



REMEMBER WHEN? – This picture of Kirkland's Drug Store (left) and McDougall's General Store, submitted by John and Mary Kirkland, is believed to be from the 1880's. Robert Allan Kirkland built the drug store on the northwest corner of

Shackleton and Main streets, Dutton, in 1879 and it was destroyed by fire in 1885. Hales' Meat Market was later found on the site as well as many other businesses and most recently The Corner Mug Shop.



FIRST COUNCIL – Province-wide municipal elections were held November 10th. As with many other areas, a council for a newly-restructured municipality had to be chosen. Forming the first-ever council for the Municipality of Dutton/Dunwich will be, front row, left to right: Deputy Mayor Bonnie Vowel, Councillor Elizabeth Kornaker. Back row: Mayor Rien Van Brenk and Councillors Leta West and Peter Hentz. The new council will not be sworn in or take office until January 1998.

Council for 1988 - 2000. Nov 19/97  
Dutton Advance

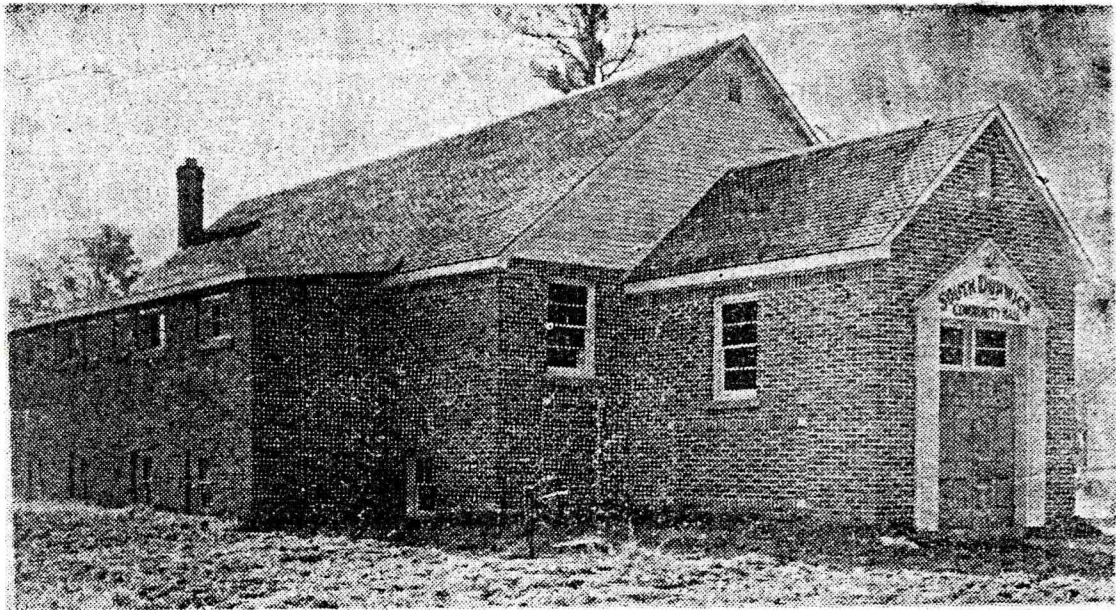
# N ADVANCE

October 30th, 1947

H. C. Campbell, Editor and Publisher.

\$2.00 Per Year. 5 Cents Per Copy.

## *New Hall at Wallacetown Officially Opened*



## ***Doors of South Dunwich Community Home Opened; J. A. Carroll Main Speaker***

The event that residents of South Dunwich have been looking forward to for a long time occurred on Thursday evening last when the attractive and well-appointed community hall at Wallacetown was officially opened. The main floor and basement were filled for the occasion and the evening's program catered to all tastes. W. Scott McKay of St. Thomas was chairman and the special speaker was Dunwich-born J. A. Carroll of the Ontario Department of agriculture. Greetings were extended by Reeve R. D. Campbell, of Dunwich, and James A. McBain, warden of Elgin.

