

DUTTON AND WALLACETOWN BRASS BANDS

own band play, crude though that play might be.

As is the fate of every village band, the Wallacetown Band, through loss of members, found it very difficult to maintain its existence, until in 1875, it finally expired from lack of membership.

By this time Dutton, a thriving village on the M.C.R., situated about three miles north of Wallacetown, had sprung up, about 1870. In 1889 it, too, began to feel the need of some public musical organization. So, through the efforts of the members of Court Nelson, I.O.F., instruments were procured and on Good Friday, 1889, the Dutton I.O.F. band was organized. The charter members were; John Kieffer, A.N. Patterson, C. Patterson, M.L. Miller, John Wren, Andrew Ferguson, Harry Shore, George Gusterson, Walter Fletcher, B.J. Schultz, and John E. Clark. In 1890, the same Dan Campbell, who in 1869 identified himself with the Wallacetown Band, joined the Dutton Band and in October 1891, was appointed band leader, a position he held for many years.

Dutton's next band was organized about 1932 and operated successfully for five or six years. The leaders of this band were Jack Dow, Arthur Molyneaux and Eugene Saunders.

Among the members were; D.F. Kirkland, Charles Panter, Ralph Perkins, Frank Ruston, Henry Ruston, John Ruston, Harold Smith, Walter Smith, Dr. Arthur Graham, Lewis Burns, Allen Burslem, D. Perelman, Leo Gibson, Robert Clark, William Saunders, Claude Smith, Herb. Campbell, Jack Knight, George Pinner, Clarence Reid, Jack Saunders, Clarence Reid, Arnold Crawford, Richard Waite, Robert Pinner, Vernon Shipley, C.V. Kindree, and William Johnston.

DUTTON CITIZENS' BAND - 1933

There always was a great interest in Dutton and vicinity in music, especially band music. The first band to be organized is believed to be what was called THE DUTTON CITIZENS' BAND and was organized in 1933. The Band master was Arthur C. Malaneau with Wm. Saunders assisting. to Jack Dow goes the honor of being the instigator of the band.

The members were; Jack Dow, John Ruston, Claude Smith, Jack Saunders, Charlie Panter, Donald Kirkland, Jack Knight, George Pinner, Eugene Saunders, Arnold Orchard, Allan Burslem, Harold Smith, Leo. Gibason, Lewis Burns, Dewey Pearlman, Arnold Crawford. Herb. Campbell and Clarence Reid.

When asked what he could recall as the most exciting event that ever happened to the band said the one he remembered best was when Mitch Hepburn had been elected premier of Ontario. There was a very exciting celebration in St. Thomas. The rain was coming down in torrents and the Dutton band marched up and down Talbot Street, St. Thomas in the pouring rain which was pouring into the tenor horn and the alto horn. Mr. Knight said he could not recall ever being so wet and playing under such difficulties.

Picture of Band in Mr. Knight's barber shop.

OUR LIBRARY

Long may we cherish with delight,

And ever keep the image bright

Of that which is our prized birthright,

Our own beloved library.

Maude McWilliam
R.R. I,
Dutton, Ont.

HISTORY OF DUTTON LIBRARY - 1892 - 1966

It is a far cry from the days of the early library when cars were non-existent, and even horses and buggies scarce, to those of this marvellous and terrifying Atomic Age in which we now live. This is an age in which sputniks, guided missiles, nuclear weapons, and proposed trips to the moon are almost commonplace. Gone are the days when the receiving and issuing of books and keeping card catalogues up to date were the main duties of the librarian. The library is now more than a mere repository of books.

Reading has grown from a mere past time to vitally necessary pre-requisite to intelligent living, and the library is an educational centre dedicated to developing and directing reading, making available reference material and knowledge to all who seek it and in addition providing entertainment with books and periodicals to suit every taste.

Dutton was extremely fortunate in acquiring one of the first libraries in Elgin County. This was due to the efforts of NEIL A. CAMPBELL, the principal of Dutton Public School. He builded better than he knew when he suggested the idea of developing a library in Dutton. On the inside cover of some books still on the shelves of the Dutton library there may be found a plate with "Mechanics Institute printed on it. This was the germ from which public libraries grew.

In the early days, young men employed during the day, were wont to gather in the evenings on the street corners, in stores, or in houses to discuss world affairs. They found themselves lacking in knowledge of a great many things and desired to find the remedy. Their thoughts turned to books. But where could such helpful books be found? The answer was found by forming an Institute and apply the Department of Education at Toronto for books and asking for a charter for their proposed "Mechanics Institute.

Eventually this charter was received and was immediately filed in the Registrar's Office for the County of Elgin at St. Thomas. Mr. Neil Campbell called a public meeting to acquaint all interested in the project that they were now in a position to elect a president and such other officers as should be required for the management of the now legally incorporated Mechanics Institute

The following officers were elected; L.J. Willson, chairman; Neil A. Campbell, secretary; J.E. Saunders, Treasurer; and members of the board; Rev. Thomas Wilson, Rev. C.T. Scott, Rev. J. Hill, Rev. H. Randall, Dr. J. Cascaden, Dr. J.A. Shannon, James Poole, D.S. Skinner and J.D. Blue.

Committees were formed to look for a room, to draft laws and to decide on membership fees.

