

Kinmount Gazette



KINMOUNT 150TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE
A SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE KINMOUNT COMMITTEE FOR PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

August 19, 2009 Volume 1: Issue 11

The History of Tourism

To the earliest settlers, lakes, rivers & local waterways were sometimes a nuisance. Lumbermen utilized the river systems, but farmers were interested in agricultural land. Besides, many of the lakes were isolated and inaccessible. But over the decades, opinions of the local water resources began to change. By 1900, summer vacations began to become popular with rich urban dwellers. The Kawartha Lakes became popular summer vacation destinations, easily accessible from the urban centres. The earliest vacationers stayed at resorts (the richer ones) or simply camped (less well off). Private cottages were still in the future. The main attractions were canoeing or rowing, bathing (today we call it swimming), fishing, hunting and relaxing in the solitude of Mother Nature. The camping was tent-only and the comforts of the age would be considered very primitive by today's standards. Earliest vacationers often stayed for weeks or even months at a time: no weekend jaunts. It often took them several days to reach the vacation paradise, and moving about was difficult or impossible: it was by horse & wagon! Kinmount was one of the first travel destinations in the area. The main access mode was by train, and such local centres as Kinmount, Burnt

River & Haliburton had this valuable link to the outside world as well as lots of nearby lakes. Once in town, the tourist had to rent a horse & wagon from the local livery stable or arrange for a "taxi" to their vacation destination. Often the vacation party was simply dropped off on the shore of the local lake and abandoned until a pre-arranged date when the taxi service would pick them up. Any travel was by foot, and the vacation party was prepared to spend the allotted time stranded in one spot. Most parties simply squatted on an appropriate shoreline, the land still being crown land. Some local families did eventually build "cabins" in a selected spot. These cabins were small shelters from the weather or for sleeping, as most activities were still held outside. The cabins doubled as fishing cabins, hunting shacks or whatever was in season. After the 1940s, the vacation industry began to change, drastically. More people were now clustered in urban environments, and the demand for outdoor vacations increased. Cars became commonplace, and mobility was greatly enhanced. Due to changing work schedules, more frequent but

shorter vacations became the norm. It was now possible to reach the lake in a few hours, and thus the weekend vacation was born. Increasing levels of disposable income meant many families had the money to build vacation residences. And thus the cottage was born. The earliest cottages were still rooted firmly in the cabin mentality of the past: small, plain and related more to outdoor camping than permanent residences. Things like hydro & indoor plumbing were still not common, but "roughing it" like the early pioneers represented the pioneer spirit and was embraced (or quietly tolerated) by the tourists. For those who wanted to be "waited on", resorts sprang up at preferred locations, but individual cottages became more common.

The earliest access roads were
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Campers at Swamp Lake (Crystal Lake) in August 1904. Many people camped along the shores. Cottages began springing up in the 1930s.





Neighbours and Friends: Burnt River ★

Downstream from Kinmount in the valley of the Burnt River is the village of Burnt River. The first settler in the area was Alexander Rettie, who bought Lot 14 in the 5th Concession of Somerville Township in 1864. The lower Burnt River Valley contains some good farmland, and soon a thriving little farm community grew up called Rettie’s Bridge. A school section was set up in 1870 and a post office in 1873. Originally the village of Kinmount had been called Burnt River Crossing, but that title had been abandoned in favour of Kinmount as early as 1859, so the new hamlet changed its name from Rettie’s Bridge to Burnt River.

Burnt River got its big boost in 1876 when the rails of Victoria Railway reached the area. A station was established on the Rettie property & called Rettie’s Station. A fire destroyed the first structure and a replacement was built a mile north. The village grew up around the new station and the name Burnt River Station was adopted. Like so many other communities along the railway, the new village prospered thanks to its rail connections. Several sawmills sprang up along the river, sending forest products to outside markets via rail. A quarry was opened beside the rail line, and Burnt River limestone was soon in high demand.

The village of Burnt River grew proportionately thanks to its new railway links. Several stores graced the Main Street. Two churches

(Anglican & Methodist) as well as an Orange Lodge were testaments to its new-found status as a full fledged village. A new (stone) school was built in 1901 to accommodate 108 students: all taught by 1 teacher! The village later added a Women’s Institute, Burnt River Telephone Company, and several resorts for summer tourists. The Township of Somerville used the village as a base since it was centrally located in the municipality.


Like all villages in our area, Burnt River had its share of tragedies. Fire (where have we heard that before?) ravaged the main Street in 1944, destroying 5 homes & businesses. The locals were unable to stop the conflagration until the train arrived and water from the boiler was used to douse the flames. Floods threatened the area from time to time as spring freshettes swelled the Burnt River. By the 1920s, many farmers north of the “Ledge” (a limestone ridge north of town) had abandoned their marginal lands. The County of Victoria stepped in and the area was replanted with pine trees to become the Victoria County Forest; an excellent example of reforestation and public land use.