In his opening remarks, Mr. McKay paid tribute to the enterprising committee who had supervised the purchase and erection of this fine community home. He introduced Chris Schollenberger, chairman of the committee, who in turn thanked the members for the wholehearted cooperation they had given. The committee is as follows: Mr. Schollen-

berg for the Middlesex Federation of Agriculture, Mr. Carroll was high in his praise of the enterprising spirit behind the hall's construction. He felt it was difficult to estimate the true value of such a building to the community and expressed the hope that it would be used not only for dances and entertainments but for the exchange of ideas and the advancement of our democratic system.

Mr. Carroll referred to the decentralization of industry. Industrialists now find that cities are not the places of cheap labor that they were once believed to be. Labor wants an annual wage, Mr. Carroll remarked, and it is now realized workers can live in more pleasant circumstances in smaller places. This movement was certain to affect halls, churches and schools.

The belief that the family-sized farms, now threatened by increased mechanization, were a vital part of our way of life and something that

berger, chairman; Alex. White, secretary; John S. Pearce, treasurer; Harry Fox, W. S. McKillop, Archie Blue, Allan Crawford Sam Davy and John H. Sloan.

The building was formerly the recreation hall at the former bombing and gunnery school near Fingal. Bees were formed to dismantle the building and move the materials to Wallace town. Farmers responded with teams and wagons. Volunteer labor of this kind kept on assisting in the building of the hall. The labor for excavating for the basement and the pouring of the concrete walls was all donated. Many cash donations were also received.

The problems of shortages of materials and labor delayed the completion of the hall. And in this connection much credit must go to Mr. Schollenberger. A Detroit contractor of long experience, he just about worked miracles to get the plumbing under way and completed; the very modern oil-heating system installed and a dozen and one other important details looked after.

Another important member of the building executive is Alex. White, the secretary. He has given freely of his time and effort.

As the result of their community effort, the people of South Dunwich have as fine a hall as will be found in Southwestern Ontario. It is a brick building with full basement, 30x60 feet, with an annex 40x8, designed by John T. Findlay, architect, of St. Thomas.

The auditorium is a beautiful hall, 60x20 feet, with a magnificent matched white oak floor for dancing and an inset stage, ten feet in depth with stairway entrances from each side and direct access to the basement. The large windows along the west side of the auditorium flood the auditorium with light during the day. Attractive electrical lighting fixtures have been installed. The annex, along the east side, provide for the women's and men's cloak and washrooms. There is also a small ante-room on the south end of the east side.

The entrance hallway is large with wide main floor landing and stairs leading up to the auditorium and down to the basement. When completed, the basement will have a modern kitchen with serving windows along the east side and will provide dining accommodation for at least 200 people.

The grounds of the community hall are of generous size and are now being graded and levelled for seeding.

Foundation planting, which is planned, should enhance the appearance of the hall.

#### Financial Help

The cost of the building is in the neighborhood of \$12,000 and Thursday evening Mr. McKay announced that all but \$4,100 of this had been paid. Through the door receipts, radio draw and serving of lunch on Thursday more than \$800 was realized and consequently the indebtedness has been reduced that much.

Eugene Mann of Dutton, with ticket 647, was the winner of the radio, Mr. Carroll and Mr. McKay presiding at the draw.

#### Mr. Carroll's Address

Introduced by Roy Jewell, field man

should be retained at all costs was expressed by Mr. Carroll. It was his firm conviction that the family-sized farm was needed for the good of the nation and for the contribution they have always made to our political and professional life.

In closing, Mr. Carroll again complimented the South Dunwich folk on the well built, carefully planned and useful building and he declared it officially open.

Following the address, a Belmont troupe, consisting of The Two Gords, Gordon Smith and Gordon Walker, and the Misses Pearl Johnson, Dorothy Jenkins, Mrs. Gordon Smith, Larry Taylor and Phil Yeoman, took over and supplied a program of music, readings and friendly patter that went over big.

The South Dunwich ladies served refreshments in the basement and a dance topped off a thoroughly successful evening.