

## **Time Line**

By Clare McLean-Wilson

- 1615** Champlain and the Recollet Missionary Father LeCaron are the first white men to visit the native people that live in what will become Grey County.
- 1815** Captain Owen, in his 'little survey schooner' discovers the harbour that will later be named Owen Sound.
- 1818** The first native treaty is struck. For the 'yearly payment for ever of twelve hundred pounds of currency in goods at Montreal Prices' the land covered by Osprey, Collingwood, Artemesia, Euphrasia and St. Vincent, approximately one million five hundred and ninety two acres, is relinquished by its native occupants.
- 1833** Charles Rankin comes to survey and lay out townships in "the Wild Land beyond the Simcoe district".
- 1835** Tarvas Indians from Wikwemikog and Pottawattamies from the State of Wisconsin join the Ojibway people of this area after their land is given to the Government of the United States.
- 1836** The Sauking Treaty takes "in the land in the County of Grey from the west of the Townships of Euphrasia and St. Vincent to a line directly west of Owen Sound and extending south from that line probably over all the remainder of the county." Except Sarawak and Keppel, all of the future Grey County is in white hands.
- 1841** July 6, the first post office in Grey County is opened in St. Vincent Township.
- 1848** First year that what will be Grey County has an election for a member of the Provincial Legislative Assembly.
- 1849** First horse brought to Grey County. It was white and belonged to Arthur Hill Rigland Mulholland, a clergyman.
- 1851** First paper, "The Comet", published in Owen Sound.  
The 'Old Mail Road' from Barrie to Owen Sound is blazed through the bush.
- 1852** Grey County comes in to existence as part of the United Counties of Wellington, Waterloo and Grey.
- 1854** The first session of Grey as an independent County is held in January 1854.  
Council meets for five days running, but doesn't convene again until June of the same year.
- 1856** First Grey County grammar school opens in Owen Sound.

- 1860s** Eggs are sold for eight cents a dozen and butter for ten cents a pound. The barter system is still the preferred method of trade.
- 1881** Northern Business College, one of the first business schools in the country, is established in Owen Sound.
- 1913** First Grey County branch of the Junior Farmers opens in Markdale.
- 1918** The Grey County Council decides to help Belgium and sends produce. 13,313 bushels of potatoes and 18,125 bushels of oats are donated for this effort.
- 1920** Grey County, just ninety years after the arrival of its earliest pioneers, begins a program of reforestation.  
Agnes McPhail, Canada's first female MP, is elected to the House of Commons as the representative for Grey County.  
The Town of Owen Sound becomes the City of Owen Sound
- 1925** 300 north Grey residents form the 'Grey-Bruce Counties Fish and Game Protective Association', the first organization of its kind in the province.
- 1927** Hydro development begins in Grey County. Two years later there are twelve farmers outside of Owen Sound who have power.
- 1929** The Ontario Provincial Police open shop in Grey County.
- 1933** Grey County hosts its first International Plowing Match in Derby Township.
- 1943** The Grey County Women's Institutes start a "Jam for Britain fund" and send 10,000 pounds of jam and 168 pounds of honey to Newcastle-on-Tyne, England.
- 1950** The Saugeen Conservation Authority opens with a jurisdiction of over 4, 675 square km.
- 1952** Coronation of Elizabeth II
- 1963** Grey County gets 'dial telephones', and must now dial 0 to speak with the operator.
- 1967** Grey County joins in a celebration of Canada's Centennial.
- 1969** The Grey County Board of Education opens.
- 1975** Summerfolk, Owen Sound's music and crafts festival, has its first weekend of concerts.

- 1983** The Annual Durham wood show, “the most comprehensive in Ontario” opens for the first time.
- 1990** The Durham Road Cemetery is dedicated by Lincoln M. Alexander, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario “in recognition of the pioneers of African descent and Loyalist stock who were early settlers in this area”.
- 1997** Shallow Lake is amalgamated with Keppel Township, Flesherton with Artemesia Township and Thornbury and Collingwood Township join to form the Municipality of the Blue Mountains.
- 1998** The Grey and Bruce County boards of education merge to form the Bluewater School District.
- 2000-1** Another, more substantial, wave of restructuring amalgamates and renames our townships. Lost are: Sullivan, Holland, Keppel, Derby, Sarawak, Artemesia, Euphrasia, Osprey, Sydenham, St. Vincent, Egremont, Proton, Bentinck, Glenelg, and Normanby.
- 2002** Owen Sound joins Grey County as a separate municipality.
- 2002** 150 years old, Grey County maintains 824.3km of county road, and is home to 82,860 people.

Sources: *A History of the County of Grey* By E.L. Marsh, 1931, 1999  
and other local histories available at the Grey County Archives.