Eventually the farming and lumbering industries declined in importance. The railway ceased operation in 1980 and the mills all closed. But tourism replaced the original industries and Burnt River, like its sister settlements, moved into the modern era. Centennial Park, along the Burnt River, was opened in 1967. A

library branch was dedicated in 1973. The modern Burnt River-Somerville Community Centre was completed in 1983. The opening of the Victoria Rail Trail in 1985 made the village of Burnt River an access point on this recreational route. When the school closed in 1991, the building was occupied by the Post Office & library. To celebrate the Millennium in 2000, the village published “In And Around Burnt River: A Pictorial History” to chronicle the history of the community. No ghost town status for Burnt River: still a thriving village in the valley of the Burnt.



The stone used to clad the Burnt River Anglican Church was mined at the Burnt River Quarry. It is worth the drive to Burnt River to view this beautifully kept treasure.

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Tourism, continued from page 1

still primitive and very seasonal. The easier the access via existing the pioneer road grid, the earlier the cottage. Private property lots were sold by individual landowners, but most shorelines were still crown land in the 1940s. However the Government of Ontario was more than happy to sell off shoreline lots where the demand (and access) was good. Cottage lots were always small, no acreages here, but the water was still open to the public so the front yard was more important than any back acreage. Later lots lacked road access, and many cottagers had to go the last little bit by water. To accommodate the water access cottage lots, public boat launches were set up for every lake and eventually marinas sprang up at key spots where demand made them practical. The marina was a new phenomena to the local scene. Services provided to the cottagers included boat launches, gas, boat rentals, docking facilities, a small general store and sometimes restaurants and entertainment facilities. The marina business was tricky economically: basically relying on the 2 month tourist season and a few long weekends. Locals joked it was based on the black bear lifestyle: intense summer feeding

followed by hibernation for the winter. The only true marinas in the Kinmount area were found on Crystal Lake, where the number of cottagers justified the business. The local municipalities were forced to upgrade & build additional roads for the advent of the tourist age. Narrow "cottage roads" (a new category in the local lexicon) eventually spiderwebbed around suitable lakes. In the early days, they were seasonal roads: no snowplowing & even little summer maintenance. Natural obstacles such as bridges, rivers & swamps drastically affected their routes and mud was a problem in the fall & spring seasons. Many entrepreneur farmers earned extra cash "hauling" cars from the mud; usually with that ever reliable team of horses! Gradually over time, the access roads were improved and extended, making a trip to the cottage practical all year and less of a struggle. As the cottage community grew, the newer versions of the cabin became larger, more luxurious and filled with the modern conveniences once reserved for permanent homes. Hydro lines were added so all the

amenities of the modern age could be enjoyed on vacation as well. The electric refrigerator replaced the ice-box, and the electric stove the old wood stove. Cottages became larger to the point where they were basically indistinguishable from regular homes and only the setting differed. Winter usage was practical if desired, and many lovers of lake life began to retire to their cottages. The original pioneers would be aghast at the fact the waterfront property could be filled to the point where there was now no more space for new cottages, but today such is the case on most area lakes. Many of the later cottages occupy lakefront terrain once considered unsuited for human habitation, and marginal, smaller lakes and even riverfront properties have now entered the vacation equation. As with the laws of supply & demand, the values (and taxes) on waterfront properties have also climbed to historical highs. Where the vacationer of 1900 simply squatted on crown land unabashed about ownership or taxes, the modern cottage can be an expensive proposition. Back-lotting (cottages not on actual waterfront) became common and several subdivisions were organized to fit more cottages on less waterfront. The cottage became a part of Canadian culture, and the area once labeled the Ottawa-Huron Tract received a new nick-name: "Cottage Country".

Lake Histories

Crego Lake

In the northeast corner of Somerville Township lies Crego Lake. A medium-sized lake of about 60 acres, it was named after members of the Crego family, earliest pioneers in the village of Kinmount. Basically ignored until the 1960s, the lake was eventually subdivided by Kinmount Estates Ltd. into about 60 cottage lots in the 1960s. Access was gained from the Monck Road, and the lake soon developed a reputation for great cottaging. Limited winter access meant several permanent residents began to use the lake. Crego Lake, a uncontrolled water level lake, drains into the Burnt River via Crego (or Rushworth's) creek.

Davis Lake

This lake lying the closest to the village of Kinmount, attracted the earliest cottagers. The Hopkins family, local Kinmount merchants, were cottaging by 1900. Access from town was made by the Davis Lake Road, and the waterfront was only a few miles from Kinmount. Davis Lake could also be accessed via Buller to the southwest and Miner's Bay from the west, but the easiest point was from Kinmount village and its railway/road links.

Salmon Lake

Salmon Lake flows into Crystal Lake & hence the Nogies Creek watershed. A few early pioneer farmers penetrated to the lake from the Galway Road in the 1890s. This access road meant cottaging on Salmon Lake began early in the 1900s. Eventually the lake was ringed by roads with access from the north side via the North Salmon Lake Road. Salmon Lake was always a popular destination for fishermen, especially bass and later lake trout.

