

The Broad Road

Newsletter of

Manvers Township Historical Society

1480 Hwy 7A, Bethany, ON L0A 1A0

July 2024



Every time I see old photos I flip them over, and so many are unmarked, so many mystery photos that we as descendants have lost track of. MTHS has countless photos that we know were part of local estates and are unidentified.

Put information on the back of your family photos, your descendants will thank you.

Above a mystery couple from Manvers in our collection from the McMahon estate

Honour Family members and our community by sponsoring a banner.

A way to remember, to honour and celebrate the contributions of the Veterans of Manvers Township. Banners will be printed and hung in shop windows and on available poles in the three communities of Manvers: Bethany, Janetville and Pontypool.



John Henry (Jack) Palmer
Irish Regiment Cdn Army POW
WWII

Honoured by
His Children Ken, Bill and Sharon



How to get involved.

1. Submit three things to the Manvers Township Historical Society– Name and Rank, who is to be listed as honoured by and the best quality photo available, preferably in uniform.
2. Families can also indicate their community of preference for display.
3. Cost for printing is \$185 payable to the Manvers Historical Society and the society will have the banner printed.
4. Email your photo to tere-saanddon651@gmail.com or email for an address to mail/drop off to. Questions? Call Teresa at 705-277-9135

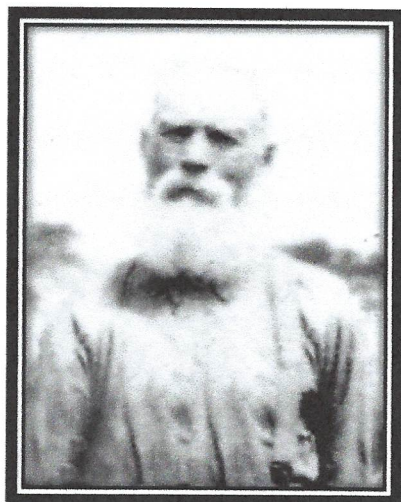
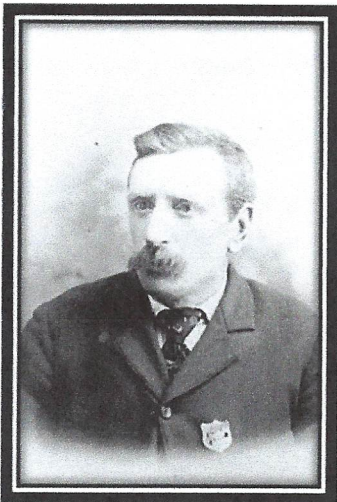


Diphtheria Rages Through the Southern Quarters of Manvers

Submitted by: Grant Curtis

In the sandy dunes of Manvers known as Sandy Hook once stood a red clapboard chapel. This chapel, a Salvation Army and later Free Methodist, was built by William Curtis and his wife Fanny Ann (Lowery). How William was influenced by the Salvation Army movement is unknown. It may have its origins in his mother's family, the Fosters, who are buried in the same cemetery as the founder William Booth.

William Curtis (Big Billie) and John Cain were two of the lay preachers. As the collection box shows this chapel's congregation was of modest means. The chapel was moved to Mr. O. Fields' home on Tinkers Rowe for the building of Hwy 115. During the highway's construction two graves wrapped in blankets were unearthed. These two souls may have been victims of diphtheria.



1889		1890	
June 2nd	20	June 1	30
June 23rd	25	June 8	15
July 1	10	July 6	47
July 25	50	July 19	42
Sept 8	18	July 20	5
Oct 20	45	July 27	25
Nov 3	10	July 31	15
Nov 17	20	Aug 14	40
Dec 1	10	Aug 21	5
Dec 17 for Camp of S. A.		Aug 28	11
Jan 26 1890	15	Oct 2	45
Feb 2	15	Oct 26	50
Feb 23	65	Nov 23	80
Mar 2	20	Nov 30	2
Mar 9	15	Dec 14	15
Mar 5	25	Dec 21	10
Mar 16	50	Dec 28	15
Mar 20	35	Jan 4 1891	
Apr 6	25		
Apr 13	26		
Apr 20	20		

Feb 8 P. Lowery, pastor

William Curtis John Cain Collection in box 1889-1890

It is said that in 1894 a box social was held at Carscadden's School where everyone was to come dressed up in costume. One person found in an old trunk in their attic a fur coat which he wore to the gathering and it is said that the disease was contracted from this coat.

