

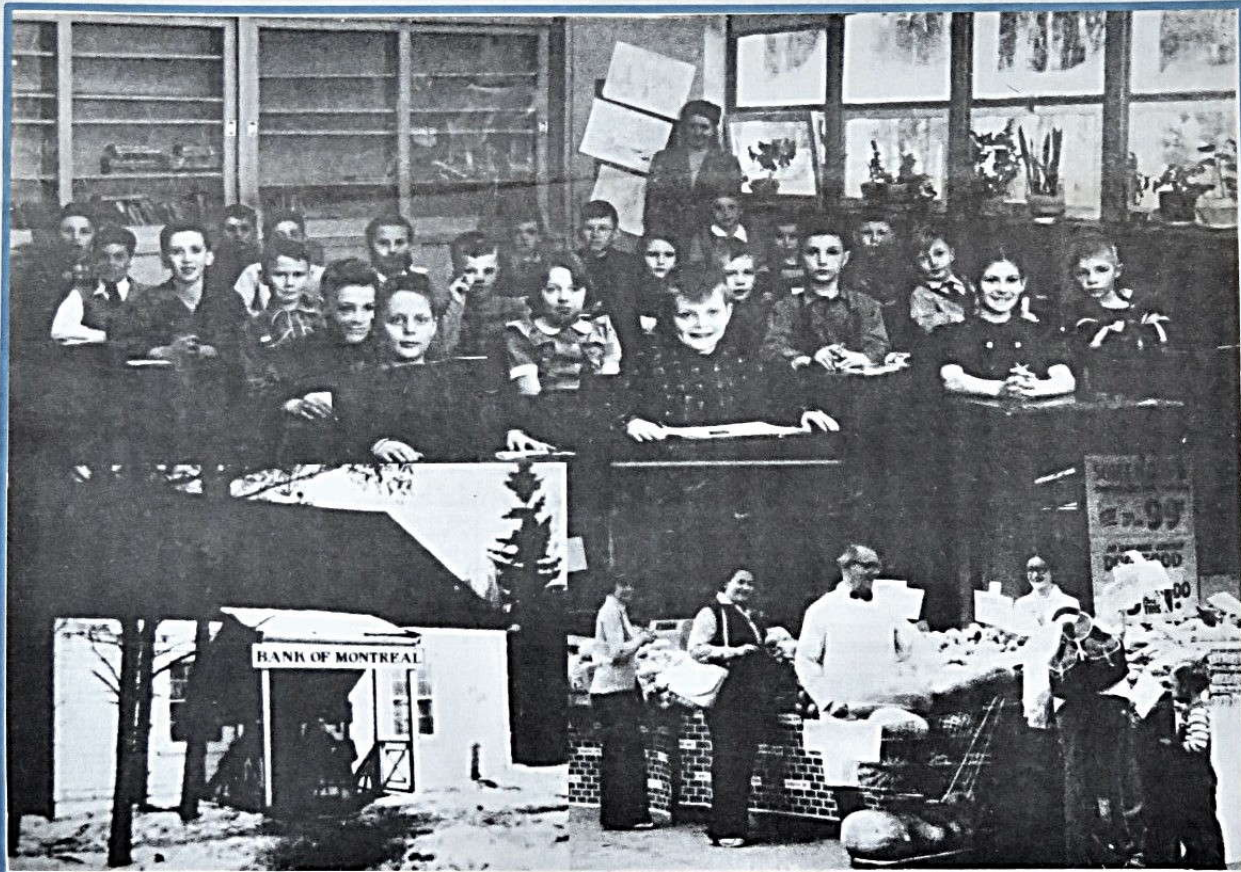


Golden Jubilee *of Deep River* *and* The North Renfrew Times

PART 3

July 1995

\$1 (incl. GST)



THE MAKING OF THE TOWN

The Making of the Town

In the beginning was the Plant. And people came to work at the Plant. And they brought their spouses. Then there were children. And the journey to Pembroke for everything necessary to life became too much to bear. Then someone said "We should have a proper town" and they built businesses and schools for the children and a hospital and doctors and nurses and dentists for health...and churches for the soul ... and police for keeping civic peace... and a town council for maintaining and improving. And very soon, where there had been just a few families living along the river bank, eking out a quiet living from the land and the water, there was DEEP RIVER, a fully-equipped functioning TOWN.

This supplement, the third of our Golden Jubilee collection, tells how the town sprang up and grew, until it had everything a town should have, and was, in reality, a regular town. For a town needs more than a Company and its employees, it needs retailers and services, it needs institutions and volunteers, it needs a post office, schools, delegates to government, help for the sick and needy, a library and many other components. Above all, it needs a community spirit to see that everything works together for the good of all. This is the story of the coming together of the structure of our community.

This supplement is the third in a series of four, to be published on the first Wednesdays of May, June July and August in 1995 to celebrate Deep River's Golden Jubilee. The supplements are issued as part of the regular weekly editions of The North Renfrew Times. Extra copies may be purchased at \$1 each from the offices of the newspaper. Sets of the four supplements will be on sale in early August.

The cover illustration is made up from three pictures.

The classroom is the Grade Four class of Miss Dorothy Hill in Cockcroft School, in, about, 1950. photo courtesy of CRL Public Relations Office.

On the lower left is the original Bank of Montreal Deep River Branch which opened for business at 9 Hillcrest in December 1945. The two bank tellers enjoying a break in the sun do not seem to be overrun with work. photo courtesy of Agnes Corniskey McGuffie.

Outside the old A&P store on Alder, in June 1976, produce manager Bert Telford and assistant Suzanne Tremblay are working their friendly persuasion on customers who include Kay Audet and Phyllis Flack. photo by Lorna Bourns



Memories of Deep River's First Mayor

Summer student, Bob Kim, interviewed Dr. Ara Mooradian, who became the town's first mayor in 1959, and was a member of the Improvement District Board of Trustees set up in 1956. Below are some of Dr. Mooradian's thoughts on the politics of Deep River in the early days.

... on the Board of Trustees under the Improvement District

"The transition was from a company town to an Improvement District to a full-fledged municipality. The Improvement District is a marvelous municipal type of government, and I think it's something people ought to think about for stream-lined governments. There were just three trustees appointed by the Lieutenant Governor. One was clearly representing the company's interest, one was representing the businessman's interests in town, and the other one was to represent the citizen's interest in the town.

"When the Improvement District was set up, Tom Morison was the chairman. He was the company representative, a marvelous man, an amazing administrator. But this three-man Board of Trustees were all of the boards under the municipal act - the Board of Health, the High School Board, the Public School Board, the Hydro Commission, everything.

"Frank Tierney was appointed the businessman's trustee, and I was appointed the citizen's trustee. We set up the cemetery, the high school. And the beauty of it was, you knew exactly where the decisions had to be made, it wasn't passing it to some sub-committee that was going to study it indefinitely then come back. The buck really was just around our table - three people, and there was no place to pass responsibilities. Something landed on the table, and it had to be dealt with.

"The only change I would make to something like a three man Board of Trustees would be to have the trustees elected rather than appointed by the Lieutenant Governor, or, you can have the town elect recommended appointees. This form of government would be great for municipalities up to 10,000, it really avoids a lot of the hedging, the bureaucracy, and you had to know all your stuff. It was like having three mayors sitting on the thing, with no body to refer to, except if you had to hire a consultant.

"As an example ... the obvious call for sidewalks. It was very apparent and people

thought, as soon as we became a municipality they'd be able to vote in the sidewalks. And sure enough, when I had the first council, sidewalks were a very relevant issue. From the experience I had with the Board of Trustees, all these things that seem self-evident, on deeper examination, aren't necessarily what you'd expect. And I was looking at the record that we had of safety, road safety - and the place was just loaded with children. The fact that there wasn't a sidewalk, it was quite clear that the drivers had responsibility for the safety, you don't just go roaring down these streets without sidewalks. And we hadn't had any accident that I can remember of any pedestrian with a vehicle. I thought we ought to take a look at this before we jumped into the business of having

was mayor was that I thought it was very important that the village have access to good beach property, and that was a dandy. I mark that as one of the achievements here. The other one as mayor, was what I didn't allow to happen. I didn't allow water-metering. The whole village just operates on a layer of about two or three inches of topsoil, and if you have people worrying about how much water they're using because of what they're going to pay for it, then you'd have a pretty lousy looking community, it wouldn't look like the park that we've got now. And it didn't make sense to me for us to be living on a river and metering water."

... on why he ran for office

"One of the important rea-



Mayor Lyall Smith with first Mayor Ara Mooradian

sidewalks. It wasn't self-evident to me that a community with sidewalks was any safer than a community without one. So we hired a consultant to try and find communities that were like ours that had put in sidewalks. We found one in Winnipeg and that's exactly what happened, the community proved to be safer without sidewalks than with, because the traffic was aware that they were responsible for the road safety.

... on the first council

"The first year was a very interesting time. We ended up having to set up all the major committees and so on. But for out and out achievement the ones that I can remember as most important were getting the second shopping centre through, buying, then setting up, Pine Point Beach, stopping the metering of water, and an immunization program for polio, which I was very keen on making sure that the town had. "One of the reasons I insisted on buying Pine Point when I

sons I ran, was to make sure that the community had access to as broad a choice as possible for the governing of the community. There was some question whether you could be mayor and work at the plant, but one of the things I wanted to make sure for the town was that anybody in AECL could undertake that job.

"The thing I thought we ought to do which we didn't do was to cast a by-law limiting the number of by-laws! The concept I think, would still hold water. Anytime somebody wanted to introduce a new by-law to restrict the people, they had to destroy an old one that was obsolete. I don't know what the magic number of by-laws is, but you would think that you should be able to regulate a community like this with no more than a hundred by-laws. With a free society you want to keep as much responsibility with the individual and as little with the community as possible. But, I don't think I ever formally introduced that. But that was one I certainly thought about."

The Modern AECL and the Politics of Recreation

NRT Oct 5, 1994
by Kathy Hughes

AECL has apparently reached a tentative agreement to sell over 1000 acres of land along Balmer's Bay Rd. containing the town's cross country ski trails.

AECL first confirmed the deal last week, then backtracked.

Meanwhile, the Deep River Cross Country Ski Club and local skiers are wondering whether they will be able to continue to use the trails.

The deal is apparently not finalized and is set to close some time in October. The buyer, however, remains a mystery.

"The person has asked to not be made known," said Drew Scot of Remax Realty in Pembroke. Remax is the agent responsible for selling AECL land.

Last Tuesday, CRL public affairs spokesperson Dave Lisle told the NRT a deal had been reached to sell the property which included both sides of Balmer's Bay Rd., but did not include King's Farm.

He said he could not provide information about the buyer or the price. He did say the list price for the property was \$700,000.

But when contacted for further details the next day, CRL officials would not discuss the deal.

"AECL will not confirm or deny whether any AECL land is either the subject of an agreement of purchase and sale or has been sold," said spokesperson John Perehinec.

Town officials and the ski club both say they have not officially been notified about a sale.

Gail Moon, president of the DRXC said the club is hoping to hear something soon "one way or another."

"It is almost the end of September and we have some concerns as we are starting to prepare for the season."

Ross Meadowcroft said the club has written a letter to the prospective buyer and has asked the real estate agent to deliver it.

He said they wanted to let the buyer know what property they have on the land which includes such things as trailers, lights, bridges and even a memorial dedicated to a former club member. He said they also want to know if they will be allowed continued use of the land.

"If they don't want us on the trails, there is not much point in starting work this fall."

The arrangement between the club and AECL to use the land has always been "informal"

and the club has always had a good relationship with the company, said Meadowcroft.

But he said he was disappointed the club or the town was not approached by AECL about its plans to sell the property and the club was surprised by the "sheer magnitude" of the acreage involved.

"There has been no opportunity for us to indicate how much property we could use for the town."

Moon said the club executive has discussed the possible sale and what its options might be.

"We realize we may have to come up with alternatives."

But she said the loss of the trails would be a big loss for the town.

"Many people have worked so very hard for many years to make the ski trails of this calibre. All of us would be very sad to lose them."

The land along Balmer's Bay Rd. is now zoned undeveloped and includes a number of large lots.

In the event of any planned development, the town's policies on development and its zoning by-laws would come into play, said clerk-treasurer Larry Simons.

Under that zoning, the permitted uses include such things as animal farming, agriculture, camping facilities, forestry, trails, recreational or cultural pursuits and wildlife conservation.

As well, lot sizes in that area must be a minimum of 10 acres.

Communication Lacking

Mayor Lyall Smith says he has received calls from residents about the sale. Many are concerned that AECL was not public enough in letting residents know the land was actually on the market.

"There is certainly a feeling out there that they have missed the process."

In many ways, Smith says he shares their concerns and points to communication problems with AECL.

At the end of April, the town received a letter from AECL which said the company would be "rationalizing" recreational properties "associated with things like the golf course, tennis courts, etc." over the summer. The letter also said AECL expected to address the Balmer's Bay area in the fall.

The town wrote back at the end of May to Dan de Verteuil, vice-president of the facilities and support organizational unit at CRL.

In its letter, the town said it would like to be told of the com-

pany's progress and plans for the land sales, "because of the potentially significant impacts on the community of some of these sales."

The town also encouraged AECL "to maintain the company's links to the town" when dealing with recreational properties.

"We are very concerned that significant recreational facilities like those mentioned above should remain viable," the town said.

Although the ski trails are not mentioned specifically, Smith said they were definitely included as land the town had concerns about and asked to be kept informed about.

But Smith says apart from a meeting with de Verteuil and "a promise to get back to me," there has been no response to the town's letter.

Perehinec said at the meeting it was pointed out that de Verteuil had just started in his new position and would need some time to deal with the issues, but the mayor was told the company intended to follow the time frame outlined in its April letter. He said it was also agreed that "the mayor could call AECL about any concerns in the interim."

Perehinec said AECL's general process for deciding whether to sell and is to first determine if the company has any plans for the land. If the company decides selling is an option, it then gets two independent appraisals on the land.

In deciding how to sell a property, Perehinec said the company will "exercise the best option to achieve the desired result."

He pointed out that each transaction is different and handled based on the individual circumstances and time.

He said the company does take into account other interests in the land, and points to its efforts with King's Farm. But in the end he said the company's needs come first.

"Our interests have to be prime."

He said it is not a secret that Balmer's Bay land is for sale and said people have always had access to the company to make their concerns known.

"We have stated our intentions many, many times."

He said it is also no secret the company is facing a financial crunch.

"We do have an appreciation of the effect we have on the community, but we also ask people to have some appreciation for our position in having to meet our obligations to our shareholders."

"These decisions are not made lightly."

Bits and pieces from the council chambers

Roselma Sinclair new county warden

NRT, January 28, 1970

Roselma Sinclair, Reeve of Deep River, was elected Warden of Renfrew County last week, the first representative from Deep River to hold the office which dates back to 1861 when Renfrew was separated from neighbouring Lanark. Although Deep River is 25 years old this year, it has been a municipality for only 11 years. During that time, Mrs. Sinclair has served on county council nine years, first as deputy reeve and, since 1966, as reeve. Mrs. Sinclair is the first woman to become Warden.

Mrs. Sinclair won against her opponent, Mr. Carl Fletcher, Reeve of Westmeath Township by a healthy margin, the vote being 29 to 20. The new Warden then chaired the meeting for the rest of the day with great efficiency and good humour.

Mrs. Sinclair is especially pleased that she has been chosen in the Town's anniversary year and she also feels that, with a representative in the position, the Town is now well integrated into the county and really has some responsibility for what's happening.



I was a lonely little petunia...

NRT, January 14, 1976

Councillor Thompson's report to Council from the Tree Conservation Committee was brief and can be reported verbatim. "The Tree Conservation Committee held a meeting in Council Chambers on Monday, January 5, at 7:30 p.m. Through a breakdown of communications, the only member present was me. After a short discussion with myself, it was decided that there was insufficient input and the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m."

Park named: It's a bird...it's a complaint

NRT, January 3, 1979

Councillor Marjorie von Fintel moved that "all references to a name for the west end park be removed from the by-law" and recommended that a short list of names for this park be drawn up. von Fintel pointed out that there was "no strong historical reason" for the name "grouse" and also said that the word has negative connotations. In addition to being the name of a game bird, "grouse" also means "complain" or a "person who habitually complains."

The name "grouse" was first suggested for the park in 1976, when three members of the Municipal Recreation Committee went out to look over the future park. As they walked along an access footpath, a grouse flew up. von Fintel commented that she "didn't want a little incident like that to name it."

Lyall Smith took exception to von Fintel's remarks, saying "grouse" is a "well-known Canadian word" and that this name has been "accepted by the various committees involved." Deputy Reeve Howard Keech said he liked the name and considered it "suitable to name it (the park) after a bird or tree." He thought that only in British usage does the word "grouse" have negative connotations.

von Fintel disagreed, pointing out that Canadians also used this word to mean "complain" and said she would "like to see 'grouse' on a short list of names to see what people prefer."

The motion was defeated, with only von Fintel and Councillor Ward supporting it.

A new marina at the DRYTC

"Beautiful facility" is officially opened

NRT, July 10, 1985

Federal MP Len Hopkins called the new Deep River Marina a "beautiful facility" as he officially opened the project. Hopkins and many other dignitaries were on hand at the Deep River Yacht and Tennis Club July 1 to see the end result of many years of work.

