

Elgin County District Women's Institutes
Tweedsmuir Workshop 2009

Dear Members of the WI Branches,

The Elgin County District Women's Institutes are hosting the London Area Tweedsmuir Workshop at the Keystone Complex, Shedden on **Tuesday, August 4, 2009.**

The theme is Antique Toys and Games.

There will be displays of some of Carol Down's dolls, Grace Campbell's dolls and Mary Clutterbuck's Anne of Green Gable dolls.

We would like each of the 13 Women's Institutes of Elgin to consider putting up a **display of old dolls, toys and /or games.**

Please call Helen Van Brenk (519.762. 6454) by **May 30,2009** whether you will put up a display so that we will have enough tables put up. Each display will have 4 feet x 4 feet space allotted.

Each of the 7 London Area District Women's Institutes is to bring 1 antique toy or game or doll to comment on, at the Workshop.

Another important project for the Tweedsmuir Workshop day is for each of the 13 Elgin District WI's Branches to have at least **5 or more photos of old barns** in their area, displayed in a scrapbook or three ring binder. Each Branch will have their own Scrapbook or three ring binder. Please have barn owner's name, where barn is located and any history you know of the barn accompany the photo. If you wish to also have a photo of the house and its history that is on the same property as the barn, in your scrapbook that would be most welcomed. Include 911#, road, lot and/ or concession. This challenge to have photos of barns is from the London Area District Women's Institutes and we want Elgin County Women's Institutes to have the most barn photos.

Please complete by **May 30,2009** and call Helen Van Brenk to inform her. Please bring or give photos to your Institute member who will be coming to the Tweedsmuir Workshop in August 2009. If unable to attend please send along photos to Helen at R.R.1, Fingal, ON, N0L 1K0

Elgin County District WI Tweedsmuir Curator - Helen Van Brenk (519. 762. 6454)
Elgin County District WI Assistant Tweedsmuir Curator - Mary Clutterbuck
London Area District Tweedsmuir Curator - Mary Nicklas

LOCAL HISTORY: Women's Institute members gather for annual Tweedsmuir workshop *August 4, 2009*

History is child's play

NATASHA MARAR
Times-Journal

SHEDDEN — Antique toys, dolls and games highlighted the annual London Area Women's Institute Tweedsmuir workshop here Tuesday.

Around 90 women attended the event, which was hosted by the Elgin County District Women's Institute. There are more than 800 Women's Institutes in Ontario, and 12 in Elgin. Women's Institutes have been documenting local history in scrapbooks, called Tweedsmuir Histories, since the 1930s.

The all-day workshop featured presentations by Brian Masschaele, director of community and cultural services for Elgin county, Mike Baker, curator at the Elgin County Museum, and Marie Nancarrow, a member of the Elgin County Museum advisory committee.

Masschaele spoke about the role of archival records in the county, and the importance of preserving local history. He said the county is looking to create a holistic vision of its history by combining libraries, archives and tourism.

Masschaele also presented old military records, petitions, bylaws and newspaper

clippings. The Elgin County Archives is now home to volumes of Tweedsmuir Histories, which are also available on the archives website.

"We almost doubled the size of our Tweedsmuir holdings since publishing them, they were being digitized," Masschaele said. "The connection we've had with the archives and Women's Institutes has been instrumental to our success."

Baker and Nancarrow's presentations focused on today's theme of antique toys and games. Baker brought collections of antique toys from the museum.

"We have some of the best pieces with us today," he said. "Many of the toys played with in the early 20th century are still with us."

Baker spoke about the evolution of childhood play and toy-making since the 1800s.

"It's the real world in miniature."

WI member Barb McNabb of Melbourne, Ont., enjoyed the workshop.

"When they (Masschaele and Baker) do a presentation, it's beautifully done," she said. "I just remember being delighted."

The workshop wrapped up with an antique toys show-and-tell, group discussion of Tweedsmuir Histories reports from each branch.



NATASHA MARAR Times-Journal

Barbara McNabb of Melbourne, Ont., checks out the antique toy displays at the annual London Area Tweedsmuir workshop held in Shedden on Tuesday.