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Life on the Lakes

There is some gene in the Canadian psyche that drives them to water to relax and have fun. Maybe it's the abundance of pristine fresh-water or the seasonal variations that drive this pilgrimage to water, but summer wouldn't be summer without some "water activities". For many Canadians, the ultimate in vacation activities involve time spent on the water. The Kinmount area, being on the fringe between the Kawartha Lakes region & the Haliburton Highlands, has been blessed with an abundance of suitable vacation lakes. The term "lake" is used as a synonym for water vacations for the simple fact most vacation properties are on a lake. There are cottages on larger rivers, but their numbers pale compared to lake-front properties. The larger the body of water, the more desirable, but there are changes in this trend as river properties do have their benefits. Cottaging has been a traditional summer sport. There are practical reasons for this, the most obvious one being weather. "Opening up the cottage" is a rite of spring for the cottager. While some hardy folk use Easter as their benchmark, the mainstream aim for the first of May or thereabouts. The ice doesn't leave the larger lakes until late April, and roads can be "iffy" until May. Cottage season is traditionally aimed at the "long weekend", and the Victoria Day Long Weekend (alias the May 24 weekend) is the traditional attendance check-in for the cottage crowd. The "high-summer season", or traditional sum-

mer season, commences in earnest with the Canada Day Long Weekend or July 1st. Likewise the cottage season starts to stand down after Labour Day. Thanksgiving is considered the traditional time to "pack-up the cottage" for winter. In today's fast-changing world, many cottagers use their properties year-round, but summer & cottages still belong in the same sentence for most vacationers. What is so special about a summer vacation on a lake? Space prohibits a dissertation here on the joys of summer at the cottage, but it can be generally stated it is the change of pace combined with outdoor activities in the summer weather that drives the cottage crowd. The oldest cottage activity is fishing. Being on the fringe of 2 zones, the Kinmount area has both warm-water & cold-water bodies of water. The deciding factor in this classification is water temperature. The warm-water fish include pickerel (or wall-eye), muskies and bass. Cold-water lakes house trout, bass and even white-fish. Many lake associations hold fishing derbies or tournaments. In recent years, the MNR has changed the fishing regulations to exclude catching some species at risk and to have a "slot-size" where fish under a certain size must be released. The fish population has come under great pressure lately, due to environmental factors, loss of habitat, over-fishing, etc. It is a far cry from the good-old days when fish were plentiful and "anything goes" was the rule of thumb. Today we have seasons, licenses and sundry

rules & regulations to protect the fish stocks.

Boats have changed over the years as well. A century ago, canoes were the norm, along with rowboats, skiffs & sailboats. Today, motor-boats dominate. Newer technology includes jet-skis. One controversy over the use of motor-boats relates to their size (and speed). Some of the smaller lakes are unsuitable for the speed boats, while many traditional cottagers decry the emphasis on size & speed. Water skiing was big in the larger lakes, and some lakes even had a water-skiing club. Due to an increase in boating mishaps, the government has brought in boating licenses. Anyone who operates a motor boat has until September 15 to take a boater's test. It can be taken online or at local clinics. Cottage associations are even holding courses in August to facilitate this law. The seasonal nature of the cottage properties as well as their remoteness made cottages easy targets for break & enter crimes. In the 1980's & 1990s, cottage break-ins reached epidemic proportions, often being reported in the hundreds every year. Professional gangs of thieves would simply move from cottage to cottage, stealing anything of value in the "off-season". Cottagers fought back with year-round patrols, neighbourhood watch and other measures. Thanks to these efforts, especially the "cottage watch", the number of break & enter crimes has declined drastically. An issue much feared by cottagers in the last decade is

Continued on page 5

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Lake Histories

Crystal Lake

The largest lake in the Kinmount area is Crystal Lake. The old timers called it Swamp Lake, which is strange because the lake really has no swamps around it. The reason was most likely the earliest pioneers had to cross large swamps to access this cold-water lake. Obviously the title "Crystal" is more appealing to vacationers than Swamp, but in this case, the more romantic term Crystal is also the more correct term.

Pioneer farmers eventually located on both the north & south shores, giving Crystal Lake the advantage of early access. The White Family from Ewan soon had a cabin on the north side, while cabins on the south shore were erected in the farmer's fields. Thanks to the access afforded by the Crystal Lake Road, a cottage community grew up in the 1930s on the south shore. To service these vacationers, Archie & Peg Dettman opened a small store & later the Crystal Lake Marina was started. A similar node of cottaging followed on the north shore based on Clear Bay & its Marina. Eventually cottage "settlement" spread eastward till the tip of the lake was accessed. In the 1970s, a subdivision called Back Bay Estates located over 70 lots on the hill overlooking the west side of the lake.

Crystal Lake has an unusual formation of numerous deep bays & inlets. In total, the lake has over 21 miles of shoreline, which allows for lots of waterfront cottage lots. Today, over 600 lots line Crystal Lake and for all intensive purposes the lake is full.

Life on the Lakes

continued from page 4

water quality. Due to a number of factors (mostly human-caused), local lakes are not as "pristine" as they once were. Cottage associations, environmental groups and conservation authorities have all tried to halt the deterioration of water quality and return the local waters to their original state. Another issue is fluctuating lake levels. Many local lakes are reservoir lakes for the Trent Canal, which means over the summer season their water levels are reduced as demand for the canal dictates. Crystal & White Lakes suffer from draw-down for the Canal, while some of the smaller lakes are natural level lakes uninfluenced by the Trent Canal System. Another issue is invasive species or "invaders" to the lake ecosystems such as rock bass, zebra mussels, purple loosestrife, Eurasian milfoil and spiny water flea. These foreign invaders can wreak havoc on local ecosystems. An often-overlooked water activity is canoeing, especially on the Burnt

River. The good old Burnt has won plaudits for its role as a canoe route. It has a reputation as being challenging, but not too difficult for the novice canoer. Its many portages are easy, and it does have the advantage of access and convenience of the many villages along its route. Canoes are now being challenged by kay-

aks, another Canadian invention. The turbulent Burnt is still the land of the canoe, a throwback to the old days when you didn't need gas to get you from place to place.