Cliff Curtis relayed the story that his father Jim talked about how the family was stricken by diphtheria.

The entire family was sick in bed; the fever was so bad that they did not know if it was day or night. Nor did they realized that they had lost their brother John and sister Mary Ann to the disease. It was said that they wrapped the children up in a blanket and carried them out of the house for immediate burial.

When the disease released its grip on the family, the house was totally fumigated and the bedding and clothing were burnt. Mary Ann died Nov. 15, 1894; John died Nov. 17, 1894.

Diphtheria Rages Through the Southern Quarters of Manvers

Submitted by: Grant Curtis



John Curtis

Extractions Board of Heath Records.

The Health Board Committee were Mess. McCartney, O'Brian, Preston, Ryley and Kennedy. The Health Officers were Dr. T. Brereton and Dr. Lapp. Sanitary Police Officer was A. Benson.

July 6th 1894, first reports of a contagious disease in the township, 2 cases of scarlet fever and 1 of diphtheria, by Nov. 12th 16 new cases of diphtheria and 1 death.

Nov. 8th the Medical Health Officer notified the Trustees of School Section # 14 to close up the schoolhouse until further notice, and in the meantime the schoolhouse must be fumigated thoroughly. Nov. 10th Trustees of School Section # 9 were notified to close up the schoolhouse until further notice and fumigate thoroughly.

"Nov. 12th Reports received and adopted. Moved by Mr. Ryley seconded by Mr. Preston that whereas Dr. T. Brereton and Lapp having notified the Board that they will not attend the Curtis and _____ families with diphtheria unless the Board will guarantee their pay for their attendance as physicians and for the medicines furnished in connection therewith."

Nov. 19th Moved by Mr. Preston seconded by Mr. Kennedy that John Sholer be paid the sum of \$2.00 for digging grave (Curtis) on 18th inst. The Board of Health records carry on with various details of expenses, ie. \$26 dollars for coffins and the burial of 2 Curtis children plus the hiring of a horse. By Dec. 28th 1894 the Medical Health Board had paid out \$1,384.07 in expenses for the various bills incurred because of this dreaded decease.

Spirit of the Hills, "Board of Health Records F1759" and personal records.

Florence Pimm

1913 - 2003

In Remembrance

Florence Pimm and her husband Jack Finney, were my grandparents. I didn't know my grandmother well. She was a very private person and not an easy person to get to know. She never talked to me about her life. It's only now, that I can begin to really understand why. My Grandmother never knew her family and yet she had 4 brothers, 2 sisters, and 100's of aunts and uncles and cousins that I have traced back 5 generations. My Grandmother was the 9th child born to Alfred Pimm and Florence Harris in 1913 London, during a time of great poverty. She was removed from her home at 3 months age and taken to the Barnardo Girls Village Home in Barkingside, London.



This is her Story.

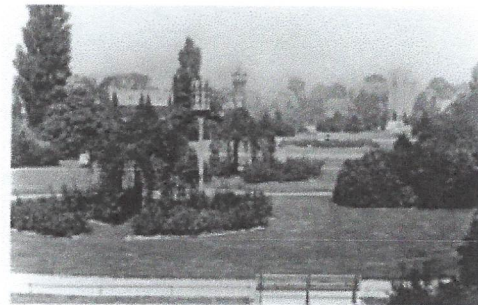
My Great Grandmother Florence Pimm (Harris) died 6 days after giving birth to my Grandmother Florence, leaving her husband, Alfred with 7 children under the age of 13. Frederick 13, Archibald 12, Ernest 8, Arthur 5, Alice 4, Elizabeth 3 and little Florence only 6 days old. I imagine he gave her, her Mother's name, to honour her death. She died from puerperal fever, which is entirely preventable today. It's an infection in the uterus, caused by the introduction of bacteria, during the birthing process. Possibly unsanitary conditions during the home birth.

In the admission records of the "Barnardo Home for Children", where 3 month old Florence was placed, words like chronic poverty, continuous struggle and ragged children, were used by the social worker to describe her home conditions at 21 Wandle Road in South Wimbledon. And the agreement of admission also indicates that her father, Alfred, signed a "Full Agreement with The Canada Clause". We know today that this "Canada Clause" meant that he had to agree up front that she could one day be shipped to Canada, like more than 80,000 children before her.

