

Hagersville's Business Progress

by Oliver Sayer

Although the name Hagersville came from the Hager family which settled in this district in the early 1800s, the first settler was a Cornishman by the name of Thomas Beswetherick.

He struck southward from Caledonia in June 1842 by following the blazes which marked the course of the proposed new road, to be called "the Plank Road" and which is now No. 6 Highway. The plank road was built with soft and hard woods, made into planks three inches thick, which lay side by side, covering the oozy mud made from Haldimand clay.

The road was kept in repair by a system of tolls, made at toll gates. These gates were placed at intervals of four to six miles apart. The toll-gates of Hagersville were huge oak gates, the best on the road. History has it that one of the roads was rotten by the time the repair crews had worked the length of the road.

The complete construction of the plank road brought other settlers to these parts and one such group was the Hager family. His brother, Charles Hager, being a carpenter,

was the builder of the hotel which also was to house a post office that another early settler, Joseph Seymour suggested that the new settlement be called Hagersville.

In 1850, the district being fairly well settled, Charles Hager decided to go into the retail business, so he built a frame store, later bricked over, which for many years was known as the Hager store.

It was in 1851, that David Almas moved his family, to Hagersville. He was an enterprising business man, buying land from Charles Hager and building a hotel, which is now called the Almas building and is owned by the Oddfellows who in turn rent to two businesses, David Banks Jewellery and the Mary Jane Shop.

In 1873, Mr. Almas gave a half acre of land to the Anglican Church, and a church called St. John's was built. This church eventually changed its name to All Saints.

It is fitting that All Saints Anglican Church is celebrating its Centennial this year 1970.

Hagersville was incorporated as a police village in the year 1875.

As time moved on and business increased, expansion was necessary for the Hager store, this store becoming a fore-runner to a department store handling everything from candles to pitchforks, from dressmaking materials to seed clover.

The framework of this old building is still incorporated in the McCall Watson Drugstore, one of Hagersville's most modern businesses. The Hager block now consists of three up-to-date and enterprising concerns, Dorel's, fashionable ladies wear, Bill's Men's Wear and Clover Leaf owned and operated by Brock and William Mattice.

Most of the business blocks are the original buildings of the village. The building in which Gordon's Restaurant is situated being built by a William Lindsay between the years 1880 and 1885. It was first a tailor shop, then a residence, then a grocery store, to be changed into a restaurant by the late Wm. Jones, who later sold out to the present owner, Gordon Curnow.



This is a scene of Hagersville's bustling shopping centre. (Staff Photo)

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(a) Fifteen minutes only, allowed for changing horses at each stage.

(b) Seven minutes allowed for changing mail at each post office.

(c) Carriages employed to be subject to approval of Postmaster General.

(d) Two teams to be regularly employed for working of each stage.

(e) Contractor to use every care to defend the mail bags and contents from injury and dangers of every kind.

(f) An officer of the Department, or a mail conductor or guard, to be allowed to travel each trip, free of charge.

(g) Each courier employed in the service to take the post office oath and to be provided with a post-horn, which was to be sounded distinctly on arriving at a post office.

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See Page 13, Col. 1

American Cottagers Spend 31 Million Dollars

TORONTO — The Minister of Tourism, James A. C. McCall, recently announced that Americans spent 31 million dollars in cottages in Ontario last year in the province.

Mr. Auld said that the data also showed that an average cottage owner from the U.S. spent about \$1,290 yearly, whereas others spent only \$850 per cottage. Annually, the average cottager paid \$96 in taxes on his cottage, \$262 on cottage maintenance and repair, and \$446 on his visits to the cottage. Those who own boats incurred

further expenses depending on the type and number of boats.

The average cottage owner was found to have spent 11 weekends at his cottage through the six months from May to October. Cottage owners from Ontario spent more weekends at their cottages than did American cottage owners. More than half the cottage owners visited their cottages during the other six months from November to April.

About 67 percent of the cottages were built on sites smaller than one acre, 83 percent had water frontage, and 88 percent were accessible by automobile. The analysis concluded, "with increasing urbanization, more people are trying to get away from the crowded cities to cottage areas. It is expected that by 1975, the number of cottages in Ontario will have increased from 200,000 to 250,000."

Mr. Auld said further studies by his Department show that 10 percent of Ontario households own cottages; and to realize the full implication of cottage and recreational opportunities offered to the public through these facilities, it should be taken into account that almost every person who owns a cottage offers this recreational outlet to his relatives and friends along with their families. Therefore, said the Minister, it may be concluded that while 10 percent own the cottages, they are available, at least from time to time, to a much wider circle of the population. He said that his Department estimates that at least a quarter of the Ontario population enjoys outdoor recreational activity based on cottage accommodation every year.

TORONTO (CP) — Two years ago Toronto-born Victor Feldbrill conducted his farewell concert as musical director of the Winnipeg Symphony. After a decade in Winnipeg he decided to pull up stakes, with nothing ahead of him but a big question mark — his future.

Today Mr. Feldbrill is a member of the music faculty of the University of Toronto and is in charge of all educational concerts for the Toronto Symphony. He is glad he left, he said in a recent interview, and wouldn't go back to a small city.

