

# NAIRN CENTRE

1896 - 1996

## THE FIRST 100 YEARS



### INTRODUCTION

The trans-Canada highway skirts our sleepy little town on its way to other people and places. To the souls hurrying through, we must appear small and insignificant, just a place to slow down for a minute or so. Ahh, little do they know that our town offers unsolved mystery, heroism, excitement and best of all heritage. Our heritage. Canada was built from little towns just like ours. Some grew into great cities, some maintained a small-town atmosphere in which to raise tomorrow's citizens.

In the growing from a handful of settlers to whatever it is destined to become there is a story that is always interesting, often fascinating and sometimes eventful. Such is the story of Nairn Centre. It all started when a group of pioneering people decided that they were a community prior to 1896. Why do we start there? We know that March 7th, 1896 was the date that the people of Nairn, Lorne and Hyman Townships formally held their first meeting as a municipality. We can imagine that for quite some time before this momentous day, people had been talking at weddings, house or barn raisings or whatever occasion got together a group of neighbours. Soon they decided to amalgamate their small bands of residents into a recognized community. Thus, we arrive at the date of March 7th, 1896.

At two o'clock on Saturday afternoon of March seventh that year, after chores were completed, they met in the schoolhouse. They probably stoked up the woodstove and then our first Reeve, Andrew Dever, called the meeting to order. After the Proclamation of Certification was read, the Clerk, H.L. McLean would note the first councillors as Richard Fensom Sr., R.G. Lee, John Hall and William Hunt. They would decide to pay the first treasurer, Fredrick Summerby, a salary of \$10 a year along with a \$500 bond if he performed his duties correctly. (This seems to be an interesting concept, I wonder if our federal politicians would agree to such an arrangement?) They would elect to pay the clerk a salary of \$50 a year. These men were our first council. Some of these names appear regularly throughout this history so remember them.

So far we had grown from a collection of people residing near the Nelson railway station who called their town Nelsonville, to a town that received its present name from the railway engineer who was employed laying out the new railway line. He came from a small town in Inverness Shire, Scotland called Nairn.

This book could have been much shorter if we'd simply chronicled our story with historical dates and facts, but that would have been the bones of the story and it's the flesh that makes it interesting. It took some imagination and a lot of talking to our older residents to fill out the skeleton that grew into the fascinating body that is contained in the following pages. We hope that you find it as enjoyable to read as we did to write.

## THE BEGINNING

It was in 1876 when Joseph Edwards journeyed from his native Wrexham, in Northern Wales to settle in the Ottawa Valley. Twelve years later he would settle in a small community in Northern Ontario called Nelsonville and in doing so he became part of our story.

Before he moved here, the Canadian Pacific Railroad completed its Algoma branch answering an obvious need for easier and cheaper transportation of both goods and people. The station was located near the Spanish River, the reason probably being that was how they transported people and goods before trains. It isn't hard to imagine the anticipation that the pioneering people of 1886 must have felt as they saw the rails going down. Young people probably talked of all the far away places they were going to see. Mother's thought of children they could visit and have come home with greater frequency. Maybe men tentatively considered a greater market base for their goods. Needless to say everyone thought of the great change the advent of the steel highway was going to bring to their lives.

Two years after the railroad came to town so did Mr. Joseph Edwards Sr. He was a section foreman for the C.P.R. and lived in a company (section) house where, with his crew he worked the Nairn section. According to the Sudbury Daily Star's May 14, 1953 article of Nairn Centre by Albert Crick, the first two buildings here were the station (Nelson) and a section house (where for a time Mr. Edwards lived) built by the C.P.R. on their Algoma line. Mr. Crick goes on to say that basically these were the only two buildings in a forest of conifer and birch. Joseph Edwards, Sr. was married by this time and had at least two children, a boy called Joseph A. and a girl named Mary. The residents of Nairn Centre would later affectionately refer to Joseph Jr. as "Old Joe" who lived in the family home on Smith Street. In the above mentioned article, Mr. Crick, writes that by 1953 the original logs were covered with clapboard and insul-brick siding.

In 1896 the people decided to be formally recognized as a community. They would have to decide on who their first officials were going to be and since they had to pick a name for their town they decided to pick Nairn Centre.

In our introduction we told you about that cold Saturday afternoon of March 7th in 1896 when the first meeting took place.

This transcription of the last paragraph of the minutes of the very first council meeting will give you the flavour of that meeting.

**"THE REEVE laid on the table the proclamation of the Hon. Fredrick W. Johnson, Judge for Algoma certifying that the Townships of Nairn, Lorne and Hyman had been duly organized and that A. Dever was duly elected reeve and that Richard Fensom, R.G. Lee, John Hall and Wm. Hunt councillors for the said Municipality and fixing Saturday the 7th day of March, 1896, at the hours of 2 o'clock in the afternoon, at the school house in the village of Nelsonville, for the first meeting of said Council".**

**At this meeting their 6th by-law stipulated that future meetings would take place on the first Monday of each month at the Forester's Hall (IOOF -Independent Order of Foresters) at eight o'clock in the evening. According to Albert Crick they would continue to meet here until 1905 when they changed their meeting place to Mr. McLean's hotel. He writes that they met at the hotel until 1909 when they moved their meeting place to the jailhouse. It makes you wonder what happened to make them change their plans with regard to the Forester's Hall that was still around until it burned circa 1916.**

**From about 1890 and for two decades into the next century the economic mainstay of this area was logging. Several companies operated in this area and river drives along the Spanish and Vermilion Rivers provided a great deal of local employment.**

**Around 1890 or 1891 the lure of gold brought John Hall north from Brockville. He decided that he could make more money with a store than panning for gold, so he built the first general store of logs at the present intersection of Hall and Front Streets. This appears to be where the first post office was also. Eventually the log building was sold to Felix Biglow, a lumber foreman, who moved it to Lot 12 on Hall Street at which time John Hall had a new, bigger building erected.**

**Research gives the following names as some of the lumber companies: E. Hall, Bell and W. J. Bell followed later by Sarnia Bay Lumber Company, Michigan Land, and Graves, Bigwood and Company.**

**During the lumbering days each company had its own warehouse on the siding of the C.P.R. from which the camp supplies were toted into the different logging operations. Mr. Albert Crick worked at one of these warehouses.**

**Logging didn't just bring prosperity with it, there was violence as well. Loggers apparently played as hard as they worked. Here is a tale told by Albert Crick that will demonstrate just how hard they played.**

**"Some disgruntled woods foremen, having a grudge against a hiring agent, decided they would make said agent dance to their music - that is, they would shoot close enough to his feet to keep him dancing away from their bullets."**

**Although this particular event took place at the new Klondike, fist fights as well as boot fights were common in all three hotels. So it isn't hard to understand that in 1897 a by-law was passed limiting the number of hotels in town to just three. At times, you can bet even that might have seemed like three too many.**

## **NAIRN CENTRE SAWMILL OPERATIONS**

**Most of the pine had been stripped away by 1923 and the last remaining corporations closed their doors. Old timers claimed that at camp break-up as many as 1,000 men were out of work and it was weeks before many moved on to new jobs. The hotels, boarding houses and jails must have been full to overflowing!**

**Ben Merwin formed the Pineland Timber Company Limited in 1923 and according to Lawrence San Cartier, the land was purchased from his uncle, Peter San Cartier.**

**Early in 1948, Ben Merwin approached the K.V.P. Company because a site had to be selected for log sorting. Around this time the International Nickel Company of Canada bought a share in the mill as well. By this arrangement the company was given all the mine timber for several mines and K.V.P. was given the smaller logs for conversion into pulp and paper. Pineland manufactured the large logs into , wedges, mine props, smaller timbers and railroad ties.**

**Ben Merwin and Myron Austin arrived on the present site the first week of June, 1949. It was a forest of red and jack pine trees. Myron was to manage the operations of the sawmill. Sorting piers, bridges, platform rafts, walkways and holding booms were installed for transporting the raw trees from the Spanish River. Log sorting began in early summer.**

**By 1950 Ben had almost as much area under forestry government licence as the current E.B. Eddy holdings.**

**Until hydro was available, the mill was powered with a four-cylinder Wisconsin air-cooled engine.**

**In 1955, INCO put in a request to have mine timber framed at the sawmills. In response to this request Ben Merwin had a double-end tenor or framer designed and built for this purpose. The machine was installed in the existing framer building in 1956 and operated until 1992.**

**More expansions were made to the mill in 1956. Ben Merwin appointed his son, Bud, to the position of superintendent for the Nairn**

**operations. This allowed Myron to spend all of his time doing what he does best, the mechanical construction aspect of the plant.**

**The mill was the first to operate a debarker and chipper in Eastern Canada. Hydro lines and a transformer station were installed to give electric power to the mill and framer.**

**Since it was planned that the mill be under operation twelve months a year rather than summer only, some additions were made. In 1962, Ben Merwin sold Pineland Timber Company to K.V.P. and INCO. Getting rid of waste products was a major concern. In the early sixties the mill waste was transported to the dump site, set on fire and left to smolder all winter. (You can imagine what the housewives would have to say when they saw their laundry covered in soot from the smoldering dump.)**

In the fall of 1962 a Tepee Burner was erected on the north side of the sawmill to alleviate the problem of smoke surrounding the town. This burner operated for ten years, until 1972.

The most notable change made in the sixties was the certification of the Lumber and Sawmill Worker's Union, Local 2537. Certification was made in September 1962 and the first collective agreement began June 1, 1963. Danny LaBelle was the union president. The base labour rate was \$1.45 per hour and the highest rate was for a millwright at \$2.13 per hour. Overtime had a 50 cent premium.

The workers at Pineland must have felt some misgivings about their future when they learned that K.V.P. had been purchased by Brown Forest Industry and that on February 14th, 1969, E.B. Eddy purchased the Espanola operations from Brown Forest.

The large log mill was built in the late summer of 1971. The machinery was installed the next spring followed by a debarker and sorter the summer of 1972. Finally, in September, the new mill start-up took place. Many expansions were made to the new mill.

On May 1st, 1973, E.B. Eddy took control of the Nairn sawmill. Many additions and more advanced equipment were installed in the mill from 1980 to 1983. The facilities were modernized in that decade. The mill production went from 90,000,000 f.b.m. (foot board measure) in 1980 to 135,000,000 in 1984.

In 1995 Nairn Centre Sawmill produced 190 million f.b.m. with a labour force of 317.

## THE SPANISH RIVER

To say that the Spanish River is integral to the history of Nairn Centre is to understate the case. It's been used as a method of travel, a source of recreation, tourist attraction and an inexpensive method of transporting logs. Trains have crashed into it and we have tried to bridge it. Fishermen have taken pike, pickerel, bass, perch and the occasional muskie from its clear, cold waters.

Situated north of the town proper it flows deep and majestic on its journey westward. Research conducted in the area indicates that the Spanish River was used as a travel route from Lake Huron to the interior by prehistoric people for over eight thousand years. Until the late nineteenth century the river was called by its native name "Skiminitigan" or "Eskimanetigon" River. It is believed that the names referred to the Ojibway word for a bird known as the kingfisher.

Native informants believe that the river took its name from an ancient aboriginal village called "Skimington" located a little way back from Sagamok which is a Spanish River Reserve south of Massey.

The Chief of the Ojibway band at "Skimington" was an individual known as the Spaniard or l'Espagnol. Both the town of Espanola and the Spanish River owe their names to this person.