During the first 11 years of her life in England, Florence lived in 4 different Barnardo Run Homes and was "Boarded Out" to two different families. One in Debenham and the other in Brockford. She spent the final 2 years before leaving for Canada in the Barnardo Girls Village Home, in training to be a good "Domestic Worker". She was 9 years old. And in those final few years before she was "shipped out" Florence was less than 20 miles from the Father and 6 siblings, that she would never meet.

Did her Father Alfred get a chance to bring his youngest daughter home before she left?

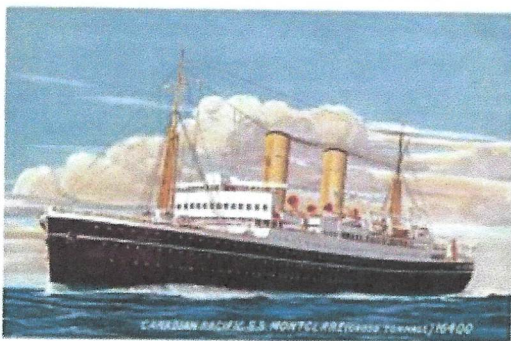
We will never know.



Girls Village Home, Barkingside

A month before her 11th birthday she and 27 other girls were shipped to Canada as domestic workers, on the Ship Montclare, most of them never to return to England. The Ship docked in St. John New Brunswick and the girls were take by train to the Barnardo Headquarters in Toronto. The Home during 1925 was on Jarvis St. was at the corner of Isabella and it was their "processing" headquarters for both boys and girls. In 1957 Barnardo sold the home and eventually it was torn down to make way for a high-rise apartment development. There was a photo in the Toronto Star in 1957 with a story that says the wine cellar walls were scratched with the initials of many children.

SS *Montclare* (1922-1942)



This postcard is courtesy of Roger Hare who runs the "Roger's Postcard Exhibition" site.



Figure 8: 538 Jarvis Street, Toronto (nd).
Photograph courtesy of CBarnardo's

Florence was initially placed with the Salter Family in Inkerman, Ontario (near Ottawa), however, this only lasted 4 months and she was removed from the home (the reasons were never documented) and moved to the Pontypool area, where she started life with Mrs. C. Bannister. She had a store on the corner of hwy 35 and Ballyduff Road in Manvers Township and Florence lived and worked for her for six years, before she married the handsome young man who lived across the road, John Wesley Finney, in 1931.



She must have been excited to finally have her freedom from the Barnardo organization, and to have control over her own life, for the first time. But unfortunately, their first life experience as a married couple was the loss of their first child, at birth. This is something I share with my Grandmother. What it feels like to lose your first child, at a very young age. I can imagine how devastating this must have been for her, after everything she had been through, to have this cruel twist of fate.

But the resilience that had carried her thru an almost unimaginable life, got her thru this too and she kept going and soon had 4 beautiful children, 3 boys and 1 girl, Elmer, Muriel, Neil and Lavern (my Father).

And once her children were grown, she decided to give back and foster children with the Children's Aid Society. This must have been important to her, since she herself spent her entire childhood in Foster Homes. Jack and Florence even gave a home to two older children, Marjory and Bobby who came to live with them when they were young teenagers. Over an 18 month period she fostered more than 20 children for the Children's Aid.

There are two memories that will never leave me. One is of a little boy she fostered named Danny Brooks. He was the sweetest little boy and Grandma was really fond of him. Recently I was going through some of her pictures and there was one of Danny. On the back of the picture she had written the words "June 20, 1971, age 4 ½ years, the day they took him. He was adopted out, on Father's Day. This is the last picture I took of him and the last time I ever saw him". I think it must have devastated her to lose Danny and she never quite recovered from that.

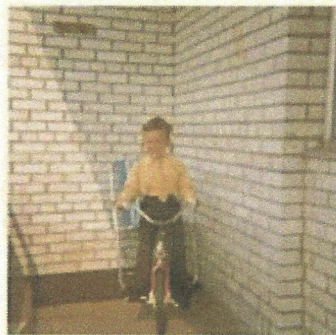


The second memory was again as I was going thru her photo album, I found a piece of paper tucked in behind one of the pictures. It was a note written in her handwriting in 1967. She had carefully made a list of her "4 Brothers and 3 Sisters" with their birthdate and the age they were when she was born. Which was the first and last time she ever saw them. This must have been her way of keeping them alive and making them real for her.