Starting at noon, the public was invited to tour the slips and boats moored alongside. Sailors were invited to decorate their boats for Canada Day and masts were ablaze with balloons, Canada flags and streamers. As the Lanark and Renfrew Pipe Band gathered for the formal ceremony, wind surfers provided a perfect backdrop at the entrance to the marina, resplendent in sails of every rainbow hue imaginable.

Chairman of the event, Wayne Pettipas, introduced Hopkins who joked that this was "the first harbour ever built in the ice age" - referring to all the work done in the dead of winter.

One of the driving forces behind the marina, the chairman of the development committee, Al Lane, gave the crowd a short history of the

marina's "happening".

He noted that Hopkins and MPP Sean Conway were two of the key people behind the project. He also noted the support of Mayor Lyall Smith, council, as well as federal and provincial ministries.

Lane noted that a number of studies regarding the waterfront were done as far back as 25 years ago, but the most recent one was just two and a half years ago.

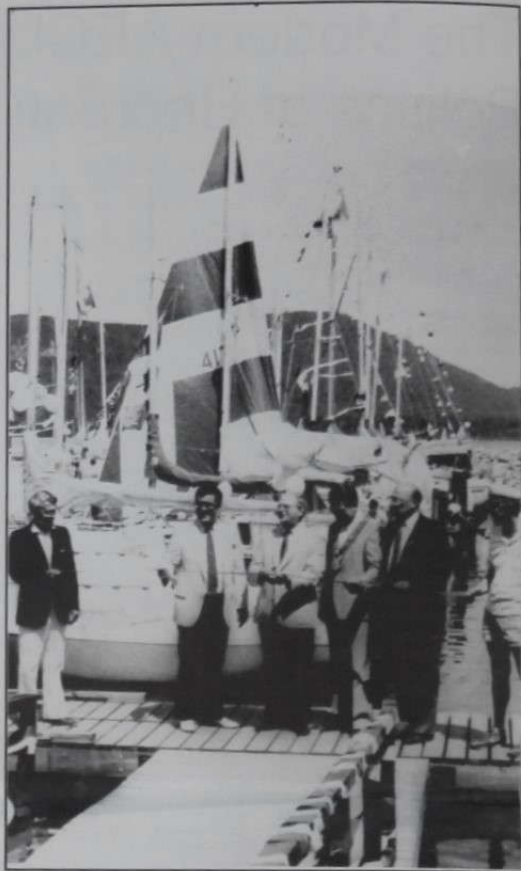
A formal application was filed by the town in October '83 for the marina facility. Over \$200,000 in grants was received.

There were also key discussions with the Ministry of Natural Resources on a proposed waterfront park.

The project was approved by the new government in '84 and harbour construction was started. In the winter of '84 construction continued and the marina was operational on June 20 of this year.

Before finishing his presentation, Lane acknowledged the hard work and dedication of Shel Gibson who designed the docks, supervised construction, hired staff, installed piles, docks and approaches and interacted with all the contractors. "He had taken nine months out of his life to work on the marina," noted Lane.

Other recognized were: Gavin Nicholson, who designed and fabricated special tools for the project, and welded numerous "specialty items," and was instrumental in constructing a pile driver and provided invaluable consults on the project; Bernie Houle, who loaned tools and equipment, provided consultation and liaison with contractors and constructed and painted signs, contributed to the construction of the approach ramps and provided a photographic record of the marina construction; Bill Hunter, who did machining work and custom welding on short notice; Ross Gilbert, who worked on the assembly of the approach ramps and the installation of anchor chain locking plates to the docks; Des Dalrymple, who did machining work to fabricate the eye bolt backing plates and anchor chain locking plates and also painted these fixtures; Wayne Pettipas, who did design work on the docks, the ramps and provided consultation; Art Cracknell, who did carpentry work on the docks and ramps; and Gerry Lynch, who contributed to the early planning of the marina and provided invaluable assistance in presenting cases for grants and sought sources of support for funding.



The making of Bernard Childs Auditorium

Save now or pay later

NRT, September 10, 1969

A week from tonight, Council will make a decision about supporting an enlarged stage and additional seating for the auditorium at Mackenzie High School and it has been learned that the subcommittee set up to study the matter will advise against it.

The request for support came from a body of public-spirited citizens who believe that, with

certain improvements, Mackenzie's new sloping floor auditorium could become a great asset to Deep River. A committee was formed, with Bernard Childs as chairman, to obtain agreement from the Board of Education for alterations in plans, and to approach the Deep River Council for financial support.

It was considered that the town would have essentially a new \$500,000 theatre-cum-lecture hall at a cost of only \$100,000. The committee proposes to launch a fund-raising campaign to obtain \$20,000 in

private donations, leaving \$80,000 to be found by Council. If, as is anticipated, AECL provides its grant in lieu, about \$30,000 will be left to come out of taxpayers' pockets.

It is understood that the council subcommittee is doubtful of the practicality of the proposal because of the close deadline; the contractor is already at work on the gymnasium part of the construction program. There is insufficient time to hold a referendum and obtain approval of the Ontario Municipal Board to float debentures before the end of the year. The only alternative is to put the whole \$30,000 on next year's mill rate, which the subcommittee feels would be too big an increase in one year.

While it would be possible to add the projected stage at a later date, it would cost more, not only by way of escalation of costs, but also because much finished work would have to be torn down and electrical and other services altered.

The Committee feels that considerable private support for the scheme is assured. During the past season, an average

of 205 people attended 56 "performances" which would have benefitted from the improved facilities which the new auditorium could provide. These events ranged from fashion, carnival and variety shows to Science Association lectures and symphony concerts.

The new auditorium might well attract larger audiences, since the Community Centre with its poor visibility, uncomfortable seats, inferior acoustics and barn-like atmosphere could not be expected to appeal to any but the most enthusiastic devotees. The Community Centre stage is too small and many performers have stayed away for this reason. A bigger and better facility would bring new events that could not be accommodated before. It would also encourage local groups to stage more ambitious productions than has been their custom during the last few years.

Without the improved stage it is unlikely that any dramatic productions would be attracted to Mackenzie High School. The existing stage, which would remain as it is, is smaller than the one in the Community Cen-

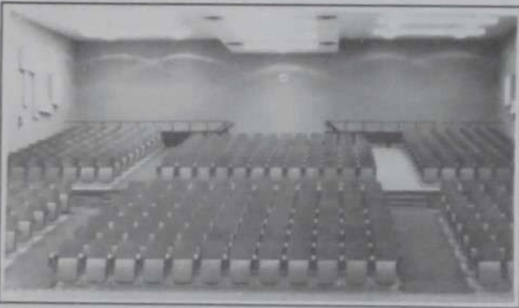
tre, so events there would be restricted to lectures or possibly single musical performances.

Qualified approval for auditorium plans

NRT, September 24, 1969

At their last meeting, Deep River Council gave their unanimous approval to the plans of the Auditorium Committee to upgrade the new sloping floor auditorium in Mackenzie High School by increasing the seating accommodation and providing a reasonable stage.

The new auditorium, named in honour of Bernard Childs, was completed on January 13, 1971.



Deep River Double

NRT, July 13, 1988

Deep River Mayor Lyall Smith received a surprise visit last Friday afternoon from the past mayor of Deep River - Deep River, Connecticut, that is. The mayor's guest, Bob Stalsburg, former first selectman of Deep River, Conn., was part of a contingent headed to Toronto for a conference when they decided to take a detour to see their town's namesakes to the north. Posing for pictures by the Town sign before heading out for a turn on the river in Councillor Wes Stewart's boat were, from left to right: Councillor Stewart and his wife Lucille; Emy Marvin, second selectman of Deep River, Conn., Mayor Lyall Smith; Dr. Alice Duckworth, Superintendent of Schools; and former first selectman Bob Stalsburg and his wife Grace.

The similarities between Deep Rivers Ontario and Connecticut are uncanny. Like our Deep River, Deep River, Conn. is a town of approximately 4,000, located on the shores of the Connecticut River, and is roughly six miles upstream from a nuclear plant. And while Deep River, Conn. is just a little older (founded in 1635 and incorporated in 1816) the name Deep River was only officially adopted in 1947.



EATING ON BURGERS



Congratulations To The Town of Deep River On Your 50th Anniversary



Stanley J. Hunt, MPP
1943-1958



Sean Conway, MPP
1975-



Maurice Hamilton, MPP
1958-1975



During its first fifty years, Deep River has been represented by three members of the Provincial Parliament. Like my predecessors, I've always enjoyed working with the good people of Deep River. On this very happy occasion, I wish Deep River and its citizens all the best for a very successful future.

Sean



TO YOU, AS A NEW RESIDENT OF DEEP RIVER

We hope that the following information will be of use in answering some of your questions. The list has been compiled by the Deep River Women's Club and is presented to you through the courtesy of the staff of the Town Office.

TOWN OFFICE: The Housing Administrator is Mr. T. G. Williams. When placing maintenance and housing service orders by phone, use number 339. For other information call 376.

The National Research Council, which is your landlord, assumes responsibility for repairs due to normal wear and tear. They will also:

- Install one clothesline, including hooks, pulleys and pole, if tenant provides the line.
- Check furnaces and fire extinguishers.
- Cut down dead trees and remove wasps' nests.
- Remove grass clippings weekly in summer.
- Take away leaves and rubbish other than garbage.
- Redecorate tenants' houses every four years.
- Loan, subject to the requirements of the staff, lawn mowers, post hole augers and ladders for removal of storm windows.

Residents of wartime houses who purchase hot water heaters will have them installed free. Electric stoves are installed for \$1.50.

Certain other items which do not come under the scope of general maintenance, may be done on a repayment basis. For example storm windows will be removed and windows washed, glass will be cut to specification if you wish to repair your own broken windows.

POST OFFICE: Lobby open 9:00 am. to 8:00pm. Mon-Sat
Wickets open 10:00am to 6:00 pm Mon-Fri
Incoming mail from East and West arrives at 8:30 A.M. and again from the East at 1:30 P.M.

Outgoing mail for Ottawa and points East leaves daily at 12:30 P.M., and for both East and West at 5:30 P.M. on Weekdays and 2:30 P.M. on Saturdays. Airmail for points West is sent via Ottawa with the morning mail. Because of one street delivery per day, letters for such Eastern points as Toronto and Montreal arrive a day sooner if mailed in the morning.

Post Office boxes may be rented for \$2.00 per year, plus a 35cent deposit for each key.

TRANSPORTATION: Colonial Coach - Tickets and information are available at the Coffee Shop (telephone 777). Coffee Shop is located in the Community Centre building.

The National Research Council provides Shopping buses to Pembroke for 25 cents round trip. There are buses Thursday at 9:30 A.M. and Saturday at 8:30 A.M., and 1:00 P.M. Tickets and information are available at the Town Office. (telephone 376).

Buses to the C.P.R. Station at Chalk River are arranged by the Administration Branch.

Before midnight all trains are met. After midnight, buses only meet trains from the East and Train No. 2 from the West except on request, or on advance notice of passengers arrival. When service is required, call Deep River 700.

HOSPITAL: Medical and dental appointments may be made at the Townsite Hospital (phone 333). There are three doctors available, and two dentists.

FIRE: There are firemen on duty at all times. Please note your nearest fire alarm box. The telephone number is 444. No fires are allowed within the town limits. Permits to light fires on the beach may be obtained from the Fire Station and permits to land across the river from Major Hammond at the Town Office or from this Staff Hotel desk.

Please advise when your fire extinguisher is used.

MILK: The Chalk River Dairy delivers milk daily, including Sunday, and the Pleasant View dairy of Pembroke delivers daily, including Sunday, during the summer months only. Milk is 18 cents per quart.

ICE: Ice from Pembroke is delivered each Monday and Friday morning. Ice cards may be obtained from the Town Office.

COAL AND WOOD: orders in town are handled by F.P. Shea. Orders may be placed by telephoning 430 or contacting Mrs. Harrison at the Town Office. Fuel oil is supplied by Imperial Oil. To contact the company it is necessary to call the office in Pembroke, or see the driver when he is in Deep River.

from the Deep River Digest November 1951

The Community Centre - an exercise in nostalgia

NRT, April 20, 1977

by Lorna Bourns

Less than a shell remains of the place that was once the hub of Deep River life. Even the ghosts that haunted the empty stage of the Community Centre now have no place to re-enact their former days of glory.

Long time residents of Deep River remember when AECL erected the building in the 1940s to give the newly-gathered atomic energy workers a centre for their sports and social activities.

In it they placed the offices of the Community Association which the company helped establish as an umbrella group for the more than 70 clubs which were born there. For many years the centre and the association flourished under the guidance of the company's recreation director, Jac Cropley, and various assistants.

The building became more

built the projection room was taken over by the Ceramics Club.

The photography club, which met in the Assembly Hall, also had a dark room tucked away in a space by the back door. For many years the library had space in the Centre too, just underneath the Assembly Hall. It was not always easy to maintain the scholastic hush desired by the librarians as the ballet children practised their jumps or the young tap dancers clattered on the floor above. When the new library was established a youth club took over the room briefly, painting the area black, with fluorescent accents.

Space was even found under the building for a rifle range.

Why did it die? In the mid-60s AECL announced that it no longer wished to be in the recreation business and offered the facility "as is" to the town. But council refused to bear the expense of the building with its astronomical heating bills.

Many people fought the de-

when it goes, space must be found for the remaining tenants.

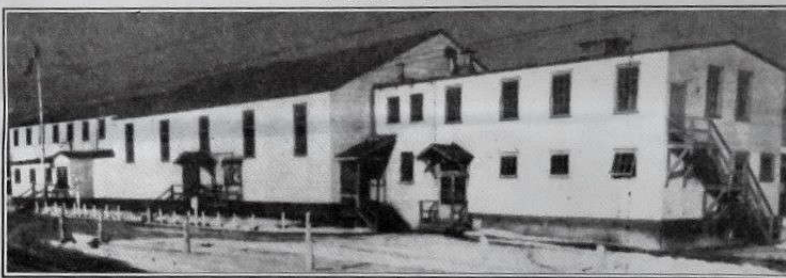
Then the town will face another controversy. What will rise in place of the old Community Centre? Indeed, should anything rise there?

AECL sells property: Community centre transferred

NRT, December 23, 1981

Atomic Energy of Canada Limited has sold to the town of Deep River the Community Centre and the lot it is located on for the minimal fee of \$1 on the condition that both building and land be used only for "recreational, charitable, instructional and other such community-oriented purposes."

If this restriction, which is



The Community Centre at Nobel before it was moved to Deep River in 1945

than just a social and sports centre. Soon the Anglicans and the newly-formed Community Church began meeting in the upstairs Assembly Hall on Sundays. On weekdays the Women's Club (now defunct) met to bring many comforts to the town, including the Nursery School which also met mornings in the Community Centre.

The auditorium, with its beautiful double hardwood floor, blossomed forth for New Year's dances, Spring Flings and Fall Balls, Halloween parties for the kids, as well as sports like basketball, volleyball, badminton and floor hockey.

The schools used the auditorium-gymnasium, as did the dance clubs for recitals and the Choral Group, Drama Club and IMA for their presentations. Square dancers met there, and the polls for the elections were there too.

Early residents can also remember vividly the hard seats of the early 50s when it was our only motion picture palace. When the Strand Theatre was

mised of the Community Centre, feeling that it still had a place in the life of the town. The Community Association helped lead the fight against the closing of the facility until 1973, when it became obvious that closure - at least of the lower part of the building - was inevitable.

The provision of a sloping floor auditorium in the high school gave a new show place to the arts. The schools made many facilities and meeting rooms available to the public. As the population grew many clubs decided to strike out and build their own clubhouses.

Now only the upper part of the building remains, with its bowling alley, relocated Ceramics Club and Whistle Stop. Gone are the coffee shop, the North Renfrew Family Services Bureau, the CA offices and the North Renfrew Times (born at the centre as "The Deep River Digest" to provide clubs with a notice board) for their varied activities.

Whither Now? Speculation is heard about the fate of the remainder of the building. If and

binding for 50 years, is not adhered to, the town must sell the property back to AECL for \$1.

Council tried unsuccessfully to have the period shortened to 25 years.

Councillor Dan Pickard said he was "disappointed that AECL would dig their heels in" over the 50 years. Many things could change in 50 years, Pickard argued and "this town, a mature town, can handle its own affairs." The company "obviously wants to butt out of recreation, but keep its teeth in."

Deputy-Reeve Howard Keech agreed that "a covenant of 25 years would be enough," pointing out how much Deep River has changed in the last 25 years, since 1957.

However, Mayor Bill Seddon said he wouldn't mind if the restrictions were binding for 100 years, as long as this "prime piece of recreational property is available for the whole town to enjoy."

The by-law approving the transfer was passed with one dissenting vote by Councillor Murray McManus.

The New Town Hall

Mayor calls meeting to look at town hall designs

NRT January 18, 1989

Mayor Lyall Smith has called a special public meeting to be held January 30 at Childs' Auditorium to present potential designs for a new town hall.

"I hope it's something people will be excited about and get involved in," the Mayor said. "We've really never done it before."

Last fall, Council hired Pembroke architects to prepare "conceptual design drawings" for a proposed downtown core re-development. Council has since met with the architects several times in private to review the plans, and is now interested in hearing comment from the public, the Mayor said. The drawings include both combined municipal-commercial buildings and a "stand-alone" town hall.

