

HERITAGE CORNER

Track inspection bus used to monitor and service New York Central Railway tracks

The track inspection bus from the New York Central Railway line was a frequent visitor to the Courtright railway terminal in the 1940s. These pictures from the Sirman Collection clearly show the wheels that transformed the road-worthy bus into a rail car. The photo, below left, shows the bus moving over the railway trestle west of Brigden.

The Courtright station was originally chosen as the western terminus of the Canada Southern Railway in 1869 and Courtright was named in honour of the company's president, Milton Courtright.



Courtesy of: Sirman Collection. canadasouthern.com

W. Darcy McKeough Floodway comes in handy during these high water days

Many St. Clair Township residents have never known a time before the W. Darcy McKeough Floodway was constructed, but it has become an important part of the region's flood control system.

The massive project was undertaken to reduce the threat of flooding in Wallaceburg but the journey from proposal of the floodway to its completion was a long, contentious one.

Originally called the Wilkesport Dam and Diversion Project, it became the Sydenham Valley Conservation Authority's Project No. 65 in early 1970. A feasibility report that came to be known as the Dillon Report was undertaken and funded by a provincial grant of \$25,000.

In the course of getting the project underway, there was dissent by a group of Sombra ratepayer who called themselves Save Our Sydenham, (SOS). The group believed the project would affect thousands of acres of prime bottomland, taking it out of production, disrupting drains and encouraging the growth of cattails and stagnant water.

The authority was presented with a petition opposing the project and offering an alternate flood control plan for Wallaceburg. It was rejected as being too costly and ineffective.

Official word that the project had been postponed indefinitely was received from Toronto in

July, 1973.

In the months that followed, disputes over properties, easements, and what share of the total cost of the project, which was up to \$10 million by January, 1975, would be pay by the various stakeholders, delayed the project further.

Flash forward to Sept. 8, 1978, the project got underway with a ceremonial sod-turning at the west end of the proposed channel. It wasn't without incident, as several landowners showed up to demonstrate peacefully because the authority was not willing to listen to their concerns before the construction began. Shortly afterward, more delays ensued as and it was 1984 before the project was completed.

Today, the seven-kilometre long grassy diversion channel runs west to the St. Clair River. It is controlled by two vertical sluice gates that remain open during normal flow conditions, but when river levels rise, the gates are closed to divert flow down the diversion channel. The floodway controls about 37 per cent of the East and North Sydenham River drainage basins upstream of Wallaceburg.

The W. Darcy McKeough Floodway is the largest flood diversion project in Ontario, controlling about 37 per cent of the drainage basins upstream of Wallaceburg.

Bear Creek Cemetery Company

Bear Creek Cemetery has submitted by-laws to the Registrar of the Funeral, Burial, and Cremation Services Act, 2002. Any interested parties may contact Russell Marsh at 519-331-1798 for information or to make copies. By-laws or amendments may be reviewed or copied at 3393 Telfer Road, Mooretown, Ontario.

These by-laws are subject to the approval of the Registrar, Funeral, Burial, and Cremation Services Act, 2002. Contact can be made by telephone to: Bereavement Authority of Ontario, 647-483-2645 or 1-844-493-6356.

MORE HERITAGE CORNER

WANTED

PORT LAMBTON

FAMILY

VISITORS

CHURCHES

SCHOOLS

MILITARY

SPORTS

BUILDINGS

NATURE

- **PHOTOS**
- **DOCUMENTS**
- **STORIES**
- **MEMORIES**
- **HISTORICAL INFORMATION**
- **HISTORICAL ITEMS**

ORGANIZATIONS

TRANSPORTATION

AGRICULTURE

BUSINESSES

NATURE

SCOUTING
GUIDINGSOCIAL
ACTIVITIES

Photos wanted

The Port Lambton 200th Committee is seeking photographs and information that will help illuminate the area's heritage. To donate, please email the Port Lambton 200th Anniversary Historical Committee at portlambtonhistory@gmail.com or contact Kailyn at the Sombra Museum, sombramuseum@hotmail.com

JULY 1 IN BRIGDEN - PARTY LIKE IT'S 1899!

The nattily-attired gentlemen of Armstrong Stores celebrate Canada's birthday during Brigden's July 1 parade.



PORT LAMBTON 200 Plant sale a blooming success

1820-2020

The Port Lambton 200th Anniversary celebration plant sale has been a blooming success! Over 400 miniature sunflower plants and 550 sunflower seed packets have been sold and the remaining packets are at Shaykin Bait Variety Store. Anyone wishing to obtain a free packet can drop in and get one. The committee would appreciate having photos of the plants that have bloomed sent in to be shared on the Port Lambton Facebook page.

St. Clair River
TRAIL
actively connecting communities

The St. Clair River Trail Facebook page and website has added a new promotional video to its photo archive. The natural beauty of the trail comes alive on the screen. And while you're looking at the video and submitted photographs, why not send us some of the shots you've taken while enjoying the trail? Like the St. Clair River Trail on Facebook and message us your pictures.

Check out Trail Facebook page, video, & website