

Graduate



PEGGY SMITH

Peggy Smith graduated from the Marvel School of Skin Care and Esthetics, London, as a Certified Esthetician. Peggy will be operating a studio from her home at 185 Margaret Street, Dutton, offering services for skin treatments, reflexology, different types of massage, cellulite treatments, and waxing along with manicures, pedicures and makeup application and other small services. Congratulations from Mom, Dad, Leigh and Chuck, and Randy, Terri and family.

Graduate



TRACY ANN ROWSOM

Tracy Ann Rowsom, daughter of Wayne and Susan Rowsom, R.R. 3, Iona Station, has graduated with her Honours B.A. in English Language and Literature from the University of Western Ontario. Tracy is currently on an extended European tour.

Graduate



CORALEE BROWN

Coralee Brown graduated from the Early Childhood Education program, Conestoga College, Kitchener, Ontario, on June 23rd. Coralee is the daughter of Murray and Elaine Brown, R.R. 1, Wallacetown. She will be attending Fanshawe College, London in January 1996. Congratulations Coralee from Dad, Mom, Corey, Jeremy and Grandma Pearce.

Graduate



LAURA LEIGH JACQUES

Congratulations from Dave, Mom, Don, Dad, Tyler, Lynda and Steve on graduating with honours in the Dental Assistant Program at Southwestern Medix College, London. Ceremonies were held at Centennial Hall on June 18th, 1995.

Graduate



KAREN DIELEMAN

Karen Dieleman, daughter of Krin and Connie Dieleman, Wallacetown, graduated on June 2nd, 1995 from Trent University in Peterborough with a Bachelor of Science Degree in the Honours Program - achieving the Dean's Honours List. Karen will be continuing her studies next fall at Queen's University in Kingston towards attaining her Teacher's Certificate.

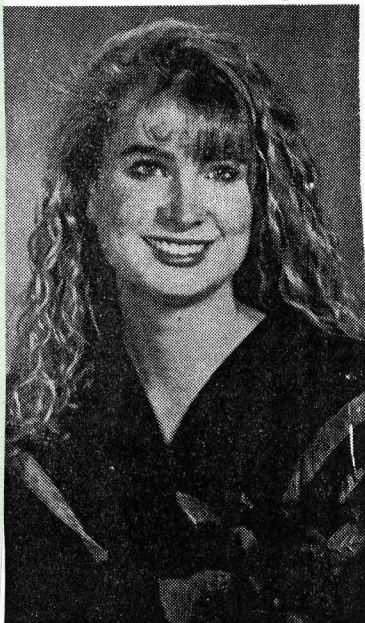
Graduate



LORRAINE PATON

Lorraine Joyce Paton, daughter of Richard and Cobi Paton of R.R. 1, Iona Station, graduated on June 7th, 1995 with honors. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Guelph majoring in Fine Arts with a minor in psychology. Well done Lorraine!

Graduate



ANDREA VAN KAMPEN

Andrea van Kampen, daughter of John and Tina van Kampen, R.R. 3, Dutton, graduated June 9th, 1995, with Honours from the Bachelor of Applied Science program from the University of Guelph. She will be attending the Faculty of Education at the University of Toronto (primary/junior division) in the fall.

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WEST ELGIN OUTSTANDING TREES.

Oct 1994

West Elgin is involved in having a brochure similar to this one done. A pamphlet and a plaque which has the common name and Botanical name of outstanding trees. These signs are durable and will last for years.

Some interesting trees in Dutton and Dunwich are very familiar to most of you.

On the John S. Pearce farm is the largest and best known specimen of a Tulip Tree anywhere in Elgin County.

On the Lake Road across the road from the former Herman Page property is the only Jeffery Pine known in these parts. The Jeffery Pine is the only pine with three needles that are 11 inches in length and this pine produces a very large cone. The large cones can be seen on the top of the tree now. It originated in Oregon.

There is an excellent specimen of a Japanese Maple planted on the former Morley Page farm during the coronation of King George VI on May 12, 1937. Mrs. Page was listening to the radio and when the King was crowned, Mr. Page planted the tree.