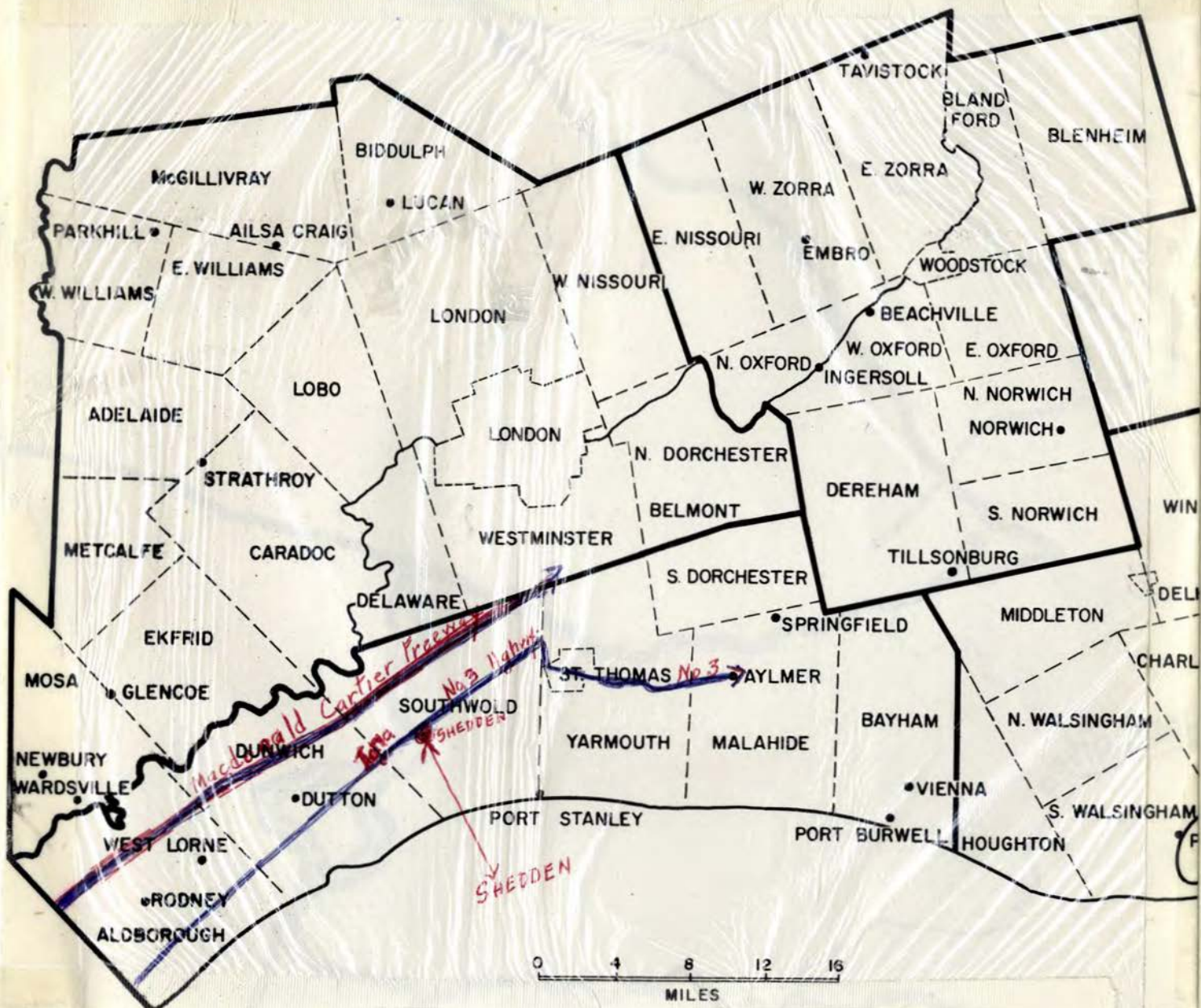


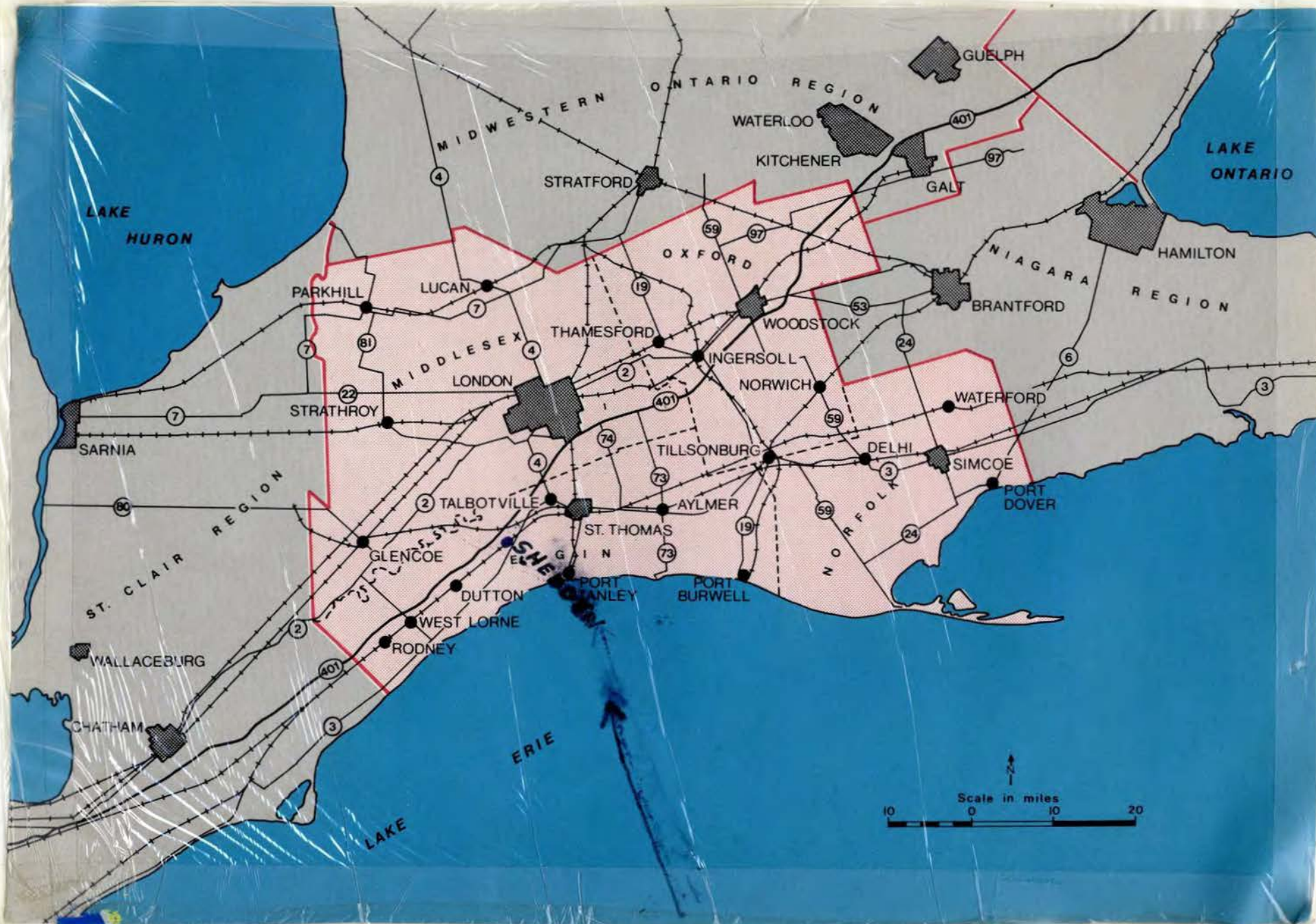
NATASHA MARAR Times-Journal

Grace Campbell, president of Elgin County District Women's Institute, left, with Helen Van Brenk, Elgin County District Women's Institute Tweedsmuir curator, and speakers Brian Masschaele, Elgin county director of community and cultural services, Marie Nancarrow, Elgin County Museum advisory committee member, and Mike Baker, curator at Elgin County Museum, at the annual London Area Tweedsmuir workshop.

*Shedden Women's Institute
Tweedsmuir History
Dora McArthur - Curator
April 2010*

LAKE ERIE REGION





Location of Village of SHEDDEN.

Southwold got its name from an English seaport

By ALEX HORKAY
T-J Staff Reporter

Southwold Township was named for a seaport in Suffolk County, England, and its name is derived from old Anglo-Saxon "wold" or "weald", meaning a forest or open country, words with opposite meanings, but still appropriate. Over 4,500 residents now make Southwold Township home.

The oldest village in the township is Fingal, which was surveyed into village lots and named Fingal by Col. Talbot in 1830.

At one time before the trains, Fingal was virtually the heart of the Talbot Settlement, just west of St. Thomas and on a direct route to Port Stanley from the west where the wagon trains of grain passed through.

By 1872, Fingal had a population of about 500, but it has since dwindled to about 350.

William Brock of New Jersey received his land from Col. Thomas Talbot and erected a log cabin in 1805 or 1806. He was the first settler at Iona.

BUILT FIRST SCHOOL

John Axford of New Jersey settled on the Southwold side of Iona in 1812, and built the first school in 1816, which was taught by John Robinson.

Duncan McCormick had his farm land surveyed into village lots in 1948 and named it Iona's Isle, after the Holy Isle of Scotland.

The Dunwich side of Iona became known as Elliottsville for a while after Miss Sarah Elliott, who in 1874 donated the land for a Methodist Church which now is the Iona United Church.

Elliottsville was never officially accepted by the post office and so the name Iona was retained and the first post office was opened there

