the 7th concession then north easterly diagonally past the Norman Wilson's and bisecting Frank Glasbergen's property on lot 2 concession 8 to Yelverton and continues on same north east direction past the Jack Wilson's and Ed Lawsons until it hits county road 16 due north to Janetville and continues to Scugog River was originally a First Nations portage route between Lake Ontario and Kawartha Lakes...

Osprey Award Winners in 2023 -Two in Manvers

Manvers Township Historical Society

The **Community Heritage** category celebrates a volunteer-based organization or individual that promotes and/or protects heritage in Kawartha Lakes. Deputy Mayor Tracy Richardson presented this award to the Manvers Township Historical Society.

Manvers Township Historical Society celebrates 40 years of hard work in honouring the heritage of the former township of Manvers this year. This group has in the past few years opened a research center at the Old Post Office in Bethany, had both the buildings that they own or operated registered as heritage sites and have created a vibrant website and Facebook page. We can not mention all of the community outreach events hosted by the historical society, however to mention a few- in 2021 the society began a project to honor the veterans of Manvers with banners in the three villages, Families sponsor banners and the society has them printed and displayed, the society is expanding its display opportunities to the library space in Bethany, and the society continues to publish a newsletter.



From the City of Kawartha Lakes Website

Paulette Sopoci, Primrose Hill Manor

The **Heritage Restoration/ Adaptive Reuse** category celebrates a residential or commercial property owner that has completed preservation, rehabilitation or restoration work to the historic place.

Deputy Mayor Tracy Richardson presented this award to Paulette Sopoci for the heritage restoration and adaptive reuse on Primrose Hill Manor, locally known as the Doctors House in Janetville.

Thanks to Paulette, this 1880 home underwent extensive restoration over the last two and a half years. Interior restoration began behind the walls to ensure the bones of the home were updated and functioning so the home was safe for decades to come. This included complete electrical wiring, a new plumbing stack, a new hot water tank, two air conditioners (a first time for this home), a new furnace and ensuring that after decades, the bats were finally removed from the attic.

Paulette hired skilled tradesmen to meticulously restore walls and ceilings in each room, with special attention given to the grand hallway and double parlour. Medallions, corbels and crown mouldings were all respected and the end result is perfection. New bathrooms and an updated kitchen were added to bring the home to 2023 standards, while respecting the heritage look of the home.



PONTYPOOL BOOM TIMES IN THE 1950'S

By Betty Lou Mitchell/Preston/Beacock

Pontypool was once touted as the place to come for good health – clean air, fresh stream-fed pond water to swim in, good accommodation and a welcome to everyone. At one time beaches in Toronto were posted that Jews were not allowed but they were welcomed in Pontypool and had the CPR train to bring them there.

There was a small Jewish community in Pontypool in the 20th Century and these people saw the opportunity to make a living by building stand alone cottages and resorts which they could rent to the influx of Jewish people who were desperate to escape from the heat and smog of the city. These Resorts provided Kosher meals, a swimming pool and many brought in well-known entertainment.

Names of some of the people who originally lived in the area and now became Landlords were Crystals, Manettas, Lofchicks, Bernsteins, Kravitz, Goldsteins, Pearlsteins, Whites, Bobbins, and Schwartz to name a few. A Synagogue was built where the Rabbis attended regular services on Saturdays on Bradley Street which was just east of the Pontypool Public School on John Street, North.

All in all, this influx of people was a good thing for the economy. Local people got into taking in renters and boarders, the stores became busier and the young people took to frequenting the Swing Inn as they had pool tables and a room with a jukebox for dancing. I remember even some of the local kids were given change to come into peoples' cottages to turn on or off electricity which was forbidden on the Jewish Sabbath in their religion.

The population exploded to close to 1700 by some estimates, as you can see at the train station in the pictures below. A man who worked in the Garment District would bring his family to Pontypool, stay with them for the weekend and then return to his job in Toronto until the following weekend.



Also, on that steam engine train that brought those passengers, came Mail and the Toronto Telegram paper once a week that my sister Leona and I delivered to our customers. Leona delivered to the people who lived on the south side of the tracks and I delivered to the ones north of the tracks. It was a good job and a way for each of us to earn our "spending" money. She often told me I had the generous tip side and wanted to trade!