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The Burnt River Quarry

The village of Burnt River is located on a contact zone where the Canadian Shield meets the Great Lakes Lowlands. The Canadian Shield is composed mostly of hard granite rocks. The Great Lakes Lowlands contain a lot of limestone rocks. Limestone, a softer rock, has many more uses than hard granite. Just to the west of the village is a limestone ledge, often called the Pinery Ledge. An outcrop of limestone at this point made quarrying very practical. The Victoria Railway passed right past this site in 1876, the same year Alexander Rettie opened the Burnt River Quarry. The Quarry was later acquired by Samuel Suddaby, who really expanded the business. Limestone has many uses, including lime for agricultural uses & building materials. The great lime kilns at Cobocok were built for these purposes. It can also be crushed easily to gravel for road building. Due to its softness, it can also be carved into building blocks. These last 2 purposes were the main objectives of the Burnt River Quarry. Burnt River limestone building blocks were sent to various places all over Ontario. They were used in railway trestles all over the area. They

can be seen at the Crego Creek trestle south of Kinmount & the old IB&O bridge abutments at Howland Junction. At its peak, the old quarry employed as many as 40 men. To find the necessary workforce, Suddaby recruited workers from Britain. At the peak, 14 carloads of crushed rock were shipped via rail every day! The old quarry operated sporadically until 1924 when it was sold to a Hagersville quarry company who simply closed the site to take it out of production & set a monopoly in the limestone industry. It stands abandoned to this very day. The old village quarry was not the only such one in the area. To the east of town, 2 limestone quarries were later (1980s) established to exploit Burnt River limestone. Crushed stone and armour stone or landscape stone are still hauled from these sites. Many local limestone landscaping walls have been built by Dudman Construction, masters of the art, in our area. Some prime examples can be found in the Austin Sawmill Park and at the Kinmount Fairgrounds.

Victoria County Forest

Farming in the Canadian Shield was always a precarious occupation. In the great land rush of the late 1800s, pioneer farmers "alienated" or claimed any lots they "thought" could be turned into farms. After all, the land was free... as long as you actually tried to farm it. In reality, much of the area was unsuitable for agriculture. The light, sandy lands often "played out" after a few decades, and later generations simply abandoned the unproductive areas. Such was the case of a large block of land in Somerville Township north of Burnt River, all the way to the Haliburton border.

By the 1920s, many farms were abandoned or let go for property taxes. Faced with this problem, the County of

Victoria with the encouragement of the MNR (then called Lands & Forests), decided to reforest the abandoned sector. Thousands of acres were replanted with evergreens, especially varieties of pine. A forester was hired and a headquarters set up in the abandoned Maconachie House. Foresters have included Chris Hodgson, Fred Palmer and Roddy Cameron.

The Lands & Forests supplied the seedlings and paid local residents to plant, thin & harvest the trees. By 1965, 10,000 acres of non-agricultural land had been reforested, primarily with red pine. Red pine was the most common tree because it was the hardiest species. Still, it takes 80 years to mature to full size!



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Lake Histories

White Lake

Along the eastern boundary of Galway Township lies White Lake. Earliest pioneers accessed the area via the Galway Road, White Lake Road or from Irondale. The water levels are controlled by the White Lake Dam, which tumbles spectacularly into Salerno Lake. Earliest settlers reported the lake was essentially "dry" in the summer, and kids could walk across the lake on driftwood, stumps or stranded logs. The lumbermen installed a dam to control water levels & the Trent Canal maintained it over the years. Cottaging came early to White Lake as the Peacock family established summer properties on the shoreline of their east end farm. The Switzer family did the same on the west side. A newer subdivision occupies the south end.



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Spot the Shot Recaptured

Last week's shot was a shot of the High Falls looking north. High Falls are located 2 miles south of Kinmount on the Rail Trail. This is a marked portage point along the Burnt River Canoe Route. Interestingly, this is where the water of the Burnt River flows for its last time over the granite of the Canadian Shield.

While this is a beautiful site, it proved murderous to the River Drivers. Each year during the height of the log drives, between half a million and a million logs had to be pushed around the corners of this waterfall.

Lake Histories


Salerno Lake

The IB&O Railway brought early tourists to Devil's Lake in the 1880s. The famous founder, Charles J. Pusey, had a huge cottage on the south end of the lake. Other cottagers "went over the hill" and built cottages all along the east side. This included the Highland Trail Lodge. This lake was originally called Devil's Lake, but this less than glamorous name was changed to Salerno after WW II. Eventually a road was pushed from Irondale to White Lake to service the farther ends of the lake. The water drains into the Irondale branch of the Burnt River via Devil's Creek at Irondale.