in 1853 with William Harris as postmaster.

Ironically, the post office in Iona closed a few years ago with Iona mail delivered out of the Iona Station post office.

Even more recently, the Iona Station post office moved to Iona when the Iona Station general store closed. But it must retain the name Iona Station because only an act of Parliament can change the name of a post office.

ONCE BOOMING

A booming business area in the late 1800s, Iona today has about 120 residents.

Iona Station came into being when the Canada Southern Railway (which became the New York Central Railway) was laid between Buffalo and Windsor in 1872. Since this was the station for the more southerly Iona, it only followed that George Munro, who surveyed some of Duncan McCormick's land at the time, named it Iona Station.

Col. Talbot may have engaged in a little self-indulgence when he named Talbotville early in the 19th century. Previously it had been called Five Stakes due to the five roads which met there. It flourished when it was on the main thoroughfare to London from St. Thomas until the London and Port Stanley Railway passed through.

Payne's Mills, just west of Talbotville, was named after the Paynes brothers who had flour mills in the area.

Lawrence Station takes its name from William Lawrence, on whose farm the train station was located. The station was part of the

Air Line Railway.

There was also a roller rink there in the late 1800s. The Bell Telephone system was added to the area in 1902.

DARK DAY

Perhaps Lawrence Station's darkest day was Oct. 30, 1941 when an American airliner crashed in an oat field next to Thomson Howe's farmhouse, 75 yards from the road just east of Lawrence Station. All 21 people in the aircraft died in the crash.

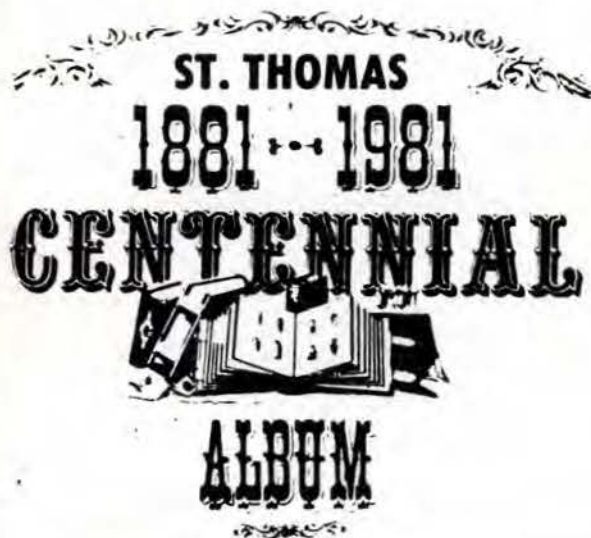
Shedden takes its name from the late John Shedden, an area capitalist and stock grower. The community was known at first as Wilkie's Corners, named for the man of that name who built and operated a blacksmith shop on the main northwest corner.

The village's first post office had the name Corseley, but in about 1870, John Shedden bought the land south of the railway tracks and laid it out in streets, setting the village plan.