I will always regret that I didn't get to know my Grandmother better and that I didn't take her to see her family before she died.

Florence, and her husband John (Jack) had 4 children, 11 grandchildren, over 25 great-grandchildren and as of 2020, several great-great grandchildren! Her entry into the world was traumatic, her life was not easy in any way, but through it all, she kept going and in the end, built a life to be proud of.



Whutai Shan Buddhist Garden, Ski Hill Road Bethany

Submitted by: Kathy Morton

WHAT IS BUDDHISM?

Buddha is a superior mascot for which one uses as a guide to caring for mankind. Not all Buddhists are Oriental. Buddha is a source of inspiration and meditation to help conquer the wants of the material world. It is belief in Karma-that people need to be responsible for their own actions. Buddha statues sit on a lotus flower which symbolizes overcoming life's challenges and letting dark thoughts change to peace and happiness.

Five -100 ft Buddhas sit on 100 ft deep bases facing all four directions recognizing the need to stimulate peace all around the world. The fifth statue faces the temple of enlightenment. All statues are bronze with gold gilding symbolizing happiness.

The Laughing Buddha's body at the entrance weighs 60 tons with its head weighing 10 tons. This symbolizes the happiness and peace needed in the world.

MONASTERY

This site houses the only Buddhist College in Canada and is affiliated with the University of Toronto and Emmanuel College.

Men and women study to become monks and can complete their endurance pilgrimage from this site- some 50 miles. Usually in China, the process through many mountain ranges takes 2-3 years. Here it can be completed in weeks.

TEMPLE

The hill was raised 40 feet to emulate the Wutai Mountain in China. When the fill settled, the mammoth task began with a steel structure supported by concrete and clad with rosewood- the last rosewood harvested in the world from Laos. The roof shingles are bronze weighing 60 pounds each. The total roof weight is 60 tons. Each roof is painted with gold meaning happiness, peace and prosperity for the world.

Three massive bronze statues were placed in the centre of the foundation and the temple was built around them. No nails, screws or glue is used in the construction and goes together like lego blocks.

On the 535 acres the task of buildings and statues comes in crates to be assembled on site.

Whutai Shan Buddhist Garden, Ski Hill Road Bethany

Submitted by: Kathy Morton

WHY WAS THIS SITE CHOSEN?

Buddhist organizations worldwide chose this site some 30 plus years ago because it is peaceful, is away from industrialization, tranquil setting of which to grow for 200 years. Half of the site sits in Manvers Township and the temple sits in Cavan Township.

The original owner was Sandy Veales. A descendant on one of my tours stated that it was good to see the gravel pit site used for something beautiful because it wouldn't grow grasshoppers.

WUTAI BUDDHIST GARDENS

Five hundred roses bloom on site fed by irrigation and operated by solar panels.

The massive peony garden is in place and next spring will see tulips and lavender in bloom.

The use of solar panels for the lotus shaped street lighting is beautiful on all roads throughout the site at night.

WHAT IS THE ATTRACTION?

This is the largest Buddhist Temple outside of China. It is a working monastery with much of the work being done by monks.

There are five groups of Buddhists- China, Japan, Singapore, India and Laos. Immigrants from these areas wish to visit because of the love of nature, peace loving and is humanitarian. Curiosity brings many others to visit the only Buddhist College in Canada with the only Buddhist library and the largest collection of 12-20th century statues in North America.



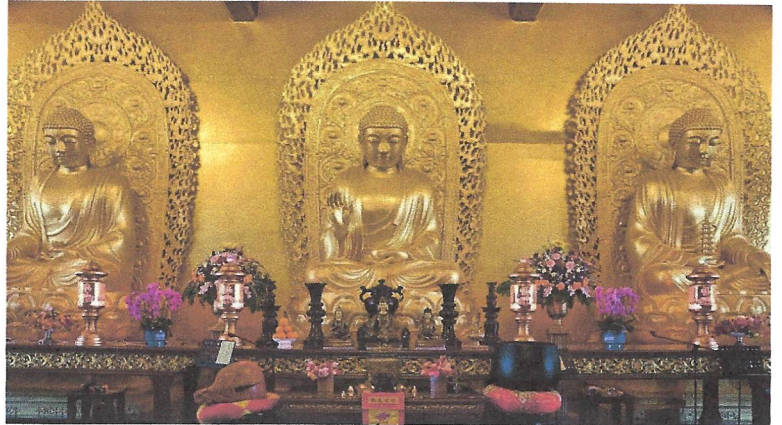
Whutai Shan Buddhist Garden, Ski Hill Road Bethany

Submitted by: Kathy Morton

WHY A CONDUCTED TOUR?