In the 1950's we had 3 grocery stores, one included a bake shop owned and operated by Harry and Zelma Richardson and son Wilfred on the west side of John St. I can still remember those



delicious gooey Chelsea Buns. The other two stores were owned by Lorne and Jenny Bowins on the east side of the street and later Harry and Frances VanWieringen, specializing in a butcher shop and Mr & Mrs Keith Bradley with Dry Goods on the west side. There were two Service Stations/Garages operated by Jim Willis in the south and Tony Richardson in the downtown, the Swing Inn Hotel- owner unknown, Pool Hall and games operated by Nick Wasney, Hairdressing Shop operated by Hazel Mitchell, another Barber Shop operated by Alf Mitchell in another section of the Mitchell house (my parents) and a Post Office operated by Letty Carter. In earlier days Letty operated the post office in the addition on her house and her husband Harry barbered in another section. There was also a Grain Elevator which is still standing and in very good condition. It's one of two left in Ontario.

The Grain Elevator was operated by Harry Neals and son Bernard with one hard working employee, Allan Bazinet. I remember on nice winter days the kids of the village (possibly a ½ dozen) would spend the afternoon riding on the farmers' teams and sleighs loaded with grain to be ground at the mill. We would jump on one sleigh as it entered the village and ride to the mill, then jump on another to ride away from the mill, out of the village. Most farmers didn't seem to mind but one fellow would try to chase us away which made it all the more fun! Harmless fun it seemed!

The 1950's seemed a more gentle time, where people cared about and looked out for each other and it was safe to allow your children to play outside unsupervised in the COUNTRY!

SS#9 MANVERS – PONTYPOOL PUBLIC SCHOOL

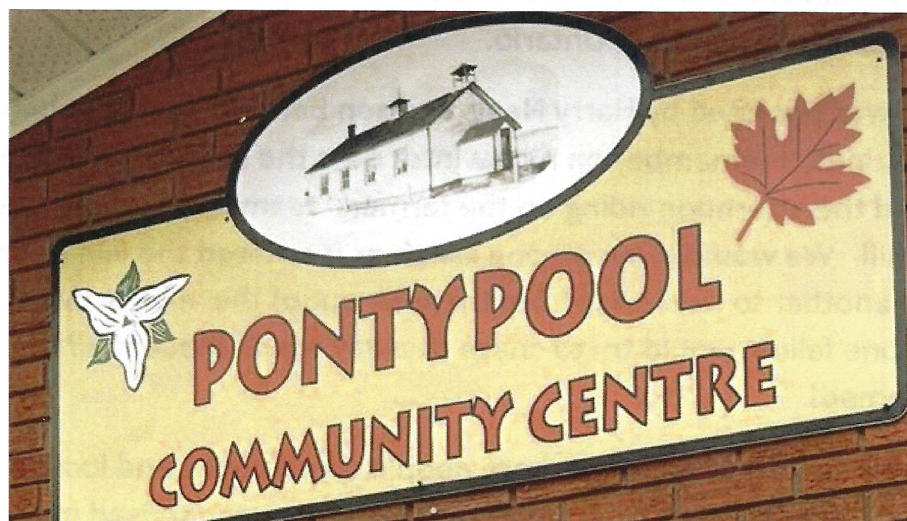
By Betty Lou Beacock

I attended Pontypool School for my entire public school life (8 years). In those days our education started at 6 years of age but because I was born in January, I was allowed to actually begin in September 1947 at 5 ½ years old. My first teacher was Miss Phyllis Stewart who in later years married a cousin of mine and became Mrs. Oswald Mitchell. We were bussed to Lindsay Collegiate & Vocational Institute for grades 9 to 13.