In 1871 when the CSR Railway was built through Shedden, passengers went to the Shedden station but to the Corseley Post office. This was confusing, so the name Shedden won out.

Frome was founded by Rev. Joseph Silcox who named his farm house Frome after his residence in England. He was the founder of the first Congregational Church of Ontario which he organized there in 1819.

Burwell's Corners is a little-known community just southwest of the intersection of the Fingal and Iona Roads. Col. Burwell himself is buried at the cemetery there.



SHEDDEN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY
CURATOR - Dora McArthur
May 1991

History of Southwold Township

The Township of Southwold was incorporated on January 1st, 1850 as a Township of Middlesex County.

The first council meeting was held on January 21st, 1850. Council members were Messrs. Levi Fowler, Colin Munro, John Allworth, Archie Robb and Nicol McColl.

No record is found of the election of these men but the Township was divided into five wards with a polling place in each ward.

Until 1860 members of council at their inaugural meeting appointed the Reeve and Deputy Reeve and for a number of years a second Deputy.

The first officials appointed by council were as follows:

Clerk, Daniel Carpenter

Assessor, Amos Barnes

Treasurer, Robert Blackwood

Collector, Edward Willson

Superintendent of Education, Noah Silcox

Road Surveyor, C. Munro

Twenty fence viewers, eleven pound keepers and seventy overseers of highways were named.

At the February council meeting, 1850, the clerk was directed to draw plans and get an estimate of the cost of building a Town Hall, the building to be forty by fifty feet with a fourteen foot ceiling.

Two rooms of this building were to be taken at one end for an office and lock-up.

A lot on which the office now stands was purchased from a Mr. Casey in April, 1850 for 21£

The council passed a resolution on November 4th., 1850, accepting the new Township Hall as being completed according to contract at a cost of 200£

On April 30th., 1966 a resolution was passed by council that a new municipal building be built.

Council decided to act as their own general contractor and engage local tradesmen to do the work. Laurence McIntyre was appointed chairman of the building committee.

Work was ~~xxx xxx~~ started May 15, 1967, the old Township Hall was moved to the

Shedden Womens' Institute

rear of the lot to be used for a truck storage. In November, 1967

the Township Hall was completed and the first meeting of the Council held in the new Hall on November 14, 1967. The first nomination meeting in this building was held on November 24 in the basement.

Villages in the Township are Iona, Talbotville, Lawrence Station, The Village of Southwold formerly Southwold Station and Shedden which took its name from the late John Shedden an enterprising capitalist and stock grower.

Cross section of the Population 1850-4,132, 1967-4,070 and 1982-4,400

There are 155 Miles of Township Roads.

At present there is the Clerk, R.A. ^{=Treasurer} Pow, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer M.R. Brown & Eleanor Brown Secretary in the Office.

Road Department consists of 6 Men 1 of which is F.B. Humphries Road Superintendent

Fire Department " Volunteer Firemen approximately 50 with J.H. Glover Fire Chief

Drainage- Ralph Beharrell is Drainage Commissioner with Roger McKullen assisting him

Dave Major is the Building Inspector and also the Water Commissioner

The Regional Assessment Office in London ~~do~~ do all the assessing for the Township

Of note the Township has only 1 police Village that being Shedden, which means when the mill rate is struck for the year all the Township is set at this rate. An additional rate is struck for the police village and this rate is imposed in addition to the Township rate on the taxes, for the people in the village limits.

There are 3 trustees elected and the monies raised by the special rate is used for expenditure in the Village e.g. Lights, roads, sidewalks etc. by these trustees.

Prepared by Mrs. Wm. (Eleanor) Brown
for a Shedden W I meeting on Citizenship
1981

Town trustees elected for three years in November 1985 were Murray Silcox, Harry Killins and Steve Garvin.



SOUTHWOLD Township's centennial year administration is shown in the above photograph. Front row, seated, left to right: William Blewett, clerk of Southwold; Clarence Orchard, reeve; Walter Auckland, deputy reeve; Richard Kimble, former reeve, township treasurer. Standing, left to right: Charles Minor, former reeve, tax collector; Vermont Pow, roads superintendent; Clarence Culver, member of the township council; George Silcox, member of the council; Herbert Hunter, member of the council; Ralph Auckland, former reeve and warden of Elgin, township assessor.

The Shedden area has always been well represented on Southwold Township Council. In this picture, William Blewett lived at 131 William St., Shedden, George Silcox retired from farming and lived at 163 Horton Street, Shedden and Clarence Orchard lives on lot 13 NNBTR. In 1985 the only survivors in this group of ten men are Clarence Orchard and Clarence Culver of Fingal.



REEVES... Southwold's past reeves gathered for a photo at the township office on Nov. 27, 1978. From front, left to right, are Walter Auckland, 1945-50, George Silcox, 1953-54, Clarence Culver 1955-54, Herbert Hunter, 1958-59, Farnell Nimno 1960-63, Noble Tufford 1964-65, A.W. Auckland, 1966-67, back row, A.J. Orchard, 1968-69, L. McIntyre 1970-72, Lester Longhurst 1979, Clarence Orchard, 1949-50, Keith McLean 1977-78, B.A. Lyle, 1973-74, G.W. Monteith, 1975-76.

SHEDDEN W. I.
Dora McArthur - Curator
Apr. 1996

\$180.00 planning, \$90.00 CEEDA, \$1,026.00 KCCA, \$90.00 watershed, \$360.00 personnel, \$450.00 landfill liaison, \$90.00 On Track, and \$630.00 other. A total of \$54.20 CPP was also deducted making Reeve Clutterbuck's total remuneration \$8,619.28.

