



Volume 7 Number 1



May 2001

Trans Canada Trail

From many paths a mighty Trail is growing!



On the Victoria BC harbour breakwater John de Visser



TRAIL DISCOVERY PROGRAM

See Page 6 & 7 for details.

Dogsled race in the far North



Trans Canada Trail trestle near Robinson's Bandchois Brook NF John de Visser

Completing a dream of historic proportions

From all walks of life, Canadians are sharing a national vision of connecting our people, our land and our oceans by building the Trans Canada Trail, the longest recreational trail in the world. Winding its way through every province and territory, this shared-use Trail links hundreds of communities along its route on one great national path back to nature.

Completing this grand vision is our goal. In a land of such colossal scope and size, we've made historic strides along the path. But there are still many metres to go and more paths to be joined if we are to complete a great Trail across Canada that touches all three oceans.

Within these pages, discover how you can play a continuing and permanent role in the completion of this great national endeavour. As spring beckons you back to the Trail, find out how you can give a lasting gift to Canada and to those you love – for all the seasons yet to come.

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Aussi disponible en français



Historic Cycle Tour has grand opening this Saturday

The Historic Dutton/Dunwich Cycle Tour begins on Currie Road in front of the Dutton Medical Clinic. This basic cycle tour is 40 kilometres of nature's finest... Carolinian forests, ravines, streams and farm fields as you traverse through the historic Talbot Settlement.

Travel south on Currie Road to Highway 3 carefully cross the highway continuing south to Lakeview Line. On the right backing onto the lake is the Pearce Farm original United Empire Loyalist Settlers. Turn left onto Lakeview, the white frame house on the right nested

amongst the evergreens is the Mary Storey house while further east on the north side is the large red brick Backus/Page House... a living museum. Built by Andrew Backus in 1851, it is one of the oldest brick homes in Dunwich.

The Spicer Trail for hikers begins here and is very interesting with labelled trees with optional paths.... further east on the other side of the ravine is St. Peter's Church built in 1827 by the pioneers. John Pearce Provincial Park is across the way and offers trails, washrooms and picnic tables and a fabulous view.

A wonderful cool oasis on a hot summer day.

Next door is the Pioneer Cemetery where Colonel Thomas Talbot was buried in 1853, and names of the earliest four families plus Geo. Crane also appear. These names found here are those of pioneers who struggled through enormous hardships to build our community.

Leslie Patterson House is on the right behind the evergreens. Leslie came with his brother-in-law John Pearce in 1808 seeking a suitable place for a homestead. They returned in 1809 with their families and with Mary Storey and her family. Mary was sister to Col. Patterson and Mrs Pearce. The present home is believed to have been built in 1827.

The next house on the left is the fourth homestead of the family group. It was here that Mrs Patterson's brother, Stephen Backus, settled in 1810 and here he brought his bride Annie Storey, shortly afterwards. This house was built in 1830.

The white cottage on the left on the brow of the next hill was formerly the home of Meredith Conn, a leading Methodist of the early days and Elgin entrepreneur.

Plum Point Road- was the location for the Geo. Crane farm. Geo. came with Col. Thomas Talbot in 1803 and

was the Colonel's first settler when he was allotted his farm in 1806. The original house and barns burned down in the early 1900's.

On the Fingal Line a few kilometres down on the north side is a handsome stone house purported to have been built of ballast stones from the boats that docked in Port Tyrconnell. The stones from all over the world were left behind in piles as the lumber and grain, etc., was loaded. Joshua Bobier dragged them by stone boat to this site.

Further down on the north side and the corner of Lakeview Line is the old John B. Bobier Cottage which has been left in disrepair. "John B." was mentioned in "Winter Studies and Summer Rambles," by pioneer author Mrs Anna Jameson's account of a visit to Col. Talbot's Malahide Farm at Port Talbot. John was her driver from there to Chatham.