Many families joined our group on site as monk William and I told the stories and pointed out its uniqueness. This is missed if not pointed out.

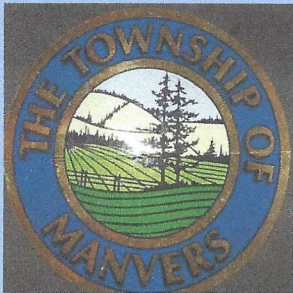
Every time I visit after working with the Buddhist Association of Canada for nineteen years, I learn something new.



The need for meditation is great in today's society. This will be offered to the public this fall.

TOURISM

Manvers Township Historical Society has been involved with welcoming the Buddhist Association as well as conducting tours for nineteen years, It is our goal to educate local and international people of the significance of this site but also being part of history in the making.



Coming Events

- Cemetery Walk at Ballyduff Church September 21
- Banner Dedication ceremony September 29
- Fall bake sale October 5
- Membership/Speaker meetings

September 17 2024 in Bethany

October 14 2024 in Janetville

November 19 2024 in Janetville

March 18 2025 in Pontypool



Grandview Public School— the first 32 years

1967-1999

Submitted By Betty Lou (Preston) Beacock

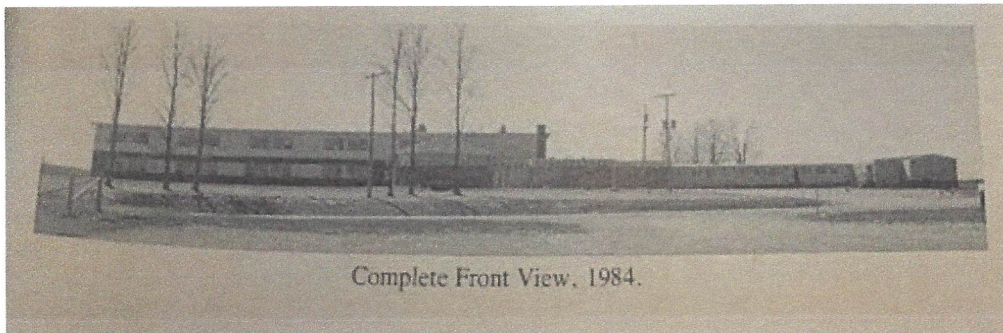
Grandview Public School opened in September 1967 with 15 female teachers, Mrs. E. Ball, Mrs. BA Starkes, Mrs. L. Smith, Mrs. B. Smith, Mrs. J. Fisk, Mrs. V. Sarginson, Mrs. I Dolighan, Mrs. LA Van de Meer, Mrs. LJ Fletcher, Mrs. M. Kuhlmann, Mrs. J. Argue, Miss M. Young, Mrs. T. Wright, Mrs. Nellie Newman and Mrs. E. Robinson 1 male principal, Mr. John B. W. Cumberland and 1 female Secretary, Mrs. Betty Lou Preston, 1 male custodian, Mr. Tom Jennings. Just with these statistics, it must have been a little daunting for John Cumberland!

Sixteen rural one & two room schools closed that June and 430 students in grades 1-8 were moved to GPS. There were 15 classrooms and 1 portable classroom.

When I think back to that first day, I remember it was a little hairy—430 excited children who had never ridden a school bus before and all new bus drivers on all new routes, stopping at the end of laneways on their planned route to pick up children and hopefully remember where to deliver them home at the end of the day. This, they did successfully. All students attending GPS were bussed. That first morning the students were all taken to the gymnasium where they were sorted into classes to meet their new teachers and taken to there home-rooms.

Everyone was quick to learn and we got through that day remarkably well, considering all the challenges.