Deputy Reeve Jim McIntyre's total 1995 remuneration equalled \$7,472.34 with \$1,775.00 for regular and \$2,970.00 for special council meetings, \$45.00 convention/seminar expenses, \$360.00 planning, \$360.00 personnel, \$25.00 fire, \$90.00 watershed, \$1,440.00 infrastructure, \$450.00 other with \$42.66 deducted for CPP.

Councillor Christine Roberts earned \$1,650.00 for regular council and \$2,790.00 for special council meetings, \$450.00 CEPO, \$90.00 waste management and \$90.00 watershed for a total of \$5,070.00.

Councillor Sandra van der Veen took home \$1,650.00 for regular and \$2,520.00 for special council meetings, \$360.00 per diem and \$876.95 in expenses for conventions/seminars, \$90.00 waste management, \$90.00 planning, \$540.00 watershed, \$25.00 fire with CPP deductions of \$3.15 for total remuneration of \$6,148.80.

Councillor John Beharrell's \$5,055.29 total includes regular council meeting pay of \$1,650.00, \$2,970.00 for special council sessions, \$90.00 waste management, \$90.00 planning, and \$255.29 for LTVCA.

Total Remunerations

Dunwich Township's total 1995 council remuneration equaled \$25,960.52, with the Village of Dutton paying \$13,644.16 in total remuneration and Southwold Township \$33,445.71 which included \$1,080.00 for J.H. Spicer local board appointment.

The Township of Southwold also paid remuneration of \$250.00 each to Carol Gordon, Steve Garvin, and Ron Lowe, Police Village of Shedden Trustees.

Southwold Township
Reeve Perry Clutterbuck was paid \$2,000.00 for regular and \$2,970.00 for special council meetings, \$225.00 per diem and \$562.48 expenses for conventions/seminars, as well as

1995

Shedden W. I.
Tweedsmuir History
Dora McArthur - Curator
April 1997

Southwold Council for 1998-2000



PERRY CLUTTERBUCK
Mayor



JIM MCINTYRE
Deputy Mayor



JOHN BEHARRELL
Councillor



STAN LIDSTER
Councillor



CHRISTINE ROBERTS
Councillor



SIX WARDENS:

Southwold has sent 15 men to the Elgin warden's seat, starting 140 years ago with Levi Fowler, a Fingal merchant. Five former wardens from Southwold were on hand Tuesday to congratulate their colleague, newly elected Warden Perry Clutterbuck. The group, from left, includes: seated - Lester Longhurst (1980), Albert Auckland, (1967); back - Bud Marr (1983, 1984), Ken Monteith (1981), Clutterbuck, and Hugh Lyle (1992). (T-J photo)

Don McArthur - Mayor
 1998
 Tweedsmuir History
 IM
 1998



NEW COUNCIL SWORN IN - Members of Southwold Council took their oaths of office at the inaugural meeting held January 5th. Clerk-Administrator Alex Pow, second from left, turns over

the gavel to Mayor Perry Clutterbuck while looking on are, from the left, Stan Lidster, councillor; Deputy Mayor Jim McIntyre and John Beharrell and Christine Roberts, councillors.

New council gets down to business

The new Southwold Council was sworn into office on Monday, January 5th, 1998. Mayor Perry Clutterbuck, Deputy Mayor Jim McIntyre and Councillors Christine Roberts, John Beharrell and Stan Lidster, all stood and made their Declarations of Elected Office and Oaths of Allegiance.

Reverend Rob Marcus, of the Fingal Fellowship Baptist Church, addressed council saying, "You have certainly earned the trust of the people." He cautioned that with trust comes responsibility to the people and fellow council members. Rev. Marcus referred to Romans 13 and the issue of authority. Living in such challenging times, he

encouraged council to seek God's wisdom as they make their decisions.

Mayor's Address

The first Mayor of Southwold Township, Perry Clutterbuck, welcomed those in attendance of the inaugural meeting and the newest member of council, Stan Lidster. He reviewed the last three years, highlighting some of the accomplishments of the municipality such as the construction of a new fire hall in Fingal and equipment storage, both with the help of the Canada/Ontario Infrastructure Program. Other milestones in the township were the implementation of blue box recycling and the Southwold Keystone Complex which is very near completion.

With restructuring, the township now cares for county

roads and has added two county employees to the road department as well as many pieces of former county road equipment. They will also be responsible for maintenance of Highway 3 within the township.

Construction is also increasing as two new subdivisions are underway along Wellington Road.

Mayor Clutterbuck noted that the future holds many changes including having to provide many more services due to provincial downloading. He emphasized that everyone is responsible for the smooth operation of the township and encouraged anyone with suggestions, whether big or small, to bring them to council for consideration.

Work Together

The hard work that was

involved in ensuring that the township remained as one unit under county restructuring was touched on by Deputy Mayor Jim McIntyre, a sentiment which was echoed by Councillor Christine Roberts. She also stated that the municipality must look at working with other townships in order to try and save money. Attracting new businesses is another issue.

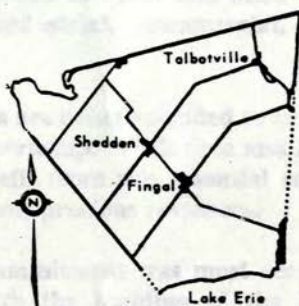
Councillor Stan Lidster expressed his enthusiasm for being a part of council and is looking forward to the challenges facing the township.

