



**MURRAY & RUTH WOLFE HOME. LAWN IS TORN AWAY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ROAD**



**1991-05-07  
COMPLETED ROAD AT WOLFE HOME**



**TOWN LINE - NORTH FROM CALTON INTERSECTION**

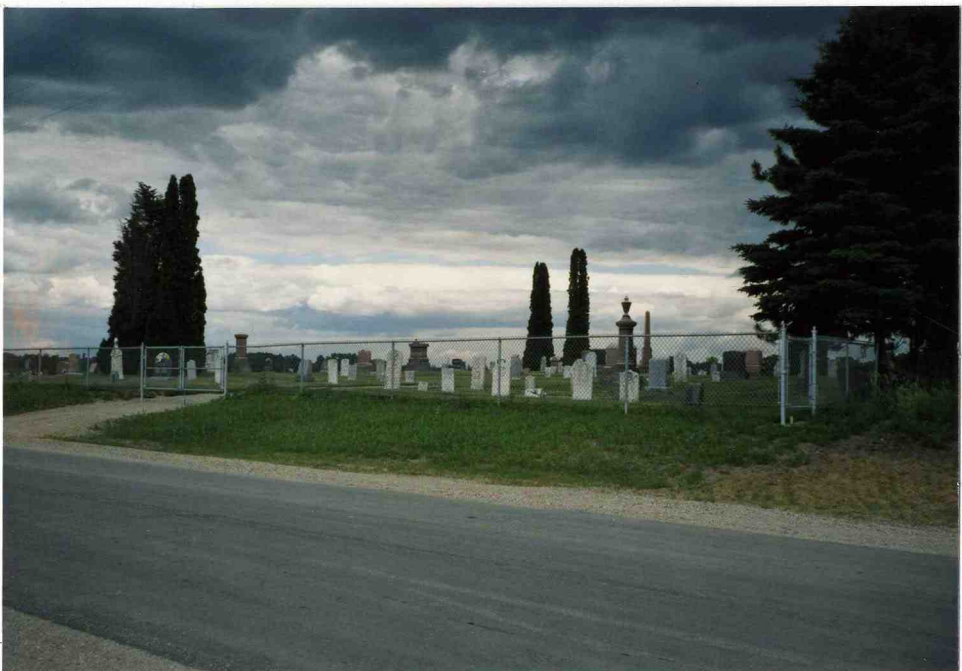


**SOUTH - MENNONITE SCHOOL & GENERAL STORE**

## CEMETERY

The Cemetery Board undertook the task of replacing the fence.

A chain link fence was put in place (1991). The improved appearance is in keeping with the new road as can be seen by the pictures. The Calton Women's Institute made a donation for this project.



## ETBO TOOL & DIE



This company has produced tools and dies at a site 1/2 mile north of Calton on the east side of the Malahide/Bayham Town Line for the last 30 years. It actually started in Belgium, the native country of Etienne Borm. He qualified as a tool & die maker in Antwerp. Etienne came to Calton and set up shop in his brother's barn, north of Calton and south of the present sight. He worked for a shop in St. Thomas where German was spoken and he was fluent in that tongue. Eventually he began work on his own with a great deal of help from his wife, Marie Louise. Things have been slow for he found it difficult to obtain skilled workers. The growth of his company over the last 30 years, although slow has been very steady.

In 1988 the company employed 10 workers and produced tools for firms within about 100 miles of the factory. The tools manufactured produce parts ranging from aircraft components to automobile parts, appliances to plastics. The company can handle production of mainly small parts, varying in number from

2000 to 2,000,000. Etbo moved into its present plant a few hundred yards away from the old barn in 1962 and some additions have been built over the years.



Several years ago Etienne built a house so that his family could move out of quarters which had previously been in the factory. His 3 children are all attending University in various stages of education, Linda, Anette & Etienne Jr. In October 1990 Etienne suffered serious injury to his head because of a fall from a ladder onto a cement floor - 16 feet below. At first recovery seemed remote but gradually he has regained a great deal of his former health. Marie Louise directed the company until Etienne could take control again.

RIVER BEND FARMS





**FARM I**  
River Bend Farms Ltd. which has been in existence for about 10 years, specializes in evergreens and shrubs for retail nurseries and landscapers. The wholesale nursery operation has its headquarters north of Calton, tucked in a bend of Big Otter Creek. It is just east of the junction of the Malahide/Bayham Town Line Concession Road 4.

The 287 acre former tobacco farm owned by Bennie Patkus and later by a Dr. Warren, Tillsonburg was bought by Harley Hotchkiss in 1977. Another 100 acre farm was added in 1979.

## **FARM II**

In 1986 the 106 acre Farm II, on Malahide Concession Road 4 just east of the intersection of County Rd. 45 and Rd. 40 was added. Harley grew up in Straffordville, moving to Calgary Alberta in the 1950's. Pictures of Calgary Flames adorn the walls of the Riverbend office as he has acquired a part ownership of that National Team.

It was in 1980 that Harley teamed up with Murray Alward, a Port Burwell native who had gained experience at McConnell Nurseries for many years. Through their partnership a nursery was established. They basically carved it out of the wilderness of decaying kilns and out buildings.

Since trees take five to six years from propagation until they are ready to sell, starting the business required a long term financial commitment. The ornamental horticulture industry has to ensure that products keep up with current trends in terms of colour, shape and size. That requires market research and some crystal ball gazing.

Today they ship their products all over Ontario & Quebec, the Maritimes and even to Western Canada and U.S.A.

Since Riverbend is a field nursery, the small trees are transferred from the greenhouse to the ground. From mid-September to November comes the hard work. Employees do a lot of hand work, digging trees out of the ground to store them in one of Riverbend's 66 unheated greenhouses for winter storage. These trees are shipped out the following spring.

Riverbend is still expanding. At peak times last year the farm employed 18 persons and that number will increase.

It is interesting to find that few chemicals are used, and the trees are allowed to grow as naturally as possible. When chemicals are necessary they are carefully used to attack spot problems with no blanket spraying.





CALTON BAPTIST CHURCH