"the place is rotting out from under us," the ceiling of the main office under the Council Chambers sprung a new leak last Thursday in the warm weather.

Mayor Smith said the recent news that the Town's grants from the province, and possibly AECL, would be frozen has given Council cause for concern as far as financing a new building goes, but that it hopefully would not stop the project.

"Every time we've looked at this thing in the last 20 years, there's been cause for concern. One of these days we're going to have to do something."

Deep River acquired its current municipal hall from Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. in the late 1950's upon incorporation. AECL had also used the building for general village adminis-

tration since it was built in 1945.

As if to illustrate the Mayor's statement from last spring that "the place is rotting out from under us," the ceiling of the main office under the Council Chambers sprung a new leak last Thursday in the warm weather. Town staff set up an umbrella to protect one of the office computers.

Decision

NRT April 26, 1989

Last Wednesday night, Deep River Council unanimously passed a resolution calling for the Town to build a new, stand-alone town hall "of an attractive but modest design" on the existing downtown site. The resolution also says the building should be completed "as soon as feasibly possible."

Council's committees will look at financing and planning the new building

20 years later - a new town hall?

NRT February 28, 1990

With Council's final vote on the new town hall scheduled for next week (March '91), Deep River is close to seeing the culmination of an issue that has dragged on for close to 20 years.

A new municipal building has been somewhere on Deep River Council's agenda since the early 1970s. During that time Council has voted four times in principle to build new municipal offices and a new building has been the subject of four major studies.

The building that housed the municipal offices was built in 1945 by Atomic Energy of Canada which used it for general town administration. The municipality took over the building in the 1950's when the Town of Deep River was incorporated.

By the early 70's, it was clear the municipal offices were inadequate. In 1972, the Town formed a Joint Plan-

ning Committee to formulate recommendations and determine the future need for municipal administration facilities as well as educational and recreational facilities.

The committee report also suggested there was a "strong case" for a multi-purpose, municipal, recreational and educational complex to meet the Town's future needs, and suggested the Community Centre-Cockcroft site was the best location for this type of development.

Council followed this up in January 1974 with a Joint Planning Committee Recommendations Study Committee to look at the report's priorities. That committee recommended again that the municipal building was the first priority. Mayor Norm Pearce obviously agreed when he told Council in his New Year's address that its "most important and urgent business" for the year would be the replacement of the municipal building.

Some members of Council did not agree that the Community Centre site was the best location. In July, Councillor Pat Griffiths gave notice that she intended to put forth a motion that Council "approve in principle the construction of a new municipal building on the present site and a firehall on Highway 17." She wanted to begin building in 1976 or 1977 when the Town would be finished paying its share of the new hospital.

But the debate over the site continued and at one point Mayor Pearce threatened to resign when a number of councillors disapproved of his request to discuss the Recommendations Committee's report and possible sites in Committee of the Whole. Pearce narrowly won, the discussions were held in camera, and he didn't resign.

Finally in October, approval in principle was given to build a new building, but all the motion said about site was that "consideration" would be given to the present site.

By 1975, the focus for Council had shifted to the need for overall downtown revitalization and planning. A consultant was hired to prepare a study of the downtown area, and to address the issue of the location for the municipal offices.

The consultants, Haigis, McNabb and DeLeuw, Ltd., looked at a number of sites, including the present site, the Community Centre site, the old hospital site, a site on Champlain adjacent to what was then a service station



and theatre, as well as the old steam plant site bounded by Poplar and Deep River Road.

The consultants concluded in a 1976 report that the Community Centre site was the best location for any municipal building. That recommendation, however, was only narrowly endorsed 5-4 by the new Council with Mayor Allan Valiquette and Reeve Bill Seddon both supporting the Community Centre site.

The location of the municipal building was once again the focus of some debate during the revision of the town's Official Plan in 1978-79.

Top Priority

By 1980 Bill Seddon was now Mayor, and like Norm Pearce six years before him, he set planning for a new town hall as top priority. He urged Council to "bite the bullet" and make a decision.

"The issue of site has been debated at length by previous councils," he said, and recommended Council opt for a new building on the present site. "Downtown is an eyesore and it's high time we did something about it — let's get on with it."

Council agreed, at least in principle, and in April 1980, approved by a 7-1 vote to construct a municipal complex on the present site.

Cockcroft sale

The new municipal building crept back onto the agenda when Cockcroft School came up for sale in 1987.

A special committee that looked at the feasibility of acquiring the school for municipal purposes found it would not meet all the requirements for a new town hall as it could not accommodate a fire hall. They estimated it would cost about \$1.5 million to purchase and renovate the school and purchase other premises for the police and fire departments. Agreeing with the Committee's belief that Cockcroft was not a "superior alternative to new facilities," Council decided not to pursue purchasing the school.

Since then, with the issue of site apparently settled once again, progress on a new town hall has moved ahead steadily, if not always smoothly.

In April 1989, after finally deciding to build only a municipal building and not a combined municipal-retail complex, Council unanimously passed a resolution that called for the town to build a new, stand-alone town hall "of an attractive but modest design" on the existing site.

The plans for that "attractive but modest" \$1.9 million building were unveiled this month.



W.B. Lewis Public Library

New home a culmination of history



Interior of the old library.

New Library At Top Of Town's Wish List

March 9, 1994

by Tim Ruhnke

A new public library tops the list of things the Town of Deep River is applying for under the Canada-Ontario infrastructure program.

Town council announced Wednesday it would be seeking funds for a new library, fire pumper, natural gas conversion at the community pool and renovations to the arena chanceroom wing, in that order of priority.

But town officials stressed there are no done deals involving any of the four projects identified by council.

"This is not an announcement, it is an application," said Mayor Lyall Smith.

Preliminary estimates indicate the town is allotting \$500,000 for the new library, \$200,000 for the fire pumper, \$100,000 for arena improvements and \$67,000 for natural gas conversion at the pool.

Deep River's allotment in the infrastructure program is more than \$850,000. One-third of that total, about \$286,000 would come from the town.

"It is very doable with a minimum impact on the budget," said Councillor Denise Walker.

Municipalities can distribute their share of infrastructure project costs over four budget years.

New building needed

The library board had been studying what to do with the building that houses the W.B. Lewis Public Library. The board recently made a commitment to keeping the library at its current location on Alder Crescent, and is in the process of dealing with numerous deficiencies to the building that dates back to the

mid-1940s.

Councillor Ian Towner, a library board member, said the board is ecstatic over the town's move to make a new library a top priority.

"The advent of the infrastructure program suddenly gives us an opportunity," said Towner.

An ad hoc library building committee reported there are many arguments for building a new library given the physical limitations of the existing facility.

"You would get better value for the money with a new building," commented Towner.

He also noted that statistics show existing floor space is just over half the space suggested to house the collection of books and other materials belonging to the Deep River library.

"The shelving is absolutely full...we can't display materials effectively," stated Towner.

If the town is able to go ahead with plans for a new library, a key issue will be its location.

Towner reiterated the board's position that the current site is the best.

The councillor suggested the only other site that might warrant serious consideration is Hill House. But Towner said the disadvantage to that idea is the Ridge Road property is not a central location, merits to that section of the arena.

Council has until the end of September to specify project details and apply for infrastructure program funding.

Library Won't Be Moved

April 13, 1994

by Tim Ruhnke

The vote was not even close.

Deep River's public library will be torn down and replaced by a new building at that site, town council decided last Wednesday.

Council voted 8-0 in favour of keeping the library at the intersection of Alder Crescent and Ridge Road.

"It's imperative we hear... what the people are saying," Mayor Lyall Smith said.

Public opposition to locating a new library between the Community Centre and Champlain House was a prime factor cited by several members of council who spoke on the issue.

"It would be absolutely fantastic to have a building there... but I'm hearing loud and clear to keep it open space," Edwards said.

Edwards had earlier said she was in favour of a library at that location. Three other councillors had said they were undecided, although they suspected they might vote to build a new library at the existing site.

The land between Champlain House and the Community Centre is actually zoned for community facility use. The town's revised official plan states that particular stretch of Alder be maintained as a vista.

Councillor Ian Towner, a member of the library board, said the overriding factor in his mind was that putting a new library there would conflict with the official plan.

Retaining the view of the Ottawa River near the Community Centre was a main concern expressed by the public,

including many respondents to a *North Renfrew Times* poll on the library site issue.

But Councillor Denise Walker argued that "the vista is an imaginary vista" because it is obstructed by such things as the long term care centre. She said people gave her a different message as to why they wanted the library to stay put.

"It's not the view. It's their memories of the things they do as a community on that site."

While admitting she liked the idea of building a new library beside the Community Centre on pure planning grounds, Walker said the public would eventually accept and appreciate the new location.

Walker went on to say that a lot of people would have transferred their hostility to the new library if it were built on what is

perceived as open space.

Councillor John Murphy was one of several council members who voiced concerns about what to do with the old library building, a structure dating back to the 1940s.

"I'm not in favour of keeping another old building in town," Murphy said.

He also told council that Doug Cameron's class from Keys School had been following the library site issue and sent in letters offering their opinion. Murphy estimated that of the letters



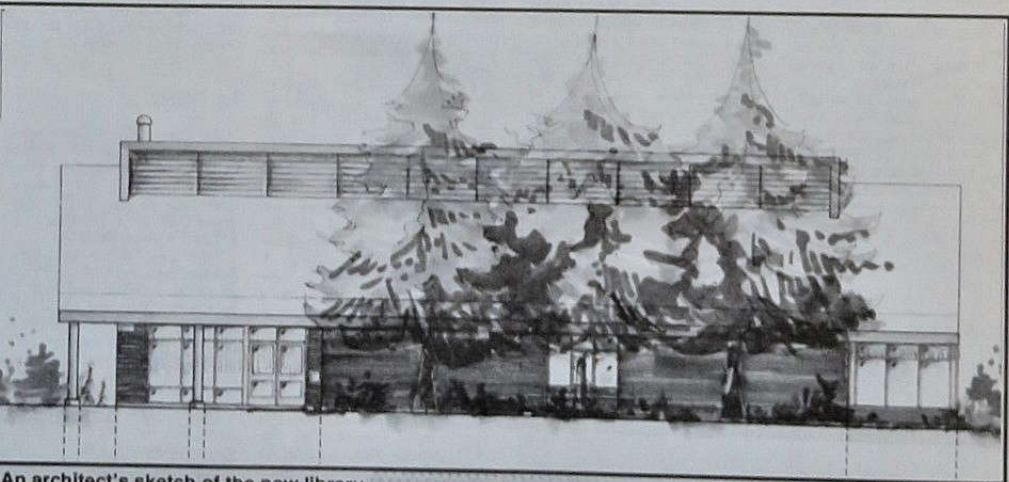
Demolition of the old library, Sept. 1994.

he had read, the majority supported keeping the library where it is.

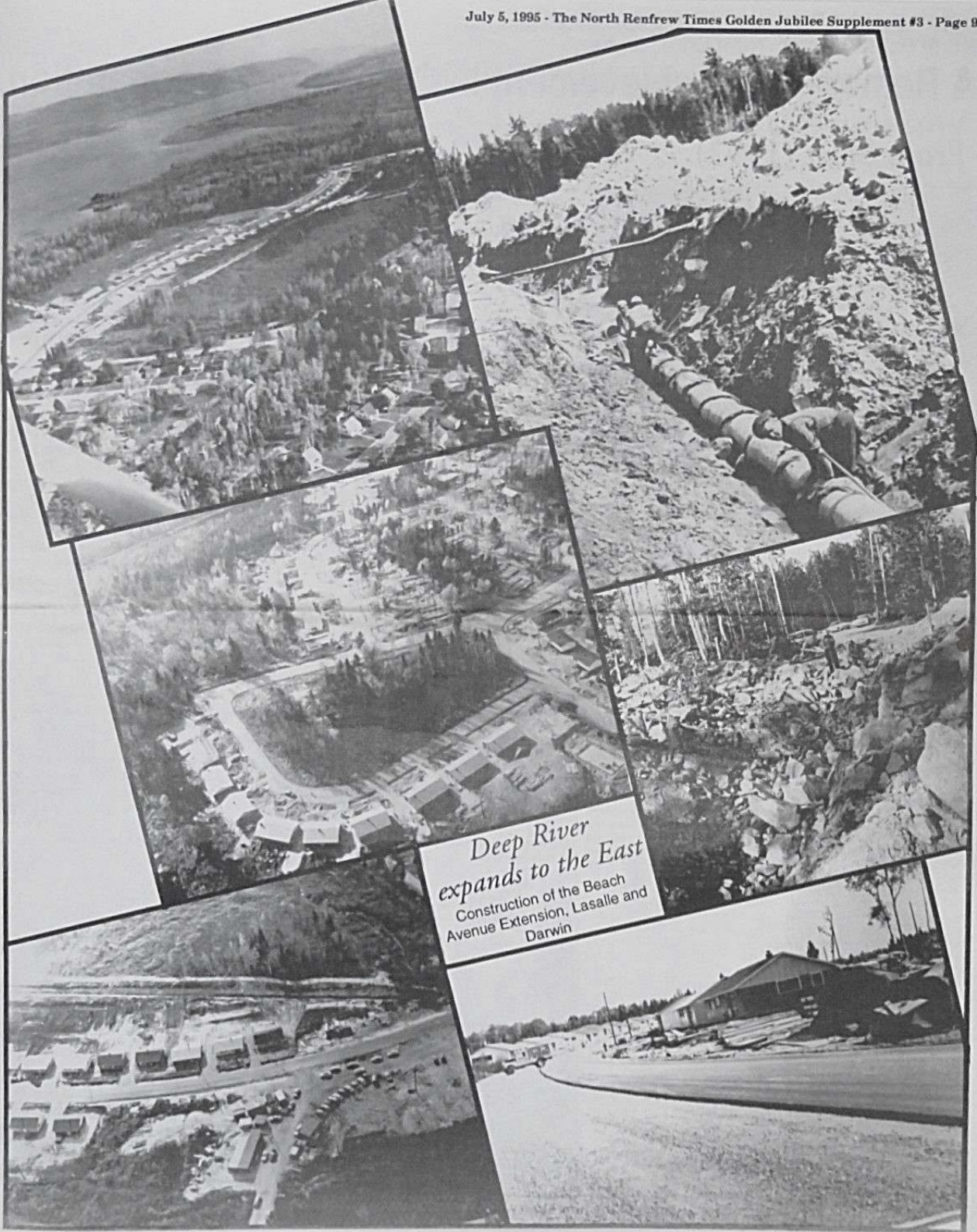
"To me, that is significant," said Murphy.

Library board chairperson Allan Symons said he was impressed by council's reasoning, adding the board recognized from the beginning that council had the last word.

Deep River council has hired Greer Galloway to complete engineering design work on the new library. The Pembroke firm provided the town with the lowest of four bids received.



An architect's sketch of the new library.



*Deep River
expands to the East*
Construction of the Beach
Avenue Extension, Lasalle and
Darwin

North Renfrew Long Term Care Centre:

A Remarkable Achievement In Community Cooperation

From Start (1992)...



Sod turning at the Long Term Care Centre site, Canada Day, 1992

County OKs plan for seniors home in Deep River

September 7, 1990

by Miriam Barry

Renfrew County Council has endorsed a proposal to establish a new "Community Residential Alternative" home for seniors in Deep River.

The proposal was developed by the North Renfrew Long Term Care Planning Committee and presented for consideration by the Welfare and Homes for the Aged Committee of County Council.

The proposal calls for construction of a new facility in two phases. Phase one would include a building with the amenity services for a potential 30 beds and 10 "Community Residential Alternative" spaces.

Phase two will be the addition of 20 extended care beds (including two respite care beds) which the County has decided will be transferred from Miramichi Lodge as soon as possible with the Bonnechere Manor rebuilding and the Miramichi restructuring program.

Outreach programs of day care for the frail elderly and respite care on a short-term basis are also part of the plan for providing a continuum of care for seniors.

The committee developing the report represented both the people living in the area and seniors' care agencies.

The proposal now goes to the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services for approval before funding is available. It will also be presented to the councils of the four area municipalities in north Renfrew and

area institutions and agencies. Letters of support from these groups will make a stronger submission to the Ministry, said Aikens.

Today, the Long Term Care Planning Committee is asking for submissions from non-profit and/or charitable organizations that would be interested in managing the residential project. When making the selection of managing agency, it will look at the applicant's philosophy of care for seniors and experience in the field.

The new residence will likely be located in downtown Deep River, close to shopping, churches, and recreational activities. This was the preference of seniors who were surveyed for the committee.

A community survey of seniors in North Renfrew was carried out in July 1990. Of the 217 contacted, 25 seniors will require the services of a Home for the Aged within two years, 15 others will require a community residential alternative within two years and 152 others will require a combination of continuum care services in beyond two years. These were seniors of both sexes between 55 and 93 years of age.

At the present time, the Ministry of Community and Social Services would provide up to 80% of the estimated capital cost of \$3.2 million for the development. The rest would have to come from community fundraising.

Town offers to buy land for seniors facility

August 14, 1991

by Tim Ruhnke

The Town of Deep River has made an offer to purchase a block of downtown land chosen

as the site for a proposed seniors' facility.

The land in question includes the area between Champlain House and the library, as well as the area behind Champlain House.

Deep River Council voted last Wednesday to proceed with the purchase offer. Atomic Energy of Canada Limited presently owns the land.

