

2000 ←

→ 1901

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF
FRONT OF LEEDS AND LANSDOWNE**



NEWSLETTER

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Number 17

SPRING/SUMMER 2002

\$2.50

2001

and beyond

1900

1801

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Society has again completed a very successful year and we appreciate the support of all the members. Many thanks to the Executive and the speakers we have enjoyed. We especially appreciated the honour of being able to present Jock Shields with his peace Keeping Medal. I know he enjoyed his visit and seeing many old friends.



The Greenfield School Committee is planning a special event and open house and we had our booth at the Fair again this year. Hope to see you then and in the fall.

Thanks to Bill and the Hewitts for their wonderful work on the newsletter. It is a great way for our out of town members to keep in touch.

ALAN LINDSAY



PRESIDENT



*Photo on Mug by
David Champagne*

GREENFIELD SCHOOL MUGS

*Now available from the Society!
A remembrance of your school days.*

A fine gift. - \$12.00 each.

*(Add \$6.00 shipping charges if we
have to mail it)*

Photo courtesy Ted Hewitt Photography

COVER PHOTO

Mrs. Fred H. (Katie) Earl shows old magneto telephones being replaced in 1968.
Original by Harry Kilfoil, Kingston Whig Standard.
Newspaper article contained in a scrapbook loaned to the Society by Mrs. Shirley Goff.

Omissions from the Gray family in the last issue:

Della Harris daughter of John Gray and Eleanor Gardiner and Ford Gray mentioned in the Casino Article son of Walter and Elizabeth McKay



NEWSLETTERS

Back copies of our newsletters are available for \$2.50 each
Copies 1 through 16 are now available in a three ring binder.
This makes a nice gift. Cost = \$47.00



MEMBERSHIP FEES

General (Family) - \$10.00 Association - \$10.00 Corporate - \$25.00
Our membership term is Sept. 1 to Aug. 31
Memberships available at any meeting or by cheque to:
Box 332 Lansdowne, Ont. K0E 1L0

THE FRONT of LEEDS and LANSDOWNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Slate of Officers - 2001 -2002

President- Alan Lindsay
Vice-President- Bruce Foley
Past President- Bill Boulton
Secretary- Ann Graham
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Archivist- Yolande LaPointe
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F. O. L. L.
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

S. S. #3
GREENFIELD
1855 - 1962



*Actual photo by
Dave Champagne.
as it appears on
the Greenfield
mug.*

TELEPHONE SERVICE IN LANSDOWNE AREA

Edited by Bill Boulton

TELEPHONE FACTS

- ∞ June 3, 1875 Alexander Graham Bell fulfilled his dream of transmitting the sound of the human voice over a wire.
- ∞ The telephone was patented March 7, 1876. Bell created a sensation when he demonstrated it at the Philadelphia Exposition the same year. (The Book of Popular Science)
- ∞ Two telephone and telegraph lines and the G.T.R. connect the village (Lansdowne) with the outside world. (Fuller's Business Directory 1893)
- ∞ 1899 picture of Prince - King Streets corner shows telephone lines in front of Allen' Hardware Store - later E.E. Johnston. (Newsletter #7, Jan. 1997)
- ∞ As early as 1904 E.E. Johnston advertises on his statements "Agent: Bell and North American Telephone Co's." (Newsletter #4, July 1995)
- ∞ There is correspondence in 1896 between The North American Telegraph Company, owned by the Rathbun Company of Deseronto, and J.D.W. Darling about wires Darling is said to have attached to their poles between Lansdowne and Rockport. (Darlingside Files)

LANSDOWNE AND ROCKPORT TELEPHONE COMPANY

This company was also known as Thousand Islands Telephone Company. It was formed January 13, 1892 and incorporated under the provisions of the Ontario Joint Stock Company Letters Patent Act June 13, 1892. Capital was \$2500. in 50 shares of \$50. each.

Investors were:	J.D.W. Darling	Lansdowne	10 shares	\$500.
	Thomas Darling	Lansdowne	10 shares	\$500.
	D.Darling	Gananoque	5 shares	\$250.
	Jno. A. Carnegie	Rockport	5 shares	\$250.
	J.J. Fitsimmons	Rockport	5 shares	\$250.

The Charter of this Company states:

We John D.W. Darling, president and secretary of the company, make oath and say that the Corporate Name of the said Company is The Lansdowne and Rockport Telephone Company Limited.

That the head office of the company is at Lansdowne. That the amount of authorized capital stock is two thousand five hundred dollars. That the amount of stock subscribed or issued is seventeen hundred and fifty dollars. That the nature of business which the company is empowered to carry on is to construct operate and maintain a telephone line from the Village of Lansdowne in the Township of Lansdowne to the Village of Rockport in the Township of Escott. To extend said telephone line to any other point or points within the County of Leeds, to acquire the necessary real estate buildings plant and machinery.