Fortescue Lake

On the northeast corner of Galway Township (actually in Cavendish Township) lies Fortescue Lake. The lake and the surrounding settlement area were named after an English statesman, the Baron Fortescue. A farming community sprang up around the lake in the late 1890s. Fortescue Lake flows into White Lake and hence the Irondale River via Salerno Lake.

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Cultural Corner: Music in the Park

Rick Fines & Guest August 20th

Bring your lawn chairs and come check out Rick Fines at Music in the Park, Thursday, August 20 at 6:30p.m. Rick loves what he does! He has been playing music professionally for 23 years now. At 42, he is a veteran of the folk and blues circuits in North America. His song "Riley Wants His Life Back" has just won first place in the blues category of the International Songwriting Competition, with B.B. King one of the judges! He won the Maple-Blues Award for Acoustic Act Of The Year twice (98, 99) and was nominated this year for the fourth time for Maple-Blues Songwriter of the Year. His work with Jackson Delta (for 15 years) brought nominations from both the Juno and the Handy Awards. He has played for legendary blues piano player Pinetop Perkins, songstress Colleen Peterson, folk icon Penny Lang and many others. He has toured from the Gulf of Mex-

ico to the Arctic Ocean, from B.C. to New England, France to Gr. Britain, bringing his understanding of blues, finger-style and bottleneck guitar. In addition to a busy touring schedule, Rick conducts classes and workshops. For several years now he has taught fingerstyle guitar at the Haliburton School of the Arts and blues guitar at Kincardine Summer Music Festival in Ontario and Hornby Island Blues Workshop in British Columbia. He also works with kids as part of the Blues in the Schools programs in Ottawa, Saskatoon, Toronto and Fredericton.

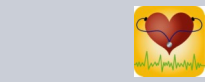
Cass Marie & the Blackfeather Band August 27

Kinmount proudly welcomes back Cass Marie & the Blackfeather Band, at Music in the Park, Thursday, August 27 at 6:30 p.m. for the grand finale of the season. This fine-feathered quartet from Haliburton County, ON combines a relaxed, comfortable folk

sound with anything from rock 'n roll to country to jazz and soft pop, and even dips a toe in a gospel-inspired song. Their tunes are as unique as they are individuals and their talent is just as diverse. Songwriter/vocalist Cass Marie explores issues of dependence, independence, self-actualization, body image, the trials of love and the search for happiness in the band's first full-length independent album entitled Love's Uncertain (release date April 5, 2008.)

The music combines dynamic vocals and gritty, honest lyrics with haunting cello lines, upbeat fiddle reels, grounding guitar rhythms and jazzy bass lines. There is something for everyone in this poetic, non-traditional "feather-folk." Some performances of note include an opening act for Canadian folk legend, Willie P. Bennett, for PEI's up-and-coming folk sweetheart, Rose Cousins, and for eclectic folk/bluegrass songstress, Eve Goldberg.

Cass Marie and the Blackfeather Band members. Check out their music on our new video Kinmount: A Community Celebrates available for sale at the Station, the Marketplace or call 488-2635



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Kinmount Kids' Corner

The Closing of the Kinmount School

In June 1992, Robynne Kilby, a grade 6 student at Kinmount Public School, gave the following speech at the school's Closing Ceremonies held at the town hall:

No more pencils - no more books - no more teachers' dirty looks - no more Kinmount Public School. Usually Kinmount Public School closes its doors for the summer each year but today its doors will close forever! Just think of all the memories made there since the school first opened in 1959. Imagine if the walls could talk what tales they could tell.....

I first started attending Kinmount Public School when I was in grade 1. At that time there was no kindergarten class in Kinmount. I told my mom I was the youngest one in the whole school but she told me not to worry because I wouldn't be the youngest next year. Even back then, there was talk about the school closing but time carried on and it never seemed to happen. So, when I hear about the school closing this year I didn't believe it because the rumours had been going on for so long. I thought for sure something would happen to stop it, as usual. One day, my teacher Mrs. Featherstone brought in sketches of the new school being built. Then it hit me! Kinmount Public School was really closing this time! I'm glad I had the chance to go to Kinmount Public School for 6 years because with it being a small school,

every person gets a lot of special attention. All the students know each other and every staff member knows each student. Once, when I went with my mom on her bus run to Minden School, I was talking to the principal on the school grounds there and he didn't even know I didn't attend his school. That could never happen here. There's a closeness at Kinmount Public School that is just like being one big family. Our school spirit is very strong and I'm really going to miss it a lot. There have been a lot of activities that have been enjoyed by everyone at our school. Our teachers have great imaginations and seem to work really well together dreaming up interesting things for us to participate in. Some of the things I liked the best are the Old-Fashioned Christmas Dinner, the plays we put on, the 1960's Revival Night, Dare to Dream and other talent shows. Actually, I could carry on but the list is almost endless. Other things that the school has participated in that were fun are the Santa Claus Parade, tree decorating, flower planting, walk-a-thons, skate-a-thons, and Remembrance Day Services. Hopefully, we will be able to continue some of these activities at our new school, which will be called Ridgewood Public School. Ridgewood will be a two-story building with a gymnasium that will also be two stories high. It is now in the process of being built

and will be located in the town of Coboconk. Students from Kinmount, Burnt River, Norland and Coboconk will attend the new school. One thing for sure is we will get to make a lot of new friends. Instead of having two grades in each classroom, there will be one grade per class. This will definitely be a new experience for me because up until this year we almost always had three grades in each class. I'm beginning to realize nothing stays the same forever. I look forward to whatever the future brings and will always remember with happiness my special days spent at Kinmount Public School!