## **NAIRN CENTRE TRAIN STATION**

**In the spring of 1935, W.F. (Bill) and Roxie Scott arrived in Nairn from Westport Ontario with their family. Mr. & Mrs. Scott came to relieve C.P.R. station agent John McCormick, while Mr. Scott also became a relief Telegrapher at the McKerrow and Webbwood stations.**

**At that time, the train was the most predominant way of travelling and shipping. There were four passenger trains, including one which ran daily between Toronto and Sault Ste. Marie. This train did not stop at all the stations however, and had to be flagged down if someone wanted to board.**

**Another mentionable train ran from Monday to Saturday between Sudbury and Little Current. This train picked up the mail, express parcels and farm produce. On its return trip to Sudbury it also pulled cars of coal from the stock pile in Little Current and quartz from the quarrie in Willisville. These cars were delivered to the smelter in Copper Cliff. This particular train was also the means of transportation for most people, including Espanola high school students.**

**The Nairn station, one of the first buildings to be erected in Nairn in 1889, was a large two story frame building with large living quarters attached to the office, waiting room and freight shed. This building was heated by five wood stoves which used an enormous amount of coal and wood supplied by the C.P.R. With no electricity, oil lamps and lanterns were the standard source of light.**

**Mr. Scott died in February of 1939, leaving behind his wife Roxie and their five children (Bill, Vivian, Dennis, Clayton and Sheila). These were difficult and uncertain years for this widow with five children, especially with many other men competing for the station job. Mrs. Scott proved most capable of holding the position herself though and so remained as express and ticket agent until her retirement in 1960. Before this, however, Mrs. Scott was remarried in 1949 to Herb K. Green.**

**During Mrs. Scott's tenure, the station witnessed many changes: Hydro came to Nairn along with electricity; Pineland Timber (now E.B. Eddy Forest) began its operations and used the railroad for shipping; the train lines were used to transport soldiers, prisoners and rations during the war; and when Bell telephone came to Nairn, Mrs. Scott became the Bell telephone operator.**

**During the war, the pace of living increased dramatically and time was now of the essence. People were on the move and faster delivery became required. With the increased use of planes, cars, buses, transport trucks and a new and improved Trans-Canada Highway, the train business began to dwindle until the Nairn station was eventually closed and dismantled in the early 1960's. The railroad, however, will never be forgotten as it was an integral part of many of our lives in Nairn Centre and the surrounding communities.**

**The second railway to go through our town was the Algoma Eastern Railway, originally known as the Manitoulin and North Shore which extended from Little Current to Sudbury. It was completed in 1912. The C.P.R. didn't go to Manitoulin Island and there were no paved roads. Land travel was limited to trails and usable mainly in the summer months.**

The controversy about the correct name of the railroad was cleared when through more research an article was found in the Sudbury Star, November 13, 1995 written by Michael Barnes, entitled "American brought prosperity to Sault Ste. Marie". Which explained that Francis Clergue needed a method of transporting his goods from the Soo to Sudbury, so he built the Algoma Eastern Railway. After seeing samples from a prospector, of his mining claim in Michipicoten, 240 kilometres north of his mill, the resourceful entrepreneur had the Algoma Central Railroad built. Mystery solved!!

## **POWER DEVELOPMENT**

Between 1914 and 1915, the Mond Nickel Company, now I.N.C.O., built a dam at Nairn Falls on the Spanish River. Due to the effects on the economy after World War I there had been an increased demand for nickel from the Sudbury Basin .

The Nairn Falls dam had a considerable effect on the flow of water down river to Lake Huron. The Nairn Falls Power Plant (or Huronian Power Plant) is still providing power for I.N.C.O. who sells some to Ontario Hydro.

The Nairn Plant used to employ 4 steady men and 1 holiday relief, but is now downsized to men working out of High Falls Plant.

For quite a few years there was a small townsite up hill of the plant. It consisted of two 3 bedroom houses, rented out to INCO workers and a much larger one called the Club House. This Club House was where a cook and family lived and boarded the maintenance men of the plant.

## **THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Before any formal fire department was established there was a clapboard garage behind the Town Hall (old jail) where metal pack-sacks with hand pumps were stored and used by anyone who volunteered.

Later, Myron Austin devised a 500 gallon tank in the back of a 3-ton truck, using a forestry gas pump and hoses. Chapleau, who was updating their equipment, donated their used pumps, tools and some hoses. This was also manned by whomever was available. Water for the tank was obtained from the INCO Nairn power house.

By-law Number 73-10, October 9th, 1973, established the Nairn Fire Department and the construction of the fire station. A new pumper was also purchased at a cost of \$28,893.

The first fire chief was Robert Salter. In 1974 Wayne Westcott served as fire chief until 1979. From then to present, Wayne Austin has served very ably as fire chief. In April 1974, a self contained fire truck was purchased. Then around 1980 a second truck was bought. It was equipped for basic auto extrication and basic forest fire fighting. Presently, fifteen firemen are trained twice monthly to keep current on equipment and new methods. Pagers and radio equipment were installed in the fire trucks between 1985 - 86.

With the logging of primarily white pine bringing prosperity to our area, men needed a place to spend their money and let off steam, so approximately 1890-91 the first hotel, called the Klondike was built and managed by Mr. H. McLean, the first clerk for the township. The name would change to the New Klondike and then finally, as it is called now, the King George.

Soon after the Klondike Hotel was in operation Malcolm MacDonald with true enterprising spirit employed William Hall to build the Nelson House on the south side of Front Lane. This establishment was destroyed in a fire but Mr. MacDonald had it rebuilt. Later, when the logging industry wasn't quite as lucrative he would have the building torn down (c. 1926).

Some time later, a man named James Taylor constructed a hotel near the rail crossing, which turned out to be on C.P.R. land and just as it was going to be removed it burned to the ground. This may have been the King Edward Hotel.

Although these hotels were very successful during the boom time of the logging industry the only survivor in 1996 is the King George Tavern.

## CHURCHES

Two of the town's inhabitants were James Bellows Hammond and his first wife, Flora McDonnell Hammond. J. B. Hammond's name runs all through our earlier history, you'll see it on council meeting minutes as well as a number of other places. They must have been very generous because they first donated the land for the Anglican and United Churches (built at the turn of the century) and their cemeteries.

Building a church isn't cheap in any era, but the adults of the community persevered and some even went to the lumber camps in order to collect donations from the lumberjacks.

Mary Edwards, the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Edwards, Sr., and James Boyce were the first couple to wed in the new Anglican Church. Some years later, around 1924, one of this couple's descendants donated the bell for the church. She was Miss Hazel Boyce (later married Edward Jefferies), and had purchased the bell from the C.N.R. in Leaside, Ontario.

The early 1900s saw the construction of the other two churches. The Catholic Church, St. Jude, and the Methodist Church (United Church) were constructed in the early part of the new century. Reverend Smith officiated at one of the weddings at the Methodist Church. That of Mabel Harley and Alexander Moulton on April 24th, 1901.

The Catholic Church was torn down in the early 1970s and the firehall stands in its place.

## SCHOOL

There was a vibrant community here with families who had put down roots and wanted their children to be educated close to home. They wanted their town of Nelsonville to have a school which was a symbol not only of prosperity but of stability. This wasn't a place to stop in for a while and then pass through. With a school, it would become a place to settle and from this decision grew a town.

So mothers and fathers talked. People talked at meeting places. Excitement grew, it was decided they would build a school. And so it was in 1895 that a one-room log schoolhouse was built on Front Street which would serve the townships of Nairn, Lorne and Hyman. During these early years, one of the first schoolmarm's was reported to be John Hall's wife, Clara.



Our school population had grown to over sixty students by 1925 so the school board under J.B. Hammond decided to hire a second teacher. Miss Elizabeth Halcrow, known now by her married name of Mrs. Betty Boyce, was hired for an annual salary of \$700. During her first year of teaching at Nairn Public School, her class and Mr. Gibson's class was separated by a curtain.

By 1926, a new two-room schoolhouse was built at a cost of \$6,000 with an additional \$4,000 being spent on equipment. The cost of the building was kept down by utilizing salvageable parts of the old structure. In addition to the two classrooms, there was a teacher's room and a full basement. The basement was partitioned off for boys, girls, the furnace and coal rooms. During inclement weather students could play in their section of the basement.

For the depression years teachers received no salary increases, some even had to take cuts in their pay (was this the precursor of the Rae Days in the early 1990s?). Mrs. Boyce remembers getting an increase in salary to \$900 annually in 1929.

The school was becoming much too small for the number of students by 1965 so they added a classroom to the boys part of the basement and it now became a three-room school. A new school was in the planning stage for the following year and was ready in the spring of 1966.

The students and teachers happily moved in. It was a good year with the exception of some problems with the water supply. The new gym and stage were seen as beneficial to the whole community as well as the school. The Christmas concert was performed from the new stage and graduation was held in the new gym. The most important factor seemed to be that there was ample room for the students in the new building.

In the 1966-67 school year the Beaver Lake school closed. It was first planned that these students would attend R.H. Murray school in Whitefish but the Beaver Lake people strongly objected and since Whitefish was already crowded the students were permitted to attend school in Nairn Centre.

Our school was glad to have them but it meant that the gym doubled as a classroom. During the 1967-68 school year grades three and four had to move everything, including their desks, out into the hall every time there was a gym class.

The school boundaries had expanded by 1969-70 to include the village of High Falls in Hyman and Drury Townships. More students meant more space and so the required addition was finished in 1970 and included two new classrooms, a lunch and storage rooms, principal's office, and a library. Surely, now it was large enough....well, maybe not.

In the school year of 1970-71 the lunch-room was converted into a kindergarten room, a first in Nairn Centre. The storage room did double duty as a special education room. The library, while a luxury, was much too small, only eight to ten students at a time could use it.

Overcrowding and the constant uproar with moving things back and forth finally came to a halt during the 1983-84 school year when declining enrolment allowed the students to move out of the gym. During these years the school population reached the grand height of over 180 students.

In 1984, the final addition was added to the school. A new library, special education room, full-size principal's office and staff room.

For the 1995 school year the number of students had decreased dramatically leaving lots of room for teachers and students.

The bulk of the information regarding the school was taken from an historical report. It was written on the occasion of the one hundredth anniversary of the Nairn Public School by Sandra Valiquette, secretary, with information she obtained from notes belonging to Dorothy Nelmes.

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Picture a bustling community with Nairn Centre being the hub. A school, three churches, hotels, a store and a distributing point for goods flowing both north and south. Beef cattle, vegetables, strawberries, hundreds of baskets of blueberries were among some of the products being shipped to southern markets. One of our first councillors, Richard Fensom in Lorne Township, was a chief producer and shipper of beef. It wasn't uncommon for Toronto markets to see several carloads of cattle or horses being loaded and unloaded via cattle chutes.

All of this from a small but vibrant community that wouldn't have much of an existence without the logging trade. Men had to make a living, but it was dangerous and during the logging heyday (1890-1923) many families lost loved ones either on river drives or accidents in the woods.

### FIRST DO-IT-YOURSELFERS

In 1897, if building permits were issued, the first would have gone to Mr. Joseph Edwards Sr. who had Bob Peters erect his house.

