

Isn't It Beautiful ?



1851 BEDSPREAD—A blue on white hand-woven bedspread made in 1851 will be seen on one of the beds which belonged to Col. Talbot during open house. Pictured preparing for the

event, from left to right are Mrs. J. R. Futcher, chairman Elgin Pioneer Museum Committee; Mrs. J. D. Galbraith, president of Elgin County W.I., Iona Station, and Mrs. William McKillop, president of Wallacetown W.I.—(T.-J. Photo.)

Wouldn't You Like to Wear This ?



VIEW WAISTCOAT—Many items which belonged to Col. Talbot will be seen at the pioneer home during the three-day open house. In the above photo, two members of the Tyr-

connell Women's Institute view one of Col. Talbot's favorite waistcoats. Pictured from left to right are, Mrs. Louis Marcus, and Mrs. Gordon Gow, both of Wallacetown.—(T.-J. Photo).

Discussing History



RECALL BYGONE DAYS—John S. Ker, owner of Malahide, formerly known as the Talbot Estate, is pictured above seated at Colonel Thomas Talbot's own walnut desk discussing a point of history with E. W. Eastman, crafts-

man and keen student of Elgin history, of Port Stanley. Mr. Eastman refinished most of the furniture in Malahide House including Colonel Talbot's desk and other pieces of his furniture. — (T.-J. Photo.)

PROCEEDS WILL AID MUSEUM

The historic landing 150 years ago of Colonel Thomas Talbot and the founding of the Talbot Settlement will be recalled on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, when "Malahide"- as the Talbot Estate is now known- will be opened to the public.

The opening is part of the Talbot Anniversary White Celebrations which were revived last year after a lapse of some years. The proceeds from the three-day open house will go towards a \$16,500 fund which has been launched to finance an addition to the Elgin County Pioneer Museum on Talbot Street West in St. Thomas.

Commemorative Dinner

The Talbot Anniversary will actually begin on Friday at the Colonel Talbot Room of the Grand Central Hotel where about 150 people will attend a commemorative dinner. Orle Miller, well known historian, will address the gathering on the fascinating subject of Colonel Talbot.

On Saturday, Sunday and Monday, Malahide will be open for public inspection between the hours of 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. On Sunday, at 2:30 p.m., the anniversary program will be augmented by a special ceremony of tribute to Talbot Settlement Pioneers at Pearce Provincial Park, five miles west of Malahide and close to St. Peter's Church cemetery where Colonel Talbot is buried.

The revised Talbot Anniversary celebrations held last year were a great success and it is expected that many people will want to take advantage of this three-day open house to visit Elgin's most historic spot.

Well-Versed Guides

Members of the Women's Institutes of Elgin County will be on duty at the house throughout the open house period to conduct tours of the building and provide information about the many items of historical interest contained in the house.

Much has been written about Colonel Talbot over the years but it is interesting to read again a review written by a local historian on May 21, 1903, when the St. Thomas Evening Journal published a special Talbot Centennial edition.

"Colonel Talbot landed at Port Talbot on the 21st of May, 1803, from a boat accompanied by several men and immediately set to work with his axe to cut down the first tree to commemorate his landing to take possession of his woodland estate.

"The settlement which now bears his name was then an unbroken forest, and there were no traces of civilization nearer than Long Point, 60 miles east, while to the west the aborigines were still the Lords of the soil and ruled with the tomahawk.

In Best Attire

"At the time of Colonel Talbot's landing, everything in nature was dressed in its best attire and the swelling stream of Port Talbot Creek, then swollen to the dimensions of a respectable river, overhung with the deep green boughs of the surrounding forest and gliding through the valley around the verdant hill of Port Talbot, poured its limpid stream

into Lake Erie with a rapidous current.

"At this delightful season of the year, the forest teemed with life, the shady green of the trees, the chirping and singing of numerous birds, the solitary tapping of the woodpecker, the lofty hills and placid waters spread out into an inland ocean, all wore a smiling aspect, and cheered the Pioneers of the Forest."

When people visit Malahide this weekend they will be able to re-create in their imaginations the setting as Colonel Talbot found it on May 21, 1803.

Malahide House, a mixture of Georgian Colonial and Greek Revival architecture, is essentially the same today as it was in 1848, when Colonel Richard Airey, Colonel Talbot's nephew, moved a guest house to connect with the original house which Colonel Talbot began in 1806 and did not finish until 1833. All traces of Colonel Talbot's log cabin which he built on arrival in 1803 have long since disappeared but historical records indicate that it was located about 100 feet south-west of the present residence.

Much furniture belonging to Colonel Talbot can be seen in the house and this has been augmented somewhat by other pieces of the period in order to completely furnish the large home.