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Happy Anniversary Kinmount!!!



Top: Children enjoy Mad Science at the Library; Bottom: The Point in Time Day Camp is a huge success.



The Hot Stove Leak by Lynne Kilby

Prepare yourself. An annual fever is approaching. It strikes in Kinmount around this time each year. Symptoms creep up on you and before you know it you've caught Fair Fever. Once you've got the bug, the best thing to do is relax, go with the flow and let it unwind. Enjoy it while it lasts. Recuperation usually takes place about a week or so after Labour Day Weekend.

Each year my family enjoys camping at Kinmount Fair. I call it our fake holiday. My definition of a fake holiday is when you go camping, but still go home to use your own bathroom!

Remember to keep visiting kinmount.ca your window to Kinmount. Please call me at (705) 488-2919 or send an e-mail to lynne.kilby@sympatico.ca to leak info through the Hot Stove Leak.

KINMOUNT'S OWN KFC & TIMMY'S

Kinmount luckily boasts great food at both KFC & Timmy's! What you say? The answer - Kinmount Fish 'n' Chips and the K & T Café run by owner Tim Harrison. He even has the same initials and great coffee too!

DISCOVER KINMOUNT WITH SUNFLOWER JACK

Every week since early July, Sunflower Jack journeys through Kinmount to a new temporary home. He spends his time at

each new spot waiting to be discovered by children who put clues together to discover his whereabouts. Sunflower Jack is a teddy bear who hides out in a purple carrying case, which contains a notebook of the names of those who have discovered his hideouts. It's not too late for kids to join in the fun. Clues to his new hideaway are given out Saturdays at Kinmount Public Library. Once kids determine his location, they trip to town to find Sunflower Jack and sign his notebook. As they figure out the clues through this detective game, children learn a lot about Kinmount. Many have been delighted to experience places in town they have never been to before. Some of the destinations Sunflower Jack has spent time at are the Model Railroad & Museum, Kinmount Artisans Marketplace, the Post Office, Highlands Cinemas, Austin Lumber and Kinmount District Health Centre.

FREE INTERNET ACCESS

Free internet access is available at Kinmount Public Library, Tuesdays 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. & Saturdays

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Watch for increased hours this fall.

DIXIE CHICKS & FARMER JOAN JOIN

JOURNEY FOR HEALTH
Along with Farmer Joan, the Dixie Chicks (our hilarious feathered friends from Kinmount Talent Night) pecked their way along the Victoria Rail Trail Sunday, August 9, at the annual Journey for Health Walkathon. While Farmer Joan watched for foxes along the way, the flock brightened participant's spirits. Everyone enjoyed pizza and ice cream donated by medical staff and Kawartha Dairy and the slew of prizes donated by businesses. This year's event, sponsored by ReMax Country Living Realty, raised over \$17,000 for Kinmount & District Health Services Foundation. Once again, Khosrow Eshkour of Kinmount Pharmacy donated \$1,500, honouring his pledge to match the participant with the most pledges up to that amount. Funds will go a long way in supporting the Foundation in their quest for a 3rd family doctor. Way to go Kinmount!

MUSIC IN THE PARK WRAPS UP

Don't wait till next year. You've still got a couple of chances to grab those lawn chairs and treat yourself to two relaxing summer evenings at Austin Sawmill Heritage Park. Thursday, August 20 features Rick Fines whose solar powered recording studio is located in the Kawarthas. Norm Provencher of The Ottawa Citizen says "Just try not to smile when you hear Rick Fines. A gorgeous picker with a down-home voice, his blues can lift your spirits." Thursday, August 27 features Cass Marie and the Blackfeather Band. You won't want to miss this hometown group full of exceptional talent. Come hear them for yourself. Both concerts take place at 6:30 p.m.

KIDS BINGO FREE PIZZA PARTY

On Monday, August 24 (the last night of Kid's Bingo this season), the Ladies Auxiliary to the Royal Canadian Legion welcome those in attendance to enjoy a free pizza party about 45 minutes prior to bingo start up at 6:30 p.m. Call 488-3462 for more infor-

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The Hot Stove Leak *continued from page 11*

mation.

OUTDOOR MUSIC NIGHT AT KBC

Kinmount Baptist Church presents Hymn Fest Sunday August 30. The evening begins with a BBQ at 6:00 p.m. followed by music groups at 7:00 p.m. In case of rain, the evening takes place inside the church. Everyone welcome.

KINMOUNT FAIR HIGHLIGHTS

This year's extravaganza, September 4, 5 & 6, includes Beverly Mahood at the Grandstand, Science Magic by Freddy Fusion, Comedy Hypnotist Fernandez and Bands Ambush and Friendly Fire at dances in the arena. The list goes on to include 2 demolition derbies, tractor & truck pulls, World's Finest Shows Midway, a petting zoo, livestock shows, horse draws, a Warrior's Day Parade, talent shows, pioneer complex, exhibits, shopping, great food and more! It all takes place over Labour Day Weekend beginning Thursday night with a Monster Bingo sponsored by Kinmount Lions Club. As the saying goes – "There's something for everyone at Kinmount Fair."