This was a time when people bartered for haircuts, blacksmithing and other skills or in true pioneering spirit, did it themselves. You might say that they were the first "Do it yourselfers". Many of the men, for instance, could fix anything iron from horseshoes to sleighs. In our lifestyles of fast-foods, quick-fixes and high-speed technology it may be hard for some to imagine a man building a super hot fire then waiting for the iron to heat to a glowing red before he hammered it into the desired shape on an anvil. But that's how it was done!

### NAIRN CENTRE, PROGRESS

July 26, 1874	Alexander Graham Bell invented the electric-speaking telephone at Brantford, Ontario.
April 29, 1880	The Bell Telephone Company of Canada was incorporated by federal charter.
1911 - 1912	The Bell Company constructed a long distance line of copper wire from North Bay to Sault Ste. Marie via Sturgeon Falls, Coniston, Nairn Centre, Espanola, Blind River and Thessalon.
April 1912	Nairn Centre was first listed in the directory for Central Ontario as an office connected to the long distance lines of The Bell Telephone

Company of Canada. A later directory for the same year shows that a public telephone for long distance calls only was located in A. E. Clavette's general store and the toll business was managed by him until 1926. There were no local subscribers.

- April 1917** Nairn Centre's first local subscriber was listed in the directory:  
Lorne Power Co Ld Power House ....1
- January 1927** Mrs. E. A. McCormack was appointed Branch Manager.
- 1928** The public telephone was moved to the King George Hotel.
- 1931** The telephone office moved from the King George Hotel to the C.P.R. station on Trunk Road and a No. N1317A magneto switchboard with a 145-line capacity was installed. Customers cranked the telephone to establish connection.
- Mrs. McCormack remained in charge until Mr. A. Leach took over the managerial reins in 1933. In June 1935, Mrs. R.I. Scott (later Mrs. R.I. Green) succeeded to the post and remained until July 31, 1953.
- August 1, 1953** The Bell Company closed the Nairn Centre telephone office and transferred the town's five customers to the Espanola common battery central office. Instead of activating a crank to summon the operator, Nairn Centre subscribers now merely lifted the receiver.
- February 1965** Direct Distance Dialling was introduced. Espanola and Nairn Centre customers could now dial their own long distance calls without operator assistance.
- 1988 to present** Nairn Centre enjoys state of the art services from Bell Canada.  
\* \* \* \*
- 1984** Natural Gas heating became a reality.  
\* \* \* \*
- 1988** Cable TV service was available to the residents of this community.
- 1995** A communal water system was operational on August 1995.  
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Electricity is something that is so common to us that we take it for granted, until a power outage. It must have seemed like a wondrous event to the inhabitants of Nairn Centre in 1948. We were quick to take advantage of it. In fact, Nairn Public School was the first school to have fluorescent lights in northern Ontario. Around this time they also changed the outdoor toilets for indoor chemical ones in the basement of the school. There was progress but the outdoor well and hand pump were still used for drinking water. It wasn't until the 1950s that plumbing was installed and our school house now had flush toilets and indoor running cold water.

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## THE ORANGE HALL

In 1925, Levi Pomfrey built the Orange Hall. It was so called after the Orange Order which was a secret society, formed in the north of Ireland in 1795, to uphold the Protestant religion and Protestant control in Ireland. Mr. Pomfrey must have at least sympathized with those beliefs at the time to build a hall for it. The Loyal Orange Association was named after William, Prince of Orange, (a principality in W. Europe, now a part of S.E. France) who became King William III of England.

Every year on July 12th the Orangemen would have a meeting and then they would parade around town. Today that would be considered "politically incorrect".

Nevertheless, this building was used much like you would use any community centre; for graduation parties, wedding receptions and dances.

The children were inoculated by the health nurse at the hall.

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Mr. Hammond was instrumental in establishing a solid, well laid out village. Not only did he donate the land for two of the churches, but he made the original layout of the south portion of the town by having plans drawn up by DeMorest and Johnson of Sudbury. This was done on eighty acres of the southern portion of Lot 2, Concession 4.

These plans show six streets, each 66-feet wide separating blocks containing 20 lots each, the lots measuring 50-feet by 115-feet. Allowances were for 20-foot lanes in each block.

The part of town on the north side of the railway was laid out by the McIntyre Mining Corporation.

On June 14th, 1897 probably at Mr. Hammond's urging, the council drafted a by-law that entailed that all buildings and obstructions on streets, lanes and public highways be removed and that necessary lanes, streets, or public highways be opened up for the accommodation of the public.

The town's by-law number 31 of that year (1897) called for the proper laying out of streets, lanes and public highways.

Further it was passed that council take the necessary steps to open up a road from the C.P.R. crossing on Smith Street, east to the railroad station and west along the boundary line between McIntyre Street and a proposed Hammond Street (now Highway 17) and then further west to the old C.P.R. tote road to join the proposed bridge across the Spanish River at the rapids.

Later, an order was made to build the approach to the railroad crossing on Smith Street in order to get a public crossing and cattle guards put in as soon as possible.

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Joseph Edwards and William Harley, in 1898, were authorized to decide on the location of the road from Nairn Centre to Worthington, a six mile stretch, for which they were paid \$2. This road would become part of the trunk road from Sudbury to Sault Ste. Marie.

## DISASTERS

On Monday, March 12, 1906 the residents were startled by grinding and crashing as six of the westward bound railroad cars plunged down the twenty-five foot gulley at the curve just east of town. With hearts pounding they raced to the site to see the engine in solitary state on the rails while all around the cries of the injured wailed. The rescuers slid down the snow embankment and carried the wounded to the Nelson House while others rushed east and west to get medical aid. One man died at the scene. Among the passengers were J.J. McFadden of Blind River, Ralph Loveland of Cutler and J.L. Wells of Webbwood. The conductor was Thomas Dreany. The curve where the accident occurred has since been reduced.

The year of 1906 started out with a train wreck and concluded later with a forest fire, which approached from east and west of the village. The residents must have hoped that the following year would be quieter.

During 1907, Nairn Centre approached the government about getting funds to help with building a bridge over the Spanish River. They cited the benefits that could be derived due to the amount of logging that was going on, but the government couldn't be convinced.

And so in 1908, the Graves Bigwood Company decided to spend \$3,000 to construct a wooden bridge at Headquarters. It was given this name because they had established large stables, a cookhouse and quarters for teamsters. Another request was made to the government, this time for a grant of \$1,000 and again they were refused unless the Township established a road allowance from Old Highway 17 to the river and some distance on the north side. The town fulfilled its part of the bargain and the grant was given to the town to turn over to the company. Unfortunately, the bridge was washed away many years later as a result of a big flood. Mr. San Cartier believes the bridge washed away in 1931.

Again, in 1909, forest fire threatened local people; from the north this time.

The year, 1910, was still new on Friday, January 21st, when a horrendous train wreck happened four miles west of here at the Spanish River trestle crossing. The #7 train consisted of eight cars; an engine, a baggage car, a sleeper and three other cars, all of which didn't leave the rails. But the dining car and first class coach plunged down the embankment and through a foot of ice into the frigid waters of the river. Some died of their injuries, but most drowned. Altogether, 43 souls were lost, one of whom was Lomi Therrien of Nairn Centre.

Those who survived were rescued by the conductor. Imagine the bravery of Tom Reynolds of Pembroke. It was minus 40 degrees fahrenheit and yet he still dove into the freezing river to save W.J. Bell, a millionaire lumberman, after whom Bell Park in Sudbury is named, by pulling him through a vent in the roof. That wasn't enough, he went back in again and again to save several others.

For his efforts, Tom Reynolds was awarded the Albert Medal as well as a sum of money for his heroism. The cause of the accident was never established.

In 1914, after a huge forest fire swept through several townships north of what is now Lake Agnew and extending further north, almost to Cartier, the Graves Bigwood Company

opened up 14 camps with about 1,500 men and 200 teams of horses. Although this was the largest operation in any one season, lumbering in this district had started to wane.

As folks were giving thanks for the end of the first world war in 1919, town people were fighting another foe. A forest fire roared in from the west. Adults and older children finally put it out at the swamp on Spencer Lane North, within 200 yards of the school house!

Sometime after the river washed away the bridge, a scow was built. This primitive form of travel was risky for the vehicles, horses and especially for the people but it was the only way of crossing the Spanish River at the time.

Through the years many an enterprising young lad would make money by selling worms for bait to fishermen using the scow, or they would offer to pull the men with their equipment and vehicles across the river. Usually the men would pay them with pocket change. In 1938, another request to the government for a bridge was made. However, when the Minister found out that only one percent of the taxes came from north of the river, the request was denied. So the scow continued to be the primary method of crossing the Spanish River locally until the late sixties.

### **YOU'RE IN THE JAILHOUSE NOW.....**

Despite pleas to the government for funds to build a lock-up, and citing their urgent need, it was left to the town's people to fend for themselves.

A newspaper article recounts a tale of just how desperately needed the jail was during the heydays of the logging trade.

It seemed that a local constable, hard pressed for a place to house a prisoner overnight, finally put him in a roothouse. This roothouse was at the eastern end of one of the railroad's lumber warehouses. A chute was used to unload potatoes from rail cars and they were stored in the roothouse.

Come morning when the constable was bringing breakfast to his prisoner he discovered that his charge had flown the coop. It seems his friends helped him escape but-without his shirt or most of his overalls.

We read earlier of the rowdy manner in which the lumberjacks played, well it obviously was getting worse because in 1904 the town decided to build a local jail. Again, it was Mr. J.B. Hammond who donated the land on Lot 1, of Nelson Street to construct the four-cell building. During logging days it was often filled. Originally it was contained by an eight-foot fence with six-inch spikes on top but the fence was removed in 1950.

Another amusing anecdote, this time after the jail was built. About a prisoner who was put in jail overnight to be taken to Sudbury in the morning for trial. The axe for chopping firewood was left inside by the constable, who also left the cell open to allow a little freedom for the prisoner. The prisoner got all the freedom he could ask for when he used the axe to chop his way out. He was never recaptured.

Today the building is used for the Nairn Senior Citizens Twilighter's Club.

\* \* \* \*

## INTERESTING TIDBITS FROM EARLIER DAYS

In 1896, the year Nairn Centre incorporated, Canada had three different Prime Ministers. Sir MacKenzie Bowell (Conservative Party) was the fifth Prime Minister and held office for 16 months from 1894 until April 1896. A revolt within his own cabinet obliged him to resign.

The Conservatives and the Governor General asked Sir Charles Tupper to form a government. Tupper became Prime Minister on May 1st, 1896. He called an election on June 23 and was defeated by the Liberals under Sir Wilfred Laurier.

On July 11, 1896, Sir Wilfred Laurier became the first French Canadian to attain the post of Prime Minister. He remained in power for the next 15 years.