By the time of the next meeting a room in the Leitch block, on the west side of Main Street had been secured. Preparing the room to receive the books, when purchased was the next duty of the committee. Three applications for the position were received, but as finances were nil, it was agreed that members of the Board should take turns at being librarian until the treasury could stand the expense of a librarian. A caretaker was, however, a necessity as there were fires to start, oil lamps to clean and the room to keep in order. Alex. Crawfords was named the first caretaker.

It was decided to spend \$125.00 for the purchase of books. A notice was inserted in the Dutton paper, then the ENTERPRISE, asking for contributions of either books or money. Finally, by contributions, membership fees, which had been set a one dollar a year, and the loan of \$25.00 from the firm of Hockin and Poole, the \$125 was raised.

Among the first subscribers were Daniel McArthur, J.M. Blue, W.H. Cape, Mary Fowler, William Hollingshead, and A.E. White.

The placing of \$200 fire insurance on the books and fixtures of the library proved its worth, for on April 7th, 1893, just four months after the opening of the library (Nov. 18th, 1892) the whole Leitch Block burned and the library and its contents were a total loss. Sixty books that were in the hands of readers, represented all that was left of the Dutton Library.

Now began the task of rebuilding. For the next few months the Board meetings were held in L.J. Willson's store, while the Board members searched for new quarters. New ways to earn money were also sought. One venture from which \$48.00 was cleared was an excursion to Detroit in August over the M.C.R. (Michigan Central Railroad). A timely grant from the Ontario Government was received in the fall, amounting to \$90.50. But it was not until a year later

1894, that the library was able to operate again.

An excursion to Niagara Falls, sponsored by the Library Board, further augmented the treasury. Thus the Board was able to pay back the \$25.00 it had borrowed from Hockin and Poole. It also purchased a number of books and subscribed to two newspapers, the TORONTO GLOBE and the TORONTO EMPIRE, and also a few magazines, the REview of Reviews, Harper's Weekly, Youth's Companion, and the Delineator.

In the fall of 1896, Neil A. Campbell resigned as secretary as he was entering Theological College, and A. Patterson was chosen to fill the vacancy.

In the fall of 1897, The Mechanics Institute became the Dutton Free Library. This meant that the village council would be responsible for its support to the extent of fifty cents per capita. This was maintained for a few years and then it reverted to an Association Library, and remained as such up to January 1st., 1966.

In 1898, Rev. James Steven was elected chairman to succeed L.J. Willson, and a Miss McCallum was appointed librarian at a salary of \$40.00 per annum. J.C. Payne became secretary and Albert Patterson, treasurer.

It was at this time that the Dutton Library Board requested a grant from the Township Council. The council, however, did not appreciate the value of the library, and refused the grant. As a result membership rates were increased to rural subscribers.

A little later in the year Rev. Mr. Powell became chairman, and Rev. T.R. Howard, secretary.

For some reason not stated in the minutes, the library was closed for five months. When it reopened the Board members were, W.H. Barmum, Dr. Cameron, Dr. Cascadden, and Dr. Patton. There is only one meeting on record during 1902 and 1903.

In 1904, on March, 6th, Miss Christie Jordan became librarian and retained the position for a number of years. W.J. Robinson was chairman, and Rev. T.B. Howard secretary-treasurer. Mr. Robinson was principal of the public school and kept that position until he moved away in 1908.

The minutes of 1906, record a successful performance of the oratorio, "Queen Esther," on May 1st and 2nd in the old hall,

located on the same site as the present Memorial Hall, (1966). It was directed by Donald Campbell and was under the sponsorship of the Dutton Library Board. As a result a substantial sum was placed in the library treasury.

In 1908, M.S. Smith was elected chairman of the library board and held that position until 1911. In the years between 1912 and 1919 interest in the library flagged and there seems to be nothing recorded. A Miss Love and Miss Ada McKillop acted as librarians.

In 1920, however, the library took a new lease of life. A new Board was formed with John Ford, chairman, E.A. Tesky, secretary-treasurer. The Board were, S.C. Kirkland, William Patton, A.E. Roberts, and C.J. Curtis. Mr. Patton, who was at that time reeve of Dutton, used his influence to secure the library its first legislative grant from the Province of \$400.00

Mrs. Snell was engaged as librarian. Mrs. Tesky sometimes acted as librarian when Mrs. Snell was absent.

In 1921, A.E. Roberts became chairman, and A.E. Cantelon, S.C. Kirkland, S. Howell, Q.H. Cape, William Patton, J.A. Snell, and John Ford were Board members, with E.A. Tesky, treasurer.

During 1922, the library, which had been housed in a small room in the old Dutton hall, moved to new quarters in the Sons of Scotland hall while the new Memorial Hall was being built. As soon as the hall was completed the library was moved into a specially appointed room in the hall which had been prepared specially for it. In writing the Dutton Council offered the library free heat, free rent, free light, and free janitor service. In spite of efforts to break this contract by the Dutton Council in 1955, ~~this~~ when they wished to take the room away from the library to be made into a post office, this held until January 1st., 1966, when the Elgin County took over the library. George Walker was the then reeve.

Fortunately the room did not meet the government requirements. From then on the Dutton Council begrudged the library their room and felt they should be recompensed for it. However the grants the library received were so low that it barely covered expenses and to pay rent was put of question. It is noteworthy that through the years very few of the members of the Dutton Council ever patronized the library.