

Public Buildings of Wallacetown as of 1967



Community Hall



Corner Store
Robt Giles (owner)
former J. Cameron store



Supertest Garage
Fred Hillis (Lessee)



Post Office
Mrs. Gertrude Sloan
Postmistress (1960-1980)

Wallacetown Churches as in 1967, Centennial Year
(History of each Church in volume 1, history)



Presbyterian Church
St. Andrew's



Roman Catholic Church
St. Helen's



United Church

The Passing of an Era.

Fast-moving progress exacts its toll in many ways. The little red school-house in rural communities depended for its support on perhaps a dozen farm families living along the concessions and sideroads. The higher costs of education hit the rural communities just as hard as the cities and towns. In fact, the blow was harder as young people deserted the farms and remaining farmers bought adjoining farms to further shrink the school area population supporting the little red schoolhouse.

The Dept. of Education realized what was happening and major changes in the school administration in the province of Ontario were introduced in the Legislative Assembly on Feb. 27, 1964. This bill known as Bill 54 was an act to amend the Public Schools Act and was proposed by the Minister of Education, Hon. Wm. G. Davis, to become effective on Jan. 1, 1965.

Every township in Ontario was made a unit for public school purposes. Each township would have a board of trustees consisting of five members to be elected at the same time as the annual Municipal elections took place. Of the trustees elected at the first election, the three trustees receiving the highest number of votes would hold office for two years, the two remaining trustees would hold office for one year. After the first election an election would be held in each year to fill the places of the trustees whose terms of office had expired and the trustee elected would hold office for two years.

Upon the election and organization of a board of public school trustees for a township school area, the boards of public school trustees for every section then in existence was dissolved and all the property became the property of the board of the township School Area. At this time Elgin County had eighty-two boards at the elementary level which were reduced to seven. Dunwich township had seven boards of three trustees each, and one consisting of five members. The village of Dutton had its own board of six members. Because Dutton's population, according to the 1963 census, was less than a thousand it formed a part of the township area. The newly-elected board was known as "The Public School Board of the Township School Area of the Township of Dunwich".

The members of this first board in Dunwich were Albert Ford Donald McCallum, and Alistair Littlejohn from the township and George Ford and Paul Young from Dutton. Their first duty was to advertise for a secretary and Miss Margaret Leitch was chosen.

At the second meeting of the board in 1965, the trustees decided to renovate the then existing Dutton Public School and to build an addition consisting of eight rooms to form a central school for Dunwich township. Permission had to be obtained from the Dept. of Education and the Ontario Municipal Board.

G. Duncan Black Ltd. was engaged as consulting engineers. Tenders were called and the John Hayman and Sons Ltd. were engaged as contractors. It was hoped that the new Central

OLDIER

FARMS



Van Brenk's Fruit Farm - 1982

(Formerly the Sloan Farm)

The original history of the Sloan Farm is on a previous page under "Century Farms" 1969.

This farm was sold to Rien and Helen Van Brenk in 1973. Rien came originally from Holland and Helen, from Australia. They have three children, two sons and a daughter.

The farm was rented out in 1973 to Carl Bobier to cash crop the land. The pond behind the house was built in the fall of 1973 for irrigation - was 18 feet deep. Apple trees were planted out into orchard in the spring of 1974 and nursery established the same year. Also a small plot of strawberry plants was set out that year for pick your own purpose. In the spring of 1975 a small plot of raspberries was set out for pick your own. The Nursery was expanded to 4 acres. In 1976, 30 acres was added on to the east side of the property, formerly McCaffery property. In 1980 the barns were fixed up and sheet metal put on. Also windbreaks were established around the orchards and nursery.



Aerial Photo as follows:

West of barns - peach orchard 4th year

Behind barn and house (N) - renovated strawberry plants

East of house behind windbreak - plum orchard 4th year

North of pond - apple orchard 9th year

Top north and east - corn

North of small pond - nursery with ornamentals and fruit trees

Total trees and plants in 1982 on Van Brenk's Fruit Farm
app. 200,000.



PLUM ORCHARD in BLOSSOM,



ORNAMENTALS.



APPLE TREES BEARING FRUIT.



YOUNG APPLE TREES.