- \* School expenses in the 1900's were less than one thousand dollars a year.
- \* Work was done on township roads by men earning fifteen cents an hour.
- \* Men had the option to provide statutory labour in lieu of municipal taxes.
- \* The amount of money spent on the roads in the early years by the township was a grand total of six hundred dollars.
- \* The first barber in town was a coloured man named Robert Stitts from Alabama. Mr. Stitts was a very enterprising man, in his shop on Front Street he not only cut hair, but he was also a shoe maker and ran an ice-cream parlour.
- \* The first store was located on Hall Street and owned by John Hall. It was a general store with food, shoes, some clothing, nails and hardware. Feed and grain were kept in the back room where there was a large scale to weigh them. All logging equipment was sold-off after the logging closed. For its time it was a fair-sized store.
- \* Bill Lindsay was also a barber.
- \* Short hair was the style for males, young and old.
- \* Girl's hair was short with bangs or braids or puffs on the side. Ladies wore their hair long and tied in the back, or up in a bun.
- \* During the time when bobby pins and barrettes became popular one lady remembers getting a pair of butterfly barrettes from the Crick family.
- \* There were two blacksmiths in town. The first was Steve Kuisma who was located on Smith Street. The other was Hilligard Smith who lived on Minto Street.
- \* Two of the largest families were the Martin's and the Crick's. Who had 10 to 12 children.
- \* The most popular sports played were hockey, softball and broomball.
- \* The first post office established in Nairn Centre was on Hall Street next to the Hall store. The postmaster was Andy Dever.
- \* Al's Inn was the first restaurant in Nairn Centre. It was owned by Mr. & Mrs. Brodie Cumming and was located at the junction of McIntyre and Minto Streets. The same building is now the Rainbow Truck Stop. It was moved there when the new Highway #17 was built around 1947.
- \* There were two livery stables, one was located where the playground is now and the other was Lindsay's on Minto Street.
- \* The crafts and hobbies of the people in earlier days were quilting, knitting, crocheting, weaving, spinning, embroidering, etc.
- \* There were two gold mines on the hills where people picked blueberries which was located at the south end of Smith Street going towards Wabagishik Lake (Old Cleveland Road).
- \* At one time Mrs. Elizabeth Boyce was the organist for all three churches.

- \* The first town rink was located on McIntyre Street, where the Community Centre is now.
- \* During hard times, in the 1930's a relief office was set up and vouchers were issued for food and clothing.
- \* Lake Agnew (a man-made lake) was named after a high official of INCO. It was formed from the Spanish River above High Falls.
- \* INCO built the Big Eddy Dam, causing the river to flood creating a lake.
- \* Electricity was installed here in 1948 and street lights followed in the 1960's.
- \* From 1949 to 1954, Nairn Centre elected its first woman reeve, Mrs. Evelyn McCutcheon. She was the second woman reeve in all of Ontario.
- \* The oldest woman in Nairn Centre in 1996 is Mrs. Hazel Jefferies.
- \* The oldest man in Nairn Centre in 1996 is Mr. Frank Nelmes.
- \* In World War I, (1911 - 1919), thirty-five soldiers went to war from Nairn Centre. These soldiers made up 12 percent of the total population at the time.
- \* In World War II, (1940 - 1945), eighteen or nineteen soldiers went to war from Nairn Centre.

\* \* \* \*

### LIST OF REEVES SINCE 1896

1896	Andrew Dever
1898	R.G. Lee
1902	J.L. McDermott
1903	Levi Pomfrey
1904-1912	James Bellows Hammond (also in 1899, replacing Mr. Dever)
1912-1921	A.J. Jordon
1921-1935	George Hilliard
1921-1935	Peter San Cartier (interim)
1935-1952	Roy MacDonald (with interim Reeves)
1936	Maxwell Pomfrey
1940	George Thurlow
1947	Brodie Cumming
1952	Leslie Pomfrey
1949-1954	Evelyn McCutcheon
1954-1956	Henry J. Beer
1956-1959	Myron G. Austin
1959-1962	Lyle Hall
1962-1964	Thomas McCutcheon
1964-1970	Charles (Bob) Robinson
1966	Henry Beer (interim)
1970-1978	Hans Behmann
1978-1980	John Wulff
1980-1982	Dorothy Nelmes
1982-1984	Richard B. Dittburner
1984-1988	Wayne Insley
1988-1992	Raymond Harding
1992-1994	Wayne Insley
1994	Raymond Harding (interim)
1995	Dale Jefferies



During the year (1904) council passed By-law Number 71 charging peddlers to pay \$1 for each valise or pack, watch peddlers \$10 and milliners \$5 to ply their wares.

\* \* \* \*

Spring and fall are both muddy seasons, so in 1908 the municipality built wooden sidewalks in town at a cost of \$360. It took 8,000 feet of two-inch plank which would be replaced in 1933 with concrete using relief labour.

We may have had sidewalks in 1908, but our only road was a tote road used for railway construction. Mr. Edwards and Mr. Harley had laid out the road to Worthington from here but it wasn't until the 1930s that the best location for the westward section of the "trunk road" was complete. We refer to that route now as the "old highway" and if you look on a local map of the area you will see sections of it called, "Old Nairn Road" and "Old McKerrow Road".

Our passage on land was slow, but navigating people and goods on our waterways was the original form of travel. In fact, the reason for logging here was due to the Spanish River and records show that in 1909 a drive of 780,000 logs went down the Spanish to the North Channel to be separated.

\* \* \* \*

Malcolm MacDonald was a true entrepreneur. Seeing an opportunity for a lucrative business venture he laid out a racetrack. For two or three seasons he raced his three horses Jack, Monarch and Riley B.

The racetrack was on the south side of the present highway in a field roughly located between what is now Spencer Lane South and Smith Street South.

\* \* \* \*

We have a story for "Unsolved Mysteries". There was a claim that in November, 1914, two camp clerks were going hunting about 20 miles north of town. One returned to camp safely while the other was never seen alive again. Nothing was reported about the case until 1920 when an Indian trapper came upon the charred bones of a man. A rifle barrel with the stock burned, a watch and a few coins were found at the foot of a tree in Vernon Township some forty miles from his starting point. Identification was made by a check of his gold-filled teeth and, the watch was identified by the man's father who lived in the Ottawa Valley. He is buried in the United Church cemetery.

\* \* \* \*

## MEDICAL CARE

Dr. G.W. Jones was a C.P.R. physician who provided medical care when needed. He came from Webbwood on a speeder, which is a small trolley powered by a gasoline engine, used on railway tracks by maintenance crews and others. Dr. Jones would time his travels between trains. If he was unable to arrive on time such as in the case of a woman ready to deliver a baby, the women in the town would assist.

Some of our older residents say they remember midwives helping with childbirth and even up to the 1940s local women with any medical training often helped deliver new citizens. Mrs. Noble, who was a nurse, performed this task when necessary.

According to a page from the December 1926 council meeting Nairn Centre paid for the services of a Doctor Russel Jones. Residents remember a Doctor H. Harvey and Dr. Armstrong who was a dentist in Espanola in the 1940s and 50s.

\* \* \* \*

## THEY SAY WHAT DOESN'T KILL YOU MAKES YOU STRONGER

- \*\* For pneumonia, turpentine and goose oil were rubbed on the chest and covered with flannel or brown paper. It was also used to remedy chest colds and was applied morning and night.
- \*\* For coughs, a big Spanish onion was used. It was cut in two and covered with brown sugar. When it turned to syrup it was fed to the patient.
- \*\* Sulphur (or molasses) and brown sugar were used for sore throats. A funnel made from a brown paper bag was inserted into the mouth and dust of sulphur blown in. Goodbye sore throat! Or should it be goodbye throat?
- \*\* An old home remedy for coughs was to boil onions, strain it and add sugar to the water.
- \*\* Two other remedies mentioned for curing a sore throat were:
  - 1) A syrupy mixture of oil and brown sugar.
  - 2) Tie a dirty woolen sock around your neck.
- \*\* Turpentine and egg shells made a useful liniment.
- \*\* Mutton tallow was used to soothe chapped hands.
- \*\* Some women made their own painkillers from turpentine, grease and camphor ointment.
- \*\* To stop bleeding, the red balls were taken off the sumach and steeped in boiling water. A cloth was dipped in this and placed over the wound.
- \*\* Some of the settlers made Balm of Gilead Salve. They simmered black poplar buds until they became syrup. When it cooled it was an amber colour. This salve was used for almost everything.
- \*\* Electric Oil was the main medicine. Mecca salve was used also and poplar bark was boiled for worms. In the spring, dandelion wine was used as a tonic. Herbs were also boiled for many uses.
- \*\* A cloth soaked in camphor oil and tied around the neck for coughs and colds.
- \*\* Mustard plaster for the flu.
- \*\* Linseed plants for coughs and colds.
- \*\* Spruce gum for cuts and wounds.
- \*\* A tea made from willow bark for headaches.

\* \* \* \*

## HOLIDAYS AND FUND RAISERS

Many of the holidays were celebrated as we do now with a few exceptions.

**EASTER** was a holy day with the family gathering for a large Sunday meal after church. Some families had the ritualistic "Who can eat the most eggs?" breakfast and an Easter Egg Hunt using decorated boiled eggs.

**HALLOWEEN** or Hallowe'en (Allhallow-even) was usually celebrated with a school or community party. According to some of the stories just the older children went out to play tricks. These usually meant upsetting outhouses, letting someone's cows or livestock run loose, swapping horses and so on.... In those days the police rarely got involved since everything was just in fun. Bean suppers were usually held at the church the following day

to celebrate All Saints Day.

**CHRISTMAS** in Hannah LaBrash's youth meant one gift per child which was tied onto the tree. They were seldom wrapped, unless that was part of the gift. Practicality as well as desire were often chief considerations when giving gifts.

A few days before Christmas a tree was brought in and decorated with small candles (that weren't often lit for fear of fire) and bits of tinsel or handmade decorations such as popcorn and paper strings.

**BOX SOCIALS** consisted of imaginatively decorated shoe boxes which usually contained sandwiches, pie, cake and fruit.

Decorations were limited only by your creativity and sometimes the more elaborate exteriors made up for any deficiencies inside.

The boxes were auctioned off to men who had the privilege of eating the lunch with the gal who had prepared it and whose identification remained secret until the box was opened and the name was read. If you had a clue as to what your girlfriend's container looked like you would bid wildly when it came up for sale. Friends would get suspicious and deliberately bid against you. Some desperate gents actually paid up to forty dollars for their lunch!

As many as 20 to 25 boxes were auctioned at a time with the money collected going to the church.

**PIE SOCIALS** meant that pies were placed in low, opened and decorated boxes so that the prospective buyers could see what kind of pie it was. Sometimes the pie contained a harmless surprise such as a grain of rice or toothpick. Someone would take that pie around and sell guesses, whoever guessed the surprise in the pie would get the pie.

**STRAWBERRY FESTIVALS** were usually held in early summer. They were put on by the women of the church and for a 25 cent admission fee you could eat as much strawberry shortcake as you wanted. The cake, made with either a rich tea-biscuit dough or sponge cake dough, was sandwiched with rich cream and decked with huge tame strawberries.

**TRAVELLING APRON** was a money maker used by groups or organization. The group (church) would send an apron around town and you were expected to tuck in some money. You were then to sew a patch over the money with your name embroidered on it. When the apron had travelled about a month it was returned to the group.

## **GAMES & ENTERTAINMENT**

At the turn of the century, children and adults had less free time than is the case today. But, when they did play, it may have been with a truly Canadian game. Crokinole! It appears that the game was invented in Perth county in Upper Canada before 1867 and had become so common in homes that Lucy Maud Montgomery, the author of Anne of Green Gables, wrote that she loathed the game as it had intruded upon almost every parlour--a sure sign of its popularity. This game sold in both the Sears Roebuck and Montgomery Ward catalogues in the 1890's and in Eaton's (1892) for about \$2.25. Quite a bargain considering that same game sells in Britain now for 370 pounds sterling or \$780 Canadian.