The provincial government gave the area approval in principle last April to build a Community Residential Alternative facility for seniors. The North Renfrew Health and Social Planning Committee was selected to act as the management organization for the project.

Councillor Ann Aikens, who is chairperson of the Long Term Care Sub-Committee says the site was identified last fall as being one of three that would be suitable.

Aikens declined to say how much the town had offered to pay for the land. But she says the town is acting as the agent for the committee, and because municipalities can offer to buy crown land before tenders are called, it was decided the town should proceed with the offer.

The seniors' facility, which will serve all of North Renfrew, will be designed to provide a full range of residential options as well as programs and services to help seniors remain in this community. There will eventually be 10 community residential alternative (small self-contained living quarters) and 20 extended care beds as well as respite care and a day program for seniors.

Although provincial funding for the facility has been approved, community fundraising is under way to raise about \$750,000, which would cover the municipalities' 20 percent

share of the cost of building the facility.

Community joins residents in celebrating opening of new centre

July 6, 1994

by Kathy Hughes

People from North Renfrew and local politicians joined residents of the new long term care centre to mark its official opening last Friday.

Everyone got the chance to get a piece of the ribbon two hours to the day after the community joined in to help turn the sod so construction could begin.

Residents have been living in the centre since early spring, but last week's ceremony gave everyone a chance to celebrate what many at the ceremony called "a remarkable achievement" and an example of cooperation.

In a letter, Minister of Housing Evelyn Gigantes said the centre was a good demonstration of partnerships among organizations and different levels of government.

This type of achievement in rural areas is not easy and this is an example for other municipalities," she said.

Deep River Mayor Lyall Smith said the centre was the product of a "vision" held by many people.

"It was a long time coming and many have dreamed of having the centre here."

Smith also paid tribute to Ann Aikens, the driving force behind the centre.

"Every project truly needs a champion," said Smith.

Head, Clara and Maria Reeve Lita Therrien expressed her thoughts on how important the centre was to the area by allowing some of its residents to come

back to the area to live.

"When the residents came home, it became just that — a home."

She said she has made many visits to the centre and said smiles on the centre a feeling of warmth which rubs off on residents.

Rolph, Buchanan, Wylie and McKay Reeve Jim Hickey called the centre the "realization of a dream," while Chalk River Councillor Pearl Osborne said it was nice to have the area's residents back home.

Two of the centre's residents spoke about the centre and what it means to them.

Edytha Beamish, who lives in one of the supportive care apartments with her husband Les, said she knew how they felt about the centre, but decided to have a meeting with others living in the apartments to get their feelings.

"I asked if they were happy to be here and they all said yes."

Beamish also paid tribute to the staff, saying they "will do anything for you and always with a smile."

Tom Bruce, one of the extended care residents, also said how happy he was to be in the new centre.

"It has allowed me to stay in Deep River near my family."

MP Len Hopkins, MPP Sean Conway, architect Lesley Watson, Albert Linus of the provincial long term care branch as well as representatives from the North Renfrew Health and Social Planning Committee were also at the official opening.

... To Finish in 1994



Seniors at the centre's opening two years later, Canada Day, 1994.

The Saga of the Yacht Club and the Federal Pier

NRT, June 2, 1965

In the winter of 1946-47, a building on the river bank below Cockcroft School was made available for the use of townspeople interested in building their own boats. This was the nucleus of the present Yacht and Tennis Club.

In the summer of 1947 members renovated the building to serve as a clubhouse. A pier was constructed of wooden cribs filled with stone and topped with decking, but this never proved satisfactory as a launching site for not only was the water too shallow but in the winter, the ice toppled the cribs in spite of various attempts to anchor them. Members of the power squadron had to moor their boats quite a way out and go back and forth by dinghy, while the Y-flyers were launched off the pump-house point.

In a letter to AECL in 1953, the Yacht Club requested a suitable site for a pier together with an adjoining site for a new clubhouse in the vicinity

of the old ice houses which stood on the site of the present Yacht Club parking lot. Later that year when excavations were being made for NRU, arrangements were made with the contractors to transport blasted rock and fill and deposit it on the pier site as the beginning of a causeway. When the NRU intake was completed the club arranged to obtain the surplus steel pilings. A group of members surveyed the river bed in the winter of 1954. Then club members in power cruisers towed the Foundation Company's pile-driving barge upstream from the plant and anchored it off the end of the pier and the pier crib was quickly completed.

AECL now decided that the pier was to be made available to the town and not reserved exclusively for the use of the Yacht Club.

At the same time, the Yacht and Tennis clubs amalgamated. The tennis courts had been situated where the Champlain shopping area now stands, and three new

courts were put down by AECL in the present position near the clubhouse.

By the summer, 1955 the clubhouse had been completed and the Hexagon was added mostly by volunteers.

In the summer of 1957, the Yacht and Tennis Club was

asked to remove the original clubhouse below Cockcroft School to allow the road to be straightened. As Juniors were by this time becoming active in the club and it was thought they would welcome a place of their own, a body of volunteers raised the building with jacks, beams and logs, rented a bulldozer, put the building on rollers and with "slaves" darting about keeping the rollers in place, slowly towed it around the back of the tennis courts and into its present

position where it served as a clubhouse for young members.

High summer water levels meant that the causeway was often underwater when most needed. In 1958, the Improvement District added gravel topping to raise the level by nearly 3 feet.

Around 1960, the club spent some money dredging on the downriver side of the pier in order to improve launching and to provide a suitable anchorage for the rescue boat "Weesee".

In 1964, a federal proposal to enlarge the pier and put in a launching ramp and access road came before Council.

The Yacht and Tennis Club became concerned about limitations for future expansion of club facilities if a public access road were to be built adjacent to the clubhouse.

NRT, July 28, 1965

Councillor James Baird, chairman of the lands, parks and recreation committee, reported on the federal pier project.

The federal pier committee recommended the transfer of land from AECL to the municipality to provide for an access road and parking accommodation for the launching facility, at the site of the present municipal pier.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TOWN OF DEEP RIVER on the occasion of this historical landmark in the community's history

Dear Friends of Deep River:

Deep River: Long Time Friend of the Hopkins

The Town of Deep River and its many residents over the years have been long time friends of the Hopkins family and indeed this friendship dates back beyond the origin of our family.

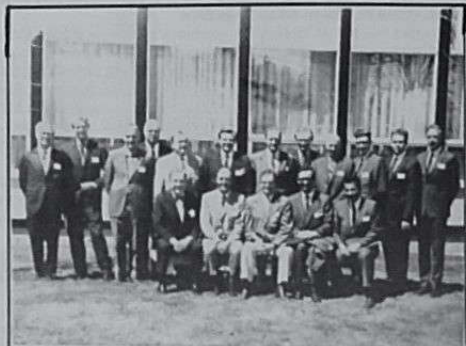
Lois (nee: Gust) taught school in Cockcroft School from 1947 to 1952. That was the only school in existence in Deep River. There were six teachers on staff.

My personal direct association with people in Deep River started about 1955. I recall the Town as being young and vibrant and filled with expectations. There was a great pride in community life. When Lois and I meet some of the old stalwarts in the Town today our memories go back to our courting days and the people whom we knew so well.

The Town of Deep River has been very kind (and forgiving) over many years and we appreciate the generous feelings that have been extended to us and which in turn have been extended to the members of our family. For us, the celebration of Deep River's 50th Anniversary brings back wonderful memories and we feel a very close part of it along with you, the residents of the Town. Your community has sent many brilliant and accomplished people out into the world to participate in all walks of life and they will be welcomed home with gladness and celebration on this 50th Anniversary. To those who have served in elected office and appointed boards and to the many volunteers and contributors to community life we say, "Thank you." This is a time for young and old to come close together and continue to be a major factor in the success of Deep River in the years to come.

While the Town has been home to many outstanding, hardworking people, there is one point in the political history of our country that comes to my mind. The Honorable Lester B. Pearson chose Deep River for his final campaign visit of the now famous 1958 federal election campaign. Old timers remember him sitting on a table on the platform with his legs dangling over the side in a very relaxed and serene mood as he talked to and conversed with the audience. He then returned to Ottawa and about two days later witnessed the devastating defeat of his Party at the hands of the Diefenbaker landslide. Lester B. Pearson was Prime Minister when I was elected to Parliament and he often talked to me about how much he enjoyed his visit to the Town of Deep River. He had found the conversation very stimulating and his spirits had been lifted.

We have worked on many items together in the Town of Deep River and many accomplishments here are in place today as proof of those days of working together. Lois and I can do none other than congratulate all of you here today and the many great pioneers of your community who are not here today for the wonderful 50 years that you have had as a community. Never lose the intellectual and the rank and file energy that has been the life line of the beautiful Town of Deep River during the first 50 years of success. Now let's get on to the next 50 years with the same energy and dedication to our community.



Yes, there is a real story behind this picture which was taken when Alastair Gillespie, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources visited the Chalk River Laboratories and the Town of Deep River. It was the time immediately following the collapse of the Petawawa Bridge over the Petawawa River. We had to take a Department of National Defence boat up river from a location in the area of Petawawa Point and disembarked on the military base. From there we traveled by car to CRNL. While on the boat at Petawawa the Honourable Alastair Gillespie took note of the advertising slogan on the back of the dairy truck that was being transported on the same boat. It stated: "Don't cry baby, I'll be back". Alastair turned to me and said, "Len, there is your next campaign slogan". We had a great day at the plant and as you can see there were lots of people involved up front but a lot of people in the plant had also been involved in that day.

Yours very truly,

Len

Leonard D. Hopkins, M.P.
Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke



Dr. W.L. Skelly — Deep River's first doctor thirty years later

NRT, October 22, 1975

Dr. W.L. Skelly originally planned to stay in Deep River three years. But here it is 1975, thirty years later, and Deep River's first doctor is still practicing here.

Thirty years ago, in 1945, he opened his practice in a "War-time Four" house at 2 Glendale. Now, in October 1975, he is situated in an up-to-date clinic attached to the new Deep River and District Hospital.

A 1937 graduate of Toronto University, Dr. Skelly came to this community via Ajax, Ontario, where he was employed by Defence Industries Ltd. (a munitions plant during the war). Dr. Skelly was asked to visit Deep River and perhaps sign on for a three year period. The three years lengthened a bit, and the Skelly family opted to stay.

Dr. Skelly worked at the plant until November 1, 1945 when he moved into his clinic. At this time, patients requiring hospitalization were referred to Pembroke. On May 16, 1946, the first Deep River Hospital was completed. Drs. Park (Medical Director), Hill, Ritchie, Van Wyck, Wheelock and Renton helped Dr. Skelly at that time. Statistics show that during the period from May 15 to August 31, 1946, 3,203 patients were treated; there were 365 accident cases; 78 admissions and 23 babies were born. A dental office was opened in the hospital in August 1946. As the village population grew, several other doctors joined the staff, and another dentist.

On September 4, 1953, the 1,000th baby was born in the hospital — his name, Ian Dishington. His parents were presented with a silver cup and other gifts. By July 1957, 2,000 babies had been born; in April 1965, 4,000, but since then there has been a rapid decline.

In the winter of 1946/47 a wartime house on Alder Crescent was put to use as an isolation ward. For several weeks Miss Marion Dunlop and another nurse were not allowed to leave the building. Groceries were delivered to them, and every couple of days the town office sent a man to chop kindling for them. In March 1947, the hospital announced a home nursing service was available at the rate of 75 cents per half hour.

In January 1955, Deep River was granted full accreditation. At that time less than 40 percent of Canadian hospitals had been so accredited, and this was the only private one to receive the distinction.

In March 1956, a hospital auxiliary was formed to provide volunteer service of various kinds, sponsored by the Deep River Women's Club.

Service extended by the medical staff was often beyond the regular call of duty. One of the nurses recalls a maternity case when the expectant mother got word to the hospital that she needed transportation immediately. Two nurses jumped into the hospital car and took off to pick her up. On the way there, they realized that neither one could drive properly and although they got the car going they did not know how to stop it. They passed the patient's house where she was anxiously waiting outside, but could only wave at her as they went by. Fortunately, she was able to find other transportation and was already settled in the hospital when the nurses returned.

An early resident recalls the time when she required emergency surgery. Her husband was absent on a hunting trip at the time and could not be reached. Two nurses moved into the house and during their off-duty hours looked after the children and the household chores until the husband's return.

An extension to the hospital was begun in 1949 and completed in 1951.



The Deep River and District Hospital

Deep River Hospital history

NRT, June 4, 1958

The Deep River Hospital, situated on Montcalm, is one of the few private hospitals in Ontario. It is probably the only private hospital in Canada which can profess to be a medical centre. In fact very few hospitals anywhere combine hospital and doctors' office services in the one building. The Deep River Hospital is operated by AECL and is part of the Medical Division.

The hospital has been serving this area for the past 12 years and in that period has developed to meet the increasing population. The hospital was opened in 1946 at a time when the new village of Deep River was beginning to rise from a clearing in the forest. With an initial capacity of ten beds, the hospital treated only employees of Defence Industries Limited, now Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, and their dependents.

Although the hospital is licensed under the Private Hospitals Act and is operated for Deep River residents and their families, it now serves a large outside area extending from Petawawa to Bisset Creek and treats patients from Rapides des Joachims on the Quebec side of the Ottawa River.

As Canada's atomic research program grew, so have the hospital services expanded. We have constantly strived to keep pace with modern medicine by improving and enlarging diagnostic and treatment facilities.

In 1953, as a result of continued efforts to raise the standards of care to patients, the hospital was able to claim the singular distinction of being the only private hospital in Canada fully approved by the Joint Commission on Accreditation. A recent survey has confirmed that we still merit this full approval and it means to you, the patient, that the very highest standards of hospital care are met in every department, from patient care to hospital maintenance.

With the opening of the new operating room, delivery room, central sterile supply and labor rooms in 1956, the hospital is better equipped than ever before to provide complete care and service. In June 1952, our 1,000th baby was born in the hospital and by August 1957, we recorded our 2,000th birth. As you can see, the obstetrical department has been a very busy place in the past 12 years.

Dr. W.R. Skelly, who is the chief physician, has guided the

hospital's destiny, since it first opened its doors in May 1946. Working with Doctor Skelly are Doctor Lapp, Doctor Goad and Doctor Harrison. We are particularly proud of the fact that we have an all graduate nursing staff, under the direction of Miss Dunlop.

Hospitals are one of the few business which work day and night; 365 days a year trying to put themselves out of business.

First ten years of the Deep River hospital

NRT, December 23, 1970

Ten years of service to Deep River and the surrounding area was completed as the Deep River Hospital celebrates its 10th anniversary. In the spring and summer of 1945, while bulldozers were carving out the townsite, and contractors were erecting homes, the closest hospital service was at Pembroke. Although Defence Industries Limited maintained a seven-bed hospital at the plant for emergency care of its employees, the people of the area remained dependent upon the Pembroke facilities. The townsite boasted a temporary bank, post office, grocery store, a staff hotel (Champlain House) as well as a very few completed houses.

Dr. W.E. Park arrived in the fall of 1945 and assumed his duties as the first director of the Medical Division of the Atomic Energy Project and the first Medical Officer of Health for the district. Under his direction, construction of the Deep River Hospital began. Dr. W.R. Skelly joined the project in October 1945, and he and Mrs. M. Frizell, the first supervisor of nurses, spent October and most of November at the Plant examining employees.

By late November there was a sufficient number of construction workers living in the village to make it necessary to set up a temporary clinic. Accordingly, a medical office was set up in the wartime four at 2 Glendale, which, incidentally, boasted the first lawn in Deep River. The grass looked decidedly out of place at that time, surrounded as it was with sand. A telephone was installed, one of perhaps three or four in the village at that time, and its main purpose was to contact the plant or Pembroke regarding emergency treatment for patients. Some of the earliest patients were German merchant seamen from the Deep

River prisoner-of-war camp.

In December 1945 two cases of diphtheria developed and a wartime-six on Alder Crescent was requisitioned as a temporary isolation hospital for these patients. Miss Marian Dunlop and Miss Margarette Manion, were assigned to the isolation unit. They not only had to perform ordinary nursing duties but had to keep the fire going and even prepare the meals. They must have wondered what they were getting into.

A few more facts about the original doctors' office on Glendale. Miss O. Caselman (Mrs. N. Beam) was one of the original office nurses. Early in December, Miss Caselman was called to the plant to relieve for two or three days. Mrs. Skelly was drafted to do some post-graduate nursing duties in the clinic in the interval. One of the young patients at that time took a story home to his mother, saying that the doctor called his nurse "dear." This must have puzzled and intrigued the mother until the facts came out later.

Eventually the original Deep River Hospital was officially opened on May 16. The building was in the form of a "T" with the main section fronting on Montcalm. This housed the doctors' office, the nursery, and the wards. The middle wing accommodated the operating room and the labour room. Also in the main building were the laboratory, x-ray and a dentist's office. Dr. William Wright was the first dentist in Deep River. About a year later, the late Dr. E. Hansen joined the project, followed soon after by Dr. E. Sinclair. The hospital at that time was only able to accommodate seven infants and 14 adults. There was no kitchen at the hospital — meals were prepared at the staff hotel by Crawley & McCracken and delivered to the hospital in special steam containers. There was no drug store in town. Consequently, the hospital pharmacy was called upon to dispense minor drugs to the general public.