And that the kind of business carried on in the Province of Ontario is Telephoning.

*Wall Telephone in use until 1968
 Photo by Bill Boulton*

(Continued on pg. #5)



TELEPHONE SERVICE IN LANSDOWNE AREA *continued from pg. 4*

On Sept. 2, 1891, J.W. Simcock tendered a contract for \$270.

"To construct a line from B.T. Cos. office to J.D.W. Darling's store & place an instrument in the former place. To construct a line from the latter place to T. Darling's Wharf and place an instrument in both places. To construct a line from Darling's Wharf to Daly & Cornwall's store at Rockport & place an instrument in the latter place and also an extension bell. To construct a line from D & C's store to W. Daly's house and put an instrument in the latter place. Further I will complete the line within six weeks & keep same in repairs at my expense til March 1st 1893."

Some of the costs listed were: 7 miles of wire, \$233.10. 3 combination telephone instruments at \$12.50 each. 55 posts, \$15.40. Digging 55 post holes, \$2.75. Help, 1 man 10 days at \$1.25 a day.

In 1910 this company was taken over by the Lansdowne Rural Telephone Company. At that time the estimated value of the assets of the company was \$440. The offer made to Darlings was: " similar line could be built for \$250. Line has been in use for 15 years at \$10. per year. Present value \$100. 2 shares at \$50. This would allow the Lansdowne Rural Telephone Company to take over the line, put on a metallic Circuit, place a new instrument similar to the Company in both your Lansdowne Office and your place at the river, and have both connected to the whole system."

A settlement was made and a final receipt issued on Jan. 3, 1910 for \$166.00. Stock shares were issued to G.H. Darling, T.J. Darling, J.D.W. Darling, and \$16.00 was paid in cash.

(Darlingside Papers, folder F0058D)

THE LANSDOWNE RURAL TELEPHONE COMPANY

The Lansdowne Rural Telephone Company was formed in 1906. The earliest preserved recorded minutes of the company are for a meeting held in the Town Hall, Lansdowne, on March 6, 1906. There must have been a meeting before this as "minutes of the previous meeting were read at this meeting". The first officers of the company were: W.J. Webster, Chas. Fredenburg, William McConnell, R.J. Mitchell and G.F. Deane. Directors were: W. Shipman, O. W. Landon, G.W. Steacy and Herb Horton. R. Mitchell served as secretary for one year.

The first line ran from Lansdowne to Warburton. In May 1906 a switchboard was installed in George Steacy's store in Warburton to serve the Sand Bay shareholders. The following year, one was placed in "Gray's house", possibly to serve the shareholders in Ivy Lea area.

At the March 1906 shareholders' meeting, the question of incorporation was addressed. It was moved that "We express ourselves in favour of a petition to present to Provincial Parliament and that we have the same forwarded". In the meantime the president and secretary corresponded with The North American Telephone Company to obtain terms and conditions of shareholders. The company was very careful to have a clear idea of the role and responsibilities of shareholders, and were cautious to investigate the appropriate avenues to follow when broaching unchartered territory. As a result of these actions, The Lansdowne Rural Telephone Company was incorporated on November 4, 1907.

(Continued on pg. #6)



*Mr. and Mrs. Reece Webster, 1947. Manager 1920 - 49.
Photo from Society files.*

TELEPHONE SERVICE IN LANSDOWNE AREA *continued from pg. 5*

The original shareholders were required to pay \$10.00 a year over five years. In return, they received telephone service for five years. A charge of 10 cents was levied on long distance calls. Any subscriber who failed to pay his assessment within 30 days would be charged 5%.

Some of the policies put into effect by the directors in the early days included:

- The stockholders were not to allow non-subscribers to use their phone unless the person was a relative, guest or employee.
- The directors of the company were in charge of all connections and disconnections.

The standard rule for receiving a telephone included submitting an application to become a shareholder in the company and fulfilling the necessary requirements, one of which was "being in good standing in the community", and having the funds to pay for the installation of service. It was not uncommon for directors to reject applications they deemed unsatisfactory.

The first switchboard in Lansdowne was installed in Charles Fredenburg's store (now Lansdowne hardware). It was part of the store clerk's duties to take the calls and make the connections. In 1908 the company purchased a 100 line cabinet switchboard for \$135.00. It was installed on the second floor of Mr. Fredenburg's store, and his daughter Fern (later Mrs. Fred McConnell) was the first operator. Mr. Fredenburg was given the official title of "Keeper of the Central Office", which would equate to today's manager. He received \$400. per year. This switchboard remained in service for fifty years and can still be seen in the company's "museum". The hours of operation were 7a.m. to 8p.m., with an hour off for lunch and a half hour for supper. Of course with up to twenty subscribers on your line which you could reach without going through the operator, the operators role was much less.