Some toys that were loved by children of that era would be "jacks" whose origin can be traced back 2,000 years. Also dads or grandpas may have whittled "bilboquet", "ninepins" and "whip and peg tops" which were round wooden tops that were spun by the child by winding a string around it and pulling. When the toy was released it would spin on its point. Bilboquet would also have been made of hardwood and this toy improved hand-eye coordination because you had to catch the ball in a cup or on a stake. Ninepins may have been the forerunner of bowling as the game consisted of nine hardwood pins and two wooden balls small enough for a child to tuck into his pocket when he was done.

Anyone with a few tools and any skill at whittling could gift another with the joy of music by making a "fife" of maple. Or maybe a child might find a penny whistle or harmonica tucked into his or her Christmas present.

\* \* \* \*

### FIRST SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

The seniors in town got together and had their first meeting in 1975 but it wasn't until three years later that they incorporated under the name of Nairn Senior Citizens Twilighters' Club. They meet at the "senior citizen's building" (old jail) where part of it is converted into a woodworking shop which is the envy of many a hobbyist.

\* \* \* \*

### GUIDES & SCOUTS

Sometime in the early 1940s parents, needing a recreational outlet for their children, established "Guides". Time constraints have limited the gathering of much information here except to say that one of the earlier Guide leaders, Dorothy Forester, still resides in Sudbury, and Clair Crick was one of the guides.

A Boy Scouts troop and a Cubs Pack was started in the early sixties with Mrs. Elaine Goforth, Frank George, Robert Merton, Gerald Martel and Chick Dunn who was from High Falls as the leaders.

In 1965 Verna George (Frank's wife), Jean Martel and Rose Helin were the Guide leaders. Brownie leaders were Clair (Crick) Bragg, Marie McGregor and Marlene Jefferies.

\* \* \* \*

### WARTIME IN SMALL-TOWN CANADA

Touted as being "the war to end all wars" World War I was soon followed by World War II. We don't have much information about how the town's people were affected by the first war but Mrs. Hannah LaBrash recounts one of her experiences during the second world war.

"At the beginning of the war, Cecil and a man named Taylor were hired by INCO to guard the dams against bombing. It would have been quite a coup for our enemies to stop INCO from making supplies that could be used in the war effort."

"At first, Cecil and Mr. Taylor stayed in a one-room bunk house that INCO had built especially for that purpose near the dams. Even though we had a house rented in Nairn at the time, I stayed that summer in a tent to be close to my husband. Jim was just a baby and it wasn't easy to camp out with a young one that close to the river, especially worrying about the war."

**"That summer Cecil built us a three-room house and we moved into it in late August. I was sure thankful to get a roof over my head by then, and to have my furniture and things around me again."**

**"That year we first met the Insleys. They would come up the river by boat and visit us. Win Insley and another man were the relief for Cecil and Mr. Taylor."**

**"It was always very scary during the war because you just didn't know what was going to happen. The men carried a revolver when they were on patrol. One night when Cecil was on guard he had to go wake up Mr. Taylor because we could hear people over across the point from where we were camped. It was at night and the only thing separating Jim and I in our tent was about fifty feet of river. For the two men to sneak up on the people meant that they had to circle around which seemed to take a long time. In the meantime, I was a few feet from them, just a short swim really."**

**"It turned out they were just folks who had a cottage on the river and they were loading up their supplies. Really, they weren't allowed because of the war. They weren't supposed to be anywhere near there, but Cecil and Mr. Taylor let them go anyway."**

**Women of that era were not always the shy, timid creatures we imagine. Cecil LaBrash recounted once about a time during the war when he was cleaning his guns. Hannah was talking to him when a flock of ducks flew overhead and he said, "I'll bet you can't hit one of them". Well, she took the gun and with one shot brought down two ducks. Both shot through the head! She claimed that it was a lucky shot but.....**

**\* \* \* \***

### **SO THAT'S HOW THEY MADE IT**

**SOFT SOAP** The pioneer women had no detergent but made their own soap out of fat and lye. A small hole was made in the bottom of a large barrel. Clean straw was placed in the bottom and the barrel was then filled with hardwood ashes saved from the fireplace or stove.

A bucket was placed under the hole so that when water was poured over the ashes the clear, thin, brown liquid would drip into it. This liquid was called lye. After a while a fresh egg was put in. If it floated the lye was strong enough, if not, the liquid was poured through the ashes again. Sometimes more ashes had to be added. Care was taken not to touch the lye, for it would burn badly.

The lye was then poured into a big iron kettle and scraps of fat and little pieces of tallow candles were also thrown in. A fire was lit under the kettle and the contents were stirred with a big wooden spoon until the liquid was as thick as molasses. Then it was poured into buckets and from there into large jars where it was stored until needed.

**ICE CREAM** was made by pouring the ingredients into a container which was then placed inside a larger one that was packed with salt and ice.

**BREAD** was baked twice a week and started at night with a sponge (dry yeast and potato water); it was then wrapped to keep warm.

It wasn't uncommon to bake 15 loaves at a time for a family of ten. However, this

would only last for 3 to 4 days and then the women would be back at the ovens, checking the temperature by sticking their hand into it.

When the bread ran out bannock was used as a substitute. Some even preferred it to bread. It was made of flour, salt, milk or water and slices of pork only. When the mixture got thick you spooned it into a greased pan and fried it like very thick pancakes.

**BUTTER** was made from scratch. A separator was used to separate the skim milk, which was fed to the pigs, and the cream which was used for making butter.

A dash churn (crock with a stick that was pounded up and down) or barrel churn (which was worked back and forth with a handle) was used for churning butter. It was poured into a wide wooden bowl and squeezed with a wooden paddle to get the water out. Salt was added and it was then shaped into round balls.

Another version was butter that was churned at first by pounding with a stick up and down in a crock and then by working a pedal which rotated the elevated barrel. Both ways were strenuous jobs. Next the butter was worked by placing it in wooden pans and pressing it with paddles until not a drop of water was left. Some was pressed into one pound wooden molds to be sold while the rest was saved in large jars where a good portion was cream. They made around thirteen pounds at a time and put the jars of butter in a deep well to keep it fresh.

Butter was made every second day. It was washed 4 to 5 times and would take fifteen to twenty minutes depending on the temperature.

Butter was first churned, then washed, the buttermilk was removed, salted, mixed, left to stand, mixed and put in a crock or rolled into balls. Later, one pound pints were used.

## **ANECDOTES AND TALES**

### **I REMEMBER WHEN.....**

Clair Bragg remembers father being strict with his children. They were not to go near the tracks. He was a warehouse clerk for the railroad. Also, when the minister or visitors came to visit the children were to be seen but not heard.

John Crick born in 1933, remembers bringing the cows to pasture by LaBrash's and shutting the gate, then off to school every morning. He then fetched them again after school to bring them home for milking.

Aune Wirta remembers an April Fools joke they played on their teacher. They told her that she had a flat tire. Well, she sure was shocked, then they told her it was a joke for April Fools. She got them back, she sent over this big package and you know kids, they were all excited to open it. All they found was scraps of paper. April Fools!

Mrs. Elizabeth (Halcrow) Boyce remembers 990 twelve quart baskets of blueberries being sent by train to Sudbury. The baskets were sold for a dollar each. In those days it was believed that they used an old-fashioned picker. One man's picking basket was an old-time wash tub placed on a wheel barrow.

**A tall gangly boy was always late for school. The teacher (Mr. Clarence Moyer) always said that he must not get enough sleep. One day he was fast asleep in class and the teacher decided to do something about it. He put a pencil in his mouth and he continued to sleep away. Before you knew it, he was munchin' away on his pencil. The teacher had the last laugh this time.**

**Mrs. Elizabeth Boyce remembers that it was so hot outside that this guy seen a dog chasing a cat and they were both walking.**

**Hannah Labrash: Scow Story - I think it was about January, 1944 when Jim and Terry were young boys, about five and three respectively. We had to take the boys to the school for a needle for something that was going around at the time. Anyway, Cecil and I got to the river and the scow was stuck in the middle. I was so afraid because you could see air pockets in the ice all over and the river runs so swiftly that it wasn't unheard of for people to be lost.**

**So Cecil had Jim by one hand and an axe in the other and every couple of feet he would chop a hole in the ice to test it for thickness. I had Terry by one hand and with the other I clutched the cable, fearing that at any time I would see my husband and son fall through the ice. I was never so glad to reach the scow, I can tell you. But you never knew when crossing the river just what could happen. Even with the best of conditions, you had to be extremely careful.**

**I remember, one evening, walking the floor waiting for Cecil to come home from town. He was a couple of hours late and I worried that something dreadful had happened to him. One of the boys piped up with, "Oh, maybe he's at the bottom of the river, Mom?" Young children can sometimes be so thoughtless. Not to mention, husbands. Cecil had stopped to visit with Sid Boyce, got to talking and just forgot the time.**

**If you got to the river and the scow was on the other side, which it was often, then you had to sit on a little seat that was attached to the cable, pull your way over to the scow and bring it back.**

**I was never so glad as the last time I had to cross that river when we moved into Nairn Centre for good. I never crossed on the scow again.**

**\* \* \* \***

## **WATER SYSTEM PROJECT, 1974 TO 1995**

**For one hundred years and more, the citizens of Nairn Centre had always obtained their water from dug wells, well points and drilled wells. The main problems were silt and clay. From 1974 to 1979, the Ministry of Environment surveyed the water quality and found 20% of the wells contained excessive bacteria and elevated sodium.**

**In 1986, MOE concluded that drinking water in Nairn Centre had to be improved. A municipal water system with the Spanish River as a source appeared to be the most viable option to guarantee a good quality water supply for the community.**

**The Reeve, Wayne Insley and the council went to work and applied for grants from the Ontario government. After several years of more studies and surveys by Dennis Consultants and more lobbying at Queen's Park, a grant for \$3,000,000 was finally obtained, the work to be spread over a period of two years. 1994 saw our streets torn and ditches dug**

up to accommodate the main water pipes. In 1995, the Water Plant was built on the Spanish River, and put into use in July of that year.

A grand opening took place on October 11, 1995 and dignitaries came to help celebrate the occasion.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Before the new water system was completed in 1995 in Nairn Centre each household had their own well which is still common today. Prior to this they used an electric pump and before that a hand pump was used to bring the water from the well to the house. While testing grounds for cultural components before building the proposed water treatment plant, some interesting material was found in the work area.

- 1) The remnant of a small one person cable ferry system used to cross the Spanish River in Nairn Centre;
- 2) Former right-of-way of the Algoma Eastern Railway built in 1911;
- 3) A small log or firewood horse sleigh was found on the surface of the research site.

\* \* \* \*

## FAMILY STORIES

### MCCUTCHEON FAMILY

Mrs. McCutcheon moved to Nairn Centre from Sudbury in 1946. They moved to the house where Deniel Brown lives and they bought it from Mrs. Williamson. This is where the first greenhouse was started. Her husband, Tom, worked at E.B. Eddy in Espanola as a plumber. Not only at E.B. Eddy, but he did many other jobs around the community.

In 1953 they moved to Taylor Street and another greenhouse was built there. They used to hire students for twenty-five cents an hour to help with the green house as they were quite busy then. Two such students were Allen Moulton and Edmund Trahan. In the early days a dozen plants in a box were bought for twenty-five cents. Customers came from all over to visit the greenhouse and it was a booming business at the time.

Evelyn gave freely of her time to this town as reeve of the Township of Nairn from 1949 to 1954, this made her the second woman reeve in Ontario. She was also an assessor and a tax collector for seven years.