JOIN THE PARADE

Celebrate Kinmount's 150th Anniversary and make this year's Warrior's Day Parade extra special. Groups, businesses & individuals are invited to create a float or walking group. Meet at 11:00 a.m. at Kinmount Railway Station, Saturday, September 5. The parade begins at noon.

KINMOUNT FAIR AMBASSADOR

Make an everlasting memory.

Youth between ages 17 & 23 who live within a 50 km radius of Kinmount are invited to be contestants in the Kinmount Fair Ambassador Competition. Prizes awarded to top 3 contestants. Past Fair Queens and Ambassadors are invited to join in on the 2009 Fair Ambassador Experience. Children ages 4 - 7 who live within a 25 km radius of Kinmount are invited to join in the Prince & Princess Competition. For details call 488-2547 or e-mail doug.pearson@sympatico.ca.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

As a veteran school bus driver of more than twenty years safety is always my first priority and can never be stressed enough. Over the years I have found the topic parents discuss with me most is the seatbelt issue. Staying seated is definitely one of my main concerns too. I always say "The Wheels on the Bus Song" needs one more verse... the driver on the bus says "Stay sitting down, stay sitting down, stay sitting down." I tell my kids to sit "as if they are wearing a seatbelt." Should an accident occur, sitting properly in their seat is a child's best protection.

Research conducted by Transport Canada shows that school bus travel is one of the safest methods of transportation and is 16 times safer than traveling in the family car. School bus seats are designed with high back seats that have energy absorbing padding. The seats, placed close together with strong seat anchorage are checked daily in the bus driver's inspection.

Transport Canada also found the use of seatbelts on school buses did not increase safety but rather the opposite, increasing potential for more severe head and neck injuries and other safety trade offs.

Here are some safety tips from the Ontario Ministry of Transportation for school bus riders and their parents/caregivers to review. <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/schoolbus/safebus.shtml>. Stay safe and have a happy school year!

Rules for Getting on the Bus Safely

Be at the bus stop on time. Never run to or from the bus. Wait at the designated stop in a safe place well back from the side of the road until the bus has come to a complete stop. Remember the danger zone around the bus. The danger zone is anywhere close enough to the bus to touch it. The bus driver cannot see you when you are in the danger zone. If you cross the street to get on the bus: when the bus comes, wait until it has come

to a complete stop. The bus driver will make sure all the traffic stops. The stop arm will be out and the red lights will be flashing. Watch the driver. When the driver knows it is safe, he or she will signal you to cross, but watch for traffic yourself. Walk, don't run. Hold the hand rail as you get on the bus. Don't push or shove.

Rules for Safe School Bus Riding

Take your seat promptly and sit properly, facing forward at all times. Hold bags and parcels in your lap. Do not stick your feet into the aisle: someone might trip. Keep your head and arms-everything-inside the bus. Don't throw anything out the windows or around in the bus. Talk quietly. The driver must concentrate to drive the bus safely. Save snacks for snack time at school or till you get home. They may spill or you may choke if the bus goes over a big bump. No fighting, shouting or playing in or around the bus. Always follow the bus driver's instructions.



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Hot Stove Leak *continued from page 12*

Rules for Leaving the Bus Safely

488-2919.

When you leave the bus, hold the handrail and take two large steps away from the bus. To cross the street in front of the bus, walk ahead at least ten giant steps (three meters). Cross only when the driver gives a signal. Cross the street in single file. If you drop something near the bus, don't pick it up. Tell the driver or other adult.

If everyone is getting off the bus, the people at the front leave first. Do not push. Be familiar with the rules for emergencies.

ASSISTANT LEADERS NEEDED FOR SPARKS, BROWNIES & GUIDES

Unfortunately, the 1st Kinmount Unit is losing 2 of its 3 leaders, although 1 only temporarily. Leader Susan Dier will not be returning this fall. Leader Robynne Kilby is expecting a baby in mid September and requires time off before returning. New leaders must be found in order for the unit to continue. If you are interested in having some great fun with young girls of our community on Monday nights beginning September 28, please give me a call at

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Seniors Cards: Enjoy potluck lunch, 12:30 p.m. Mondays followed by bid euchre at 1:00 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion.

Kids Bingo: Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at the Legion. August 24 is the last session till next summer.

Kinmount Walking Group: Meet downtown Monday, Wednesday & Fridays, 8:15 a.m.

Kids Soccer: Monday & Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., St. Patrick's Field.

Lunch at the Legion: Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Hot Meals \$6.00, Soup & Sandwich \$5.00, includes tea & coffee. Eat in/take out.

Summer Reading Program for Kids: Thursdays, 10:30 a.m., Kinmount Public Library.

Music in the Park: Free Summer Concert Series, 6:30 p.m. at Austin Sawmill Heritage Park. August 20 Rick Fines, August 27 Cass Marie.

Friday Night Bingo: \$300.00 Must Go Jackpot at the Royal

Happy 150th Birthday, Kinmount



Galway and Area Ratepayers Association Inc.