A number of items from the Colonel Talbot Room of the Elgin County Pioneer Museum have been taken out to Malahide House for the occasion in order to make the "picture" of Colonel Talbot and his way of life as complete and as interesting as possible for the visitors.

PEARCE WILLIAMS CHRISTIAN CENTRE 1960-1972

- May 1960 - Elgin Presbytery bought from Samuel Pearce,
165 acres of farm land for \$12,000.00
- Nov. 1960 - purchased an H hut from Fingal Airport.
Throughout winter, volunteers cut building
into units that are now dining hall, 2 cabins and
Long House.
- Dec. 1960 - ample water supply found at 229 feet.
- 1961 - First camps held - 214 campers.
- 1962 - 225 campers. -swimming pool built - cost \$2132.22
with much volunteer labour.
Covered wagons acquired before 1964.
- 1963 - 353 campers. Fees \$16 per week.
* Covered wagons acquired before 1964.
- 1964/65 - Successful camps held.
- 1966 - purchased Graham property adjoining Campsite,
\$1500.00. New tractor - \$995.00.
Assets (Cost and Installation only) - \$37,092.71.
- 1967 - 234 campers. Counsellors pd. \$5 a week.
- winter ski program started in December.
- 1968 - Raised pay scale for Counsellors to \$25.
- Directors for camps - \$60 per week.
- 240 campers. Heating units installed in Long
House and Dining Hall.
- ski tow installed for winter program of skiing
Sunday afternoons.
- 1969 - Wilderness camping for Teenage girls on new
property.
- water pipeline installed in Wilderness area
- 210 campers. Coloured slides taken at camps
that are available for showing to groups.
- 3 winter training sessions for Counsellors
one 2-day training weekend for Counsellors on Camp-
site.
- Annual tree planting by volunteers.
600 trees - cedars, scotch pine, walnut, white pine,
white spruce.
- new foam mattresses and covers purchased.
- modern apt, made in main house for year-round
custodian, cost \$2500, with much volunteer labour.
- upstairs bathroom completely remodelled new
fixtures, shower installed.

- 1970 - 49 Teens attend Counsellor training
- excellent skiing, Jan, Feb, March.
 - Newsletters mailed to all churches.
 - Annual Dinner meeting of Corp. in May.
 - Old wheels on covered wagons replaced by rubber tires.
 - 331 campers. Springfield, Corinth Walk -a- Thon provided campers, sports equipment and picnic tables.
 - Sept, weekend for Counsellors, Board members, and Camping Committee - evaluation
 - dining room painted, wagon wheel light fixtures installed in house.
- 1971 - new nylon ski tow rope installed, major renovation main kitchen, walls, lighting, cupboards, hot water heater, stainless steel counter, storage units, stove hood.
- 60 attended Counsellor training.
 - Counsellors pd. \$25, 30, 35. for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd year. New felt pennants and crests sold.
 - Brochure on nature trails and historic spots, maps of camp centre and total property made.
 - Front fieldsseeded for picnic area.
 - covered wagons lowered, new rubber tires, new canvas flaps. -archery introduced.
 - new stone fireplace and screen installed Long House. Detailed study of future camp use made by Campsite Development Committee.
 - new shingles on Long House, Dining Hall and 2 cabins. Water pump overhauled.
 - Resident Custodian, A. McCormick hired.
 - 329 summer campers 1/3 from other Denominations.
 - Presbytery Camping Commission set up to study long-range development of property and its use.
- 1972 - \$20,000. 2-story addition to house, to contain washrooms, dormitories, furnace.
- Gov, grant, winter Works - \$9594.00.
 - April, May, June Counsell or training sessions
 - Camp Insurance reviewed and updated.
 - Camping Com. members to visit all church Congregations to promote camps and inform.
 - 6-day camp fees \$30. New camp for Teens.

PURPOSE OF THE CENTRE

To enable persons to respond to God in Jesus Christ, to grow in daily fellowship with Him, to grow as Christian persons and to grow in love for their fellow man.

OUR GOALS

1. To provide adequate facilities in a country setting at a reasonable cost to give people an opportunity to learn to live in group relationships and an opportunity to reflect individually.
2. To provide an atmosphere in which persons can meet and work out real life situations in a different but a friendly and warm environment and to become better equipped in attitudes and skills to face their problems at home, at school and in their neighbourhood.
3. To have people in a country setting consider the meaning of the Christian faith for them at their stage of life through providing a Christian atmosphere and person-centred programs.

* * * * *

Pearce-Williams property has beautiful woods, park-like hills, accommodations for outdoor picnics, indoor meetings for any groups.

For bookings - contact

The Board of Directors does not plan events: it provides the setting. Elgin Presbytery and its churches plan camp use - when are you going to use and enjoy YOUR CENTRE?