

HERITAGE CORNER

Brigden Fair parking lot has changed a lot since 1911



The mode of transportation for getting to the Brigden Fair, or anywhere for that matter, has changed radically since this photograph was taken in 1911. This field filled with horse-drawn carriages has morphed into a field filled with metal carriages and man-made horsepower.

Photo courtesy of the Moore Museum archives

Sun shines on the Downriver Craft Sale



Laurie Mason photo

A sunny, warm Sunday provided perfect conditions for the record-breaking number of shoppers who flocked to this year's annual Downriver Craft Sale on Sept. 16.

An expanded new vendor layout gave shoppers wide berth to check out the impressive variety of hand made and unique goods on offer.

Moore Museum curator Laurie Mason says, "We had the largest craft sale crowd in over two decades."

She noted there were 1,770 paid adult admissions plus children, bringing the total attendance to well over 2,000.

"We want to thank all of the attendees, crafters, vendors and our volunteers for their support of this museum fundraiser," said Laurie.

Ghost towns of St. Clair Township - Duthill

The pre-amalgamation municipalities of Moore and Sombra Township once boasted many small communities spread out across the land. Some were merely crossroads and others, such as Becher, still exist in some form, and others are marked by the skeletal remains of old buildings.

But their names live on. In Sombra, the names Avonry, Bickford, Henry's Corner and Charlemont still linger in the memories of our older residents, just as Moore residents recall Ladysmith, Kimball, Cromar, and Sykeston. They were all an important part of the development and history of the municipality we now call St. Clair Township.

One of these important communities was Duthill at the intersection of Holt Line and Duthill Sideroad. First settled in 1840, Duthill boasted a strong Scottish and Presbyterian presence, so

it's no surprise the name Duthill paid tribute to a parish in Invernesshire, Scotland

The first settler was James Reid, although the Grant and Tulloch families were also early settlers and still have descendants living in the area. As it grew, Duthill had a post office, a school, a United Church, a cemetery, and a ferry that spanned the Sydenham.

Of special interest to those who traveled the roads near Duthill was an old elm tree that stood in the middle of the intersection. It became a popular fixture of downtown Duthill. It was also an important survey point and reference point in the township. The 18 metre tall, two metre wide tree survived until 1951 when it was deemed a traffic hazard and cut down.

~With files from the late and much missed Allan Anderson