

CHANGES IN THE "LAY OF THE LAND"

Many properties have changed hands numerous times since the land was obtained from the Crown.

Some early entrepreneurs secured several fifty acre lots, in close proximity to each other, not intending to occupy the land but for resale at a profit. This resulted in numerous resales after the land was taken from the crown..

Particularly during the past 20 years, land severences have been in vogue. It has not been the intention to detail all properties, but to update the accounts written by members of the Bothwell Corner's Women's Institute in the 1950's about properties on which they lived. Not all women in the community were Institute members but most long term residents were. Stories are focused on these properties with community changes and updates noted.

This Tweedsmuir History Book contains information including some early history of the properties in this area, which encompasses the territory in Sydenham Township east of Owen Sound from which the members of the B.C.W.I. were drawn.

The following stories list properties along Highway #26 to Lot 17, just east of the 6th Concession - North on the 8th Line almost to Annan - South on the 8th Line, now County Road 11, to just past the 15-16 sideroad - North on Con. A, B, and C to about Lot 35 and - South on the 10th Line (now known as the hospital by-pass) to Lot 16. Also north on the old 10th Line, now 28th Avenue East, to Lot 23.

The Sydenham Township Maps, shown on the next several pages, may help in pin-pointing properties.

Noting how the expansion has changed the "face" of our community, we observe that, from Bothwell Corners to the 8th Line, 20 or 30 years ago there were no homes on the north side of the highway where to-day there are at least four new homes, each having access from Highway 26. Across the road where the William Keeling buildings were the only ones for 100 years, to-day to the west there are 2 residential homes which have been built on severences from the north end of Lot 25, with access off Highway 26.

Down the highway to the west, across from the former ^A Louis' Steakhouse, (now Stark Family Restaurant) there is a ^B cement block cottage hidden behind trees. This property, at Range 5, parts of Lots 8 & 9, consisting of 28½ acres, was for a number of years owned by Mr. & Mrs. Nelson Artley.

Across the road and immediately west of the restaurant, there is a small home. This home was built by Tom Frost and was later occupied by ^C Mr. & Mrs. James Lemon, formerly of the Meaford Tank Range property. Both Mrs. Frost and Mrs. Lemon were members of the B.C.W.I. when they were residents in the community. A ^C Brown family have resided in the home for the past several years. Mr. John Middlebro, an early stone mason, and father of Charles Middlebro, who lived on the Annan Road, lived on this property in a frame home earlier in 1900's and late 1800's. Mr. Middlebro did the masonry work in 1889 for the, then new, brick hotel at Bothwell Corners. The new brick hotel replaced an old wooden structure, also an hotel. The brick hotel was demolished in 1955 when Highway #26 was widened.

Looking north on the tenth line (28th Avenue) and then west on the Industrial Park Road, there was a 44 acre farm across from where Richardson Bond and Wright plant is located (now called Transcontinental Printing and R.B.W. Graphics). This property was Lot 9, Range 8. Early in the 1900s the William Fenwick Family lived here. Later Mrs. Dan Crannie and her daughter, Mrs. Jack Wright and her husband and family lived here, later selling the land for Industrial Park expansion and moving out to Highway 26. This highway property has become part of the land being used for the new Home Depot Store. The children from both the Fenwick and Wright families attended S.S.#5 School at Bothwell Corners: the Fenwicks in the 1920's and the Wrights in the 1940's and 1950's (see school section in Book 11 of these Tweedsmuir History Books).

Going east (off 28th Avenue East) on to the sideroad that divides Lots 21 and 22, we see at least 20 new residences, commonly referred to as the MacMillan Subdivision. Going west on the same sideroad you are in the Ranges again.

(23 & 24)

see next page
A
B
& C