Because it took a little time to get the hospital running efficiently, very few patients were admitted during the first week while the system had a trial run. During construction, all expectant mothers were sent to Pembroke for delivery, but as the official opening of the hospital approached, considerable confusion arose in the minds of these patients, because they did not know whether they would be going to Pembroke or staying in Deep River. Conse-

• continued on page 13

The first 10 years of the Deep River hospital

• continued from page 12

quently, the first Deep River baby arrived on May 18 when Sanford Atkins, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur G. Atkins, was born at home on Alder Crescent. Dr. Skelly and Mrs. Beam were in attendance. The first hospital birth did not occur until May 26, when Gloria Gutzman, daughter of Mrs. M.L. Gutzman of Chalk River, was born. Since then, approximately 1,800 babies have been delivered in the hospital.

In the memory of early resi-

dents, the original hospital had as an outstanding feature - the lack of air conditioning. The hospital was insufferably hot both summer and winter. It was said that in the summer when the thermometers were taken from the patients' mouths, the mercury rose.

The first addition to the original hospital was in September 1949 when the sod was turned for construction of the north wing, which was completed in July 1951. This added about 20 beds to the hospital capacity as well as a very modern kitchen,

formula room, and solarium. As a result of this, it was possible to enlarge the nursery in the old wing so that 10 newborn babies could be accommodated.

The basement of the new wing included air conditioning machinery. In 1953, because of increasing population and consequent demand for medical services, it became necessary to enlarge the business office and build a new south wing to provide space for four doctors' offices and examining rooms. Space in the new wing was also allocated for a library-

conference room, bacteriological laboratory, a second waiting room, and a small room in which certain examinations could be done.

In January 1955, the Deep River Hospital became the only private hospital in Canada fully accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals.

More changes appear to be on the way. The present building is again overcrowded but structural materials have for the most part reached the end

of their useful life and updating would be expensive. A committee has been set up to study the feasibility of becoming a public hospital. If this is indicated and the Ontario Hospital Services Commission approves, the present building will be completely replaced by a new building. In the meantime, congratulations to the Millers on the birth of their son, Peter, number 5,000.

On the way to getting a new hospital

New hospital recommended

NRT, March 17, 1971

There has been much the need for a new hospital in Deep River and a major step in that direction took place last week when Mr. L.R. Haywood, Vice-President of AECL, which owns the present hospital, received the report of an advisory committee set up by the Company's medical director, Dr. C.G. Stewart to consider the management of hospital affairs and possible improvements.

The Committee, chaired by Dr. G.O. Baines, recommends that Deep River should have a new hospital and that the people to be served should be involved in its planning. To this end, members advise that the Committee should now be dis-

solved and a Hospital Corporation set up to plan construction of a new building, secure a site and obtain the necessary funding.

While favouring the regionalization of hospital services, the Committee considers that the people of the area will be better served by replacing the present building with a modern 45-bed hospital with expanded facilities and additional beds for chronic cases, than by closing down and sending all patients to Pembroke or alternatively providing only nursing care and limited diagnostic services in Deep River.

The need for incentives for competent doctors to continue locating here was a factor in the Committee's conclusion. A hospital of the size recommended will require at least five acres which makes the present location unsuitable even if adja-

cent land could be made available.

After reviewing the advantages and disadvantages of immediately converting the existing private hospital to a public hospital, the Committee recommended that the Company continue to operate the hospital until planning is complete and the site obtained, at which time it could be converted to a public hospital in order to facilitate financing from government sources and at the same time to give the Hospital Corporation experience in running a hospital while the new building is under construction.

The report envisages that the new hospital could be built in two and a half years from the time when the Hospital Corporation is set up. The cost is estimated at between one and one and a half million dollars. Approximately two-thirds of this

would come from provincial funds and the remainder would be raised by the Hospital Corporation. Possible sources are Ontario Hydro, participating municipalities, business, public subscriptions and AECL which would be expected to contribute a large fraction.

The report contains much further information and readers are strongly urged to study the full text of which appears elsewhere in this issue of the North Renfrew Times together with the relevant correspondence between the Committee and AECL. Members of the Committee in addition to Dr. Baines were: R.L. Brown, V.C. Courneya, F.D. Goad, J. Mark (secretary), V. McCall, Mrs. C. Oshier, G. Pettigrew, G.D. Powell (writer of the report), W. H. Stevens and F.D. Tierney. Only five of the eleven are connected with the Company.

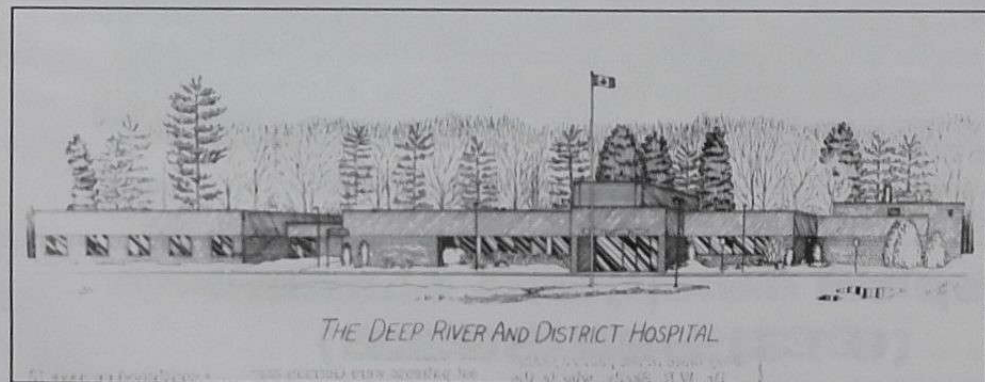
It's official: a new hospital

NRT, January 2, 1974

Dr. G.O. Baines, Chairman of the Deep River and Area Hospital Board, received a welcome telephone call early Wednesday morning, December 19, from the Ontario Ministry of Health announcing that final approval has been given for the financing of a new hospital and for the conversion of the present hospital administration to public status. This will be effective January 1, 1974.

It should be mentioned at this time that all staff presently employed by AECL as hospital staff, and who wish to join the new hospital have been given the opportunity to do so.

It has been a long and arduous task to date, with more hard work in the months to come, but there seems to be no major obstacles now, and Deep River and area will have a new hospital as fast as construction will allow.



The Deep River and District hospital has been operating at its present location on McElligott Drive since its opening on November 3, 1975.

DEEP RIVER and



*Serving Our
Community*

THEN

When it opened in May, 1946, the Deep River Hospital was owned and operated by Atomic Energy of Canada Limited and was located on Montcalm Street. The Hospital was transformed into a public facility in 1971 and incorporated as the Deep River and District Hospital. The Hospital moved to its present site and commenced operations on November 3, 1975. It continues today to be a vital and integral part of the community of North Renfrew.

The first physician in Deep River, Dr. William R. Skelly, opened his practice on October 15, 1945. He became known locally as the "baby doctor" because he delivered so many of the approximately 6800 babies born in the combined hospitals over the past 50 years. Dr. Skelly retired on December 31, 1979.



Deep River has enjoyed the services of over thirty capable physicians over the past five decades. Generally, these physicians offered family practices while taking their turn on the on-call roster in the Hospital's Emergency Department. Many also provided additional services in surgery and obstetrics. Some other names that come to mind include Ernest Renton, Peter Heaton, George Kaye, Fred Lapp, Norval Williamson, Don Robertson, Fred Goad, John Heathcote, Art Wiebe and Austin O'Brien.

Currently, the Hospital's Active Medical Staff consists of Drs. Barbara Bushby, Ned Fahmi, Henry Gasmann, Tom Greenfield, Terry McVey, Elizabeth Noulty and Don Park.

**Hospital Telephone Number
(613) 584-3333**

District Hospital

Over the years thousands of hours have been volunteered by women and men who make up the hospital auxiliary. The first auxiliary was founded in March, 1956. The current Auxiliary was revived in 1974 and Fran Hill was elected President. Over the years, the Auxiliary has been very active in raising funds for the purchase of needed capital equipment and by offering various programs within the Hospital to help with patients. The Auxiliary continues with the same dedication and loyalty as it did almost half a century ago. Their commitment has been greatly appreciated.

Since 1971, Deep River residents and representatives from the four local municipalities have allowed their names to stand as Trustees on the Board of Governors. Terms of office are three years and these individuals contribute many hours at great personal sacrifice in fulfilling their responsibility.

Many dedicated staff members have contributed to excellent patient care during the past fifty years. Although the current Hospital is more than 20 years old, approximately 8% of the staff presently employed were also on the staff of the original hospital.

The Deep River and District Hospital has gone through unprecedented changes in recent years in response to changes in demographics and provincial funding pressures. While it no longer offers planned deliveries of newborns and surgical activities have been curtailed, the Hospital continues to offer a wide array of diagnostic and therapeutic services including laboratory testing, physiotherapy, radiology, ultrasound, electrocardiography, and dietetic counselling. The Hospital maintains a 24-hour emergency service with physicians on-call. This is supplemented by a hospital-based ambulance service. The Hospital's twenty-four acute-care and four chronic-care beds serve more than seven hundred patients each year.

The Deep River and District Hospital remains committed to providing first-rate primary care services to the residents of North Renfrew and visitors to the area.



NOW

Ambulance Telephone Number
(613) 584-2533

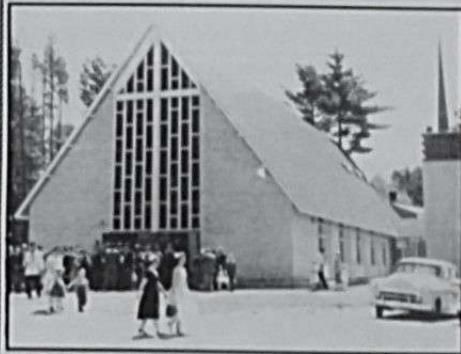
IN THE BEGINNING...

Worship in one form or another has been practised in North Renfrew since the mists of time. Legend tells us that the Indians in the area buried their dead in small caves at Oiseau Rock, and threw their arrows, decorated with tobacco, over the cliff as a sacrifice to the God, Manitou. Later when the French began to settle Lower Canada and to trade with the Indians, they brought Christianity with them. French priests travelled westward up the Ottawa with the voyageurs, stopping for baptisms at Pointe au Baptême, and perhaps to rest and conduct Mass for the voyageurs and Indians on the shore at Deep River. Since those very early days, many churches have been established in Deep River.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Prior to 1898, priests of the Roman Catholic church came from the Pembroke diocese to conduct regular services in private homes for the farmers and lumbermen who had followed the Canadian Pacific Railway westward. But in 1877, a new church, Saint Alexander's, was built at Wylie and in 1898, the new parish of Saint Alexander, was established. For the first 26 years, priests of the new parish travelled by horse in summer and winter to minister to the increasing numbers of settlers, as well as the lumber camps in the area. In 1924 for the first time, the pastor had a car, but winter hardships remained because the car could only be used in summer.

In 1931 Father McElligott came to the parish and served the people by himself during the war. Many changes began in 1944, with the beginning of construction of the plant, the town of Deep River and the dam at Des Joachims. Two priests were brought in to help Father McElligott, but it was increasingly clear that a larger church was needed and in 1950 a building fund was set up to raise money for the new church. Building began in 1953, and the first mass was celebrated in the new church, Our Lady of Good Counsel, on July 11, 1954. Father McElligott continued as pastor for another 5 years, until his death in 1959.



Our Lady of Good Counsel Church

In 1960 a new rectory was built, and in 1992 the new parish centre, next to the church, became available for various church functions and for the community in general. A fitting tribute to the continuity of the church is that the present pastor, Father Bill Kenney, grew up in Deep River and was ordained at Our Lady of Good Counsel church in 1979.

Events at Mackenzie High

Football at Mackenzie High

NRT, September 28, 1960

*Twirl my turban, Man alive!
Here comes Mackenzie
With a super tribe.
Do we love 'em? Well, I mean,
Mackenzie, Mackenzie:
That's our team.*

This sprightly cheer was the essence of the gay atmosphere that prevailed last Friday during the first football games of the season. Vivacious cheerleaders contributed greatly to the afternoon's zeal with twirling pom-poms and screams of encouragement. The final score of the junior exhibition game against Petawawa was a victorious 82-0 for the Mackenzie boys. The senior players proved firm competition for the visiting Pembroke team but were forced to accept a 13-6 defeat.

Valedictorian stresses freedom, independence

NRT, June 10, 1970

In a valedictory address to fellow students and guests at Mackenzie High School's graduation dinner last Saturday, Ted Freman drew attention to the new freedom and independence given to students. He also commented on the preparation for life they have received at school. Some of his comments are printed below:

"We have changed incredibly over the past five years, so has the school and the world. In many ways, the teachers have helped bring about the change in this class whether they choose to accept the fact or not."

"Under this staff, we have been taught a wider range of subjects in a more liberal, less authoritarian manner than any graduating class this school has ever produced. Anyone who disagrees with this statement needs only to stand in the halls during any class change and observe the different modes of dress and behaviour which are permitted."

"The results of this liberal education are obvious. We are probably not the most brilliant class to graduate from Mackenzie and certainly not the most dedicated but we do have one great advantage. We are the most diverse and varied class representing the widest range of occupations this school has ever seen... we range from pre-fessed hippies through future

engineers, lawyers, doctors, technicians, professional writers, musicians, scientists, policemen and I don't know what else. The day when we all thought this school produced only two species, nuclear physicists and failures, is long gone.

"Whether we go to further education, directly into the labour force, or, as some of us are doing, go on pilgrimages to Europe, the effect of this class is going to be the further complication of an incredibly complex world. Elements of what Mr. Cox, one of our history teachers called "the superfluous unnecessary generation" will be spewed out into the world, and although many of us will find acceptance in good conventional positions, some of us won't. These people, just by the way they live, change the way all of us live."

"I'm not sure that society will accept the portion of this class that will think and act in ways alien to the rest of us, but these people with their different lifestyle are just as much the products of our education system and society as those of us who will slide nicely into acceptable and socially constructive positions."

Sadie Hawkins Day

NRT, November 16, 1960

Last Thursday November 10 was declared Sadie Hawkins Day at Mackenzie High School by the Girl's Athletic Society. This is the one dance of the year when the girls do the asking and the paying. Most girls put this opportunity to effective use making the dance very successful.

Included in the admission charge was a "vegetable corsage" to be made by the girl and worn by her date. This produced everything imaginable from "radish clusters" to "carrot tops and green peppers." The corsages were judged, and the one made by Joyce Summach and worn by Eddie Laing proved to be, in the opinion of the judges (chaperones), the best one on display. The door prize which was won by Beverly Stewart was donated by Tierney's Drug Store and points for decorating were donated by the Deep River Hardware.

This was the third high school dance of the year. The keen interest of the students and the excellent organization of the committee heads are responsible for all three successes.



Mackenzie Trekkers shake-down canoe trip. June 1978

Elementary Schools



Wylie Road Schoolhouse, late 19th century.

Two Deep River students go to Canada-wide science fair

NRT, Apr. 8, 1987

Two Deep River students have won expenses paid trips to the Canada-wide science fair as a result of their efforts in the Renfrew County regional fair held in Petawawa at the weekend.

Emily Doubt of Keyes school and Aimee DeAbreau of St. Mary's were selected for their winning project in the junior age category. Doubt won the physical science competition with her entry "eggs", and DeAbreau the life science section with her entry "autumn leaves; what's it all about".

Deep River Home and School Association

D.R. Digest, Feb., 1951

The Deep River Home and School Association held its first regular meeting on Thursday evening, February 8, in the School. Mr. S.L. Beamish, President, was in the chair.

Opening with the singing of "O Canada" by all present, the meeting got under way with a brief talk by Dr. L.G. Elliott. Mr. A.T. Crutcher, Principal of the School, introduced the members of his staff to the audience.

Mr. Beamish introduced one of the speakers for the evening, Dr. R.M. Taylor, Chief of Medical Services at the Atomic Energy Project, and Medical Health Officer for the Deep River School. Dr. Taylor de-

scribed the measures being taken in the Townsite to ensure the good health of all children, and answered many questions put to him by members of the audience.

Mr. Beamish then introduced Dr. L.G. Cook, Chairman of the School Board, who talked about the aims and problems of the Board. Not the least of the latter, he indicated, was the ever-growing populations which would require two new schools to accommodate it, within the next four years.

Following the business part of the meeting, refreshments were served by the Social Conventor, Mrs. A. Atkins and Mrs. H. Smedley.

Since its foundation only a few weeks ago, the Deep River Home and School Association has increased its membership to over eighty members.

Six new rooms for Cockcroft School

NRT, Oct. 31, 1973

After the Ottawa regional office of the Ministry of Education had trimmed the replacement of Cockcroft School to three rooms plus a renovation of the existing library that would have converted it into one more classroom, the Ministry in Toronto has been persuaded to approve building of six completely new classrooms.

The change in the ministry ruling came at the end of a long series of telephone conversations between the Chairman of the Renfrew County Board of Education, Mrs. Jean Beauprie,

and senior ministry officials, including the deputy minister of education.

Mrs. Beauprie told the County Board last Wednesday that it had taken all her persuasion but having "decided that they were never going to get rid of that female in Renfrew County, they finally gave in". The Ministry had initially suggested four classrooms while Mrs. Beauprie asked initially for eight. After the County Board Chairman had lowered her demand to six, the Ministry officials offered a last compromise at five. However, Mrs. Beauprie declined this offer on the basis that she had already yielded two classrooms.