Coming Meetings:
July 11 - Reeve & Warden
Sept. 12 - Environment
10:00 am Galway Hall

Working for Community Improvement

Canadian Legion, 6:45 p.m.

Kinmount Farmers Market: Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Austin Sawmill Heritage Park.

Model Railroad & Museum: Saturdays at the Railway Station, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Drop in Craft: Saturdays, 11:00 a.m. at Kinmount Public Library.

Highlands Cinemas: Call 488-2107 or visit www.highlandscinemas.com for info.



Rick Fines will be at Music in the Park on August 20th. This is a wonderful opportunity to see this famous Blues artist. Bring your lawn chair to the Austin Sawmill Heritage Park picnic shelter at 6:30 PM.

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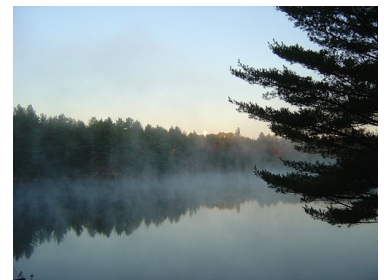
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The Crystal Pier as seen from the water on Crystal Lake.

Dance Pavilions were common in the middle of the last century.

In the early years of the 20th Century, dance halls or pavilions sprang up all over Ontario, but especially in “resort country”. The halls were usually placed on the waterfront and were limited to operating during the summer season. In the big band era, many famous names were part of the dance hall circuit. The liquor laws in Ontario were somewhat “less liberal” than today, and almost all these dance halls were “dry”. However, for a Saturday night of summer fun & frolic, the local dance hall was the place!

The Kinmount area was home to one such dance hall: the Crystal Pier. The facility and its attendant marina, were built by Jack & Marjory Thoms on the south side of Crystal Lake in the years after World War II. After 1945, Crystal Lake witnessed a boom in cottage construction. In summer, the lake was filled with vacating people, and the baby boom demographics meant many were under the age of 20.

The building was built so that 70% of the structure actually hung out over the water. (Try that today!) The Thoms operated a restaurant as well, and their Sunday-night smorgasbords were legendary. The marina became a hub of activity on Crystal Lake and the lights from the Pier were a navigational beacon around the lake. Ken & Ida Young bought the business and for many years operated a thriving marina/store/dance hall operation.

The Youngs threw an annual pig roast for the Crystal Lakers as a token of their appreciation and as a social time for the diverse community that called Crystal Lake their summer home.

The Crystal Pier never hosted “big-name” bands: most of the music being provided by a disc jockey or a juke-box. But that didn’t stop the younger set from having a good time, especially on summer Saturday nights! Warm summer nights, the reflection of the moon on water, the beat of music.. ah how romantic!

Today, few dance halls still remain; most victims to changing times. The Crystal Pier was closed in 1983. Another era in our community had passed.

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Spot the Shot



Each week we will feature a photo from the Kinmount Area. We challenge you to identify the spot.

Submissions of photos welcome. Please submit to the editor via email with a detailed description of the spot you have captured.

Last week's Spot the Shot: The High Falls, 2 miles south of Kinmount on the Rail Trail.

From the Editor's Desk

Kinmount, and the whole City of Kawartha Lakes, were visited on August 6 by the Communities in Bloom judges. This national program encourages communities all across Canada to spruce up their appearance and show their community pride. Kinmount has lots to be proud of, and for 2 hours, the judges toured the Highlands Cinema, visited the Artisans Marketplace, the Railway Station, the Austin Sawmill and the Park. The judges were impressed with our floral displays & one dubbed Kinmount as petunia city. Whether we won or lost is not as important as the effort & image the whole community put into showing off. Stay tuned for results, but rest assured Kinmount impressed the judges.

This week we feature Burnt River as our Friends & Neighbours. Burnt River & Kinmount share more his-

tory than we realize. An excellent book called "In And Around Burnt River" chronicles the story of our good neighbour downstream.

We owe a vote of thanks to the Minden Museum for sponsoring our local authors & railway day as well. Thanks Minden Museum and Carol Simmons.

The next issue of the Gazette will feature the Kinmount Fair. The Fair is so eagerly anticipated in Kinmount that we often measure time around the Fair. I call it BF and AF or Before the Fair & After the Fair. August is often divided into what you can do Before the Fair and what must wait until After the Fair: a sort of community "time stamp" if you will. So the next edition will be BF.

To celebrate our 150th anniversary, the Kinmount Fair is inviting all Kinmount residents 80 years old or over to

be our guests in the Parade. Just show up at the railway station by 11:30 am on Saturday and ride the Parade as honoured guests of the Kinmount Fair. For further info, contact the editor.

The theme of this year's Warrior's Day Parade at the Fair is "Celebrating Kinmount's Sesquicentennial". To this end, the 150th Committee is challenging Kinmountians to participate in the parade with an entry based on this theme and win a prize! Surprise us!

"Over the Years In Galway", the late Peter Pearson's excellent little booklet on the history of Galway Township, is now reprinted & available at the Marketplace for only \$12.00. Check out the Artisan's Marketplace for lots of Kinmount memorabilia..

The new public washroom is now open in the railway yard. What a wonderful improvement to our town! GS

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