Incorporation Of Village

In 1875 Hagersville was incorporated as a Police Village, having three Commissioners, viz., D. Almas, Jos. Seymour and Thomas Harrison. These had power to impose a special rate on the taxable property of the village for local improvements. In 1884 it was incorporated as a regular village, with Dr. R. McDonald installed as reeve. However, this incorporation was set aside and two years later it was re-incorporated as a village, with a reeve and council, as follows: P. R. Howard, reeve; J. H. Salter, J. W. Husband, Joseph Seymour and James Howard, councillors. J. H. Scott was clerk; A. A. Almas, assessor; D. E. Almas, treasurer; F. E. Morse, collector.

Reeves from that time onward have been: P. R. Howard, 1887, 1888; Joseph Seymour, 1889, 1890, 1891; Dr. S. Quance, 1892; J. H. Salter, 1893; Dr. R. McDonald, 1894; J. H. Salter, 1895, 1896; P. Campbell, 1897, 1898; Joseph Seymour, 1899, 1900; George Smith, 1901; W. C. Vanloon, 1902; D. J. Almas, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906; David N. Almas, 1907, 1908; Henry F. Hall, 1909; Robert Robertson, 1910; D. J. Almas, 1911; D. W. McBurney, 1912, 1913, 1914; J. C. Ingles, 1915, 1916; W. T. Wilton, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921; Charles S. Brown, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926; Thomas Jepson, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931; A. F. Head, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939; Albert Brooks, 1940, 1941; Roy T. Hewitt, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949 and 1950; L. H. Hartley Dickson, 1951; Wm. Hobbs, 1952, 1953, 1954; Wilfred McCarthy, 1955, 1956, 1957; Geo. H. Beckett, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961; Wm. R. Courtneay, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967; Dr. Chas. M. Aude, 1968; Lyle N. Furry, 1969 to present.

COLORFUL BAIT
MOOSE JAW, Sask. (CP) — Colored mini marshmallows were used as bait in catching a 13-pound, 12-ounce rainbow trout in Piprell Lake in northern Saskatchewan. Charlie Dunlop and George Magee, both of Moose Jaw, also used similar bait to catch 16 others, all weighing four pounds or more.

Happy Back Home

"I love the smell and feel of a place like Toronto — pollution and all. I need its stimulation. And I want to be able to hear an orchestra like the Toronto Symphony play under a master like Karl Ankerl."

He said he left Winnipeg because he felt "things weren't getting any better."

"An orchestra can't stand still. I spent a marvellous 10 years in Winnipeg, building the orchestra, lobbying for a new hall. But I wanted to do more. The funds weren't available."

"I needed a break. So I decided to apply for a Canada Council grant, take a year off to study opera in Europe and see what happened."

As things turned out, he not only got his grant but wound up conducting the world premiere of Harry Somers' opera Louis Riel.

As for his present work with the Toronto Symphony, Mr. Feldbrill is no stranger to it. He used to play in the fourth stand of violins and at the age of 18 had already been invited by the then conductor Sir Ernest MacMillan to try his hand at conducting.

Besides his educational concerts with the Toronto Symphony he also conducts the University of Toronto Symphony, teaches conducting and works regularly with the National Youth Orchestra.

MATTICE



HAGERSVILLE

Prime Rib Roast	King of the Roasts	Per Lb.	.95
BEEF			
Rib		Per Lb.	.99
STEAKS			
Schneiders	1 Lb. Pkg.		.59
RED HOTS			
Gold Seal Sockeye	7 3/4 oz.		.65
SALMON			
Maxim Freeze Dried	8 oz.		1.89
COFFEE			
5 Lb. Redpath			.53
SUGAR			
Post	10 oz.		.39
ALPHABITS			
Post Sugar	9 oz.		.39
CRISP			
Post Honey	9 oz.		.45
COMB			
Gold Seal Solid White	7 oz.		.49
TUNA			
Maple Leaf Canned	1 1/2 Lb.		1.49
PICNIC			
Klik Luncheon	12 oz.		.59
MEAT			
Tenderflake	Per Lb.		.25
LARD			
Squirrel Peanut	16 oz.		.49
BUTTER			
Red Rose 1 Lb. Tin			1.09
COFFEE			

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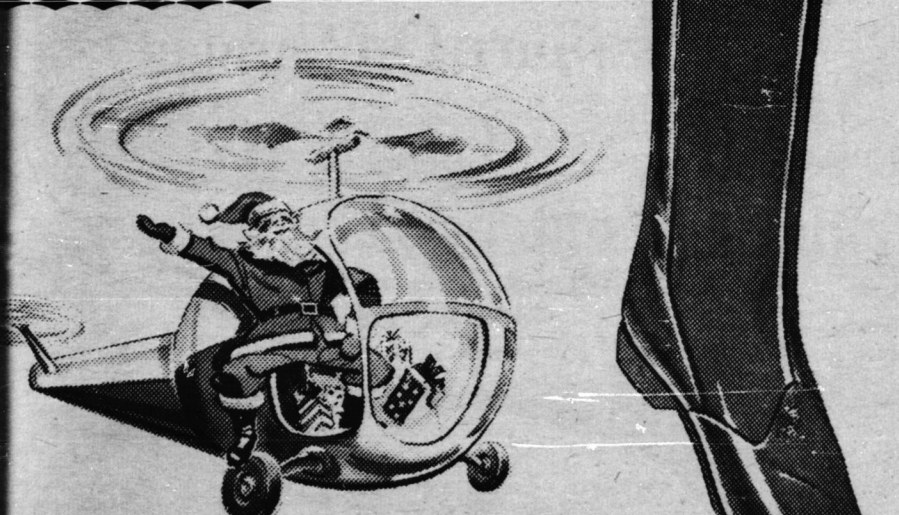
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