The school was heated with a wood furnace that was lit by the caretaker each morning in the cold weather and an older pupil would add wood, as needed, during the day. Drinking water was carried from the well in a pail and everyone used a dipper to fill their own mug that sat on a shelf by the pail. Chemical Toilets were in the basement where there was a wall separating the basement and an entrance on one side for the boys and the other side for the girls. When I was in the junior room, we were given a Cod liver Oil pill to take each day during the winter months and if needed, a team of nurses would come to give us an inoculation to help ward off some disease going in Canada. I remember one day this was happening and we were all standing in a line up in the junior room, waiting for our needle when one of the children (who shall remain nameless) became frightened, broke away, kicked the wooden panel out of the door to the senior room and crawled through. This caused some excitement!

The school was made up of two classrooms, one for grades 1 to 4 and the other for grades 5-8. Some of the kids that went to school at the same time as I did and were in the same grade were, my sister Leona Mitchell, Florence Curtis, Doris Manetta, Betty Bowins, Irene Urbankiwiez, Phyllis Nimigon, Wayne Kirk, Sonny Hackwood and Ronnie Gray.

Our desks were set in rows and nailed to skids of 2 x 4 lumber and quite often grade 1 and 2 pupils sat in one row and grade 3 in another and so on, depending on the number of children in each grade. Sometimes it was difficult to keep your mind on the subject being taught your grade, as one teacher taught all 4 grades and sometimes what the other grade was learning might have seemed more interesting!



Everyone had to stay sitting at their desks, with no talking, unless they had permission to move or speak. I had a problem with the "no talking" and you weren't supposed to "chew gum" which was one of my favourite things to do. The teacher had a few "chats" with me about those things I must admit.

The school bell rang (teacher pulled a rope that was attached to a bell on the roof) to indicate school was about to start at 9:00 a.m., recess from 10:30 to 10:45 a.m., Lunch from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., another recess at 2:30 to 2:45 p.m. and dismissal at 4:00 p.m. The teacher was responsible for teaching all the subjects to all the grades, English, Arithmetic, Social Studies, Science and Physical Education. In the winter when it was stormy, I remember doing exercises on the back side of a big heavy paper map on the floor for Phys Ed or other times going to the basement at recess to play square dance games. When weather was good everyone went outside to play where we might have games like baseball, Bally Bally Over, Duck Duck Goose, Simon Says and Tag.

Each morning class started with everyone repeating the Lord's Prayer and for many years we would have a Red Cross meeting every Friday afternoon. Someone would be responsible for putting on some kind of a program ie a quiz, skit or singing and we usually took up a collection of \$.05 or \$.10 cents. The meeting was opened with the singing of O'Canada and closed with God Save the Queen. That was FUN for everyone, and we didn't have to work!

Our school had a piano that the two classrooms shared. We had great fun singing songs that were on the curriculum or some popular tunes from the radio and about once a month (possibly a shorter period) we had a genuine Music Teacher whose name was Mr. Gay come to teach us a new song or two. Many years our school would enter the Peterborough Kiwanis Music Festival with a choir or others might enter the solo or duet class with a friend. I remember singing a duet with another girl, Romie Groen and we actually won 2nd prize, which was money, around \$10.00, a lot of money in those days!

That year I was in grade 5 in the Senior room and our teacher was Mr. Edwin Challice and he took Romie and I to a show in Peterborough as a reward.

Another Regular visitor that came to our school was The Inspector. He usually came once a year to make sure the children were learning what the government expected. He would usually ask someone to read a passage or two from a book to him and look through some of our exercise books, at random.

Some people might say that we missed a lot of opportunities going to a Rural school however, I beg to differ. We had many opportunities that only a small rural school could enjoy. Our School educated many well-known people who have gone "somewhere" and had lots of fun attending SS#9 Manvers/Pontypool school with many memories!

Why do we call it that?

