

FEBRUARY 1987.

8C—ST. THOMAS TIMES-JOURNAL

Feasibility study may be key to future of Talbot house

This could be a big year for the historic home of Col. Thomas Talbot, Southwestern Ontario's founder, if plans continue to fall into place.

Talbot Estate Foundation chairman Wayne Paddon said the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Culture's heritage branch is looking over proposals for a study of the property, now occupied by the John Ker family.

Once the ministry approves the parameters of the study submitted by study committee chairman Gary Baker, the study will be tendered out and costs will be split between the foundation and the ministry.

The feasibility study will look at a three-phase development plan of the site.

The first phase is purchase of the home, the road into it and about eight hectares behind the home. This will be a tea room and a picnic area to be set up and the home to be used as a museum and showplace.

The second phase is purchase of sites which have archaeological evidence and the third phase is to develop the area, Mr. Paddon said.

If the seven-to-eight-month study shows Phase 1 is acceptable, then the house, road in and eight hectares can be purchased for about \$200,000, of which about \$100,000 must be raised by public subscription and will be matched by the province.

The foundation, which now is legally



WAYNE
PADDON
... '87
could be
the year

constituted and can give receipts for tax-deductible donations, now has \$13,000 raised toward the phase.

The money will be raised largely by public donations because there has not been much support from Canadian charitable foundations so far.

Not many people question that the estate should be purchased but some question why, he said.

But the site is perfect for a museum and a May-to-Labor Day tea room would pay for its upkeep. There is plenty of opportunity for volunteer help in the museum, student research and work in the tearoom. It's an excellent location for a tourist booth, historical pageants in the summer and a period museum, he said.

"It could become a very significant Canadian tourist attraction," Mr. Paddon said.

The money for the first phase must be raised by spring 1988.

The foundation held a successful Talbot anniversary dinner at the Elgin Regiment armories last May and hopes to hold another one this year.

OPEN HOUSE

A successful open house with more than 1,000 people passing through the Talbot homestead in two days last Thanksgiving may also be repeated this year. The Ker family has agreed to allow the foundation to hold an open house with a barbecue and some entertainment in May or June, Mr. Paddon said.

A special edition print of an original watercolor by Kay Patterson of the Talbot homestead is also available with \$45 from each print sold going to the Talbot Estate foundation. The prints are \$150 framed and are available through Gord Patterson in Port Stanley.

They are also available unframed with 30 per cent of proceeds going to the estate. The original will be presented to the foundation to be displayed in the homestead.

Mr. Paddon said several people have phoned the foundation asking to help. Anyone who wants to be part of the fund-raising programs can phone Mr. Paddon or write Box 447, St. Thomas.



PRINT TO AID MALAHIDE PRESERVATION — Kay Patterson, of Erieau, Ont., shows a watercolor, Port Taibot Estate, Malahide House, she did last September. Prints are being sold by her son, Gord, at

Portfolio, 181 Main Street, Port Stanley, with \$45 per framed print or 30 per cent of sales of unframed prints going to the Talbot Estate Foundation. — (T-J Photo).

T-J
FEBRUARY '87

Dutton's McIntyre House a place of legend

UTTON — Main Street in this In County village was once anchored by a bar and battleground town far and wide as the McIntyre House.

It was a well-loved but unlovely establishment, a place of legend and myth, frequented by whisky and the irascible members of the "Scotchmen" who settled throughout the area.

It may be significant that before the name was given that name — the chief engineer of the old Canada Southern Railway — it was known for no apparent reason as Monkey's Run.

Anyway, the legend of the McIntyre House is the stuff of an entire chapter in The Scotch, a warm reminiscence written by John Kenneth Galbraith, a native of Iona Station who went on to become an economist and adviser to U.S. presidents.



PLACENAMES

By Don Murray
London Free Press

16 February 1987

A first impression of the old hotel, writes Galbraith, was the "astounding smell" wafting from the bank of privies in the yard that were "undifferentiated as to sex or precision of user."

Right next to this lineup of latrines was the kitchen — which explains why the McIntyre House was not renowned for its food.

Galbraith begins his description of the uproarious joint with a mini lecture on the effect of alcohol on different nationalities. "An

Englishman becomes haughty; a Swede sad; an Irishman sentimental; a Russian fraternal; a German melodious. A Scotchman always becomes militant."

The battles in the bar were incredible melees of flying bottles, shoes and anything else found at hand. For truly epic scraps the combatants would first remove the furniture.

After one heroic punchup in 1910 — apparently a re-enactment of the battle of Culloden in 1746 — half a dozen clansmen were found

in the morning stacked up like cordwood in the stable behind the hotel.

Whisky was of course the "only worthwhile thing to drink, as shown by the case of a snooty commercial traveller from Toronto who enraged the barflies by demanding a fancy cocktail from publican Johnnie McIntyre.

Ever the perfect host, he brushed the rowdies and went outside to get ice. "This," Galbraith writes, "he got from a little iceberg by a tree in the yard.

"It owed its origins to the dog who frequented the tree and the Canadian winter which quickly converted all moisture to ice.