The system was known as a magneto type. Each telephone had a magneto which had a crank that was turned to ring the bells on all telephones on your line, or to call the operator. Each subscriber was assigned a code which was designated by the number of turns you made with the crank. Originally the operator had to do the same, but in 1912 a power ringer was installed. As this was before the installation of hydro, the power was supplied by a bank of dry cell batteries. The operator now had only to close a key to ring the numbers. When hydro was installed in 1929, the system was connected directly to the electrical circuit.

The first lineman, J.H. Donevan, was hired in 1909 at a salary of 25 cents per hour for a ten hour day, and had to supply his own horse and wagon. His route was 18 miles with about three customers per mile.

By 1909 there were many small independent telephone companies in the area. Companies known as Addison Greenbush and Rocksprings, Crosby, Kitley, Leeds and Frontenac, Lyndhurst, Mallorytown, Wolford, Lansdowne and Plum Hollow and Eloida organized to form The Leeds and Grenville Rural Telephone Federation. The Westport Telephone Company would have been formed about the same time. These companies served a total of 600 phones. Owing to many reasons, chiefly their not being able to keep up with the advancements in technology, all these companies with the exception of Lansdowne and Westport have ceased to exist. Most were sold to Bell Telephone.

In the early days, the company often received inquiries and complaints from subscribers. One such complaint came from a shareholder against a neighbouring brother and sister for having on Sept. 4, 1909 used abusive language about a member of his family over the line. The secretary was instructed to inform the brother and sister that such a complaint had come before the board and a repetition would require the board to disconnect the service for an indefinite time. At the next board meeting, a letter was read from the sister denying the charge. Nothing more appears about the matter.

(continued on pg. #8)

The Donevan Family of Lansdowne *by Alan Lindsay.*

The first members of this family to live in the Lansdowne area were Robert Donevan 1792 - Sept. 6, 1867 and his wife Mary McKee 1813 - March 19, 1900.

Family of Robert and Mary Donevan

- Sarah J. 1832 - 1907 married Henry Landon 1813 - 1885
- Leticia married Festus Landon (brother of Henry)
- James 1845 - 1937 married Etta Duclos 1858 - 1934 (founded Donevan's Hardware)
- Robert McKee 1840 - 1914 married Sarah Ann Cross 1854 - 1936
- Samuel 1850 - 1916 married Naomi Wing 1865 - 1940
- Elizabeth 1855 - 1926 married Albert Landon 1840 - 1896 (They ran the post office in Fairfax)

Family of Sarah J. and Henry Landon

- Robert H. 1857 - 1872
- Erastus 1860 - 1896 married Mary Smith (she later married Matt Steacy)
- Oscar 1863 - 1923 married Nancy Webster : children Keith (Byron & Clare), Harry (Lois)
- Leticia died 1881
- Mary Elizabeth married Herb Cook

Family of Leticia and Festus Landon

- Robert (Unmarried)
- Patience Plumb died 1885
- Mary married Amos Clare (sons John & James)

Family of James and Etta Donevan

- Frederic
- Charles married Tina : children William, Margaret, Charlie (wife Kay children Louise, Mary Douglas)

Family of Robert McKee and Sarah Ann Donevan

- Mary 1883 - 1943
- Edna 1884 - 1885
- Nettie 1887 - 1907

Family of Samuel and Naomi Donevan

- John married Daisy Bradley (son Douglas)
- Honora married John Collins (son Maurice)
- Charlotte
- Harry
- Frederic married Amber McIntosh (children Richard, David, Ann)

Family of Elizabeth and Albert Landon

- Robert married Ethel Tennant (son Albert Kermit)
- Leticia married Fred Mitchell
- Eleanor died 1902
- Marion died 1918

Also buried in Lansdowne Cemetery are Elizabeth Donevan 1822 - 1890 and husband Samuel McKee 1818 - 1900 who must be connected to this family in some way.

Special thanks to Doug Donevan for his help in putting this together.

TELEPHONE SERVICE IN LANSDOWNE AREA *continued from pg. 6*

The company was growing, and by 1910 had 276 shareholders and 282 telephones on the system. In January 1911 the rates were increased to \$6.00 per year. Due to the increase in subscribers, Mr. Donevan's wage was increased to 35 cents an hour in April 1911, and a second lineman hired at 25 cents an hour to look after lines to the south of the village. The Grand Trunk Railway Office was granted a telephone for business use at a rate of \$1.00 per year.