The rink was built across the street from the greenhouse on the property that was called the school gardens. A sports club was formed to make money for the different sporting clubs (such as hockey, baseball and broomball). Sports club members were Mary Vale, Beulah Beer, Flora Tamura and Evelyn McCutcheon.

Tom and Evelyn had two daughters:

Dorothy who married Bill Nelmes, their 3 daughters were: Evie, Lynn and Karen.

Ellen who married Ron Allain, they also had 3 daughters: Cheryl, Mandie and Laurie.

Evelyn passed on her spirit for helping her community to her daughter, Dorothy. Dot, as she was known to young and old alike, was a role model for us all. She gave happily of her time, efforts and expertise in whatever endeavour needed her talents. Unfortunately, she is no longer with us and her loss is felt by us all.



## **BADGEROW - BROUSSEAU CLANS**

**Hi! My name is Ilene Badgerow (nee Clement) originally from Sault Ste. Marie (the Canadian side). I have been elected to give you a bit of info on the above-mentioned families. Yes, I am related - Ron Badgerow is my hubby. (30 years yet!)**

**Trying to get the history marked down had been a little difficult. I have to wait for the full moon, seeing that is when the ancestors come out and it is the ones with the headstones that give out the most and being so old it takes them time to move the blocks. As usual I'm getting more from the dead than the living - so bear with me, EH!**

**Oldest of the ancestors is David Brousseau (1867-1932) whom we believe came to Nairn in 1886 to work at the C.P.R. station when it first opened. He was also a harness maker. He married Agnes Hall, daughter of William Hall, builder of the Nelson House. (This makes Ron related to quite a few people in Nairn even to this day.)**

**They had seven children - Alfred, Clarence, Len, Harold, Eva, Dorothy and Bessie (Cattle - of Massey).**

**Ron's maternal grandfather was Alfred (Alf) Brousseau. Alf was born in Nairn Centre in 1900 and he died in 1963. Married to Sadie (nee Chartrand) who was born in New York and moved to Montreal later on. They had 5 children - Hazel Haines, James, Donald (drowned when he was ten) Katherine (Kay) Bellhouse, and Francis Trahan.**

**Hazel still lives in Nairn Centre; Jim by coincidence lives in Nelsonville, Ohio, USA; Kay lives in Brantford with Uncle Stu. Francis in Onaping with Uncle Edmond. (Ed was born in Nairn)**

**Hazel married Albert (Chink) Badgerow thus the Badgerow line. Albert worked for the C.P.R. and as a hunting guide for Hazel's dad. He was killed in a hunting accident on one of his guiding tours, at the age of 38. I'm thankful they have hunting safety courses now, they are worth it. Now back to Alf.**

**During his 63 adventurous years, he did quite a few things, one of which was helping in the construction of the Big Eddy Dam at Highfalls, he was a hoisting engineer. (Remember this as we have a Newfie story for you later on.) He also built 10 log cabins on the Spanish River from where the boat ramp is on to Wolfingers summer home (which used to be R.B. Hall's strawberry farm.)**

**His business, of about 30 years, was known as Cozy Family Cottages and they attracted people from as far away as Nebraska, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Their trade was made up of regulars who even came after Alf died to visit the family. They returned every year without fail, which really helped in the depression years. One couple, who became dear friends, were Pop Wentworth (a - believe it or not - oil man from Omaha, Nebraska) and his wife Laura (a famous American artist).**

**Alf also had 14 wooden boats he built himself (must have taken after his grandfather, William Hall), which he rented out. (The boats not his grandfather). Alf also had four outpost hunting camps across Agnew Lake plus four boats he rented out to fishermen.**

From all of this he employed quite a few people from town helping with the cottages as well as guides in the fall for hunting, which added to the economy of our little village.

Ron's paternal grandfather was Jack Badgerow (1871 to 1964) who was married to Emily from Manitoulin Island (sorry don't know her last name). Quite a few of Jack's siblings lived here also. Elmer (farmer) married Yvonne Prince (nee De Roy) and they had 2 children Omer (who married Rose Wallace and they have Pat and Shelley) and Ann who married Norm Dillabough (they live in McKerrow). They had three sons Billy - Michael - Robert. Next Lorenzo who married Matilda Thibeault (this lady was the mother of Aime, Edward etc.) her descendants still live here in Nairn Centre. Loren was a well known horse trader. Oliver (we don't know 'cause he lived out of town) Flora whom we were told married Thomas Sydney Edwards. That's all folks except for a little bit of humour - as truth is funnier than fiction here goes.

## STORIES FROM THE FAMILY

Alf Brousseau worked all over the country, including Newfoundland before it came to confederation. One story out of this is that come noon hour (lunch break) the Newfoundlanders (who were stockers on the steam shovels that Alf operated) would throw a fish on their shovels and cook it in the boiler. (Yuk!) This may be how the Acadians got their idea for Blackened Fish Dish.

The Brousseau's do it again. After three days of uninterrupted sleep, great-grandma Agnes decided to wake up when they were going to use the bread she baked for her wake - YES - they had pronounced her dead and laid to rest in the parlour. She nicely sat up and said "Leave that d-- bread alone, it's for Sunday." The bread cutter immediately dropped the knife and her jaw. Agnes lived for quite a few years later. (In the old days they did not embalm the bodies.)

Another relative: - Uncle Tom Hall lived by the river on the road to Alf and Sadie's cottages. Everyone called him Uncle Tom. He was a big man who smoked a pipe and loved to tell stories. His cabin looked out onto a small bay on the Spanish. One of his stories was how every night there was a full moon, the rabbits played hockey on the bay ice. He said after December he stopped watching because they all turned white and you could no longer tell who was winning.....

## THE END BUT THE BEGINNING

Now the Trahan's story:

As told by Ron's uncle Ed Trahan:

During the Orangemen's Parade the white horse (with rider) used to turn into the Roman Catholic Church on McIntyre Street. Uncle Ed's mom, Mrs. Anna Trahan, said the horse had more sense than the Orangemen as he wouldn't go past the church. The horse, we presume, was non-denominational as the Orangemen were Protestants.

OOPS! I almost forgot: Potatoes in the ditch:

The story goes: At one of the council meetings, the council was after Ron's dad, "Chink" to cut the weeds in his ditch (where we live now). He said he didn't have to as the town owned it. The council said because the ditch was in front of his house it was his - not theirs. Sid Boyce, sitting in the audience said - if it's not Badgerow's and not the town's he

**(Sid) would plough it up and plant potatoes in it. I guess in the 1940s the township had a weed inspector!**

**SAN CARTIER**

**As Told By: Lawrence**

**In 1930, Peter San Cartier, his wife Mary, sons Lawrence, Edward and daughter Cecile came to live and work on a tract of land eventually known as "Headquarters".**

**Peter took care of 150 horses, Mary cooked for the numerous employees and the children, then in their early teens, worked on the farm which was located across on the southern part of the Spanish River.**

**The San Cartiers worked for a few years for McFadden, but then bought the whole 150 acres of land which included four barns, a blacksmith shop, a grainery and two houses, for \$500.**

**Lawrence, being an enterprising fellow would carry, on his back, a container of eleven quarts of milk which he delivered and sold to residents of Nairn Centre for 9 cents a quart. His route included some of the households indicated on the map. Edward decided that trapping was a profitable occupation in the winter months.**

**Around 1934, Peter San Cartier became a Fire Warden and soon after was promoted to Assistant Fire Chief for Espanola. He sold the farm to Pineland and moved his family to Espanola in 1949.**

**Mr. Peter San Cartier served as interim Reeve in Nairn Centre between 1931 and 1935.**

**WASYLIW**

**As Told By: Nick**

**The Wasyliw family came to Nairn centre in 1950. Father Steve came from Ukraine and mother Lily from Ethelbert, Manitoba. Their children, six boys and six girls were all born in Ethelbert.**

**In 1955 they bought from Mrs. McEachern and this became the Nairn Esso gas station and restaurant. They also built seven cabins there. This was a family business which meant all members helped out. A hotel was erected later in 1965.**

**Nick remembers going skating at the rink which was across the street from McCutcheon's greenhouse. He remembers using the Nairn Esso jeep to plow out the rink after a heavy snow fall to play broomball.**

**He also would play the role of Santa Clause for about 20 years. Christmas eve he would go around town delivering candies and small gifts to all the children. This Santa had a problem though. His boots were slippery and he kind of lost his footing and it just happened some children were peeking out the window and wondered what was wrong with Santa!**

**Nick and Gail have three sons now. They lost one in a tragedy when he was only 11 years old.**

**Gail enjoys refinishing upholstery, old furniture and is a collector of antiques.**

Nick worked at INCO for years, but is now retired and enjoys fixing cars in his garage.

**CRICK**

**As Told By: Clair (Bragg)**

Her father, Albert Crick, came from England to Nairn Centre in 1913. Her mother, Alberta Pomfrey, was born in Nairn Centre.

They had 10 children, Clair being the oldest and they lived on Hall Street.

As a child, she remembers growing up in a strict home and where manners were important. "Being seen but not heard" especially when the minister or visitors came calling.

During depression days, she remembers tramping through the snow and snaring rabbits. They did have some farm animals to help out for food. Hogan Hall did some trapping and he would also bring some beaver.

Vouchers were given out once a month for things like cough syrup and other medicines. If used up before the month was gone and children had bad colds, you could not get another voucher and would have to rely on home remedies and hopefully get better.

It was in the winter of 1936, Clair remembers a special episode. Her father, Albert, had done some bookkeeping for J.B. Hammond. Her father didn't want any pay (money) so J.B. Hammond purchased a "big" turkey from Hall's store. Looking out their window, the children saw J.B. Hammond coming up the street to their place, trudging through the snow, with this turkey's feet dangling, almost touching the ground. A sight to see, but it was sure delicious after it was cooked. Clair was sent to bring some to J.B. too.

The children were born at home in her youth. As a young woman Clair played broomball against Whitefish and McKerrow and softball against Webbwood. She also was active in Sunday school and church picnics were often held at the park (where Busy Bee Country Store is now).

She was a Girl Guide in the 1940s along with other local girls. To name a few; Zella and Marilyn Fortier, Gwen and Maureen Martin and sister Edith.

In the 1960s she became a Brownie leader and was active for several years.

She has been a Legion member for over 30 years and is a member of the Nairn Senior Twilighter's Club. As a grandmother now, she spends many hours knitting for her grandchildren.

**EXCERPTED FROM ARTICLE IN "THE STANDARD, MAY 4TH, 1977"**

Mr. Albert Crick seems to have been a very enterprising person and due to his many accomplishments and his active life we have a great deal of published material to quote from.

A story about his colourful life was recounted in "The Standard" on May 4th, 1977. It tells of his bout with polio which prevented him from entering school until the ripe old age of seven, when most children in England began school at age 4 1/2 years. Nevertheless he completed his studies at age 14 and then taught mathematics for a six month probationary

period to a class of 60 pupils.

After failing a routine medical examination and being told he could not teach in England he went to work as an errand boy at the rate of four shillings a week.

He recounted that it snowed on May 10, 1907 when he was sailing down the St. Lawrence River when he first came to Canada.

In 1908 he moved to northern Ontario to work as a bookkeeper for loggers in various locations before settling in Nairn Centre in 1913. Like many first-timers he found our abundant insect life a draining experience.

"So many of those guys from England gave up and went back after only a short while, but I stuck it out," he recalled.

