

DONALD I. HOUGHTON

ONTARIO LAND SURVEYOR

SUCCESSOR TO -

JAMES A. BELL - 1851-1929

FRED A. BELL - 1887-1969

17 HINCKS STREET
ST. THOMAS, ONTARIO
N5R 3N5

Telephone: 631-2212

June 11, 1991

Mr. Lorne Spicer
100 Union Road
Shedden, Ontario
N0L 2E0

Dear Mr. Spicer:


Thank you for your letter to my father dated June 3rd, 1991. I surveyed the property so my father thought it best if I reply to you. The stone you refer to is the most Easterly corner of Lot 22, Concession 11 and the most Westerly corner of Lot 23, Concession 11. The stone also marks the Southerly side of the original Road Allowance between Concession 10 & 11. This 66 foot Road Allowance although never opened to traffic is still crown land.

The granite survey monument was laid in its place by the founder of this firm. Mr. James A. Bell, Provincial Land Surveyor at that time, later to become the 128th Ontario Land Surveyor, on June 1st, 1877 while surveying the property to the South West for Mr. A. Lunn Esquire. After speaking to Mr. A. Lunn's grandson, the farm was split at that time for the 3 sons of A. Lunn's. Three other similar stone monument can be found to the West of this stone you refer to and were laid by Mr. Bell during the course of the survey.

The stones were placed after Mr. Bell located the original Tree Blazes and Posts as they were laid out (and still visible at this time) during the first survey of the Township of Dunwich. I send to you one of the pages of the field notes taken by Mr. Bell when he performed the survey. I also send a copy of the Reference Plan I surveyed showing the corner to which you refer.

Thank you for your interest in this very unique survey monuments and if you have any other questions, please contact my father or myself.

WH:rg
Encl.

Sincerely,

WARD HOUGHTON



Resources Report • Rapport sur les ressources

January 1992

BALD EAGLES IN SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO

In 1991 there were ten active bald eagle nest sites along the north shore of Lake Erie between Haldimand-Norfolk and Windsor. These include the nine where eagles were actually present and the one site that is still being protected by the Ministry of Natural Resources although the birds have abandoned it. In the case of abandonment the protection is kept up for five years.

A total of twelve eggs were laid in eight of these nests. Ministry of Natural Resources staff out of the Aylmer office found that eleven eaglets hatched with one nest having three young birds in it. This total was identical to the successful hatch last year and continues the promise that the birds are re-establishing themselves in this part of the province.

Another factor that gave heart to both ministry staff and the many active volunteers monitoring the reintroduction program was that two of the eaglets were hatched from a nest the birds constructed on an artificial nest platform.

In 1988, an artificial nest platform was installed through the Ministry's Community Wildlife Involvement Program at a site in Essex County when it became apparent that the tree containing the eagles' nest was dying. With the cooperation of the landowner; Ontario Hydro Western Region and Essex Area Offices, the Hawk Cliff Raptor Banding Station and the ministry attempted this experiment in order to see if the birds could be encouraged to stay at this location when they did lose their nest. This did happen when the nest was blown down out of the dead crown in 1990. The eagles who had been perching on the platform located in the crown of an adjacent tree quickly constructed their new nest on it. The laying and hatching of two eggs served to complete the story.

However there were some setbacks as well. Just when things were looking good at the Talbot Creek/Jones nest site in Elgin county with the first eaglet hatched since 1988, a reversal occurred when the nest here was blown down in October. Although it was considered



unlikely that the birds would leave the area, there was no guarantee that they would construct their new nest at the same location as there were no trees with a crown suitable for perching and nest construction.

If the birds did move, there would be a significant loss to bird watchers and the public in general because this nest site had been developed as an interpretive location through the assistance of the landowners - Mary and Lyle Jones. Road signs had been put up directing people to the site. An information sign along with a brochure box were located at a spot that allowed viewing through binoculars or telescope without disturbing the eagles. The value of this nest site for education purposes was immense.

