



Rodney

Oil was discovered in the 1950's in Aldborough. The wells here were shallow around the 400 ft. depth. The first ones were discovered on the farms of Jack Graham and the "Gillies" on the 5th concession. In the late 1953 Elmer Roth leased and drilled the Downie farms on the Gore and 7th concession. Later there were 51 wells on the 280 acres. The producer received $\frac{2}{8}$ and the owner $\frac{1}{8}$ minus his share of the trucking. About 1964 the wells had dwindled to 2 or 3 barrels per day and "flooding" or 2nd discovery (as it is called) was brought in. As this is written in 1972 the wells are bringing the farmers approximately \$12.00 to \$15.00 per month each and perhaps $\frac{1}{3}$ are now injection wells. It takes men to watch the pressure gauges, lay machinery or pipes, evaporate the water from the oil, and truck it to refineries. It is harvested in from of crude and refined into many useable products.

It has been a boost for the economy in Aldborough and added to the bank accounts of a score of farmers, payed thousands of dollars in taxes and wages and more land is being leased annually. It covers an area about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles long and $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles wide and around 200 wells are now in production here with Rayrock, Alcon, and City Service the main producers now.

THIS AGREEMENT made (in duplicate) the Nineteenth day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and thirty-one 1931

BETWEEN:

THE COMMUNITY HALL BOARD, of the Village of Rodney, in the County of Elgin, hereinafter called the parties

OF THE FIRST PART

AND

THE WOMENS INSTITUTE, of the said Village of Rodney, hereinafter called the parties,

OF THE SECOND PART.

WHEREAS the Municipality of the Village of Rodney has built a Hall to be known as the Rodney Community Hall and has placed the control and management thereof in the hands of a Community Hall Board as required by the Act governing Community Halls, and

WHEREAS the Womens Institute of the Village of Rodney agreed to contribute the sum of Five-Hundred dollars towards the costs of building said Hall provided the rooms above the fire-hall in connection with said Community Hall were placed at their disposal as a meeting place for the said Women's Institute, and

WHEREAS THE SAID Women's Institute are prepared to pay over the said sum of Five-Hundred dollars upon completion and execution of these presents.

NOW THIS AGREEMENT WITNESSETH that in consideration of the sum of Five-Hundred dollars of lawful money of Canada now paid by the Parties of the Second Part to the Parties of the First Part (the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged) it is mutually agreed by and between the parties hereto as follows, that is to say:

(1). From and after the date hereof the Women's Institute of the Village of Rodney, its successors and assigns, shall, for and during a term of Twenty-One years from the date hereof be allowed the free and uninterrupted use of the Rooms above fire-hall in the Village of Rodney, whenever required by the said Women's Institute, together right and ingress to said rooms at all times.

(2). THE PARTIES of the Second Part shall further be allowed the exclusive use during said term, of the northerly two-thirds part of built-in cupboards in said rooms.

(3), THE PARTIES of the Second Part shall be allowed the use of the main auditorium in said Community Hall for any evening meetings or entertainments on the same terms as the churches shall from time to time be given.

(4). THE PARTIES of the First Part agree to supply, free of charge to the Parties of the Second Part, Heat (as long as the Village of Rodney obtains free gas for Hall), light and janitor service for the said rooms above fire-hall, and if the parties of the Second Part furnish Piano for said rooms, the parties of the First Part agree to pay to the Parties of the Second Part a yearly rental therefor of Six-Dollars, said rental to be payable on or before the (Thirty-First) 31 st. day of Dec. in each and every year.

(5). THE PARTIES of the First Part reserve the right to rent the said rooms above fire-hall to anyone, at any time when same are not required by the Parties of the Second Part, but agree that in the event of allowing any other persons than the parties of the Second Part to use said rooms, that the said rooms shall be kept in good and proper condition.

(6) ANY furniture or fittings placed in said rooms by the parties of the Second Part shall remain ther, and shall not be removed to any other place, even to any other part of said Community Hall without the consent of the parties of the Second Part, and any damage done at any time to said furniture or fittings, at any time when the said rooms shall be used by other persons than the parties of the Second Part, shall be made good by the parties of the First Part.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Chairman and Secretary of the said Community Hall Board and the President and Secretary of the Women's Institute of the Village of Rodney have hereunto set their hands and seals.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered:

In the presence of :

Della Ludy

W. Tolmie

Simon Spiern

Mrs. J.G. Gillies

Mrs. G. A. McLevey

Sec. W. Institute

"Schmid's in business when Rodney was in infancy"

The main street of Rodney consisted of a few houses and shops, a muddy street lined with rail fences when Schmid's Watch and Clock Repair Shop was founded in 1875. Since that time "Schmid's" has seen Rodney grow to a thriving village of 1100 persons.

In August of 1875 Frank Schmid of Windsor, formerly from Reidenburg, Bavaria(Germany) opened a small shop near the Canada Southern Railway, now known as the Penn Central Railway. Later that same year he returned to Windsor and his brother E. J. Schmid also from Reidenburg, Bavaria, took over the business.

A few years later a fire swept the stores on the west side of main street and the Schmid shop and dwelling burned.

Following the fire, Mr. Schmid started up again in a small store on the east side of Furnival Rd., located where the old Trader's Bank now stands.

In the meantime, in 1889, The Eberhardt block - a brick building - was erected by John Templeton. Mr. Schmid moved his business to this block and the Jewelry store has been in this location since then.

In 1926 Joseph Schmid, from the same town in Bavaria came to Canada, working with his uncle in the business. Prior to his coming to town, Joseph had served his apprenticeship in Bavaria, and had earned his master's degree in horology at the early age of 23 - one of the youngest to receive a Master's certificate.