Nearing the 20k mark of this tour on the lakeside is a picturesque white gabled house with a charming crab-apple tree lined lane. A beautiful sight at blossom time. This was the home of Jeffery Hunter who was personal attendant/butler to Col. Talbot.

As we travel east on Fingal Line, next is the cairn of rocks that tells about the Historic Talbot Settlement and finally atop of the hill is Malahide Farm... It was overlooking the lake on the west hill that Col. Thomas Talbot built his home. This is the very centre of the wide spread settlement which bears his name. Talbot, the son of a noble Irish family came in 1803 to open

up and to direct the development of this part of Upper Canada.

Col. Thomas Talbot's mill and Col. Burwell's first home was situated in the valley and were destroyed by the enemy in the War of 1812-14. A popular spot north of the bridge is usually where you can spot local fishermen. The hill is quite a climb by cycle but finally flattens out as you continue east on Fingal Line. On the south side is the charming frame church- St. Stephen's.

It's here that Col. Burwell and his wife Sarah are buried. Col. Burwell was a friend of Talbot's and surveyed much of the area.

At the Iona Road, turn left by the fence amongst the grasses and weeds, there stands a small cairn to show where Burwell's house and early registry office for the London District which later became Elgin and Middlesex Counties.

Further along the Iona's Road on the right is the Prehistoric Earthworks worthy of a visit with the story boards and washrooms. On the left is Pearce William's Christian Centre. The next portion of the tour is another challenge... the valley just before the hamlet of Iona with the creek, grazing cattle and beautiful scenery. Twilight one can often see deer gazing in the misty dusk.

Iona with antiques and refreshments extends along the main road to Highway 3 and to the left and right are restaurants and antiques. Take the Iona Road north across Highway 3 to

Continued on page 6



West Elgin Community Health Centre
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elgin st. thomas health unit

St. Thomas, Ontario N5P 1Y8



*The Memorial Plaque
unveil by Rien Van Benk
Major and MPP Steve Peters
Sunday Nov 4th 2001.*

Nov 4th 2001.

The Roll of Honour

The Men Who Paid the Supreme Sacrifice.

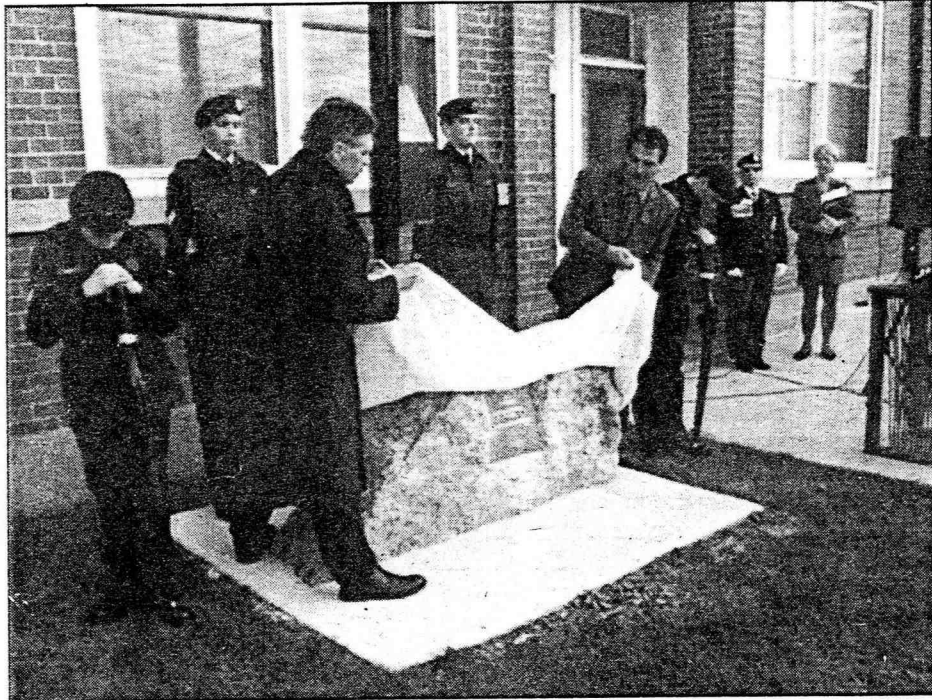
WWI

- † Private Herbert S. Fillmore*
- † Private George C. Hefford*
- † Private E. LeRoy Lacey*
- † Private Joshua E. Bertram*
- † Private Leslie Clarke*
- † Private Thomas Osborne*
- † Private G. Franklin Stronge*