A study of Place names submitted By Dianne Carnaghan

Origins of Place Names
taken from the book, **Ontario Place Names**
by **David E Scott**
(on loan from Marilyn Wright)

Bailieboro

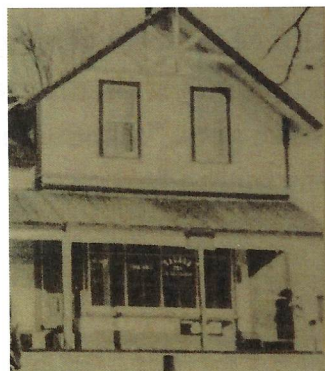
In South Monaghan Township, Peterborough County on Hwy 28 and county Rd. 2 2.22 km NW of Port Hope. By the 1860's, the community, founded by United Empire Loyalists, had been know for some time as Bloomfield. Because there was another community of the same name, a name change was required before a post office could be established. James Aiken suggested Bailieboro, for his hometown in Ireland and the post office took that name in 1861. An historic plaque at the Pengelley burying ground, 6 km east of Bailieboro, recalls Joseph Medlicott Scriven (1891-1886) . He was a native of County Down, Ireland and a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin. After coming to Upper Canada in 1847, he was engaged by Robert Pengelley as a tutor to his children and lived in the Rice Lake area. He was the author of the hymn, "What A Friend We Have In Jesus."

Bethany

In Manvers Township, Victoria County,. On Hwy. 7A, 22 km SW of Peterborough. Bethany grew into a larger settlement when the Midland Railway line was being built from Port Hope to Lindsay in 1850s. The place was named by a Mr. McAllister, a community leader and religious man, who took the name from the Bible. In 1911 a fire destroyed half the village, including the community hall. Devil's Elbow ski area is 1.5 km north pf Bethany.

Burketon

In the Town of Newcastle, registered Municipality of Durham, 22 km NW of Bowmanville. The post office was established in Burketon in 1885. The origin of the name is not known.



Why do we call it that?

A study of Place names submitted By Dianne Carnaghan

Millbrook

In Cavan Township, Peterborough County, on Baxter Creek, a tributary of the Otonabee River & Rds, 10 & 28, 21 km SW of Peterborough. First settler John Deyell came from Ireland in 1816, cleared a farm and built a mill by the brook, giving it its name. A fire in 1876 destroyed all the buildings on the north side of King St., the school burned in 1887 and the town and township hall suffered the same fate a year or two later. The first mounted band in Canada was formed in Millbrook in 1875.

Orono

In Clarke T., Durham C, on Orono Creek and Hwys. 25 & 115, 18 Km north of Bowmanville. The Post Office was established in 1852. During a meeting in a blacksmith shop to select a name for the post office, a visitor from Maine is reported to have suggested Orono after a famous Indian chief.

Pontypool

In Manvers T., Victoria County, 1 Km east of Hwy. 35 on C Rd. 12. 31 Km SE of Lindsay. James Leigh, John Jennings and William Ridge Sr. were among the first settlers in 1835. They named the place after Pontypool in Wales, a name meaning "a place of pools".

Port Perry

Part of Scugog T, Region of Durham, on Lake Scugog and C Rd. 2, just north of Hwy 7A. 28 Km N of Whitby. In 1848 on the former site of an Indian village, called Scugog Village, Peter Perry laid out a towns which was named Port Perry after him in 1852. Perry, the son of United Empire Loyalists, lacked formal education but through force character became an outstanding member of the Reform Part of Upper Canada and one of the founders of the Clear Grit Party.

Seagrave

Part of Scugog T, in the Reg. Mun. Of Durham, on C Rd., 2, 37 Km N of Whitby. The post office was established in 1873. The origin of the name is not known.

Janetville

In Manvers Township, Durham County on McDermid's Creek and County Rd. 5, 32 km SW of Peterborough. The first settlers were Capt. John Burn and Henry Irwin who built a sawmill in the early 1800s. A group of settlers arrived from Ireland in 1832, among them Neil McDermid. When the post office was established here in 1862, his daughter, Janet, became first post mistress and the postal station was named after her.

Why do we call it that?

A study of Place names submitted By Dianne Carnaghan

Tyrone

Part of the Town of Newcastle, Reg. Mun. Of Durham, on C Rd. 14, 13 Km NW of Bowmanville. The post office was established in 1852. The first name suggested was Mount Hope. Since another settlement was already using that name, another had to be chosen. Most settlers in the west end of the village came from County Tyrone in Ireland and favoured that name, those settlers at the east end were mainly from Devon, in Cornwall, England and preferred the name Devon. It was decided to resolve the matter with a cricket match, which the west enders won.