At the border between Pearce Park and St. Peter's Cemetery is the eight limbed Morianda Spruce, more commonly known as Norway Spruce, this one is very unusual because it has eight limbs growing horizontally out from the trunk and then upward like extra trunks.

Travelling on the road to Tyrconnell you will see a very large Red Oak.

In Black's Cemetery there is a good example of an Austrian Pine.

On the Coyne Road south of #3 Highway, approximately 1/2 mile a very large Ironwood tree can be found, it is a Hop Hornbeam, the wood used for oxen yokes.

On the Harrison Sideroad at Wallacetown are three important trees

1. An Eastern White Pine
2. An Eastern Hemlock
3. A Japanese Heartnut

Kentucky Coffee Tree, there are two or three good large specimens on the Foster property, behind the former Royal Bank building in Dutton.

On the Old Currie Road in Dutton, just around the corner from Ketchels, there is a Balsam Fir.

A very large tree, the Blue Ash, is at the Tait Bridge, it has square twigs for the first three years of growth and then it grows round branches.

Behind Hugh Hunter's house there grows an English Oak, grown from an acorn from Windsor Castle, given to members of an Honour Guard for their Majesties during the visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth to Canada before the outbreak of W.W.II.

This is only a few of the 90 trees in Aldborough, Dunwich and Southwold that could be in the brochure and if you have a tree or know of trees that are suitable, please let the committee know. This project is estimated to cost approximately \$6000 and we would appreciate any money your group or individuals could donate.



WALLACETOWN and COYNE'S CORNERS

(Oakville, Frogtown)

Before the establishment of a post office in 1852, the small settlement near the farm of Donald Currie (who settled here in 1813 with his three sons and one daughter after emigrating from Scotland) was nicknamed Frogtown because the local area had a large population of frogs. According to Daniel Curtis there were so many frogs living in the swamps around the site that it was almost impossible to carry on a conversation during a summer evening. This was confirmed in the memoirs of James Black and William Christon. (Dutton also had the nickname Frogtown.) When a post office was located at this corner settlement, one gentleman by the name of McTavish suggested Oakville but it was turned down as there was another place bearing the same name. Then the first settler on the site suggested Wallacetown after the Scottish national hero, Sir William Wallace, to which Duncan McTavish agreed. For many years it was claimed that this hamlet received its name because John C. Wallace settled here and as a contractor built most of the buildings before he moved on. Wallace was born on his father's farm in Southwold Township, just north of Watson's Corners. One of his brothers, David, became a teacher and died in Brantford. Wilson Wallace carried on farming until his death in 1885.

The Coming of the Scots

Scotland in the early part of the last century underwent severe changes that affected the Highlanders. When the landlords turned their estates into sheep farms, the poor crofters or tenants were driven from their homes. Even those who remained behind found it difficult to make a livelihood from the barren soil. Lord Selkirk felt sorry for the Highlanders and decided to do something to help them. He first established a successful colony on Prince Edward Island. After this was accomplished, he turned his attention to Upper Canada, which at the time was only sparsely settled. At Baldoon he placed a colony of Highlanders, and even offered to build a road from Baldoon to York, an offer that was unfortunately turned down. In 1811 Lork Selkirk laid out plans to form a colony in the Red River Valley, near the site of the present city of Winnipeg, and encouraged Scottish Highlanders to take the hazardous ocean voyage to Hudson Bay and from there to the Red River Valley. Lord Selkirk realized the difficulties his colony would face with the Indians, the fur traders and the fur trading companies. He purchased a controlling interest in the Hudson's Bay Company and so gained sovereignty over forty-five million acres. He named the new settlement Kildonan. He equipped three ships and left Dornoch with ninety-nine emigrants on July 6, 1811. They arrived at York Factory on Hudson Bay on September 24, where they wintered until June of 1812 before setting out for Kildonan. The trip caused much hardship. The emigrants arrived at the Red River Settlement in the fall under the leadership of Captain Miles Macdonnell, a young U.E.L. who had settled in Glengarry County. A second group of ninety-three emigrants came by the same route. Some of them travelled through the Red River Valley and on to the Talbot Settlement. Donald Gunn of Wallacetown was asked in an interview in 1908 how many of the settlers or if all the settlers were from Kildonan.