The minutes of the December 22nd meeting were approved as well as Keystone Trust Fund accounts of \$1,770.56, road accounts in the amount of \$109,994.30, and general accounts totalling \$49,261.87.

CORPORATION

OF THE

TOWNSHIP OF SOUTHWOLD



THE KEYSTONE TOWNSHIP

150 YEARS

1850

-

2000



Saturday, July 22, 2000

THE MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Southwold Keystone Complex as we celebrate the Sesquicentennial of the incorporation of the Township of Southwold.

The past 150 years have seen enormous changes, changes that are accelerating at a rapid pace. It will be the task of future councils to manage these changes according to the needs of its citizens.

This Township's commitment to the future is evidenced by continuous improvements to roads and other services which will better serve its industrial, commercial, agricultural and residential areas.

Municipal water lines are being extended to an increasing number of residents in the Township. With time and funding, our future generations can benefit from this essential service even as they manage one of our most precious resources.

This community's commitment was most recently demonstrated by its assistance with the building of the Keystone Complex Community Centre, particularly those volunteers affiliated with Rosy Rhubarb and the fundraising committee. The entire community can be justly proud of this endeavour.

It has been my great honour to serve the Township as Councillor, the last Reeve, the first Mayor, and the first Warden of the restructured County of Elgin. It is also a privilege to bring the Township into the twenty-first century.

As members of Council, we understand our obligations to this community. Although we are but a small part of the municipality's history, every decision made today influences the future. Only history can judge us and we hope it will at least give us a passing grade.

Perry Clutterbuck,
Mayor of the Township of Southwold

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Welcome.....Chairman - Councillor Stan Lidster

O Canada....Pianist - Kay Chamberlain

Prayer.....Rev. Charlotte Brown

GREETINGS

Mayor.....Perry Clutterbuck

Warden.....Duncan McPhail

M.P.Gar Knutson

M.P.P.Steve Peters

Mayor of St. ThomasJoanne Brooks

**History Reading.....Marion Brown
Ida Martin**

Closing Remarks.....Councillor Stan Lidster

**Music is being provided to-day by
Norm Ripley and the Elgin Pioneers**

**Refreshments have been prepared by the
Boxall Women's Institute**

SOUTHWOLD TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

Millenium Year - 2000

COUNCIL

Mayor.....Perry Clutterbuck

Deputy Mayor.....James McIntyre

Councillor.....Stan Lidster

Councillor.....John Beharrell

Councillor.....Christine Roberts

C.A.O. / Clerk.....David Aristone

Deputy Clerk.....Maria Konefal

Accounting Clerk.....Michele Drewitt

Accounting Clerk.....Ida Martin

Road Superintendent.....Scott Woolley

Fire Chief.....John Brown

Deputy Fire Chief.....James Marshall

Drainage Superintendent...Ralph Beharrell

Building Inspector.....Lorne McLeod

WARDENS FROM SOUTHWOLD

Levi Fowler	1858	Ralph Auckland	1942
Levi Fowler	1859	A. W. Auckland	1967
John Ellison	1872	L. A. Longhurst	1980
Donald Turner	1888	K. A. Monteith	1981
Angus Turner	1905	E. H. (Bud) Marr	1983
W. H. Turner	1919	E. H. (Bud) Marr	1984
David Crosson	1927	Hugh F. Lyle	1992
Stewart A. Brown	1932	W. P. Clutterbuck	1998

CLERKS OF THE TOWNSHIP

Daniel Carpenter	1850-1860	Ralph Auckland	1944
Samuel Tubby	1860-1878	W. G. Blewett	1945-1970
Malcolm Campbell	1878-1910	R. Alex Pow	1971-1999
J. C. McLennan	1910-1936	David Aristone	1999-
Bruce Annett	1937-1943		

150th CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE

Councillor Stan Lidster	Ann McLean
Mary Clutterbuck	Marion Brown
Pat Clinton	Ida Martin

Special thanks to all the volunteers that helped to make this day possible.

REEVES OF THE TOWNSHIP

Levi Fowler	1850, '53, '54, '58, '59
John Allworth	1851
Colin Munro	1852
Richard B. Nicolls	1855, 1856
John Smith	1857, '61, '62, '63, '66, '68, '69
James Begg	1860
Amos Barnes	1864
David King	1865, 1875
Archibald Kerr	1867
John Ellison	1870, 1872
Thomas Hunter	1871
Sam Shepard	1873, 1874
Dugald Brown	1876
Duncan D. Campbell	1877
Donald Turner	1878, '79, '80, '87, '88, '89
John King	1881, 1882, 1883
Dugald McColl	1884, 1885, 1886
John Andrews	1890
Thomas Jackson	1891, 1892, 1893
Frank Bennett	1894, 1895
John Steele	1896
W. H. Morrison	1897
Francis Hunt	1898
Angus Turner	1899, 1900
Frank Else	1901
Isaac Gilbert	1902
William Pranglen	1903, 1904
H. J. Henderson	1905, 1906, 1912, 1913
Robert Meek	1907
Robert Jelly	1908
W. H. Turner	1909, 1918, 1919
Absalom Gilbert	1910, 1911
M. B. Stafford	1914, 1915
Andrew Miller	1916, 1917
William Gunning	1920, 1921, 1924
Albert McIntyre	1922, 1923
David Crosson	1925, 1926, 1927
Charles Minor	1928, 1929
Frank Coutts	1930, 1931
Stewart A. Brown	1932, '33, '43, '44, '45, '46
Dan McGugan	1934, 1935
Richard Kimble	1936, 1937
Fred Miller	1938, 1939
Ralph Auckland	1940, 1941, 1942