Robert McLaughlin was born on a farm near Tyrone. He was a self taught craftsman of exceptional skill. He established the McLaughlin Carriage Works, which became the largest carriage works in the British Empire.

Caesarea

In Scugog Township, Registered Municipality of Durham, on the east shore of Lake Scugog, 32 km N of Oshawa. Originally called Lasherville after the first innkeeper, John Lasher. In 1836 the Caesar family acquired 1,000 acres in the area. In 1853 the post office opened as Caesarea.

Leaskdale

In the Regional Municipality of Durham, on County Rd. 1 45 km NW of Whitby. The post office was established in 1857 and named after the first postmaster, George Leask. Lucy Maud Montgomery (1874-1942) author of Anne of Green Gables lived in the Presbyterian Manse in Leaskdale from 1911 to 1926 during which time she wrote 11 novels including two of the Anne books and the Emily series.

Little Britain

In Mariposa Township, Victoria County on County Rds 4 & 6, 12 km SW of Lindsay. Harrison Haight settled in 1834 and built the township's first mill. Robert Ferguson Whiteside built a store in 1853 in which a meeting was held the following year to choose a name for the community. The first name suggested – by a James Metherell – was Margaretville, after his mother. Whiteside in whose store the meeting was located, decided the name should be Elm Grove. But there turned out to be four other Elm Grove post offices in Ontario. So the post office assigned the name Little Britain after a township in Pennsylvania.

Young's Point

In Smith T., Peterborough C., on the Otonabee River at the foot of Stony Lake and Hwy. 28, 24 Km NE of Peterborough. Founded by Patrick Young in 1818. Post office was established in 1865 with John Young as the postmaster, and the place was called Young's Point.

And the winner is.....

At our 40th Anniversary Celebration we circulated a quiz of Manvers History that was extremely difficult, we had only one person that was successful in knowing all the answers...

Janet Cain

Congratulations Janet, you now receive full bragging rights for your Manvers history knowledge and will receive the Broad Road for the next two years to add to your knowledge.



Comments made in 1957.....

- I never thought I would see that day all our kitchen appliances would be electric. They are even making electric typewriters now
- I'll tell you one thing, if things keep going the way they are, its going to be impossible to buy a week's groceries for \$20
- Did you hear that the post office is thinking about charging a dime just to mail a letter?
- If they raise minimum wage to \$1 nobody will be able to hire outside help at a store.
- If they think I will pay 50 cents for a hair cut, forget it.
- Its too bad things are so tough nowadays. I see where a few married women are having to work to make ends meet.

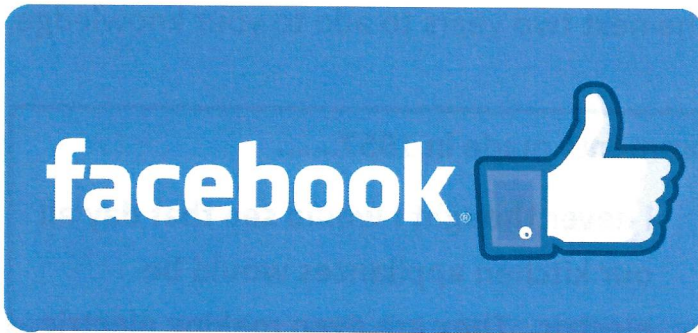
Thanks for the giggle– Dianne Carnaghan



Find us on the Web

Manvers Township Historical Society has an active presence on Facebook with thousands of hits each week looking at old photos or newspaper clips. Over 1400 people follow the site and add to its information with comments and shares.

If you wish to add something to the site, send it by message directly on Facebook or email Teresa Jordan at teresaanddon651@gmail.com.



www.manvershistory.ca

Become a member of Manvers Township Historical Society

If you would like to join the Manvers Township Historical Society or if you wish to renew your membership, please complete the following form and mail to:

Manvers Township Historical Society

Box 173 Bethany, ON L0A1A0

The membership year ends December 31. The membership fee for a year is \$15.00.

Corporate Membership fee is \$25.00.

Name: _____

Street or postal box: _____

Town/City: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____