Mr. Crick was not a quitter. He survived nearly drowning in the Spanish River in 1909, and having his eyebrows permanently singed off in a forest fire the following year.

In 1913 he moved to Nairn Centre to work for Graves and Bigwood as a warehouse supply man. During this time, while common labourers were making about \$25 a month with room and board, he was making \$40 and room and board. When he returned to Nairn Centre, after a stint in the Canadian Army in World War I, he was surprised to find his pay had doubled.

In 1922 he married Alberta Rae Pomfrey, daughter of a pioneer Nairn family.

Then in 1924, when Graves and Bigwood sold to the McFadden Company, Mr. Crick kept books for the jobbers, or contractors, of the new company.

In 1926, Mr. Crick did various jobs including working on the highways and being a correspondent for the Sudbury Star, before becoming part-time clerk of Nairn the following year.

He tells a story of an elderly woman in Nairn who refused to take relief money during the depression unless she worked for it. He took a picture of her loading gravel onto a wagon and sent the story with the picture to the Sudbury Star. He was paid \$15 for his story and after two Toronto newspapers picked up the story he received a further \$30.

The picture he paints of the "dirty thirties" is a common one. That of personal hardship and deprivation. A time when he spent 26 days walking all over the Townships of Nairn, Baldwin and Foster as a census taker in 1931. A job he was thankful to get, many had less. The following year forced him to accept relief payments of \$13 a month to support his large family.

This same article recounts how he helped form the Espanola branch of the Royal Canadian Legion and that he'd been a member of Branch 76 (Sudbury) for 47 years (in 1977). How he'd helped get a 1 1/4 acre playground built here and about the booklet he wrote when he was 84 on the history of Nairn.

**LETTER TO CLAIR BRAGG FROM HER SISTER MRS. EDITH MATSON:**

**The Alberta - Albert Crick family, from what is available from some papers and family members, this synopsis can be put together for the Nairn 100th year history.**

**Our father, Albert, came to Canada from Bridgwater, Somerset, England in 1907. He was born January 29, 1883, died November 9th, 1981.**

**He went first to Sunridge, Ontario to his sister's - Annie Drinkwater. Finding work for Graves & Bigwood Co. at Nairn. He was time keeper and quartermaster in the early days in the lumber camps.**

**Our mother, Alberta, was a daughter of Caroline and Levi Pomfrey, one of the Nairn pioneer families. Her mother ran a boarding house; this is where our father met our mother.**

**Our grandfather, Levi Pomfrey, was a carpenter by trade. He was born in England - brought to Canada at the age of 3. Coming to Nairn from Gray County in 1888 at age 21, he helped build the original Coniston town site for the then Mond Nickel Co. He also helped build the Nairn school in 1926.**

**Our mother's ancestors immigrated from Ireland after the potato famine there. They settled in Sydenham Township, Neafors, Bognor area in the late 1800s.**

**Our mother was a kind-hearted, easy-going lady. She was a member of the United Church Ladies Aid group, who used to come and do quilting in our "parlour". Mother was badge secretary for the 1st Nairn Girl Guide Co. in the early 40's. She was a good seamstress and made a lot of our clothing. She died a young woman of 46 in January, 1948.**

**Our father served in the Canadian Army during the 1914-18 World War. Following his return he was employed as the warehouse manager for Graves & Bigwood. He roomed and also boarded at Mrs. Pomfrey's. Eventually he met Alberta at their boarding house and married her July 22, 1922. At that time he was considered a man of means, comfortably well off, owning a house and having a couple of thousand in the bank.**

**We were a family of ten children, including one set of twin boys born in May of 1933. One of the boys, Clayton drowned in July 1947. At this time all of the remaining children are living. Two of our family members are lifelong residents of Nairn Centre; they are Clair Bragg and Lionel Crick.**

**Two brothers, John and Edward (Ted) served in the Canadian Army. Ted was with the paratroopers and John served in Korea.**

**One sister, Mrs. Caroline Jacobs, resides in Sudbury; another Mrs. Joan Adams, in Massey; Mrs. Mary Johnson in Mount Bridges, Cedric and John reside in Nairn and Mrs. Edith Matson lives in Garson.**

**Some contributions to the town by our father were his many years as township clerk from 1937-1955. He carried mail, was a United Church elder and clerk of the session, school trustee, assessor, tax collector and census taker. He was also district reporter for the Sudbury Star for many years. At one time he was called "Mr. Nairn a walking History Book", which in one sense, he was. He wrote a booklet about Nairn, 1896-1966, published by Journal Printing Co. in 1967. One copy is in the Ottawa Archives Library.**

Around 1926, Aune Wirta, a young girl in her teens, came to board at Crick's here in Nairn Centre. Her widowed mother, Maria Wirta, remarried to widower, August Junkala and settled with their families in Foster Township at the end of Wabagishik Lake. Aune wanted to continue her schooling, so it was decided she would board at the Crick's during the week. Her father or brother, Urho, would bring her, by sleigh and horse in the winter or by boat in the summer, as far as the Wabagishik trail. Then she would walk or ski the three miles to Nairn. Many a time she would worry about the noises from the bush and hurry like the dickens to get to the hill, where she could see the town of Nairn Centre.

She boarded there for 2 years. In lieu of board she helped out with chores after school. She remembers Mrs. Crick as a jovial person and Mr. Crick always helping her with her studies. Mr. Crick was the bread maker there and Mrs. Crick made such delicious carrot marmalade. She had many nice memories of the Crick family.

Free time? She had a friend, Hilma, and for excitement they would go to the train station on early Sunday nights and watch the comings and goings. Some boys would come from Worthington to visit their sweethearts and this always made for curious onlookers, I'm sure. Especially for young girls.

When school was over for the summer, her and brother, Urho, would pick blueberries and sell them. Urho bought a pair of skis and Aune's prized collection was a black mirror, brush and comb set.

The third year at Cricks, she did not attend school anymore but helped out. Later that year she went to Toronto to work.

In 1931 the Junkalas moved to Nairn from their Wabagishik home. It was January and the twins Unto (boy) and Anja ( girl) were only three weeks old. They had another son, Reino, who was now about 7 years old and he had to attend school.

Their home was on Smith Street and August, who'd farmed, always had a big garden and worked at different jobs. Maria, the mother, developed rheumatoid arthritis and was having a difficult time caring for the children. Aune returned from Toronto to help out.

Being twins, Anja and Unto were inseparable. In winter they skied a lot and remember once owning one pair of skates. They would clear some snow off the frog pond, find a bit of ice, and with one skate a piece, try to skate.

Anja remembers Nora Smith teaching them to swim. Nora was one of the early Girl Guide leaders.

They were a very active pair, I understand, as they climbed trees, roamed through little trails in the swamp and alder bushes.

One of Anja's fond memories was of her teacher Miss Norma Soloman. She would go sliding with all the children after supper by the light of a lantern that she put on a C.P.R. crossing post. This would give enough light for the little hill they slid on. She had a motto though, "Friend at night, but teacher during the day."

A later sliding episode is also recounted. Algoma Hill was a good sized hill but a group of children decided it needed a bit more oomph! They added a few bigger bumps and then, with water from the spring, iced the hill and those bumps. Wow, did they go! This soon came to an end though. Buster Brown had to come across the river with his team of horses and tried to get up the hill. He wasn't too happy and in short order those same children had to get by and dismantle those bumps and chop off the ice. Oh well!

Aune met a young man, Matti Helin, and they soon married and left home.

Their mother became bedridden in 1938 so everyone had to help out quite a lot at home. The children would deliver milk around town for 10 cents a quart.

There were also some neighbours and friends that helped out, in this time of need. Anja remembers playing broomball against High Falls and Massey and ball games took the teams all the way to Cutler.

Brothers Urho and Reino were both in World War II.

After their mother passed away in 1947, their father continued living in their home. All but Anja had moved away by this time. Anja and husband Eric lived with her father briefly and then acquired their own home in Nairn. Her father moved in with them later on and Urho, wife Dagmar and son Wayne became owners of their old home.

In 1985 they sold this home and moved to Sudbury and this ends the era of Wirta-Junkala home.

The "roots" are still here though, Aune and Matti had a son Wesley who married yours truly (Rose) and I have resided here since 1961. Our daughters Greta, Linda and Anita all grew up here too. Someday, I too hope to let you know about my fond memories of this town.

Urho was an avid skier and in 1932 he was one of four skiers that went to a ski-meet in Timmins. The four got a ride to Sudbury, took a train to Westree, skied 9 miles east to the Hydro line and then skied along the line to Timmins. They slept at linemen's cabins along the way. It took 2 nights and 3 days and was about 120 miles one way! He also loved to paint sceneries and collect "oddities" which he would later make into canes, animals etc. The oddities were usually found to be tree roots or pieces of driftwood.

Reino, after coming back from the war, enrolled in mining school in Haileybury, Ontario and was employed for many years with Falconbridge.

This 1996, Aune, Reino, Anja and Unto all reside in Sudbury. Urho was deceased in the early 1990s.

**JEFFERIES** As Told By: Hazel Jefferies (Boyce)

Hazel was born in 1905. Her parents were James and Mary Anne (nee Edwards) Boyce. "Old Joe" was Hazel's mother's brother, (Hazel's uncle.

She came from a family of 9 children (6 girls and 3 boys). Her brother Sidney later married Elizabeth Boyce (nee Halcrow).



They lived on the corner of Front and Smith Street. Hazel's grandmother was a seamstress and as a young girl, Hazel would accompany her to people's houses where measurements, alterations and fittings were done. She was both helpful and observant and remembers being sent to Sudbury by train when she was a young girl (7-8 years old) to fetch sewing notions, etc. for her grandmother. What an honour! I'm sure the "big city" was exciting to see. Later, Hazel herself, became very avid at sewing and embroidery.

As a youngster, there was not too much time for play. You had to look after the younger ones. She remembers one time they had this dog who was so fond of the children, it would wait and watch the big clock diligently and it would know when the children would be coming home from school. It would dash around inside so impatient to be able to greet them.

She also remembers her father working as a section man and the children would rush to go meet him after work, as he always left a sandwich in his lunch box, especially for them.

Hazel later married Edward Jefferies and had two children, Joyce and Ken.

She was postmistress for 29 years here in Nairn and also a relief worker.

In 1995 council honoured her with a Senior Citizen Award. She has lived here all her life and is the eldest person in Nairn Centre. She presently lives with her son Ken and his wife Marlene here in Nairn Centre and enjoys visits from her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Hazel is also an honorary life member of the Nairn Senior Twilighter's Club and attends some of their events.

It is so nice to have had a chance to talk with her and I'm sure there are a lot of stories, memories and reminiscences left untold.

**DEROY**                      **As Told By: Ruth Crick (De Roy)**

In 1943, Art and Isabel De Roy and children came to Nairn Centre. Ruth was about 15 years old at the time. They lived in a house bought from Art McEachern which was Myrtle Chabot's place.

Ruth was from a large family and some of her memories consisted of: sliding and tobogganing down the hill at Aunt Yvonne Badgerow's and that big hill going to the scow; father would play the fiddle and mother the organ and Ruth would step dance.

She also remembers going to Beer's store to catch the Greyhound bus to Espanola, 25 cents. Young girls wanted to get to a show once in a while. There were times when their money was scarce. Had enough money for the show but not for the bus so Ruth and her cousin, Marie (McGregor later on) would "hop the freight". Naughty girls! She tells me some of those engineers were pretty lenient then and would kind of slow down near Nairn outskirts.