Claybourne Gordon	1947, 1948
Clarence Orchard	1949, 1950
W. L. Auckland	1951, 1952
George Silcox	1953, 1954
Clarence Culver	1955, 1956, 1957
Herbert Hunter	1958, 1959
Farnell Nimmo	1960, 1961, 1962, 1963
Noble Tufford	1964, 1965
Albert W. Auckland	1966, 1967
Albert Orchard	1968, 1969
Laurence McIntyre	1970, 1971, 1972
Bruce A. Lyle	1973, 1974
Gary W. Monteith	1975, 1976
Keith McLean	1977, 1978
Lester A. Longhurst	1979, 1980
Kenneth E. Monteith	1981, '82, '83, '84, '85
E. H. (Bud) Marr	1986, 1987, 1988
Hugh F. Lyle	1989, '90, '91, '92, '93, to Nov. '94
W. Perry Clutterbuck	Dec. 1994, '95, '96, '97, '98

MAYORS OF SOUTHWOLD

W. P. Clutterbuck 1998, 1999, 2000



SOUTHWOLD TOWNSHIP COUNCIL - 1998 - 2000
 PERRY CLUTTERBUCK Mayor
 JAMES MCINTYRE Deputy Mayor
 JOHN BEHARRELL Councillor
 CHRISTINE ROBERTS Councillor
 STAN LOSTER Councillor

ROAD DEPARTMENT

In the early years of the Township every property owner was required to do statute labour according to the assessment on the property. This was abolished in 1921.

In 1937 the first power grader was purchased and in 1939 a snowplow was added.

Crushed gravel was used for the first time for road maintenance in 1940. Approximately 26,000 tonnes of crushed gravel will be used in the year 2000.

Over the years our inventory has increased drastically to allow each man to operate his own truck, grader, backhoe, and various other pieces of equipment during the summer and winter months.

Each year the Township tries to complete a different road project to meet the needs of the ratepayers. Some roads have been re-asphalted, re-graveled etc.. Recently, several new signs have been installed throughout the Township. Each road/street sign has the 911 numbers of the properties located on that particular road or street printed on them so that your property can be easily located in an emergency situation, guests coming to visit or for deliveries.

We currently maintain 154.1 miles (248 km.) of Township Roads and also maintain 64.3 miles (103.5 km.) of County Roads.

Our full-time road department employees are:

Road Superintendent - Scott Woolley

Grader Operators - Gerald Boughner, David Hagerty
 Glenn Vicary

Truck Operators - Jack Player, Jim McLaws, Steve Willand, Steven Brown

Our summer students for 2000 are:

Tractor and Mower - Joe Vanoverbeke

Casual Employee - Ryan Walker

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The first fire equipment in the Township was a hand truck that was located at Shedden which was purchased in November 1920. In the early thirties a Fargo truck was purchased to serve the whole Township. A fire-fighting unit was purchased in 1948.

Over the years, the Volunteer Fire Department has expanded to 46 members. The Fire Department now has trucks and emergency vehicles stationed at Shedden, Talbotville and Fingal Fire Halls.

In September 1998, the first call to 911 was made by Warden Perry Clutterbuck in Pinafore Park at the annual St. Thomas Firefighters Fire Muster. The volunteer firemen were responsible for installing all the 911 signs in the Township and they continue to do so as new homes, barns and businesses are constructed.

A new Sterling fire truck was put into service at the Fingal Fire Hall in the summer of 1999 and another fire truck is on order and should be operating in the fall of 2000 and is to be located at the Talbotville Fire Hall when it is delivered.

The fire department has regular monthly meetings. At these meetings they discuss the fires/accidents that they have attended, sometimes have guest speakers, occasionally watch a fire-related video, have hands on training courses, discuss the general operations of the fire department and various other agenda items. The firefighters are always attending training courses to keep up with the continual changes and to update their current skill levels.

The Township of Southwold Volunteer Firemen have had displays at various community events, most recently they had the Fire House on display and in the past have demonstrated how the Jaws of Life and air bags work. Each Christmas they have organized a Food Drive for Christmas Care at the Fingal Santa Claus Parade.

Each Fire Hall has it's own Fire Captain. Currently they are as follows:

Talbotville	Captain Gary Clinton
Shedden	Captain Dave Carroll
Fingal	Captain Robert Brown

The current Volunteer Firemen are under the leadership of:

Fire Chief John Brown and Deputy Fire Chief Jim Marshall

HISTORY OF SOUTHWOLD TOWNSHIP

The Township of Southwold was incorporated on January 1st, 1850, as a Township of Middlesex County.

The first council meeting was held on January 21, 1850. Council members were Messrs. Levi Fowler, Colin Munro, John Allworth, Archie Robb and Nicol McColl.

No records have been found of the election of these men, however, the Township was divided into five wards with a polling place in each ward. Until 1860 members of Council at their inaugural meeting appointed the Reeve and Deputy Reeve and for a number of years a second Deputy.

At the February council meeting, 1850, the Clerk, Daniel Carpenter was directed to draw plans and get an estimate of the cost of building a Town Hall. The building was to be forty by fifty feet with a fourteen-foot ceiling. Two rooms of this building were to be taken at one end for an office and lock-up.

The lot on which the Office stands was purchased from a Mr. Casey in April, 1850 for 21 pounds. The original Township Hall building cost 200 pounds to construct.

In earlier years, much of the grain grown in the western part of the district passed through Southwold and Fingal and was shipped in sailing vessels out of Port Stanley.