In 1912 trunk lines were installed to connect the Lansdowne and Mallorytown companies to Gananoque, Pittsburg, Seeleys Bay, Lyndhurst, Plumhollow, Addison, Greenbush, Rocksprings, Kitley and Lyn companies. The Township was approved as a stockholder, and a telephone was installed in the town hall.

In late 1912, Mr. Fredenburg resigned, requiring the central office to have to be moved. It was decided to build a new office at the corner of King and Garden Streets. Land was purchased from S.C.E. Dixon for \$265.00, and the contract given to Wm. McConnell to construct a 20' x 24' two story building at a cost of \$800.00. This did not include the cost of exterior painting. Money was borrowed from the local Merchants Bank, as the company did not have the necessary funds. The new office went into service in 1913. The cost of furnishing the office, window shades, table, chairs and desk, was \$53.45. In 1914 a kitchen was added to the south side at a cost of \$150. and it also became the home of the manager. In 1923 another addition was made to the office at a cost of \$592., and another addition was made in 1960 to accommodate the installation of a common battery system. This building continued to serve the company until 1968.



Lansdowne Telephone offices #'s 1 and 2. Photo by Bill Boulton

In 1915 Mr. R.J. Latimer became Keeper of the Central Office at a salary of \$700. per year. The following year he was replaced by Mr. L.D. Johnston who was receiving a salary of \$765. in 1917. Mr. Reece Webster was hired as second lineman, supplying his own horse and wagon at the same rate as Mr. Donevan - 40 cents an hour. The following year they received a raise to 45

cents an hour. By 1924, Mr Webster had become Keeper of the Central Office and treasurer of the company.

By 1917 phone rates were increased to \$12. per year, with a second phone at \$5. Among the first commercial customers were the cheese factories at Farifax and Rapid Valley. For \$15. the building and switchboard were insured for three years. In 1921 negotiations took place to acquire a line from Rockport to Brockville. Lines were rented from the Mallorytown Telephone Company, and eventually lines east to Narrows Lane came into the ownership of the Lansdowne Company.

With the increased demand for telephones and technology, it became imperative for the company to expand and upgrade its equipment. A used common battery switchboard was purchased from the Gananoque office of Bell Canada. for \$5000. This required adding another room to the office. The next step was to prepare for conversion to automatic dialing. It was necessary to build a new structure to serve as office and equipment room. A lot east of the original property was purchased from Dixons for \$400., and a new building costing \$13, 895. was erected by F.M. Hunt Construction.

(continued on pg. #9)

TELEPHONE SERVICE IN LANSDOWNE AREA *continued from pg. 8*

A new Community Crossbar dial switch accommodating 480 lines and 1500 terminals was purchased from Northern Electric. In October 1968 the service became fully automatic.

Without the efforts and leadership of the late Ralph Smith, who was president at the time, this growth would not have taken place. The local Bank of Montreal manager agreed to advance the funds and secure the loan with a mortgage on the company's assets. However, it was discovered that the Letters Patent of the company would not allow the company to be mortgaged. A special meeting of shareholders had to be called and a motion passed by a two-thirds majority to change the clause. Although it was close, loyalty to the company prevailed, and they were able to proceed with the loan and the conversion.

Within ten years, with increased traffic and services, it became necessary to enlarge the building by 35 feet to accommodate further equipment. There was also a growing demand among 1000 Island summer residents for service. As the company already served many of the islands, Bell Canada negotiated a deal with the company to take over all island service from east of Rockport to Gananoque.

Again in 1988, to keep abreast of technology, it was necessary to upgrade equipment. It also became necessary to expand the building. This necessitated the re-purchase and demolition of the original office, and the addition of a new wing. The company can now offer new services such as voice mail, call waiting, call display, call forwarding, as well as internet service through the Thousand Islands Net division.

The Lansdowne Rural Telephone Company has been very fortunate in the calibre of their senior employees from the beginning in 1906 to the present. They have been able to adapt to new technology from the single switchboard to the present computer age.

Keeper of the Central Office or Manager over the years have included:

Charles Fredenburg from 1908 to 1913.

J.R. Latimer from 1913 to 1916.

L.D. Johnston from 1916 to 1920.

Reece Webster joined as lineman in 1917 and became manager in 1920. He continued in both jobs for 32 years, until ill health forced his retirement in 1949.

Charles Tedford, who was hired as lineman in 1945, served as manager from 1949 to 1974.

Bob Crawford joined the company as junior lineman in the early 1950's, and literally devoted the rest of his life, a total of 44 years, to the company. He served as manager from 1974 to 1986. At his own request he returned to the position of head lineman. He was looking forward to retirement at the time of his sudden death in 1996.

Bill Grier has been with the company since 1967. He became manager, following Bob Crawford, in 1986.