Senior Kindergarten classes started in 1969, housed at the Yelverton School building but were brought over to the main school in 1983 when the Boston Wing was built. The Boston Wing was a corridor to draw the seven new portables up to, which were needed for our growing school population. Junior Kindergarten classes didn't begin until 1989.



Complete Front View, 1984.

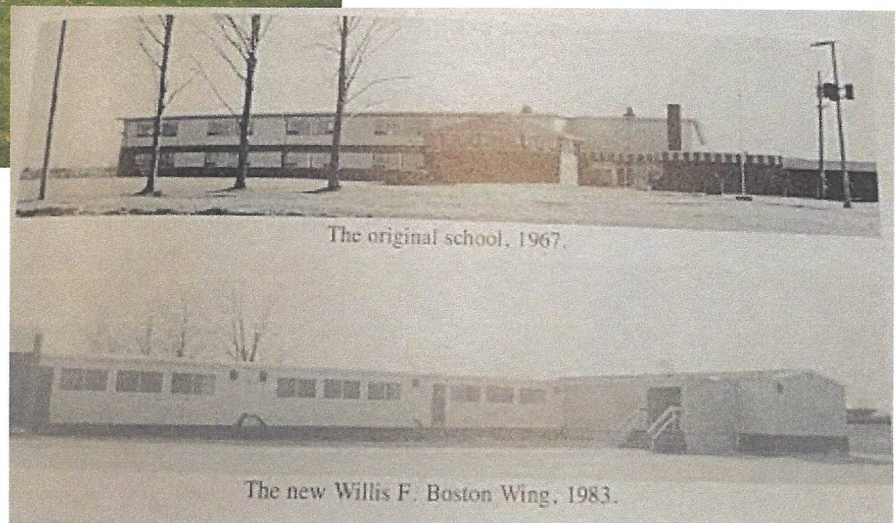
Grandview Public School– the first 32 years 1967-1999

Submitted By Betty Lou (Preston) Beacock

At the time the school opened we were a part of the Manvers Township School Board. This arrangement changed a short time later (1969) and we were under the authority of Northumberland and Durham County, soon to be changed again to Northumberland Newcastle County and then to Victoria County which is now Trillium Lakelands District School Board in the City of Kawartha Lakes

The principals who manned GPS over the first 32 years were: John Cumberland 1967-1971, Bob Bolton 1971-1974, Will Capeling 1974-1980, Bert Riel 1980-1981, Jim Robinson 1981-1984, Ivan Goodhand 1984-1990, Bob Brown 1991-1993, Hugh Armstrong 1993-1998, Gale Sherin 1998-2003

I've always been proud of the school's good reputation for high academic standards, as well as for Music and Athletic achievements and excellent school spirit! All this due in part, by the excellent staff, by the additional programs such as House League system (Massey, MacDonald, Apollo and Durham Houses/Teams) to promote school spirit, Elective Programs, the Down Hill Ski Program, Field Days, Field Trips and an active Parent Council that often provided hot lunches and many other things.



Grandview Public School– the first 32 years 1967-1999

Submitted By Betty Lou (Preston) Beacock

The school was honoured to provide two of the four, first female Student Pages in our Legislature in 1971, Diana Tax and Annette Hoekstra. Rolling Hills Public School, just to the west of Grandview Public School, opened as a grades 5-8 school in 1996.

Many fun things happened over the years and even some amusing ones like the young boy who shall remain nameless, was bitten by a mouse on the playground one day. At first, staff was concerned about rabies, but it was soon found out that this young man cornered this little mouse and proceeded to pick it up and of course, the little mouse bit him!

I loved my job (32 years) as Head Secretary, working for a wonderful staff that worked hard and played together and enjoyed watching our children learn and grow.

There were never two days alike. It was a fun place to be!

How many of these old adages and sayings have you heard?

The hurrier I go, the behinder I get.

Worthless as gum on a boot heel

Half your supper and half your hay, Half the winter has passed away, We'll eat supper by the light of day.

Good fences make good neighbours.

I love you a bushel and a peck and a hug around the neck.

In small towns news travels at the speed of boredom

I am so poor I can't even pay attention

Your fences need to be horse high and pig tight

Barking dogs seldom bite.

What cannot be cured, must be endured

One swallow does not a summer make

Make hay while the sun shines.



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 1500 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: _____