Fingal is the oldest of the Villages in Southwold Township. It was named by Colonel Talbot. Specialty threshing machines were manufactured in Fingal in the mid 1800's for Canadian farmers. Amasa Wood who donated the 1st hospital to St. Thomas was an early resident of Fingal. This hospital was replaced by the Memorial Hospital.

Other villages in the Township are Iona, situated 7 miles west of Fingal on the line between Southwold and Dunwich. Talbotville was also named by Colonel Talbot, but from the five roads meeting there, was sometimes called five stakes. It is located 3 miles from St. Thomas. In 1965 Ford Motor Company purchased 1,300 acres of land in this area and in 1966 started to build a car Assembly Plant.

The buildings of this Company presently cover over 50 acres. The coming of this plant made many changes for Southwold Township. Paynes Mills just west of Talbotville had the Payne brothers settle there first. They ran the flour mills and lived in some fine dwellings. Lawrence Station was situated on the Air Line Railway in the Northwest part of the Township. It took its name from William Lawrence. Shedden is situated north of Fingal and west of Paynes Mills and Frome and was named after the late John Shedden, an enterprising capitalist and stock grower. It still remains a very active community. The village of Southwold, formerly Southwold Station was in the early days a shipping point on the Railroad.

In 1966, council passed a resolution to build a new municipal building. Construction was completed in November 1967 after which time the first nomination meeting was held in the basement. Over the years, new paint was applied inside the building and some carpeting was installed.

In 1966, as the Ford Motor Company opened its doors, it also gave many local residents an opportunity for employment. In recent years, many of our local residents have already enjoyed the opportunity to retire from Ford after 25 years or more of service.

The official opening of the library facilities was held in Shedden in 1984. Still to-day, the library is an essential part of the community.

The D. A. Monteith Medical Centre held it's Official opening in 1986 after receiving a donation of land, much fundraising and some funding from the Township.

In 1988, sixty-two homes were constructed in Talbotville off of the Gore Road in a subdivision named Talbot Meadows.

In 1989, Frome was devastated by a tornado which continued it's furious path of destruction right through to Port Stanley. Fortunately, there were only a few minor injuries reported.

Through the fundraising efforts of the Rosy Rhubarb Committee which had its first donation in 1993, and the assistance of the Township, a wonderful Community Centre known as the Keystone Complex was officially opened in March 1998.

The Provincial government in the mid 1990's downloaded many of its services that it had funded previously, to each individual municipality and also discontinued many of its grant programs. This has placed the costs of many essential services entirely on the individual municipalities in Ontario. Many municipal amalgamations took place in 1998, however, the Township of Southwold is currently still self governing.

In early 1998 every street and road in the Township was measured out by the volunteer firemen to establish a 911 emergency number for each property owner where there is a home, barn or business. These emergency numbers have all been placed at the same height and location on each property so that they are very visible, whether it's by day or night.

A municipal water trunk line was constructed in late 1998 from Talbotville to Shedden then on to Fingal. In early 1999 the first water meter was installed on the trunk line. Later in 1999 water lines were extended to the streets of Fingal and Shedden and were ready for hook-up in the early summer. A water filling station and a chlorinating station were built just east of Shedden on Talbot Line. The water filling station has proven to be very beneficial to the residents of Southwold Township during the entire year. Our current project is extending the municipal water line from Shedden to Iona. In the very near future the municipal water line will be extended from Fingal to property owners along Fingal Line, through Middlemarch and further east to the location of the new Elgin Manor.

1998 also was the start of a new subdivision called Ferndale Meadows which is situated off of Wellington Road just north of Lynhurst.

The current Township offices were completely refurbished in 1999, giving the office an open concept with one private office. A cottage style roof was constructed over the original flat roof. All new furnishings were purchased to accommodate the computers, printers etc. and all new window covers were added as a finishing touch as well.

As you can see, many changes have taken place over the course of 150 years. However, we have been able to provide and maintain essential services and still be fiscally responsible.

MESSAGE FROM THE CLERK

One hundred and fifty years ago a community of people surrounding the villages of Fingal, Iona, Talbotville, Paynes Mills, Lawrence Station, Shedden and Southwold Station decided to incorporate the Township of Southwold. The other Townships of Aldborough, Dunwich, Yarmouth, Malahide and Bayham also incorporated. They were then able to go to the Government of Upper Canada and state they wished to separate from the County of Middlesex to become the County of Elgin. The County of Elgin was then incorporated in 1852. They felt the need for an organized unit of local government to facilitate the building of roads and bridges so that the area could be more widely settled. These people were building on the efforts of Colonel Thomas Talbot who had a vision to settle and organize the area we know as Southwestern Ontario.

The first clerk of the municipality, Daniel Carpenter, was appointed in 1850 and became the first employee of the Township. Many dedicated people have served the residents of the Township over the past 150 years providing a high quality of administrative, drainage, fire, road, recreational and water services. Southwold Councils have always been known for their balanced approach to providing the needed services and fiscal responsibility to the management of property taxation.

Even though many changes have occurred in 150 years, the basic boundaries, community sense, and rural nature of Southwold Township still exists today. Southwold Township can be proud of the heritage it has passed down over the last 150 years to the generations of residents that have lived and worked within our boundaries.

David G. Aristone, C. A.
Chief Administrative Officer and Clerk



Members of Southwold township council, sworn into office at the municipality's inaugural meeting Wednesday morning, from left, are: front — Mayor Jim McIntyre, Deputy Mayor Stan Lidster; back — councillors John Andrews, Robert Monteith, Grant Jones. (TJ photo) NOV. 2003

Shedden W. I.
Tweedsmuir History
Dora McAerthur - Curator
April, 2004