McIntyre's scheme to steer the traveller to a proper drink of whisky failed.

The man from Toronto licked his lips and ordered another.

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ST. THOMAS, ONTARIO, MONDAY, JULY 14, 1975

Two hundred mark 100th anniversary of Wallacetown United Church Sunday

WALLACETOWN — About 200 persons from across Elgin County and beyond, some of whom could remember the church's early days, gathered Sunday to help mark the 100th anniversary of the building of what is now Wallacetown United Church.

The red brick building with the simple stained glass windows at the intersection of Gordon and Argyle Streets was built in 1875, a wooden frame building, at a total cost of only \$2,000.

For the first 50 years the church served as a meeting place for Wallacetown's Methodists until 1925 when Methodists, Presbyterians and Congregationalists joined to form the United Church of Canada.

Among those returning Sunday was Rev. Kenneth J. Welch, of the First Pastoral Charge in London, who delivered the sermon. The 44-year-old clergyman was born and raised in Wallacetown.

WERE CHARTER MEMBERS

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Welch, were charter members of the founding of Wallacetown United Church and members of the church choir, Mr. Welch until his death.

Mrs. Welch has been with the choir for about 60 years now and continues as an active church member, having recently completed a history of the Wallacetown United Church beginning with the founding of Methodism.

Sunday was sunny and peaceful with temperatures in the high 20s, and despite the slightly stuffy atmosphere in the church the faithful filled the pews and some had to be seated in the church entrance.

Rev. Welch said the occasion gave church members a chance to "review the past, reflect on where we are today and do strategy planning for tomorrow."

GAVE THANKS

He insisted the reason for attending the celebration "was not to hear the choir, or buy the history of the church or see a

local boy return" but was rather to give thanks to God for the past 100 years.

He said the church would not have held together as long as it has, or be in such good condition, if not for the self sacrifice of early church members that they might have a church and a Sunday school.

"First of all today we should give thanks to these people," he said.

Commenting that the Dunwich Pastoral Charge serves parishioners from Lake Erie to the Thames River, Mr. Welch urged those present to become aware of the needs of their neighbors, both here and around the world.

He noted that the 100 years, 50 years as a Methodist Church and 50 years as a United Church, have not been easy and that there have occasionally been conflicts over the direction the church was going.

He called on parishioners as the church enters its second century to "develop patience, tolerance, understanding and acceptance," noting that even Christ was occasionally challenged over the direction he was going by his disciples.

The next hundred years of the church depends on the answer of each individual to the questions "where am I as part of the church and where are you as part of the church," he said.

"We've only just begun to scratch the surface of what might happen if we really let God direct our lives," he said. "We've only just begun to live."

Also speaking Sunday was Rev. Murray Barnet, former minister of the church, who is currently co-ordinator at Pearce-Williams Christian Centre.

He will be succeeded by Rev. David Northey, who has yet to take up his duties and was not at Sunday's service.

NEW MINISTER

It is perhaps fitting that a church should begin its second century with a new minister. J. R. Douglas, a Presbyterian minister, took over as the first

United Church minister in 1925 after union.

The first minister of the church when it was founded in 1875 was Rev. Ebenezer Tesky.

Many of those attending Sunday's service remembered the founding of the United Church and the closing of the church at Tyrconnell. The six member organizing committee were founding members. Morley and Mrs. Grace Page, Mrs. Gertrude Page, Earl Shipley, Mrs. Iva Crawford and Mrs. Thelma McFarlane were all members of the church in 1925.

CHANGED FACE

The face of the church has changed physically too in its 100 years. During the winter of 1945 a furnace explosion caused serious damage that made major repairs necessary, although services went on as normal.

The church was remodelled in 1928 when the building was bricked and a choir loft, a basement and a new vestry were added. Cost was \$15,000.

In 1959 more changes were made. A new front entrance and washrooms, a Sunday School Annex, a kitchen with a

steam table and a large school-room-dining hall were added at a cost of \$20,000.

In 1967, Canada's Centennial year, Rev. Barnet took over as minister, the churches' mortgage was burned.

Last month Mrs. Margaret Welch completed a detailed history of the Wallacetown church community that she began 15 years ago while researching in history for her General Arts degree at the University of Western Ontario.

TRACES FOUNDING
The 68-page booklet, dedicated to her husband, Norman, contains photographs from the Church's past and traces the founding of Methodism from John Wesley in 1728 through to union and the church today.

After the church service the 200 persons attending had a chance to pick up a copy of the booklet. A special dinner was also held after the service.

Next Sunday a memorial service will be held at the Tyrconnell Cemetery with Rev. Harry Stevenson delivering the service. The old Tyrconnell Methodist Church has long since been torn down, Mrs. Welch noted.



100-YEAR-OLD CHURCH — The red brick building that about 200 worshippers entered Sunday to take part in 100th birthday celebrations for Wallacetown United Church is considerably changed from the original. The bricks were added, along with a new vestry, in 1928, three years after church union. Formerly it had been a

Methodist church. Mrs. Norman Welch, second from left, a founding member of the church recently completed a history of the church and Methodism, particularly Elgin County. She points out highlights of her book from left, Mrs. Grace Page, Rev. Murray Barnet, Rev. Kenneth J. Welch. — (T.-J. Photo).