WWII

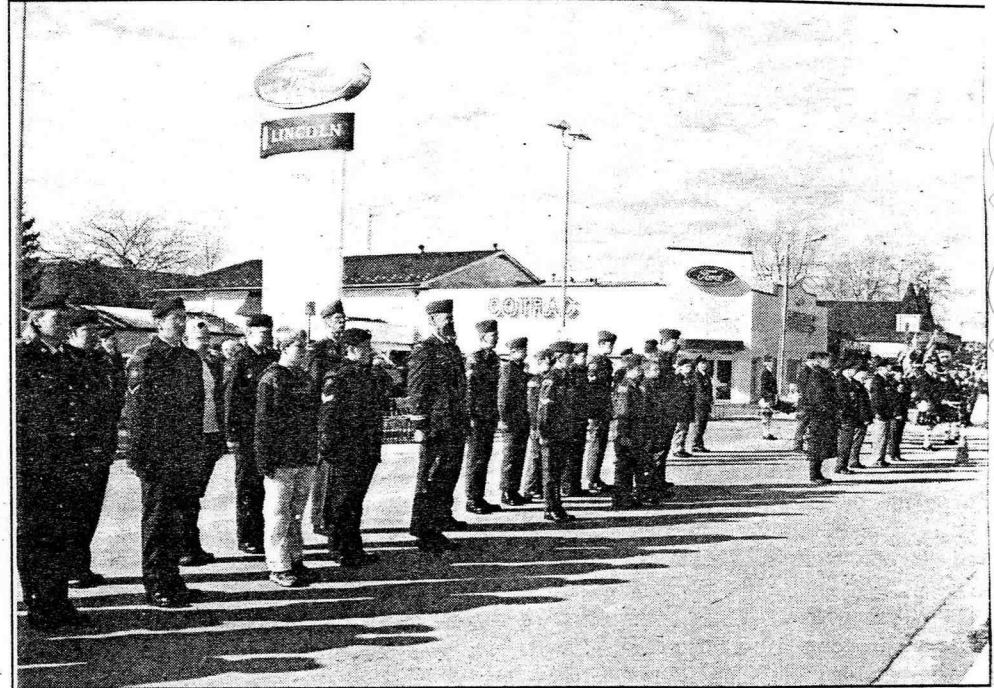
- † Trooper George Henry Backus*
- † Lieutenant Allan MacKenzie Burslem*
- † Gunner John Callahan*
- † Private Kenneth Donald Duncanson*
- † Flying Officer Leo Garth Gibson*
- † Flight Lieutenant Donald Duncan Graham*
- † Private George Cole Hefford*
- † Flight Lieutenant Bruce Ivan Hillman*
- † Private Harold Kenneth Hoffman*
- † Sapper Leslie Harold Johnston*
- † Flight Engineer Kenneth A. MacLean*
- † Flying Officer James Murray Phillips*
- † Flight Sergeant John William Ross*
- † Pilot Officer John Benjamin Ruston*
- † Sergeant William J. Shaw*

Dutton/Dunwich Remembrance Day Services



Dutton/Dunwich Mayor Rien Van Brenk and Elgin-Middlesex-London MPP Steve Peters unveil the Memorial Plaque at Memorial Hall in Dutton.

THE CHRONICLE



Members of the airforce, army, London Mocha band and local war veterans were all lined up for the Dutton/Dunwich Remembrance service.

Nov 12/2001