Cockcroft School for sale

NRT, June 24, 1987

The Renfrew County Board of Education voted last week to put Cockcroft Public School up for sale, barely one year after the school closed its doors to students for the last time.

But before any private investors set out to raise the quarter million dollars or more that Cockcroft will sell for, they should know that they won't get to make an offer until the Separate School Board, Algonquin College, the town of Deep River, and the provincial and federal governments all turn it down.

Cockcroft was closed last June as part of the consolidation of elementary schools in Deep River that saw Cockcroft students transferred to Keyes school.

More Churches grow

Faith Lutheran Church

The Lutherans were also present in this area from earliest days. The Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church was established in Chalk River in 1894. Their first church was built in 1900, but unfortunately it burned down in 1908. It was replaced by a log building moved from the lands in Petawawa that had been purchased by the federal government for the military. The log church served them well until Deep River was settled and the congregation began to grow. The members from Deep River decided to form their own church, and in 1962, St. Stephen's Lutheran congregation was formed. Services were originally held in the Deep River Church, while site and building plans for a new church were developing. A church site was purchased on the corner of Ridge Road and Avon, and the building plans went forward. In April 1967, Faith Lutheran Church was dedicated and came in to full use.

With the establishment of the new church in Deep River, the Chalk River church was no longer needed, and in 1965 the hand-hewn logs from the old church were donated to the Ottawa Valley Historical Society for the Champlain Tail Museum in Pembroke.

Calvary Pentecostal Church



A more recent arrival to the Christian community in North Renfrew is the Calvary Pentecostal Church. This church began in Chalk River in 1955. The church and Sunday School were started in the Orange Hall by David Mainse, and when he had to leave, others kept it going. But the congregation wanted to establish their church in a permanent building. Discussions led to the purchase of a property on James Street in Deep River. David Mainse returned as pastor and recruited a volunteer force of men from the congregation and friends from the Pentecostal Tabernacle in Pembroke to help him build the church. By September of 1962, Calvary Pentecostal Church was in full operation and growing. Until 1971 the pastors and their families lived in the basement of the church, but when Rev. David Quigley and his wife arrived that year to take over the parish they purchased their own home, making more room in the church for the Sunday School. The church continues to serve the community under the present pastor, Richard Lott and his wife Joyce.

OTHER BEGINNINGS...

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH

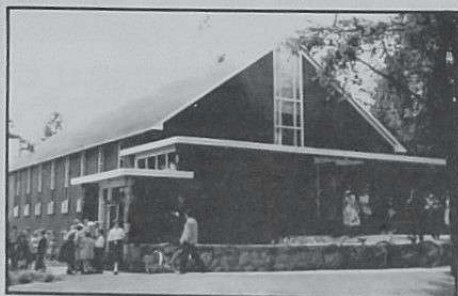
The Anglican church was also established in the area prior to 1944. Both the town site and the plant fell within the Anglican Mission of Petawawa which extended west to Rolphston. However, in 1945 when Deep River was being built, the Mission was vacant because of the war, and so the first services here were conducted by the rector of Pembroke, Rev. C.C. Phillips, in May and June of 1945. That summer, a divinity student, Francis Gooch, came to the Petawawa Mission and had the special assignment of organizing a congregation in Deep River. Mr. Gooch lived in Petawawa and travelled around his mission by bicycle. He must have returned to his studies at Bishop's University well-bitten and extremely fit. Informal services to which all were welcome were held in buildings belonging to Fraser-Brace, the contractor building the town. In September of 1945, Rev. William Wright arrived to take charge of the mission, and three months later, in January, 1946, St. Barnabas' Church was formed, the first vestry meeting held, and a building committee appointed.

DEEP RIVER COMMUNITY CHURCH

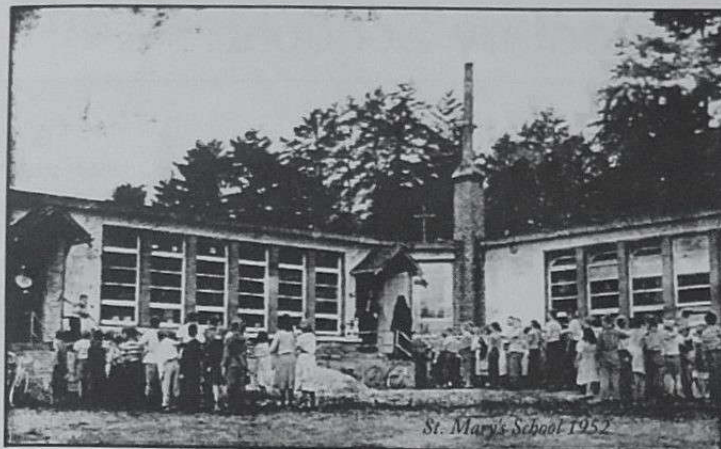
The United Church had also begun to have services in the Fraser-Brace office in the fall of 1945, under the leadership of Rev. P.D. Ross. Early in 1946 a questionnaire was circulated asking Deep River residents what form they wanted their church to take: a church of their own denomination, a community church with a rotation of ministers, or a community church with one minister. There were 288 replies, overwhelmingly in favour of a single church with one minister. So a new multi-denominational church was formed, a Board appointed and Mr. Ross, the United Church minister from Chalk River engaged on a part-time basis. The first service of the new Deep River Community Church was held in Cockcroft Public School on April 7, 1946.

AND THEN...

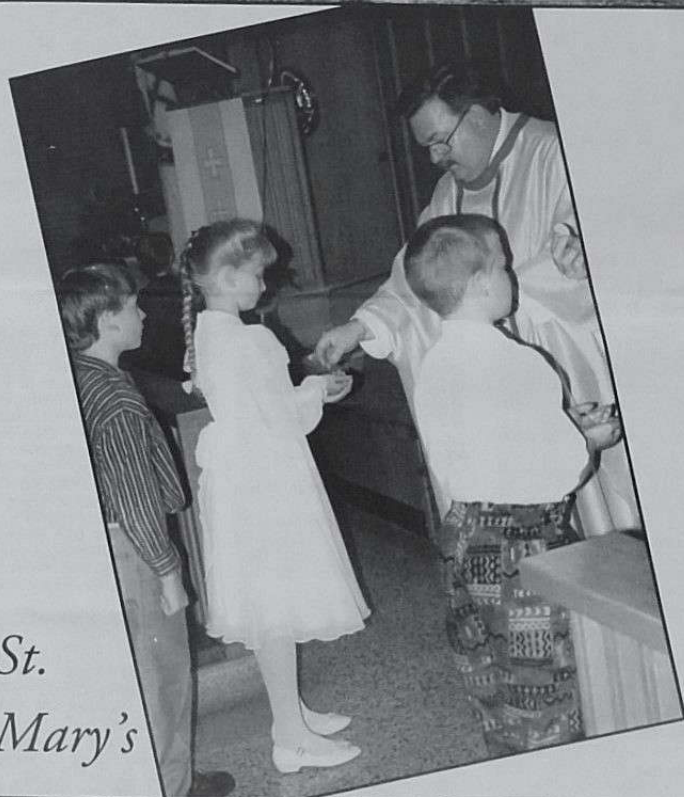
Because appropriate space was scarce, the Anglican and Community churches both held services in Cockcroft School and shared a Sunday School, until they could move into the Assembly Hall of the new Community Centre in 1947. By 1949, both congregations had grown and the Assembly Hall was no longer adequate. However, neither congregation could afford to build their own church. The National Research Council, responsible for the town at the time, came to their rescue. The government paid for and supervised the construction of a church, to be made available to any congregation. By the end of June, 1952, the Deep River Church was finished.



Appropriately the first worship was a joint service of the Anglican and Community Church congregations, and the two congregations continued to share the Deep River Church for the next ten years.



St. Mary's School 1952



St.
Mary's



Thro'
the
years

High School Ups and Downs

Mackenzie team wins Science Olympics

NRT, March 13, 1991

It takes one and half minutes for the "fun machine" designed by senior science students at Mackenzie High School to run through the 15 reactions that won it a first place prize at the 11th edition of the Ottawa-Carleton Science/Engineering Olympics. It takes 15 minutes for its inventors to get it working!

The Science Olympics were held at Carleton University in Ottawa on February 28 with Mackenzie High School placing first overall, defeating 14 other teams from eastern Ontario. Staff member Ivan McWilliam accompanied team members David Woo, David Burrill, Ken Greiner, Ken Yamazaki, Bob Kim, Mark Ungar, Curtis Ajmani and Scott Irving to the competition, which was sponsored by Carleton University and the University of Ottawa.

The competition consisted of five major events: an audio-visual presentation, bridge building, the fun machine, hydrofoam, and whizzer.

The audio-visual presentation was to answer the question, "What ways and means would you use to save our energy resources for future generations?" Bob Kim gave Mackenzie's presentation.

Ken Greiner and Scott Irving were in charge of the bridge, the purpose being to design and construct a free standing arch bridge made of popsicle sticks and white glue spanning a distance of at least 400 mm and having a solid flat road surface of at least 100 mm in length and 50 mm wide. The winner was the bridge which could support the greatest load relative to its mass while meeting the stringent specifications set out in the guidelines.

The fun machine was to perform a series of at least five interesting activities (such as ringing a bell, lighting a match, pouring water) for a fixed period of time. Once again, there were strict rules to be followed.

The Mackenzie team's fun machine was demonstrated by David Woo and David Burrill, but Woo says that all team members had input into all projects. Derek Winfield also helped with the fun machine, which was set up and demonstrated at Keys School at the beginning of last week

and is now on display at Mackenzie.

Woo says while team members stayed up "until the wee hours" many nights fixing problems in the fun machine, when the time came for the actual judging, the machine worked beautifully.

The objective with the hydrofoam was "to design and construct a styrofoam boat with optimum ballast which will travel a fixed distance in a shallow water tank, powered solely by the energy of a falling mass," while the objective with the whizzer was "to construct a brightly coloured, self-contained device powered continuously and only by a nine-volt battery (according to details given) which will propel itself up an inclined length (12 metres) or piano wire stretched across the room, the wire to be set at a three degree incline."

If it all sounds like something out of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, it was!

There were also two on-site competitions: a "target fly" in which a paper airplane with a pin in the tip had to be designed to hit a bull's eye made out of coloured balloons, and a "reach for the top" competition.

Shopping not an acceptable excuse for missing classes

NRT, December 18, 1991

A bus service meant to encourage local residents to shop in Pembroke has officials at Mackenzie High School concerned.

The Pembroke Mall sent a bus to Deep River and other municipalities in order to draw shoppers to the mall. The bus, which was sent on the first and second Thursdays in December, picked up potential shoppers in Deep River in the morning.

But what has Mackenzie principal Mary Fehrenbach concerned is the fact that many who took advantage of the bus service were high school students.

"It's an extreme concern of ours," said Fehrenbach.

Vice-principal Andrew Ringlet said that 11 students were given detentions because they went on the Pembroke bus the first Thursday. Both he and Fehrenbach say that education guidelines

they follow do not include shopping as a legitimate excuse for missing classes.

Fehrenbach also says that several students brought notes from their parents stating the students should be excused in order to take the bus to Pembroke, but those students were strongly advised not to go.

"I can't lend justification to that," she said.

She added that she is not trying to undermine the wishes of parents, but that there will be consequences for students who are absent from school under those conditions.

Fehrenbach says she is surprised the mall offered the bus service again this year. As vice-principal of Mackenzie last year, Fehrenbach voiced her concerns to mall management.

Pembroke Mall manager Jayne Brophy acknowledges the fact that Fehrenbach had stated her concerns. But Brophy defends the mall's use of the bus service.

"I can't see how it's our responsibility to keep the kids in school," she said.

Brophy added that the service, which is in its fifth year of operation, has been very successful in bringing people, including seniors and young mothers, to shop in Pembroke.

She also said that plans for a third day of bus service was called off because it was felt that many students would take advantage of the offer.

Fehrenbach says that she does not have any plans to repeat her concerns to mall management. But she did state her intention to deal with the issue at the school level.

"Parents should realize that we are discouraging this type of thing," she said.



A diligent student prepares for the teacher strike, spring 1978

Schism.....

Anglicans leave the Deep River Church

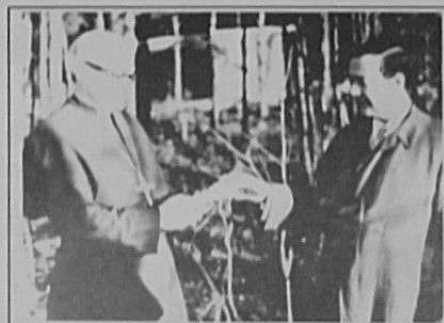
During the fifties, the Anglican and Community Church congregations again began to outgrow the facilities. Two steps were taken to relieve this congestion. In 1956, the Community Church decided that a Christian Education Centre was needed. They launched their fund-raising campaign with a community dinner which was the largest banquet yet held in Deep River, with 300 people present. More than \$100,000 was raised and the new Christian Education Centre was officially opened in May, 1960.



Laying the corner stone of the new Christian Education Centre, 1959.

L to R: Gordon Baines, Dr. D. Keyes, Rev. R.C. Plant, Les Beamish.

Then, in 1958 the building committee of the Anglican congregation began to make plans to acquire land and build a church of their own. AECL generously donated a building site on Glendale Avenue and a fund-raising campaign was launched. St. Barnabas Church was built in 1962 and officially opened in January, 1963.



Dr. W.B. Lewis presents the deed for the Anglican Church property to the Rt. Rev. Reed, Bishop of Ottawa, 1961.

With the departure of the Anglican congregation, Community Church became the only user of the Deep River Church. It continued as a multi-denominational institution and was officially accepted as such with the United, Presbyterian and Baptist Churches in 1973. In 1979, they again began to share the building with another congregation, that of the Free Methodist Church, an arrangement which continues to some degree still. Finally, in 1983-84 the church and the land it is on were bought from AECL and Deep River Church became Deep River Community Church.

Teen

bits and pieces

Hey Kats!

NRT, May 14, 1958

by "The Saint"

Well, Did you people dig our first column? If you did you have earned the right to call yourself a hep cat (for a definition of hep cat consult the bottom of this so called slumorous literature).

For the last few weeks a bunch of hip characters which I from now on shall call Murder Inc. have been working like crazy at something called track and field? Man I just didn't dig this so I wheeled out and investigated. Murder Inc. is really hopping. Every day at jailbreak these cats charge out and ramble around the field. It seems they're getting all heped up to head for the burg of Arnprior. Well when I hears this I asks myself and I even asks them. Why all this crazy activity? Their answer is a tightening of the facial muscles into what's commonly called a grin. Then they whisper in husky voices. Ever seen the debs down there?

Seriously though (yes, that was supposed to be humour back there) the cats of Murder Inc. under the direction of one of the local wardens are really doing a good job and should bring back some honours from Arnprior.

The glory cats of the Teen and Twenty Club seem to have some great plans for heat time. The gory details of these plans will follow in later editions. Right now though I can guarantee a fantabulous time.

While we are on the subject of heat time the June paper capers are nearly upon us so all you cats, kittens, squares, squeeps and otherwise normal teenagers had better hop to it if you haven't already. But don't worry it won't be long before the paper capers are over and all you cats are unemployed.

As the old saying goes in the spring a young mans fancy turns to things other than school work and it looks as if this applies to H.S. too.

Hep cat means a cat or kitten who reads this publication.

Deb means a real sharp gal.

Warden means a teacher of high standing.

Heat time means summer time.

Paper capers means the (ugh) exams.

H.S. is one of the local cats who claims to have something to do with a place called shoe maker.

See you all next week.

Initiation At Mackenzie High

NRT, Oct. 14, 1959

Friday, October 2 was Initiation Day at Mackenzie High School. The grade nine students were "decked out" in the odd assortment of nightgowns and pyjamas. The uniforms were as follows: the boys were dressed in ladies' nightgowns pinned so that one knee was showing, one running shoe, one boot, and a pair of earrings; their faces were made up with lipstick, eye shadow and rouge; their hair was parted in the middle and held back by two bows. The girls appeared in men's unmatched oversized pyjamas, one rubber boot and one slipper; their hair was also parted in the middle and the whole outfit was accented by a mustache and wrinkles. Then there was the penalty for not being dressed in full uniform which was carried out in the afternoon. The penalty was pushing an onion with the aid of one's nose across the campus. The afternoon ended with the entrants parading around the football field and engaging in a tug of war. To end the initiation a dance was held in the Community Centre auditorium. A variety of games and dances was arranged and everybody was urged to join in. At midnight another successful initiation passed into the history of Mackenzie High School.

Mackenzie Projects
Stimulate Students

NRT, January 29, 1969

In stores, in homes, on the street, wherever you go these days you hear about "projects" and we are told that they were the chief subject of conversation at the cocktail party for the American Ambassador last week! The impact of the experiment in education currently under way at Mackenzie High School is being felt not only by staff and students but by the whole community.

It has to be admitted that the school is a pretty chaotic place these days. One observer noted "kids walking about with incubators hatching eggs, kids sitting in the halls playing with bits of wire, kids making computers, and kids lying on the floor looking up a long cardboard tube suspended from the ceiling." It sounds weird but anyone who has read up on the history of science knows that it was from such small beginnings that great discoveries were made.

Surveys are said to be "ten a

Not all parents look at it quite this way. Some agree that projects are very valuable for those who are prepared to work but they are not sure that they are a good thing for the rest. "Has the school no responsibility for the students that are hanging around town all day?" one parent asked.