HISTORY OF
ST. HELEN'S CHURCH
WALLACETOWN, ONTARIO

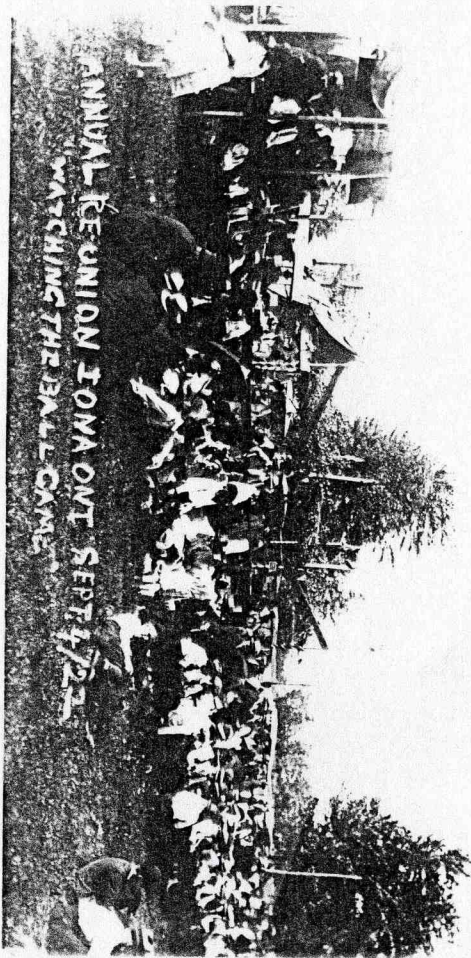
About 1850 Catholic people began settling in Dunwich Township in Elgin County, a short distance from where the village of Wallacetown now stands. They were almost entirely of Irish origin: some newly arrived from Ireland, others seeking soil and other conditions superior to those where they had first settled in Canada. In their native land they had been taught that man was entirely dependent on God and that in His name no sacrifice was too great. For some time they attended Mass when possible in St. Thomas, at that time the nearest place with a resident priest.

Pioneer priests visited their settlement, baptized their children, buried their dead, performed their marriages and brought advice and consolation to the living.

After a short time as their number grew, mass was celebrated at irregular intervals for seven years in the home of Micheal Hooley in Lot 17, Concession 9, Dunwich Township. The people then decided that a church should be built---a frame structure on land donated by the above mentioned Micheal Hooley. The first trustees of the church were Thomas Hatton, John Tracey, and John Lynch Sr.

This church served the growing community for several years but in 1902 the need was felt for a better and more centrally located building and a site was chosen on what is now No. 3 Highway in the village of Wallacetown. The corner-stone was laid September 21, 1902, and in a short time a fine building was erected of sufficient proportions to care for the Catholic families living in the community.

This was written by John D. Casey.



ANNUAL RE-UNION IONA ONT. SEPT. 4/22
WATCHING THE BALL GAME

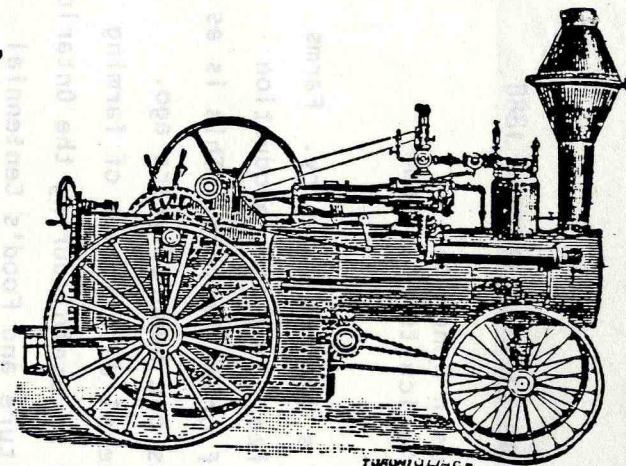
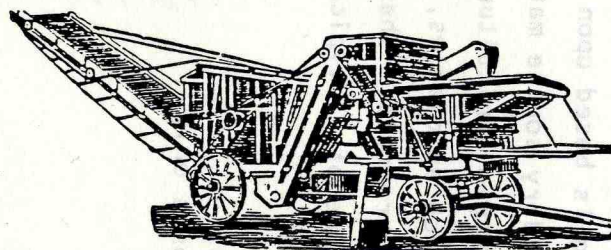
Sept 4/22.



EXPERTS' ADMIRATION—Miss Velda Hathaway, R.R. 2, Dutton, a member of the Iona Station 4-H Homemaking Club, was the recipient of her Provincial Honors certificate and pin, on completion of twelve projects. Shown, right, Miss Hathaway, her club leader, Mrs. J. M. Pyatt, Iona Station (left) and Miss Margaret Burrill, home economist for Elgin County, admire the handiwork and styling of nightwear which was the work of a 4-H member.—(T.-J.)


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