In order to provide the greatest possible opportunity for the eagles to select a nest site at this location, it was decided to install an artificial nest platform in a tree near the old nest site. The work was carried out in December 1991 by the landowner, the St. Thomas Field Naturalist and West Elgin Field Naturalist clubs, the Hawk Cliff Raptor Banding Station, Ontario Hydro Western Region and Strathroy offices, and the ministry.

In January of this year the eagles were observed perched in the trees near the platform calling. This behaviour is considered normal in defending their territory. It is hoped that once they have adjusted to the presence of the platform they will adopt it for their use. Time will tell if this experiment will be as successful as the Essex experience where the birds had a longer period to become familiar with the platform which was in the only other suitable tree in the immediate area.

The effort was considered worthwhile in recognition to the years of stewardship by the Jones and the value of the site to the viewing public.

In other news, a male eagle from Michigan that had been seen along the Thames River in Essex County and around London was found injured near Long Point. Attempts to save it were not successful. It is thought it had been initially hurt when it strayed into other eagles' territory and received further injuries by animals while on the ground.

A female in Essex County that had recently lost its mate was seen with a new male. This is viewed as another positive sign that the eagle population is

growing large enough for the birds to quickly replace a mate.

And finally the Hawk Cliff Raptor Banding Station and the St. Thomas Field Naturalist Club reported seeing 71 eagles during the 1991 fall migration at Hawk Cliff east of Port Stanley. This is 20 more than were seen the year before.



ATTEND 80th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION – Wallacetown Women's Institute marked its 80th birthday last Thursday when members and representatives of other institutes from all over Southwestern Ontario were on hand for the special occasion.

Pictured, from the left, are Marian Millman, Yarmouth Township Reeve, guest speaker; Hilde Morden, London Area President; Lillian Lunn, Wallacetown W.I. President; Margaret Eberly, F.W.I.O. President and Leta West, Dunwich Township Reeve.

Wallacetown Women's Institute celebrates 80th anniversary

A bright sunny day greeted more than '80' ladies when the Wallacetown Women's Institute celebrated its 80th anniversary. Ladies of the surrounding Institutes of East and West Elgin, along with members from higher levels of the W.I., former members and visitors attended.

The community hall in Wallacetown was attractive

with the institute color scheme of blue and white, along with a display of pictures, Tweedsmuir books, and many other mementos depicting the interesting work of the institute of past years.

President Lillian Lunn welcomed the many guests, read congratulatory messages and introduced those taking part in the program. The Institute

Ode was sung and Mary Stewart Collect repeated. The afternoon started with an In Memoriam for past members which was given by Mrs. Mae Graham and Mrs. Marjorie Ripley, remembering their dedication through the years. Though times may pass their memories linger on.

Greetings were given by the following:

Leta West, Dunwich Township Reeve; Mary Eberly, F.W.I.O. President, Hilde Morden, London Area President; Ann McLean, representing Jean Leitch, Elgin West President; Betty Van Patter, Elgin County Rally President; Tina Zomer, Oxford South President; Madelynn Jenkins, Elgin East President; Eleanor McMillan, Provincial Director.

Enjoyable music was presented by the Dunwich Dutton Public School choir, directed by Karen Sloetjes and Jean Louise Ford. A sing song was also enjoyed conducted by Louie Lackey and Phyllis McDonald.

Guest speaker Marian Millman, Reeve of Yarmouth Township and former Warden of Elgin, was introduced by Dorothea Jewell. Mrs. Millman gave a very interesting talk of her experience and travels during her term of office as warden. She urged members to notify their local members in council if they have problems.

Reeve Leta West presented

the Wallacetown Women's Institute with a plaque, congratulating them on their service to Home and Country.

Mary Eberly presented yearly pins to the Wallacetown members - Mae Graham (50), Gladys Graham (40), Marjorie

Blue (30), Jean Morrison (20), Dorothy Robson (20), Lillian Lunn (10), Sally McIntyre (10), Marjorie Ripley (10), Helen Van Brenk (10).

Courtesy remarks were given by Sally McIntyre. The singing of "O'Canada" brought a very enjoyable afternoon program to a close.

Mae Graham and Gladys Graham cut the anniversary cake. Everyone enjoyed a social time and a cup of tea.