One mother said that her teenager had completed his project in two days, divided the work in five and reported a section to his counsellor each day while taking a holiday for the rest of the week.

A more usual pattern was for a student to take the first two or three days off, then realizing that time was slipping away, to hurry to get something done before the end of the week. Some had trouble really getting down to it at all and their parents tend to feel that it is the school's business to make them work. "They really need supervision," another mother said.

The students themselves are just as divided as the parents. Nearly everyone is impressed

were permitted to use library or laboratory facilities, came reports of great keenness and enthusiasm.

As the week went on, students who have travelled to other centres to obtain information or experience for their projects began to trickle back to town. Others were about to start off. How these out-of-town projects will work out is still a matter of conjecture.

With the half-way mark just past, no assessment is possible but after the first week's experience most of the teachers seem to be sold on projects. One spoke of the tremendous atmosphere of excitement generated in the school; it was something very special for the students and some had been preparing for it for weeks.

Another who approached the idea with scepticism, became converted. She found her students more capable than she expected and individual counselling had given her an opportunity to know them better.

"It has shown what we want-



MHS 1980 production of "Brigadoon" photo by Lorna Bourns

penny" with students asking questions like "do you take drugs — have you ever?" "How do you feel about the treatment of the American negro?" and "What is your objection to the present school system?" While it is easy to ask questions, the real challenge for them is in analyzing their results.

The whole idea of projects is to challenge everyone concerned and, as vice-principal Howard Moffatt says, not everyone is able to meet the challenge. However, he is convinced that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages and other teachers have suggested that the students who are wasting their time during project weeks would have been wasting it anyway.

by the freedom accorded to them so suddenly and in theory they regard it as an advance in staff-student relations. Some like the reality and others don't. Two girls who were having difficulty deciding what to do and when to do it, would much prefer to have their daily program mapped out for them. Another thought that freedom was "really great" but was not sure that she had learned to make the best use of it.

Others have taken to projects like ducks to water. A local resident spoke of seeing kids walking around with piles of books and an evident sense of purpose usually lacking among high school students. From the plant where some students

ed to show," another staff member said. "It has provided us with a means of evaluating the students' initiative, perseverance and ability to organize their own time." She also stressed the better rapport with individual students provided by projects.

Still another teacher made the point that project weeks were giving students a foretaste of what it is like to get out in the world and operate on one's own. "It's something we should be teaching them in school," he said, "and up to now, we haven't been doing it."

The new school library, opened since Christmas, has been a tremendous asset and has been used to capacity.

50 Years of Public Education

MACKENZIE HIGH SCHOOL

Dr. D.A. Keys Public School

T.W. MORISON SCHOOL

1956 TECHNOLOGY

PROBLEM SOLVING

MUSIC

GROWTH

ATHLETICS

FRIENDSHIPS

COOPERATIVE LEARNING

STANDARDS
VISUAL
ARTS

PARTNERSHIPS



Jeff Hesketh

Fred Glendinning

Randi Windsor

Dave Hesketh

1995



Haircut, Sir!

Jim Woodward: scissors poised to begin 26th year in Deep River

NRT, March 8, 1972

by Lenni Dixon

The role of the barber in a community has been eulogized in poetry, prose and music down through the centuries. In France, barbers were incorporated as a distinct body by Louis XIV, while in England Edward IV incorporated them in 1461. A precise date cannot be fixed for the initial use of the striped pole as the barber's symbol, but perhaps Henry VIII had something to do with it. It was he who enacted a statute uniting barbers with the company of surgeons, but apart from the trimming of locks and beards, confined them "to the minor operations of bloodletting and drawing teeth." The barber's sign, a red and white striped pole from which is suspended a basin indicated an arm, bandaged after bloodletting; the basin, a receptacle for the blood! George II separated barbers and surgeons into two distinct corporations in 1745, but the familiar striped pole symbolizing the barber's place of business is with us to the present day.

Jim Woodward, Deep River's first barber, put out his striped pole and opened the doors of his Alder Crescent shop for business on April 1, 1946. He came to town "to try it for a year or so" as did many others in those days, bringing his wife, little son and daughter, to settle in a drafty "war six" on Troyes. Before moving here, Jim Woodward had owned the original Hart House Barbershop in Toronto, leaving it in the hands of a manager while he spent two years in the Canadian Army during World War II. When the University of Toronto bought him out, he came on contract to Deep River.

In recalling the town's only existing shopping area in 1946, Jim Woodward said that Alder Crescent wasn't even paved at first, and there was sand everywhere. His barbershop opened about a week before the Canadian Department Store which later became Eaton's. There wasn't any drug store in town, Mr. Woodward recalled, but there was a little store in Chalk River that handled patent medicines. Next to the barbershop, a tailor soon established himself, and next to the tailor, a shoemaker.

The town continued to expand and by 1953, Jim needed an extra pair of hands to keep up with the business. In July of that year, Leo Lemaire became the second barber and is still Jim Woodward's right-hand man. A year later, in August, Albert Labelle joined the staff and the three man operation continued until 1969.

Woodward admits that the current fashion in men's hair styles has made a big difference to his business and to barbers all over. But, he added, there is evidence of a gradual reversal of the trend, and in a year or so, shorter styles may again be the vogue.

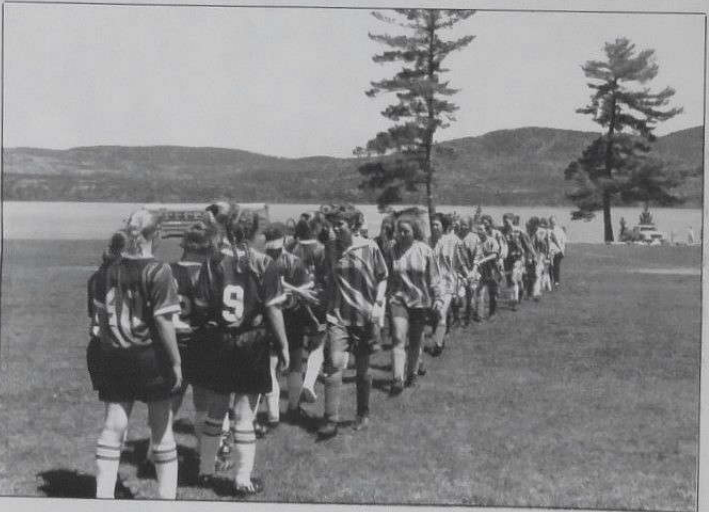
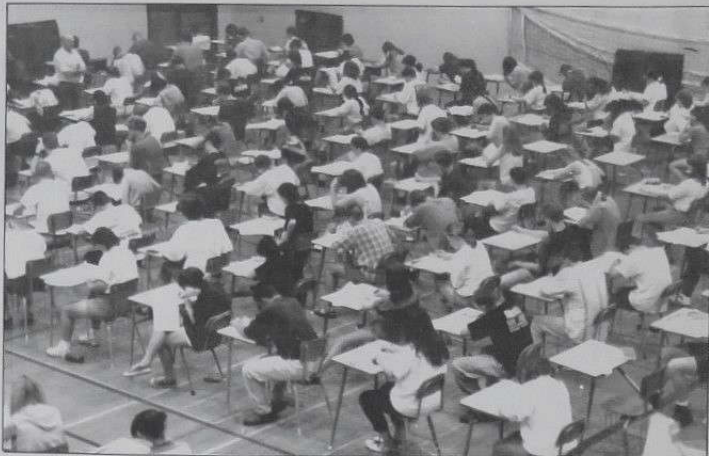
The Deep River of today bears little resemblance to the town in the mid-forties and Jim Woodward had a hand in some of the changes through his long association with the local Canadian Legion and Masonic Lodge. He remembered with a grin that Legion members used to have their meetings in a tiny room behind the old Post Office at the corner of Alder and Champlain.

The move from Ajax to Deep River was a big step back in 1946, but smiled Mr. Woodward, "You'd have to say we like it here. We're all still here." The family now includes a daughter-in-law, son-in-law and two grandchildren. Jim Woodward marks his twenty-sixth anniversary in business in Deep River on April 1.

The symbolism of a barber pole may seem laughable to us in 1972, but to Jim's customers, it still means a good shave, a

haircut, a chance to mill over local issues and news of the day in the congenial atmosphere of his shop. And incidentally, Jim Woodward's barber pole has an additional spiral stripe of blue. How do you explain that, Jim?

1970



School Days



Vic Thompson: a local entrepreneur

Thompsons buy Cockcroft

NRT, November 1, 1989

Deep River's Thompson family has bought Cockcroft School and plans to turn the building into an apartment complex.

The Renfrew County Board of Education last week accepted a tender for the school in the name of Vic Thompson for \$321,000. The school was appraised at \$275,000.

Thompson said the family hopes to convert the school into an 18-unit apartment building, including two penthouse-style apartments on a second floor in what is now the school's gym.

"We're going to do it by the seat of the pants, the same way we did the others," Thompson said.

Thompson estimated the cost of converting the school could reach \$500,000, and said they are hoping to have the work completed in time for opening in April or May.

Councillor Wes Stewart, chairman of the town's Planning Committee, said the committee will recommend that the school be rezoned to allow it to be turned into apartments, but with any commercial use or expansion of the existing building not permitted.

The Thompsons' bid was the highest of three tenders submitted. Vintage Communities, a company that builds seniors' housing, entered a token bid of \$10 while a Kanata man, Ian Nicholson, bid \$1010.

Business superintendent John Hall said Vintage had entered its bid to get a place on the negotiating list if none of the offers had been acceptable. No information about he bid was available from Nicholson.

Hall noted that Thompson has the choice of withdrawing his offer within 15 days of it being accepted by the board.

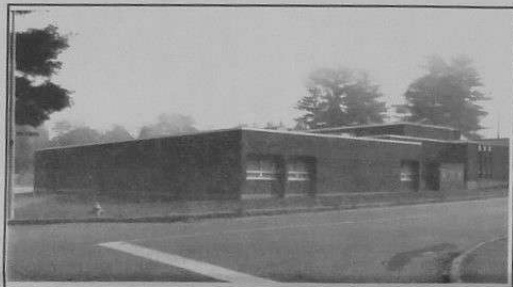
Cockcroft School was closed in 1987 following a two-year consolidation study that resulted in Cockcroft students being moved to Keys. The schools were re-organized again in 1987 to move all junior kinder-

garten to grade four students to Morison School and all grade five to grade eight students to Keys.

The school was advertised for public tender in September. Deep River Council had considered buying the school for new municipal offices but turned the school down last summer as "not a superior alternative" to building a new town hall.

Other uses proposed for the school have included a nursing home, a "family centre" housing day care, Family Enrichment Network, toy library and others, and a women's business centre.

The school includes two acres of property covering the parking lot on the west side and stretching up the hill to the corner of Deep River Road and Alder Crescent.



Memories of the Strand

1954 Strand Theatre opens

A special note to adults who are purchasing children's tickets. Children will not be allowed to sit by themselves. They must sit with the parents purchase their tickets. This includes all children under 18 yrs. of age. The management reserves the right to determine where the tickets holder may sit.

2 seats to children including the seating. Your contact will be closely watched while you are in the theatre. Smoking, running up and down the aisles, talking, leaving one another while sitting in line or being a general nuisance will not be permitted. If you fail to leave the seating of any one of the staff, you will be asked to leave the theatre.

"STANDS FILLING FOR 'GREAT NIGHT OUT'"

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Tierney Brothers — Deep River's first drug store

*NRT, November 10, 1971 and
May 6, 1976*

More than a few local residents will remember when they had to go to the hospital dispensary for a prescription, or all the way to Pembroke for their drug store needs. They'll also remember what a boon to the little community the arrival of the Tierney Brothers to establish Deep River's first drug store was.

After graduating in pharmacy, both Frank and John Tierney went overseas during the war. On returning to Canada, John worked at a drugstore in Ottawa and Frank went back to the dispensary in their home town of Arnprior. They decided that the time was ripe to go into partnership in a new location and in 1947 their application to Deep River was accepted.

The first Tierney Brothers' Pharmacy was a narrow room in the Crawley building, a space now occupied by Alex Fashions. It was evident from the start that a dispensary couldn't survive since the town's small population — only about 1,800 — seemed to be made of young, healthy, pioneer stock! So the original business included the Colonial Coach Lines agency, the Bell telephone account, and an amusing miscellany of stock including everything from toys to fishing tackle!

Not long after Frank and John arrived, work began up-river on the Hydro dam at des Joachims. At the height of the project, about 2,000 were em-

ployed on the dam creating quite a boon for Deep River merchants on pay days. There were times the Tierneys felt that the entire crew had arrived at their tiny store. With just themselves and a staff of two, plus a part-time student, providing service in such cramped, crowded conditions was always hectic, often hilarious.

Tierney Brothers was always known for its cheque cashing policy. The store, once known as Deep River's second bank, always carried extra cash to accommodate Saturday and evening cheque cashers.

They had only a few bad cheques cross their counter, and they only had one break-in. The reason was likely their safe. The Tierney's safe came from Arnprior, was about 100 years old, is covered with beautiful scroll work and is solid as a rock.

Another thing the Tierney Brothers were famous for was their "Buttocks Paste" for the tender ends of babies. Many people would patronize the store just for that magic formula. The Tierneys said a nurse from Montreal brought the formula with her and they started to produce it in batches.

As Deep River grew and changed, the Tierneys were able to buy their present store. In the early 1950s, Art Shanks, a graduate pharmacist, joined the staff. When the old cafeteria was taken down and Champlain Street was developed for shopping, the Tierney Brothers and Mr. Shanks went into partnership and in 1955, rented premises for the town's first

stationary store.

The feeling of kinship — of the village all being one big, happy family, was a very real and integral part of Deep River in its early years. Among the memories from a time when John and Frank Tierney knew every person they served, were the annual Crawley-McCracken Christmas parties. Another recollection, though less happy, is of one Sunday night when the Tierneys and their staff were taking inventory. Dick Tilson, manager of the A&P, was also working late next door. Suddenly, about 10 p.m., one of the Tierney staff smelled smoke. Mr. Tilson had also smelled it, and an alarm was called in. Fire had started in the Crawley building next to Tierneys and smoke was coming through the dividing wall. Small extinguishers were pressed into service while the merchants awaited the arrival of the fire department. When all the excitement was over, smoke damage was the only effect on the drug store, but the Tierneys and Mr. Tilson shudder to think what might have happened had they not chosen to work that night.

The Tierney brothers retired in May 1976. With their retirement went a piece of Deep River's unique history.

The business was sold to Ed Chow, President of Village Pharmacy and his partner Ray Oswald. Village Pharmacy continues to operate the drug store with the same policies of friendliness and caring established by Frank and John Tierney back in 1947.



The Village I•D•A Pharmacy

congratulates

*Deep River and The North Renfrew Times
on their 50th Anniversary.*



Successors to the first pharmacy in town, known as Tierney's, the Village Pharmacy has been in business since 1976, still following the tradition of friendliness and caring established 47 years ago.

We wish to thank the people of the area for their support over the years and look forward to another 50 years of community care.

Feeding Deep River's families since 1946

Last of the originals

NRT, September 6, 1978

by Lorna Bourns

To most people in Deep River, stores like Ritter's and Tierney's seem to be very well established. But to Bert Telford, they seem like "Johnny-Come Lately's." Bert, who retires this week from his job as produce manager for the local "A & P" store is the last of the original merchants who first opened up in Deep River.

In 1946, when Bert was sent up here from Ottawa, the town's shopping centre consisted only of the short block on Alder Crescent.

"I only came for a year," he says with a chuckle, "but it's a nice town... and somehow the time stretched into 32 years."

He recalls that, in the early days, the town had only a few telephones, one of them at the town office. "I had to go in there every morning and phone my produce order down to Ottawa."

There were still shortages in 1946 and A & P collected a number of scarce items, such as nylons, salmon and shortening, for their grand opening. Bert remembers that there was such a rush on them that they had to borrow guards from CRNL and let customers in a few at a time.

"That first Christmas they accidentally sent all our bread up to Sudbury," he recalls. "No one had cars in those days so people couldn't run down in Pembroke for bread. They sent the bread back to Deep River on Christmas morning, and all the churches announced that the A & P would be open for two hours selling only bread. We sold an average of four loaves to every family in town."

"Those were the days before self-serve. You knew everyone who came in and you picked out their food for them. I miss those days. In a way, I guess I regret losing contact with folks under this system and, because of that, I don't mind retiring quite so much."

Bert started work for the "A & P" chain part-time at the age of 16 in 1930. He started full time in 1933 at \$7 a week, working from 7:30 in the morning, often until midnight.

When he joined the army in 1942 his organizing ability kept him in the orderly room and he was one of the last dis-

charged from the service in 1946. He picked up again with A & P was sent to help open their newest store in Deep River.

A & P 45 years in business

NRT, September 4, 1991

Labour Day weekend always reminds Bert Telford of the 1946 opening of the original A & P store in Deep River. He is the only local resident left of the six employees brought in to set up and run

together," Telford remembers. "If someone needed a hand finishing up, the others would step in."

Dick Tilson became manager in 1955. The village was growing and the store was so small that it was emptied by shoppers before long week-ends.

"A major remodelling began in March 1958," Tilson says.