Mr. Schmid kept records of old and new businesses that came to town from 1875 until his death in 1933 - his being the only business at that time to have weathered the changing conditions the years made.

In 1933 the business was taken over by his nephew Joseph and

until 1968 was owned and operated by him.

In 1950 the 75th anniversary of the opening of Schmid's Jewelry store was celebrated.

In 1968 Joseph E. Schmid retired, and the business was taken over by Ted Sobieralski of London, formerly of Poland.

Mr. Sobieralski is doing his share toward keeping up the good reputation of "the Schmid's" - who for 93 years served the people of Rodney.

Submitted by

Mrs. O. M. Tough.

THE HISTORY OF THE LIBRARY IN RODNEY

by Della Ludy

Success in any field of endeavour is a tale of recommendations, and this is very evident in the development of the splendid local Library. Every achievement must first be an idea in the minds of people and become the expression of their desires and efforts.

Collections of reading matter and a place to keep and use them is a need of people of every race, creed, and colour, and from this need has sprung libraries as we know them today.

In this locality, prior to 1893, there had been a Literary and Dramatic Society, and the hall where their meetings were held was called "The Union Societies Hall".

By 1893 the Literary Society had become defunct with 19 remaining books and \$16.59 which belonged to the shareholders of that organization.

On January 19, 1893, the following men met in the Tailor Shop of George H. Katzenmeier to organize a branch of the Mechanics' Institute which was an association of country men of Ontario under the supervision of the Department of Education, namely; Messrs. W. Bristow, F. Leigh, H. F. Jell, C.H. Brown, J.C. Whitney, J.J. Mistele, J.H. Barnes, Louis Mistele, J.W. Kirkpatrick S.B. Morris, D.S.M. Dorland, E.C. Harvey and Geo. Katzenmeier.

Mr. Leigh explained what the Mechanics' Institute was, and the group decided to organize a Rodney branch. Members were to pay \$1.00 each, or if one or more in a family, 50¢ for extra tickets. Arrangements were made to order 500 membership tickets and to buy a Minute Book and stationery and to file application for incorporation with the Department of Education. This first Minute Book has been rebound and can be seen by responsible persons in the McMillan Library at any time. From this Mechanics' Institute Minute Book we are pleased to give the following resume.

On February 2nd, 1893, a meeting was held in Mr. Katzenmeier's Tailor Shop. It was made known that the application for incorporation had been registered and filed at Toronto, and the officers were as follows: Pres. J.J. Mistele, Vice-Pres. J.C. Whitney, Sec. Frank Leigh, Treas. J.H. Barnes. Mr. Jell was appointed to see the President of the former Literary Society regarding the transfer of their books and funds to the Mechanics' Institute, and a committee was chosen to secure a suitable meeting place.

A meeting was held on February 15th, 1893, again in the Tailor Shop of Geo. Katzenmeier. Mr. T.C. Campbell was present and donated the \$16.59 and 19 books to the Institute as the last act of the Literary Society of which he had been the President. A curtain they owned was retained by the Dramatic Society. An offer was made through Mr. Campbell to present "Ten Nights In a Bar Room" and give the Institute

half the proceeds after expenses were paid, but in the event of a large audience it would be 50 - 50. At this meeting Mr. J.B. Stinson offered the room at the rear of his Barber Shop free as a reading room, and Mrs. Wray offered shelf room for books in her store.

March 4, 1893. Reported at this meeting was \$100 worth of books bought, labelled, and insured, and the following names among 64 active members; Messrs. Katzenmeier, Jell, Bristow, Leigh, Hugill, Sinclair, Brown, Whitney, Carter, Campbell, J.J. Mistele, Barnes, Louis Mistele, A. Brown, Rev. Mr. Peer, Kirkpatrick, S.B. Morris, Dr. Dorland, Stinson, Harvey, O.R.G. Stinson, Dr. May, Matthews, and others to be found in Book List for 1893.

The first annual meeting was held on May 2nd, 1893, in Union Societies' Hall when 62 members, 188 books, and 222 issues of periodicals were reported. The new slate of officers was; Pres. J.J. Mistele, Vice-Pres. E.A. Hugill, Sec. F. Leigh, and Treas. Joseph Barnes. Membership was set at 75¢ per year. No minutes were recorded for a meeting held a year later, on April 17, 1894.

At a meeting on January 29, 1895, J.J. Mistele and E.A. Hugill were named a committee to arrange for renting and care of a reading room. Another committee was appointed to ask the Police Village Trustees for a grant to help support the Institute, and still another to solicit memberships at the following rates, namely, men, \$1.00 and ladies, 50¢ per year.

Five months later, on June 5th, 1895, a meeting was held and new officers elected as follows; Pres. J.J. Mistele, Vice-Pres. D.H. McRitchie, Sec. S.B. Morris, and Treas. T.C. Campbell. Four women, namely: Mesdames Dorland, Whitney, J.B. Campbell, and Miss Brown, were appointed to work on a committee with Messrs. A.D. McGugan, D. Shaw, E.A. Hugill, O.R. Stinson, and J.S. Robinson, and a new spirit seemed to fire the group to action.

A meeting on July 9, 1895, reported the following publications subscribed for:

Review of Reviews	London Illustrated News
Scribners	Cosmopolitan
Scientific American	Carpenter and Builder
Youths Companion	Leisure Hour
Ladies Home Journal	Trilby
The Century	

After 9 p.m. on Saturday evening any member was free to take any of these magazines to their home provided they were returned by 3 p.m. Monday. Any copy more than two months old was handled on the same basis as regular books.