This list mentions only the managers. The list of those responsible for successfully piloting the company to what it is today is incomplete and much too long to provide here. Such a list would include operators, secretaries, linemen, directors and board members. This dedication has been recognized by the Electrical Utilities Association in the awarding of a Certificate of Merit for over 28 accident free years. In fact, there has only been one fatal accident in the company's history. In 1938 the company was building a new line to carry the International Broadcast of the opening of the 100 Islands Bridge when Douglas McConnell came in contact with a high voltage power line. It is interesting to note that he was the grandson of the first "keeper of the central office" and the son of the first operator.

Of the many changes that have taken place over the years, perhaps the most missed is the personal service that was offered by "central", the operators. They were a source of information to the whole community. If your clock stopped, you called for the correct time. If you did not know a number, you called the operator and said, "get me so-and-so", and they did. Before the organized fire department, a fire was reported to the operator who rang one long ring on party lines in the vicinity of the fire. Subscribers on hearing the one long ring would listen as the operator gave the location of the fire, and then responded to the scene with whatever equipment they had. Even after a fire department was organized, the operators dispatched men and equipment. They also handled police and medical calls, truly the original 911.

(continued on pg. #12)

JANUARY - JUNE 1902
NOTES from the DIARY of JOHN QUINN

- Jan. 1 - 4 Year begins very cold, 10 below Fahrenheit. Went to Lynn to fit a hay fork for D. Forester. Took a load to South Lake Lodge, cold night. S.O.T. had an At Home supper in their hall.
- Jan. 5 - 11 Old Mr. William Buck died. Helped Mr. Heaslip to get a load of wood, and Ross Smith to butcher 2 pigs. Snow and blustery all week.
- Jan. 12 - 18 Drove mother to Lansdowne. District Orange Lodge meeting at Lansdowne. Drew home last of wood. Helping S.G. Horton saw wood.
- Jan. 19 - 25 Heavy snow, good sleighing. Bought 30 loads of wood from Dunk Read for \$10.
- Jan. 26 - Feb. 1 Went to Maple Grove to S.O.T. District meeting. Working in the saw mill in Lansdowne.
- Feb. 2 - 8 Terrible blizard, roads all full. Went to Lansdowne braking road. Revival meeting started.
- Feb. 9 - 15 Blustry and stormy all week. Drew home wood. A load of us went to Escott to Scarlet Lodge.
- Feb. 16 - 22 Went to Uncle Edds, Maude and Mrs H. went with me. Came home from Elgin on Monday. Helping to dig out pitch holes in road. Piles of snow and bad roads.
- Feb. 22 - Mar. 1 I was out to C.M. Quinns. Rained all day. H. Wilson had a machinery parade. Went to Gananoque on business. Drawing hay out of stacks. Snow nearly all gone, heavy rane.
- Mar. 2 - 8 Very soft day, roads are very soft now. Drew home wood. Helping John Law and Mrs. W Patence saw wood.
- Mar. 9 - 15 Storm with sleet and snow. Last sleighing, lots of buggies and waggons out now. Working in the mill. Bought a new windmill. Mrs. Willie Grame died. A terrible big rane, roads are lots of mud. First cow came in. Mary was home.
- Mar. 16 - 22 Big rane then temperature dropped to 10 below zero, ground frozen hard. Helping Ross Smith split fence slats. Frogs are out.
- Mar. 23 - 29 Warm day, drove to Gananoque. Helping Role Johnston tap. Helping B. Gavon saw. Helping Mrs. Patience blast out a sellor, 75 cents for the day. Went out collecting thrashing accounts, was in Gananoque.
- Mar. 30 - Apr. 5 Easter Sunday. Cold day but roads very muddy. Helping Role Johnston in sap bush, he paid me \$5.00. Blustry with snow. Fixing up fence. Working in Lansdowne putting up a building to hold machinery.
- Apr. 6 - 12 Fine and spring like. Got a pair of gater boots and a suit of clothes at Hill Warrens for \$9.00. Moved D.W. McClary to his factory at Junction. Got 30 bushel of oats from G. Humphry.
- Apr. 13 - 19 Roads are nice and dry. People are starting spring work. Putting up hayfork track at Henery Armstrongs. Drawing stone to mill at Lansdowne. Working in mill all day, got 18 bushel of grane ground.
- Apr. 20 - 26 Went to Frankville with Mrs. H. Drove to Cran Worth near Smith Falls. Drove all through Burgess. Was down to Pike Falls and Olivars Ferry. Drove through a lot of New Boyne. Drove through Portland district and back to Frankville. Came home from Frankville Saturday night. N.R. Johnston died.
- Apr. 27 - May 3 The mare had a colt. Plowed the garden. Got 4 galls. of coal oil. Planted potatoes. Put minure on field and garden. Drawing stone to the mill yard.
- May 4 - 10 I.O.O.F. paraded to the Methodist Church. Quarterly meeting. Mary and I joined the church. Terrible rain, roads bad. Took Uncle Andy out to Uncle Edds. Froze very hard Thursday night. Went to Gananoque with a grist of 6 bushels of wheat. Old Mr. Tomas Story died.
- May 11 - 17 Finished planting. Painted the kitchen for W.B. Warren. Went to Gananoque for repares for saw mill. Got gray horse shod all round. Working at mill all day, getting ready to move out saw.
- May 18 - 24 Very warm day. Loaded up machinery at saw inill and moved it to Kane Town. Set up the mill with one engine and sawed 1 log. Set up other engine and laid some water pipes and came home.
- May 25 - 31 Warm day. L.O.L. #100 had a church parade. Worked in saw mill all week. Provincial election, Beaties majority 508.
- June 1 - 7 Took Lizzie and Maude to Uncle Edds. Old Mr. Tom Earl died. Working in saw mill.
- June 8 - 14 Terrible wet day. Went back to Canetown to saw, \$1.75 a day. Finished sawing on Wednesday and moved the machinery home Thursday. Cultivated and howing around potatoes, cut grass around house.
- June 15 - 21 John Quinn family here. Getting machine ready to move to Gananoque. Sawing at mill in Gananoque. Went to Ellisville to District Division.
- June 22 - 30 Sawing in Gananoque all week, \$2.00 a day. Very heavy rane and hale storm.