Tilson remembers working long hours coping with the renovations while keeping the store going. The last step was laying a tile floor in 1960. "The old wooden floor was oiled weekly," says Tilson. "That was a hard job. Then when it rained or snow was tracked in the floor turned



the store.

"An independent grocer had run a business where Giant Tiger is now," reminisces Telford. "He closed at 6 p.m. one Saturday night. At 10 a.m. Sunday morning the six A & P employees and three supervisors met outside the store. We went in and set to work. The old stock was cleared out, the store cleaned and renovations done. I made the produce counter out of orange crates. Then the store was stocked ready for Tuesday morning opening."

"A & P had arranged to have opening specials on things that had been in short supply during the war, like salmon, jelly powder and bananas," continued Telford. "Shoppers came from as far away as Pembroke. It was so crowded that the security guards came. They closed the doors, only letting more shoppers in when others left. The crowd emptied the store. It remained closed on Wednesday morning for restocking and reopened Wednesday afternoon!"

The six men who ran the A & P worked well together. "We hadn't met until we arrived in Deep River but we always got along. We started the day together and finished

dark and looked dirty."

While he was on holiday one August, the Deep River area had a tremendous storm. Water ran down Deep River Road, down Champlain and into the low area behind the new extension. It poured into the basement to a final depth of four feet and also flooded the A & P and neighbouring stores.

After that the town put a storm sewer in and A & P paved the parking lot.

Telford celebrated produce week in 1976 by setting up a produce market on tables in front of the store for a couple of days. They took up part of three parking spaces. "Business was brisk and the shoppers enjoyed it," says Telford. "However, someone complained about the parking and the police came and told me to take down the tables. They didn't come until just before it was time to close, though."

In 1978, Telford retired after 48 years with the A & P. Tilson transferred to another store in 1973 and retired in 1986 with 49 years service with A & P.

A & P in Deep River moved to Ridge Road with an expanded modern store and lots of parking in 1986.

Business bits and pieces

Letter to a former Deep Riverite

NRT, February 24, 1993

Dear Myrtle,

I just had to write and thank you for the lovely 5" x 8" Christmas card with foil Currier and Ives scene and the embossed greeting and signature.

I don't know if it is just me, but I get the feeling that something strange is going on in Deep River lately. You remember how I wrote and described the many changes on the downtown scene? Well, a lot more has happened since then, and it's all rather odd. Do you remember Madolyn's, where we used to go for Robbie Burns maple-basted haggis, and Hallowe'en wool-of-bat soufflé? Well, the place disappeared one day and another Checkers sprang up in its place. Now, we've had a lot of business moving or closing, but we've never had cloning before. Just imagine if it became a regular occurrence. We might end up with a matched set of drug stores, or two Town Halls!

Even stranger, in December, a wonderful store of Christmas goodies suddenly appeared, right next to the Golden Dragon. A day or two after Christmas, I went downtown and bingo — no goody store. The other week I marched into Bookworld with my card for the new spring and summer Sears' catalogue, and there it was, gone. The catalogue office, I mean. I looked all around, tapped walls when no one was looking, but all I could find were solid walls with shelves of stationery, and a washroom behind a door that wasn't there before. Today I drove along Champlain and got another shock. No Nert stronghold! I saw an empty store front instead. I tell you, Myrtle, this kind of thing is starting to give me the creeps. Do you think I'm bushed?

By the way, Walker's jewellery store closed, and was taken over by an organization called the CLG. It has scenic photographs in the window, but that is to conceal the fact that the CLG are really there to monitor local shopping habits. I wonder if I told you about the J.L. Gray Leisure Centre, which took over the Riverview Inn, which used to be Forest Hall. Do you remember the old days when you would walk by and hear the strains of "Bad, Bad Leroy Brown" every February at the Silver Spoon dance? It's not like that now. These days, all you ever hear from the JLGCLC is an odd clicking sound, as dozens of people are biting their nails.

I did eventually find the catalogue office, in the Donut building on Highway 17. I figure the Chamber of Commerce are trying to encourage more people to shop south of the highway, just so long as they don't cross the U.S. border. We got a real surprise back in January. A completely new business opened on the highway. It's a sensible location for the new funeral home, not far from the lumber store. Hey, we've come a long way since those Deep River signs that read, "Welcome to the Good Life!"

Your affectionate friend,
Chloe (Joyce Winfield)



Glendale Plaza in earlier times

Ritter's sale — a tradition



NRT, August 2, 1978

Ritter's summer sale is a major shopping event in this community.

Every July for the past 23 years, hundreds of bargain hunters have flocked to the three stores. The 1978 summer sale was no exception.

At 9:45 a.m. on the morning the sale began, there was neither a parking spot on Champlain nor in the lot behind the Municipal Building. Determined customers were reduced to parking in the Loblaws lot and covering the last block on foot.

At the height of the sale, a quick head count in the ladies store revealed at least 100 eager shoppers.

Undeterred by the day's almost unbearable heat and humidity, women queued up at all available dressing rooms, and then, having selected their garments, lined up to pay for them.

With their purchases under their arms, many of the early-bird shoppers hastened over to the men's store or to the fabric store. Though the panic level in these two shops was somewhat lower than in ladies' wear, they were, nevertheless, very busy places of business.

Cecil Ritter, co-owner of the Ritter Company, explained that while the crowds at the ladies store were certainly heaviest the first morning, the men's store was very busy Thursday evening and Saturday.

"Most men are not panic buyers," explained Ritter, "but shopping is an instinct in women. Women are naturally drawn to sales. Even if they don't buy anything, they like to see what's on sale."

Cecil Ritter and his brother Lionel (the sons in "H. Ritter & Sons Ltd") have been operating stores in Deep River since March 1955. Before that their father Harry had been in business in North Bay and then in Mattawa. The Ritters have had a store in Mattawa for 45 years, "an indication we do some things right," said Cecil.

The semi-annual sales, one in January and one in July, began the year the stores opened. The sales last eight shopping days each. Ritter said that the bulk of the business is on the first day, but people take advantage of the reduced prices on regular merchandise all through the sale period. "Our sales are not rigged in any way" said Ritter, "they are genuine sales with regular stock and that's why they are so successful."



Lionel and Cecil in Ritter's Mens Store

Laurentian View Dairy -from small beginnings

NRT, September 13, 1972

by Lenni Dixon

A quarter mile of three-quart milk jugs, standing side-by-side in a single row — and all brimming with nature's wonder drink — milk! That represents the approximate daily delivery of milk to area homes and stores on a five-day-a-week basis by Deep River's Laurentian View Dairy! In terms of quarts, it means 30 to 35,000 per week! In human terms, it represents much more than that to Mr. and Mrs. Allan Blimke and family, all natives of the Valley, who started dairying in Chalk River as a cottage industry in the early '40s with one cow, an idea and infinite energy!

It may seem strange to think of our bustling dairy ever being a cottage industry. But the definition fits when you visualize up to six little Blimke brothers delivering milk, warm from the udder of the family cow, in quart-size honey pails, to Chalk River homes. Allan Blimke was working at that time at the Petawawa Forestry Station, and living with his wife and 12 children — six sons and six daughters — in Chalk River. One-by-one they built up their dairy herd and in 1945 the Chalk River Dairy opened, operating from its own, then-modern premises.

The homogenizer wasn't part of milk processing at that time, but it and other up-to-date equipment were added as developed. Up to 1947 the Dairy processed milk from its own herd. After that the Blimkes went out of dairy cattle and started collecting raw milk from farms in the area.

On November 4, 1954, after years of struggling to establish the business, tragedy struck. Fire completely levelled the Chalk River Dairy while Mr. and Mrs. Blimke were in North Bay on business.

Battered, but by no means beaten, Mr. Blimke deliberated over all the prospects and possibilities of re-establishing. By 1954, AECL was a permanent institution down on the Ottawa right next to the area that had been his parent's farm where he'd lived from the age of nine until he married his Pt. Alexander bride. Deep River, which he first knew as an Indian village of six families, was a fast growing residential site. With great care, the present High-

way 17 location was chosen, and the Laurentian View Dairy opened in May, 1955. The Dairy Bar came into being the next month. Until their home next to the dairy was built the following year and the family of 14 moved in, they commuted from Chalk River to work and school.

Looking back, Mr. Blimke said that the fire, tragic as it was, proved to be an important turning point for the business. Another was the introduction of town sewer and water to the present site. Before these services were provided, the Dairy relied on its own three wells and a spring-fed creek for the thousands of gallons of water needed daily. Much of the water had to be put through an automatic chlorinator before it could be used in milk processing. Huge septic tanks built to take waste fluids were never adequate and proved troublesome, Mr. Blimke recalled.

When Mrs. Blimke was asked how she ever kept up with a family of 12 and still found time to work in the business, you could almost see the long procession of meals, dishes, laundry and ice cream cones marching before her eyes as she reminisced. "A ten-pound roast would disappear in a sitting! Macaroni and tomatoes! I used to make it in the biggest roasting pan

Blimke recalled. By now, all 12 children are married and grandchildren number 19! When the family congregates at Christmas, the table is usually set for about 35, Mrs. Blimke said.

Three of the six sons have remained in the family business: Daryl, Lyn and Dwayne. Together with their parents, and Lyn's wife, Bernice, and their staff, they're responsible for providing milk and a variety of dairy products to an area encompassing about 12,000 people. Six of the familiar blue-and-white trucks cover the regular routes. Most of the processing is done right on the premises. Butter, cottage cheese, sour cream, ice cream and eggnog are brought in from Pembroke.

The Laurentian View Dairy still collects its own raw milk for processing. A huge tanker sets out early in the morning, going farm-to-farm in the Pembroke-Alice area, returning to Deep River with its creamy, nutritious cargo. When the bridge was out over the Petawawa River, that pick-up route became 168 miles and many hours longer each day. Three times a week another tanker containing processed milk goes to Mattawa where for the last year-and-a-half Laurentian View has served that community's dairy needs. The former own-



Allan and Theresa Blimke with a group of satisfied customers

there was, and they'd be clambering to see who would lick out the pan!"

Raising their own beef and pork, cultivating a large garden and canning "hundreds of quarts" of preserves enabled Mr. and Mrs. Blimke to provide more than adequately for their even dozen.

"After we moved to Deep River, there seemed to be a wedding every year," Mrs.

ers of the Mattawa dairy still do the household distribution, an arrangement that has worked out very well for everyone, Mr. Blimke said.

The Dairy Bar, since its inception 17 years ago, has become a family institution, both with the Blimkes as they all pitch in to serve their delicious dairy treats, and with families all over the area. Victor's achievements, birth

The Laurentian Dairy Story

-continued from page 26

days — occasions big and small — have been celebrated at the Dairy Bar over the years. It's a favourite stop for weary motorists, hot and dusty sportsmen, and Moms who just plain ran out of dessert ideas!

Mr. and Mrs. Blimke couldn't hazard a guess as to how many children have toured the plant and Dairy Bar on classroom field trips. Many students over the past years have benefitted from summer jobs at the dairy, and more than one high school paper has been inspired through students spending Project Week at the dairy.

The Dairy will be operating the extended lunchroom facilities at Mackenzie High when they open later this year.

Through the years, Mr. and Mrs. Allan Blimke and family have never spared time or effort in providing to their many customers quality dairy products and dependable service with a neighbourly touch. Although they mentioned having helped out with many community projects, they're all too modest to elaborate or enumerate.

Are Mr. and Mrs. Allan Blimke thinking about retirement? Not yet...and probably never! Both admit to preferring the busy life of the dairy business and not knowing what they'd do instead. "But we did go to Bermuda for a winter holiday two years ago — it was the first time in an airplane for both of us!" Mr. Blimke confessed. "Who knows? We may do something like that again next winter!"

Fire destroys Dairy

NRT, February 6, 1985

A cloud of smoke hung over the west end of Deep River Monday morning as firemen



fought to extinguish the blaze which completely gutted the Laurentian View Dairy on Highway 17.

Deep River's Fire Chief Jack Tooley said the alarm was raised at 12:50 a.m. and assistance was sought from the Fire Department of Rolph, Buchanan, Wylie and McKay. Fifteen men attended the fire but, although there are water mains on this section of the highway, dense smoke hindered the operation.

No one was in the 30 year-old building at the time of the fire which completely destroyed the business. The fire chief said the cause of the fire was being investigated.

Mayor Lyall Smith was called about 2 a.m. for permission to use Hydro's tanker trucks for additional water to fight the fire. Smith said he watched the fire for about three hours feeling very helpless and frustrated. "This is a tragedy," he said. Smith

paid tribute to the local fire departments who struggled in extreme conditions of temperature. Firemen were completely coated in ice.

Area residents reacted with dismay at the news. "I can't imagine a summer in Deep River without the Dairy," commented one young patron.

The Blimke family are receiving assistance from another dairy in filling their orders.

Dairy will be rebuilt

NRT, February 20, 1985

Deep River and area residents will once again be able to savour "the best ice cream and home baking in the valley" this summer. Allan Blimke, president of Laurentian View Dairy, announced Sunday that his family would rebuild the popular dairy bar and milk processing business which burned down two weeks ago.

The announcement, made at a meeting of the Blimke family and their employees, brought smiles to all the faces gathered around the tables.

The main reason for the decision to rebuild was "a moral responsibility to our employees and the people of Deep River who have backed us over the years and who have been so supportive in our time of trouble," said Lyn Blimke. He said the insurance coverage on the building fell about 20 percent short of the total loss of just over one \$1 million.

The Blimke family used the occasion to pay tribute to the many friends and patrons who sent best wishes and flowers and were so supportive to them in their loss.

Bernice Blimke made special reference to the Mackenzie High School staff who have provided facilities in the Home Economics room so that home baking can still be a feature of the school cafeteria menu. Last week, students at the school held a collection to aid Laurentian View Dairy's out-of-work employees.

The Blimke family has owned and operated Laurentian View Dairy since 1945 and moved to Deep River in 1954. Soon yet another phase of the business will rise from the ashes.

The Downside of Business

Town calls in sheriff to seize Diplomat's assets

NRT, January 9, 1991

The future of the Diplomat Hotel is uncertain. The property is up for tax sale and the town sent in the sheriff to seize any assets there might be in a bid to recoup some of the money it is owed.

The decision to send in the sheriff was made at last week's regular council meeting. Council had apparently discussed such a move before Christmas in a closed meeting and decided against it at that time.

The owners of the Diplomat, Paul and Ardis Quilty, could not be reached for comment on council's decision and on the situation with the business. Staff at the hotel said they were out of town until the end of this week.

The property was put up for tax sale last week as the town is required to do under the *Municipal Tax Sales Act* after taxes are in arrears for four years. The town is owed over \$149,000 in property taxes.

The town is also owed over \$23,000 in business taxes but cannot collect those through the tax sale process.

One way to try and secure the business taxes is "take action against the liquid assets" of the business, clerk-treasurer Larry Simons told council.

Councillor Ron Booth said the decision not to take action before Christmas was made because of the "time of the season."

"If we don't send the sheriff in, then we'll get nothing for sure...it's not our money, it's the taxpayers and we should take steps to prevent this," said Booth.

"Compassion was shown (by council)," said Mayor Lyall Smith, after the decision was made to send in the sheriff, referring to the decision not to go in just before Christmas.

If there are no offers tendered on the property by the deadline of January 25, the business becomes the property of the Town of Deep River.

Eaton's No More

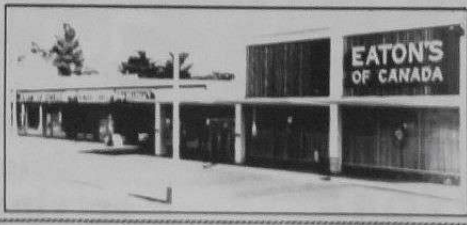
NRT, August 9, 1967

Less than one year after opening in its new location, the T. Eaton Company order office is closing its doors in Deep River. A sign posted on the store window states simply, "On Saturday August 12th, this catalogue sales office will transfer operations to the Pembroke office."

The local staff of five full-time and two part-time employees were first informed of the termination of their jobs last Friday afternoon when they were summoned together for the axe-falling. So it appears that, contrary to popular opinion, Eaton's really can move quickly when they want to.

Eaton's has been in Deep River since 1946 when it occupied the entire building now housing the Arcade on Alder Crescent. In the summer of 1960 it moved to the Glendale Plaza where it remained until September 1966 when the main store was closed (and eventually leased to Metropolitan Stores) and the catalogue order office opened.

Meanwhile, on the door of the soon to be vacated store, there still remains the cheery sign, "Welcome to Eaton's, Canada's largest retail organization." At this rate of store closings, one can only wonder, "Largest, but for how long?"

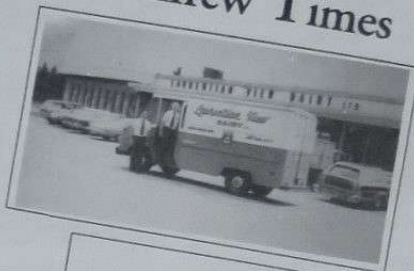


A Happy Ending

The NRT of October 16, 1985 carried this photo of Allan and Theresa Blimke sitting at a table in the new Dairy, surrounded by their happy staff. The modern blue and white building reopened, not quite before the end of summer, but in good time for the 1985 Indian Summer.

CONGRATULATIONS

Town Of Deep River & to the The North Renfrew Times



Theresa and Allan Blimke, Founders



Laurentian View Dairy

A
Family Business
Celebrating 50 Years of
serving Deep River and Area

1945

1995