

By 1912 cars were becoming plentiful, and the crowd greater. Mr. John Speirn received \$10.00 annually for the use of his grounds. There was a decided Scottish flavour to these ever-growing annual affairs, and the Bag-Pipes and Scotch dances were popular.

After the close of World War I in 1918 a permanent grounds became a necessity, and a movement to buy grounds began. By November 27, 1920, a reorganized organization called "Old Boys Association" was formed and land bought.

OFFICERS: President - F.G. Macdiarmid  
 Vice Pres.- Archie McColl  
 Secretary - John G. Gillies  
 Treasurer - Robert Kelly  
 Auditors - D.G. McPherson and M.S. Barnes  
 Directors - James Burnett, D.N. Buchan, Duncan McPhail,  
 Dan McKillop, Peter Stalker, Dr. S.M. Dorland,  
 Michael Baker.

This group approached Mr. J. Speirn with regard to buying the land whereon the picnics had been held, but he would sell his whole 90 acres or nothing. Finally Dan McPherson and James A. McLean bought the property and then sold to the Old Boys Association six acres of it for \$1,200.00. The new grounds were named "Soldiers and Pioneers' Park". The money to pay for it was raised by selling Life Memberships in the Association at \$5.00 each; and \$600.00 was loaned by D.N. Buchan at 6%.

An excerpt from a letter written by Provincial Secretary, H.C. Nixon, to the President of the Association reads as follows: "Given under my hand and seal of the office of the City of Toronto in the said Province of Ontario, this 12th day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and twenty-----". The part to follow left the Park free of Amusement Tax for all time, and it is also free of any municipal tax.

August 12, 1921, was the date of the first picnic under the

new charter. A dance hall had been erected, trees planted and the grounds improved. It was not long before a cook house and booth were added, and living-quarters for the Park Superintendent were provided with a special room to house an antique Collection. A large well was dug which supplied plenty of good water; and grand-stand seats were built around two sides of the Dance Pavilion.

By 1937, crowds at regular dances became so great that the Pavilion was made almost twice as large.

The next year the Association bought 22 acres, for \$1,000.00, from John G. Gillies; then sold 10 acres for \$450.00 to Skinner and McMillen for their use as a fish-net field. A soft-ball diamond was levelled and made ready in 1938.

In 1949, at a cost of \$2500.00, five break waters, or groins, were driven into the Lake to create a beach, and protect the bank which had receded so seriously that only about 16 acres of the Park Land still remain at the time of this writing. Park property provides portable tables which are used by thousands, free of charge, for Family Reunions, Church picnics and smaller parties during the summer.

Only twice a Season is a charge made for admission to the Park: namely--July 1st, when the Canadian Legion use the grounds, and the last Wednesday in July, which is the Annual Old Boys Reunion.

In 1954 the Association acquired an old grinding-stone that had been used by Colonel Talbot in his mill at Port Talbot from 1805 to 1814, when the Americans burned his mill. It has been placed close to the Cairn built to the memory of local personnel having participated in past Wars. This stone was given by Colonel Talbot to Peter McKellar when he erected the first flour mill on Creek 16 lot No.5, on the North side of Highway #3. McKellar's mill operated from 1821 until the late 70's. Then the mill

was torn down and the stones used as corner blocks under a large barn on the South corner of Lot No.7 Concession 13, known as the McIntyre homestead. This Mr. McIntyre had become partial owner of the mill in the meantime. During the storm the barn was blown down and the present owners of the property, Mrs. Racine and her two sons of Detroit, kindly donated the mill-stone to the Association.

Soldiers and Pioneers' Park at New Glasgow is operated as a Memorial to the Pioneers who settled Aldborough Township and to Those Who Served in Armed Forces. All voluntary contributions are gladly accepted.