CANADIAN PEACEKEEPING MEDAL AWARDED TO JOCK SHIELDS

By Alan Lindsay

The Society was pleased and honoured to welcome Jock Shields and several members of his family to our April meeting. Jock was the recipient of a Canadian Peacekeeping Medal and chose our Society to make the presentation to him. Jock is well known in Lansdowne as he was born here in the house that is now the Presbyterian manse. His grandfather Henry Mulvaugh, and his father Robert Shields, ran the general store across the street. The Mulvaugh and Kavavaugh families have a long history in Lansdowne. Jock grew up in the village and joined the Canadian Armed Forces during World War II where he served as a corporal. After attending Normal School in 1947-48, he taught school in Elizabethtown and Fort Nelson B.C. In 1951 he returned to the military and served with the United Nations in Korea, Japan and Egypt as well as with NATO in Germany. Since leaving the military he has operated Jock Shields Driving School in London On. The federal government recently recognized the service of the members of the forces who served in a peacekeeping capacity outside Canada and we were pleased to present Jock with the shield and medal recognizing his contribution.



Henry Mulvaugh's General Store 1895.

Photo from Society files

SAVE-A-TAPE PROGRAM

We are now participating in two Save-A-Tape programs. Save your cash register tapes from:

BALDREE'S - YOUR INDEPENDENT GROCER
and
A & P - DOMINION - SAVE-A-CENTRE

Please give your tapes to any executive member, bring them to a meeting, or drop them in the mail to us.
The Society receives a donation from the companies on a percentage basis.

Both A & P and Baldree's in Gananoque now have provided bins for depositing your cash register tapes as you leave the store. Please deposit them into the bin marked Front of L. & L. Historical Society.

TELEPHONE SERVICE IN LANSDOWNE AREA

continued from pg. 9



*Madeline Abbott stands beside the original 100 line Cabinet Switchboard which was used from 1908 to 1961. Madeline was an operator for over 12 years.
Photo by Bill Boulton*