"I think not," he said. "Kildonan was but a parish; besides, there were Irish and Argyle men on board, I know."

He was then asked why these people left and he replied that it was the next year the English shepherds came and the crofters were driven to the north, to the shores of Caithness. Some historians were of the opinion that the emigration of 1813 was that group, but Donald Gunn said there was a later expedition from Kildonan (likely that of 1815) composed of people driven out by the Highland Eviction, some of whom later found their way to the Talbot Settlement. Among them were the MacBeths, ancestors of the MacBeths of London, a different family of MacBeths from those that came out in 1813. The people of Kildonan were an honourable class, never a law court was needed among them, nor for forty years after the settlement in Elgin County.

Gunn then added, "My grandfather, Donald Gunn, was seventy-six years of age when he left Scotland. He had nine children. One, Benjamin, started a little before the others, going out in the employ of the Hudson Bay Company, in one of their ships. It outstripped the colonists' ships on the voyage to Hudson Bay, and Benjamin Gunn passed on to his post, and his family never saw him again for fourteen years. Another, Alexander, enlisted as a soldier when seventeen and was present at the taking of the Cape of Good Hope. They came to the eldest son, William, to enlist and the law was that if he refused to enlist his people would be put off the estate to which William Gunn replied that the sooner they were off the estate the better and to prevent this occurring young Alexander Gunn enlisted instead."

When the ships left Dornoch, among the Kildonan people who embarked were Donald Gunn, who was seventy-six, his wife and seven children, one of them being Angus Gunn, who was twenty-four years of age and a married man. He was accompanied by the Matthews, MacBeths, Bannermans, Sutherlands, Angus McKay and his wife and several others. The vessel set sail June 6. It was ice-bound at Fort Churchill, Hudson Bay, in August after a voyage of ten weeks. The other expeditions, it will be remembered, had landed their colonists at York Factory, at the mouth of the Hayes River. Eskimos came along in their little boats with oil for shipment back to Scotland. This oil smelled very badly and afterwards the sailors and passengers came down with fever. There had been no fever before this. Among those of the passengers who died was Catherine Gunn; she was buried in the sands at Fort Churchill. The sailors were not expected to recover and were laid out on the hot rocks at the Fort to die. The ice at the time was eight feet thick on the lakes and rivers and water was hard to obtain during the winter. The only method was to cut a hole in the ice and catch the water as it spurted out. Another hardship to face the colonists was the scarcity of food. The young men had to go on snowshoes with an Eskimo guide to a fort eighty or ninety miles away for provisions, which consisted of pemmican and frozen fish, with the thermometer at -55°F. At Fort Churchill Angus Gunn's first child was born. She later became Mrs. MacIntyre, mother of A.M. MacIntyre, who became a banker in Dutton. As food became scarce at Fort Churchill, orders were given to all that were able to move on to Fort York, a distance of two hundred miles west of Fort Churchill. The journey was made on snowshoes and took six weeks. The people sought ravines and where there was timber to shelter for the night. They scooped holes in the snow for beds and made a windbreak of branches of evergreens to prevent the snow from drifting into their resting places. Those who went to Fort York as soon as the snow had fallen included Angus McKay and his wife. On the way Mrs. McKay gave birth to a stillborn child. The party with them had no provisions to spare and went on to Fort York, leaving the McKays in the hands of some hospitable Indians. It was there that the MacKays solemnly vowed that if the Lord would deliver them from their troubles, they would serve him faithfully all their lives. After Mrs. McKay's recovery, they made their way to Fort York, and in the spring were joined by the remainder of the party from Fort Churchill. The strongest of the party set out for the Red River, where they arrived at the end of June. They were able to plant a few potatoes.