Written by: E.G. Lusty

## ALDBORO'S FIRST CHEESE FACTORY

In the year 1851, Mr. Geo. Henry purchased from James McNabb, 350 acres of land, on both sides of Talbot Street, east of Black's Lane, parts of Lots 1&2. (Talbot St. is now No. 3 Highway). He proceeded to erect his farm buildings about 2/3 of the way from the west line, east on Lot No. 1, and near the center of Concession 13. Mr. Henry was a good farmer and had a large family (mostly boys). They were all inclined to be good cattle men and soon had plenty of cattle to pasture on this large farm.

They decided to go into Cheese Making, and erected a large Cheese Factory near the other buildings on the farm. He organized the farmers and soon had plenty of patrons to supply milk. Early in the morning each day, this milk was placed on milk stands, the height of platform wagons, opposite their farms. A strong man with a good team would gather these cans early in the morning, as it was necessary to have it delivered while still sweet. On his return trip he would deliver to each farm a portion of whey which was fed to the calves and pigs. This soon became a thriving business. Mr. Henry was making large quantities of No. 1 cheese, but he was not satisfied. At this time the Henrys were milking about 100 cows (by hand), but production per cow was small as most of them were inbred. Seeking to remedy the situation, he and many other farmers met at the home of Geo. Munroe, Esquire, on March 6, 1854, and organized the Aldboro Agricultural Society, with Mr. Geo. Henry elected president.

On April 15, they met again and Mr. Henry was chosen to go to the Niagara Country, accompanied by Mr. James McGregor, to purchase two or three bulls of such sire and age as they thought best. The men went, and returned by May 20, showing five bulls. The farmers were all over-joyed with the judgment they had shown. One of

these bulls was shown at the London Fair, in 1854, and again in 1855, and won a prize both years.

In a very few years the herds were so improved that there was a much greater quantity of milk of richer quality, and they were making very much more cheese. This cheese, along with other products, had to find larger markets. Mr. Henry decided to build a Dock at Port Glasgow. He purchased from John C. Gillies, seven acres of land just east of Cnoch Nellie. He then erected a large warehouse and built a dock that would accommodate vessels drawing 12 feet of water, in the year 1858. He and some of his sons turned their attention to buying and shipping grain.

This Dock soon relieved the shipping situation, as prior to this, Newbury was the closest railroad shipping point. Mr. Henry then sold part of his lands along with the Cheese Factory, to his son John. His other sons continued to be good farmers and were good judges of cattle. In 1876, John sold his lands and Cheese Factory to Mr. Jas. L. Terry.

John Henry and his family moved about four miles west into Orford Township, where he purchased many acres of land and built another cheese factory at Clearville, where he did a good business.

Philip J. Henry, his son, became one of the best judges of cattle found in Canada. He later became Member of Parliament for Kent County. He could weigh, with his eye, any animal, within a few pounds. If one of his animals got out of his field during the night, when he counted them the next day he could tell you, out of a herd of fifty or more, which one was missing, and could describe its appearance. He had wonderful judging ability.

Mr. Terry carried on the cheese business as before. He had four sons who were all owners of farms, and had up to thirty-five cows

each. They could supply most of the milk for making many tons of cheese. Everything went along well with their transportation problem, since the Dock was only about three miles from the factory, and the same arrangements existed as before for the delivery of the milk to the factory.

Mr. Terry soon decided to transfer his business to his son, Hamilton. The business went along just the same under the new management, except that he had to have more help, which had to be hired. It was not easy to secure a No.1 cheese maker who could be depended on. Mr. Terry moved all the buildings from the back of the farm and placed the Cheese Factory on the east side of the hill close to the road. This made things more convenient for everyone.

This was a thriving business until several years after the turn of the century. The factory was blown down by a severe wind storm and was never re-built. Mr. Terry then turned all his attention to farming until 1920, when he transferred his farm to his son, Ernest. Then he retired and moved to Rodney.

As a boy, I often drove the cheese-maker, Mr. Edward Zimmerman (a former school chum, whose home was in Rodney), out to the Cheese Factory on Monday mornings, and back again Saturday nights, after he had completed his week's work for Mr. Terry.

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