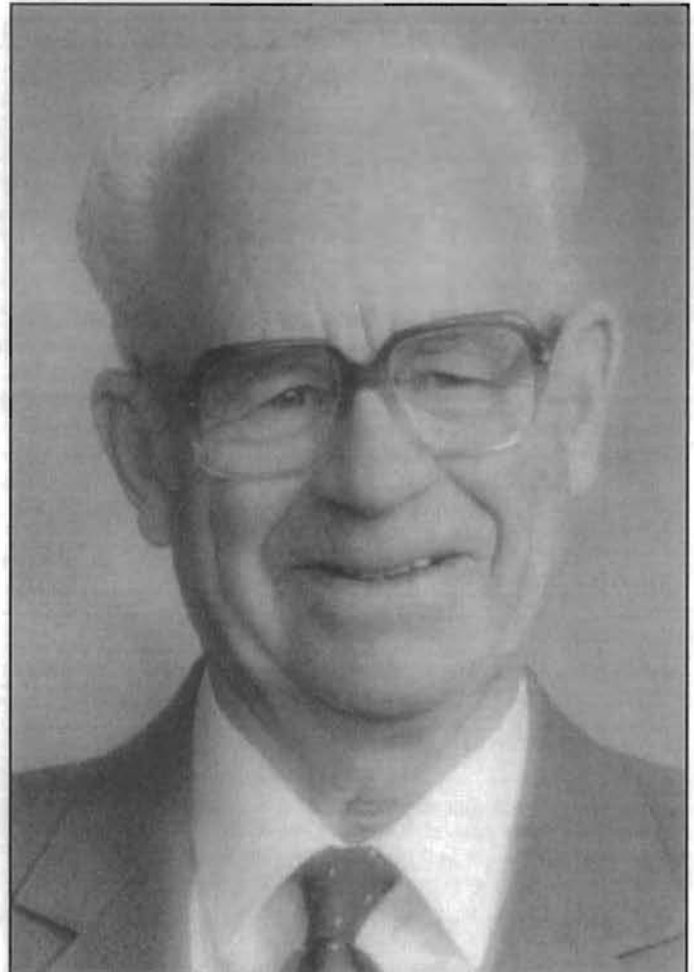
One incident is told about the local operator. J.H. Donevan and Son had a business across the street from the central office. One day a business in Toronto tried to reach the Donevan business. After his third failed attempt, the operator came on the line and said, "If you call again in about 20 minutes you will probably get an answer. Doug went away a while ago and Mr Donevan has gone for the mail and should be back by that time". The Toronto businessman could not believe the service!

The Lansdowne Rural Telephone Company has come a long way since its beginning less than a hundred years ago, from 282 telephones in 1910 to over 2500 telephone customers and 772 with internet service, all using the latest digital service.

*The Lansdowne Rural Telephone article was researched and written by Douglas Donevan,
who presented it at our January meeting.*



Bob Crawford, manager 1974 - 86; and Bill Grier, present manager. Photo courtesy Lansdowne Telephone



*Charles Tedford, Manager 1949 - 74.
Photo courtesy Marion McKay*



Lansdowne Rural Telephone Co., Office #3. - Photo courtesy Ted Hewitt Photography

Remembers When Father Built General Store

*This is from a letter to the Editor written by Mrs. Myrla Mulvaugh Shields Sheppard which appeared in the Gananoque Reporter Nov. 21, 1973
From Society Files*

My father Henry Campbell Mulvaugh started in business about 1885. He was in partnership with his brother-in-law W.J. Cavanaugh, having purchased the business from Norman Webster whose father Jonathan Webster built the store. It is located just north of the C.N.R. tracks.

My father purchased the lots at the top of the hill from Mr. Ennis, who had a shoe shop surrounded by a grove of trees. He purchased it about 1888 and built the store in 1890.

Mr. Ben Kirker, who is shown in the picture, was the carpenter in charge. He and Mr. Hilliard Latimer were the carpenters in 1904 when the store was enlarged by adding adjoining rooms for fitting boots and shoes and an office, as well as extending the length to 72 feet. At this time a large balcony was added upstairs and down the front. A floor and feed separate building was moved there. It was formerly owned by Dan Bradley and sold to J.H. Donevan.

There was a large dress making shop with separate fitting room. The first dressmaker, Miss Maggie Smith is shown in the upstairs window. Miss Lizzie Stevens, Miss Addie Truesdell and sister Susie, were dressmakers in charge for years.

Employed were 13 - 15 apprentices, some of whom were Pearl Webster, Martha Grier, Marion Landon, May Smeize, May McNeil. Two clerks, Milton Cornett and Delbert McClary are shown in the picture. Others are Hilliard Warren, Geo. Warren, Leland Warren, Arthur Lancaster, Elmer Burns, Albert Modler, Mac Tennant, Ernest Foster, Miss Monlas, Edith McCready, Lottie Guild and Evelyn Landon.

My mother was a milliner at J.M. Clark's Dry Goods Store in Smith Falls, and had the second millinery business in Lansdowne. She hired her first Milliner Sept. 23, 1894, and she is shown in the store door with my mother. Miss Hutcheson of Bowmanville was there for several years. She was succeeded by Miss Annette Allan of Prescott, Miss Robertson of Almonte, Miss Arnott of Oshawa, Miss Isabelle MacNicol of Windsor, Miss Victoria Blackwell of Vankleek Hill, Miss Florence Drake of Kentville, Miss Spiers and Miss Hannah Milne of Renfrew, Miss Gertrude Playfair of Ottawa, and Miss Essie McCallum of Carleton Place. There were several apprentices including Olga Sheppard, Kate Foley, Leah Warren, Orma Mulvaugh, Evelyn Landon, and Miss McKay.

My father purchased the corner lot adjoining his first one. This was later sold to the Bank of Montreal (Merchants Bank) and a bank building was built about 1917. (Since demolished to straighten the corner). He later purchased property now owned by Doug Donevan, on the same street. Our residence, formerly the Methodist Parsonage, (corner King and Miller Streets), was purchased about 1930 and was my home for 13 years. It was later owned by the Misses Bessie and Sadie Allan. My father was a conveyancer, an issuer of marriage licences and a justice of peace for 50 years

This building is still operating as a grocery store, Lansdowne Freshmart, with several more additions.

The outlines of the original building can still be seen.



President Alan presents Peacekeeping Medal to Jock Shields. Photo by Gananoque Reporter.



*Lansdowne Freshmart.
Photo by Hilary-Anne
Hamilton 1993*

COUPLE EXPERIENCES SPIRIT OF AFRICA ON MISSION TRIP

Original article by Scott Kemp, Gananoque Reporter, Jan. 2, 2002. Used with permission.

Edited by Ted & Pat Hewitt.



*Our Publishers: Ted and Pat Hewitt
Photo by Scott Kemp, The Gananoque Reporter*

Ted and Pat Hewitt's trip to Malawi and Kenya included religious teaching and visits to schools and medical clinics. They spent most of October 2001 in 35+ degree heat. This Lansdowne area couple went on a missionary trip to Malawi, an impoverished African country, from Oct. 11 to Nov. 2. It was organized by the Pentecostal Assembly of Canada Women's Ministries. The Hewitts have been attending Calvary Pentecostal church in Gananoque for the past 6 years. The mission group included 19 women and 4 men. Most were from Ontario.

While Mrs. Hewitt, a retired nurse, was selected for her medical skills, Mr. Hewitt was recruited for his experience in building and construction. Although he is a professional photographer by trade, last year, he supervised the construction by church volunteers, of a new cabin at a church camp near Cobourg, Ont. Their trip involved five main activities: Religious teaching; Visiting orphanages, schools; Visiting medical clinics, installing drop ceilings in the Bible College in the capital city of Malawi and distribution of donated items for men, women and children.

The Hewitts noted that about two-thirds of Malawis are Pentecostal by faith. Other religions include other Protestant denominations, Roman Catholicism, Islam and traditional African spiritualism.

The Hewitts spent some time in the Malawi capital of Lilongwe. Although it's a new city, virtually all cooking is done by burning wood that is cut and collected daily. Lilongwe can be a dangerous place, after dark because of some crime and wild animals that roam at night. "You don't go out at night," Ms. Hewitt said. However, the rural areas are safe, but undeveloped. "Their motels are pretty rough," said Ms. Hewitt, referring to accommodation outside the city. "One day we had no water when we got up." The Hewitts, like all missionaries, were supplied with ample amounts of bottled water to keep themselves hydrated. Mr. Hewitt also relied on a universal standby: Coca Cola.

Ms. Hewitt also visited medical clinics and hospitals in Malawi, some of which were horribly under-equipped and under-staffed. For example, at one clinic, there was no doctor available, so it was left to nurses, like Ms. Hewitt, assisting the local nurses, to provide care. "Most places don't have any medicine at all," she said. "The hospitals don't have medicine." However, at one clinic, Ms. Hewitt dispensed donated medicine to some 250 people, most of whom had been waiting for hours in the hot sun. Poverty and disease are still big problems in Malawi. The average age in the country is only 29-32. Mr. Hewitt noted that, outside major cities, it is typical for a person to eat only one meal every two days.

Schools, clinics and other buildings are usually badly constructed and in disrepair, Mr. Hewitt added. "We build and use better chicken coops than what they're living in and being educated in". The Hewitts recalled stopping at one slum school and giving every student a pencil and a candy, and leaving a bag of school supplies with a teacher in each class. "It was like we had given them a gold mine," Ms. Hewitt said.

Although the Hewitts are not planning to give up their family photography business and become professional missionaries, they would welcome the chance to volunteer overseas again. "It was the most rewarding thing in my whole life."

Ted and Pat Hewitt have been designing and publishing this newsletter since issue #5, February 1996. This is completely a volunteer effort, one which they have found time for even though Ted operates a very successful professional photography business, and Pat was a full time ER nurse at Brockville General Hospital until her retirement in 1999. Ted has also served for four years as head of Men's Ministries at his church. Both are also involved in other church activities. Most recently in August, Pat and Ted were crew on a racing sailboat entered in the Canadian Olympic Regatta competition in Kingston, Ontario.

There is an old saying; "If you want a job well done, give it to a busy person". It is obvious that we could not find better people, nor have a better product than this, the product of the Hewitt team.

Thanks Ted and Pat for a job well done!

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF FRONT OF LEEDS AND LANSDOWNE
 Newsletter #17 SPRING/SUMMER 2002

Paid up MEMBERSHIPS as of AUG. 2002

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