She married Cedric Crick and raised a family of 12.

As soon as the first snow would come it was time to make taffy. With these eager

children, more of it was eaten, just in the testing, which was done in the snow. No candy thermometer.

Now she enjoys her quilting and this different weaving technique that looks as if it is braided. Hopefully she will have a demonstration of it at our centennial event. Unique!

She now lives on MacDonald Street in Nairn Centre and keeps busy with her hobbies and family.

#### **THE EDWARDS FAMILY (From Family Group Reports)**

After a two years' illness, Mrs. (Jane) Joseph Edwards, wife of one of the oldest settlers in Nairn Township died at her home on Thursday, May 30th, (1928) in her 70th year. The funeral, which was largely attended, was held on Friday, June 1st, 1928, at the cemetery of All Saints Church, Rev. Mr. Turner, of Parry Sound, and Rev. Mr. Hutton, of Espanola, officiating.

One of the most respected members of the community, Mrs. Edwards had lived in Nairn Township since 1891. She is survived by her husband, Joseph Edwards, Sr., three daughters, Mrs. (Mary) Jas. Boyce, Mrs. R.H. Fensom and Mrs. P. Windle; and four sons, Thomas Edwards, and Joseph Edwards, Jr. (George and John). Two sisters, Mrs. W. Edwards of Carr, and Mrs. Susan Edwards of Chapleau, and two brothers, George Kidd and John Kidd of North Bay, also survive. The four sons and two sons-in-law acted as pall bearers.

(Joseph L. Edwards, Sr.)

Born: May 2, 1846 - Isycoed, Demby, Wales

Died: February 23, 1938 - Nairn Centre, Ontario, Canada

From Newspaper Clipping:

"Joseph L. Edwards, Nairn Centre, February 23 - Nairn Centre's oldest inhabitant, Joseph Edwards, who had seen the village grow from a railroad station and a dwelling, died in his home here yesterday morning shortly before 11 o'clock. He would have been 87 years old next May.

Born in the north of England, he lived as a young man in North Wales, and came to Canada over 50 years ago. Working for a time on a farm and at railroad work near Pembroke. In 1890 he moved to Nairn Centre then known as Nelsonville, as the first C.P.R. section foreman, and watched it grow out of dense bushland into a thriving lumbering centre in the 1890's. His own home and the railroad station were the only two buildings there when he moved to that site with his family. He remained at Nairn Centre as section foreman for over 25 years, after which he received his C.P.R. pension.

The late Mr. Edwards helped to build the first church at Nairn Centre, All Saints Anglican Church, and was one of its original members. The church services had been held in the schoolhouse prior to that time. In 1897 one year after Nairn Township was organized, he was elected to the council where he served over six years on different occasions.

Since 1933 he had not sought office. A very active man, and possessed of great strength, he spent much of his time in the spring and summer cultivating his garden, doing all the work alone.

The late Mr. Edwards planted the coronation acorns at the Nairn Centre school last summer (1937), and delighted the school children with an account of the growth of many great oak trees which he had seen felled as a young man. He was a trustee of the school for many years.

Surviving are three daughters and four sons: Mrs. J. Boyce and Mrs. R.H. Fensom, Nairn Centre; Mrs. T. Windle, Wingle Ontario; Joseph A and Thomas of Nairn Centre; George of Sudbury and John of Wingle, Ontario. Seventeen grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren also survive. His wife, the former Miss Jane Kidd, predeceased him in 1928. The funeral will be at Nairn Centre on Thursday afternoon at 2:30".

From Another Newspaper Clipping:

Card of Thanks: Mr. Jos. Edwards and family wish to thank their friends and relatives for their kindness and sympathy shown them in their recent bereavement, also for floral tributes from the following: Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Boyce; Mr. and Mrs. R.H. Fensom and family; Mr. and Mrs. G.W. Edwards and family; Mr. and Mrs. John S. Edwards; Mr. and Mrs. Geo Kidd and family; Mr. and Mrs. H. Wills; Henry Edwards and Lucy; the Ladies' Aid and Women's Auxiliary; Miss Mona Crawford; R. Stewart; George Hillyard; Mr. and Mrs. Noble and family; Mr. and Mrs. Geo Hartman; L.O.L. 2200; Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Hammond. Spiritual offerings, Mr. and Mrs. P. Windle-Raglan, Mrs. J. O'Brien, North Bay."

**FENSOM** As Told By: Brenda Little (Fensom)

Richard Henry Fensom and Frances Henry (Stephens) homesteaded on Lots 10 and 11, Concession 4 of Lorne Township just east of Nairn Centre. The original farm encompassed 900 acres.

Of the seven Fensom children, Richard Henry (nicknamed Dick) and his wife Elizabeth (Edwards) continued to do mixed farming and lumbering until the 1940s.

Henry and Eunice Fensom's Family: Ann, Brenda, Sharon, Dorla, Richard (Lorne Township), Joe, wife Joanne (nee Thibeault) and family reside in town.

**ELIZABETH BOYCE**

Elizabeth Halcrow travelled to Nairn Centre from Little Current on the old Algoma train on October 31, 1925. She taught school at Nairn Public School for 15 years and also 15 years at A.B. Ellis Public School.

Elizabeth wed Sydney Boyce on July 2, 1934. The couple has a daughter Rhona, who married Cyril Farrell, they have three children, twin daughters Linda and Beverly and a son Toby.

Sydney and Elizabeth later adopted two girls, Marlene and Vivian. Marlene is married to Lawrence Hall and they have three children Michael, Derek and Caroline. And Vivian was married to Bill Doman, they have two children Lee-Ann and Martin.

One of Elizabeth's fondest memories of teaching school at Nairn Public School was the special school trip to Sudbury to see King George IV in 1939. They travelled to Sudbury in a three ton truck. All the children wanted her to sit with them in the back of the truck and not in the cab with the other teacher. She enjoyed the bumpy ride in the back of that truck with the children as much as the visit to see the king.

**GILBEAU**

**As Told By: Noella Zangari (Gilbeau)**

Daniel and Gertrude Gilbeau moved to Nairn in the spring of 1946. They had a family of 10: 3 boys and 7 girls. At first they lived in a 6 bedroom; living room; dining room; kitchen and full sand basement house (where Delaney's live now). It was rented for \$10 a month from Mr. and Mrs. R.B. Hall.

The house was heated by wood and coal in the winter. We would close off the kitchen and the two bedrooms above it and crowded into the four remaining bedrooms and we slept sideways, instead of lengthways, in our beds. We had a well house for our water and an outhouse for natures's call. In the night time and during winter we were allowed to use a chamber pail and took turns dumping it. I was number five on the list of youngest so just got the job of hauling wood.

My dad had a cow we milked, two horses and two pigs plus chickens. We had no electricity so he would go to Bell Lake by horse and buggy to cut and haul ice blocks for the season. He covered the ice with sawdust under the big pine tree still standing behind Delaney's garage.

One of Dan Gilbeau's first jobs was bartender for Nick Zangari at the King George then he got lucky and landed a job for K.V.P. as mill clerk making all of \$30 a week.

Dan Gilbeau, Ledger Cyr, Tom McCutcheon and Sid Boyce would travel together to Espanola, and paid \$5 a month travel money.

I remember just after World War II when my mom's brother, Richard Bergeron, came home. He sure was a nervous wreck! We would sneeze and he'd jump. He sure had a lot of stories to tell us.

All ten children are married and all have four or five children each plus seven or eight grandchildren each. Of the ten only two married local guys. Noella to Bob Zangari and Collette to Gerald Hearn. Romeo and Richard (Dick) joined the Armed Forces at the ages of 17 where they both served full terms before retiring from service. Loraine married a guy also in the armed forces. When he retired they moved to B.C. and still live there.

I remember when friends of ours used to visit. Mr. & Mrs. Sam Conners. He would wash dishes with mom's hot mitts on and us girls would dry. We would march around the table singing all the time. McDonald girls, Dot McCutcheon and Carol Stewart practically lived at our house.

I used to help Dot with transplanting in the greenhouse (then they lived at Deniel Brown's old house). We'd take turns having Christmas and Easter holidays at each other's house.

Dad died June 14, 1968. Mom remarried on June 28, 1969 to Frank Nelmes. Zangari's basement was the community hall for New Year's, weddings and parties for about five or six years. Mom died July 4, 1995. All 10 children, 34 grandchildren, many great grandchildren and 4 great-great grandchildren are still living.

**NOBLES**

**As Told By: Frank**

The Noble family came to Nairn Centre in 1933. (The Delongchamps Cartage moved their effects from Sudbury). The mother originally came from Massey, the father came from Nova Scotia.

Mrs. Noble (nee Hall) was a nurse and met Mr. Frank George Noble in Sudbury where they got married. After WW I, Mr. Noble fortunately decided to come north. In the 1920's, he was working for the Forestry Department when the then Minister, Hon. Hepburn, decided to dismantle the entire department which left Mr. Noble, without a job.

At that point, 1932, the Nobles moved to Nairn Centre. They rented the old Fensom house below the hill at the east end of town. After some time, they bought the house into which Frank William still resides, on McIntyre Street.

Mr. Noble was doing quite well at that time, being employed as paymaster for the roads men.

The Noble children, Gerald, Frank, Grace and Albert, attended school in Nairn Centre between the years of 1934 to 1940. Mr. Clarence Moyer was their teacher.

The boys, being rather big fellows for their age of 14, were allowed to play baseball on the men's team against Worthington, Beaver Lake, etc.

They cross-country skied. A red letter day in the lives of the youngsters of that period, was when, twice weekly, Mr. Luopa would drive his meat wagon into Nairn Centre from Beaver Lake. The kids would follow the butcher wagon around and well, boys will be boys!

Mrs. Noble, who was a nurse, assisted with the births of several new citizens at that time.

In 1940, the Noble family travelled to Halifax for a holiday, in their new 1939 Dodge.

After that, the Nobles went to Sudbury and came back to Nairn Centre for summer holidays. Frank graduated from Sudbury Mining and Technical College in 1940. He came back in 1960 and now lives in the family home and is constantly "improving" the place. One could say that it is his hobby.

## **AUSTINS**

**As Told By: Myron**

Myron Austin was born in Toronto and attended mechanical trade schools: Danforth Tech and Jarvis Collegiate Institute. His father was a conductor on trains running from Toronto to the northern areas of Chapleau, Foleyet and Peterbell during the depression years of the 1930's. His father got to know a lot of people and one man said that he would give young Myron a job. It paid \$1.75 a day minus \$0.85 for room and board. But it started him on the road to better things.

In 1949, Myron left Peterbell, 90 miles north of Foleyet and came back to work for Mr. Merwin in Nairn Centre.

That first summer Myron brought his family of four to live in McCutcheon's cottage which he'd rented. During 1950 he bought two lots on Minto Street for \$50 each and over

the next ten years he proceeded to build a house on it for his family to live in.

Myron began his managerial period by building log piers filled with rocks to form a large log storage on the Spanish River. Again he used his schooling to enable him to build a portable sawmill.

For two years, 1956 and 57 he received \$5 per month for his duties as reeve of our town. Although he was in office for a short time he managed to get a lot accomplished. He got Chapleau to donate their old firefighting equipment to us when they updated theirs; in addition he'd already made a "fire truck" by placing a 500 gallon tank on the bed of a 3-ton truck and pumping with a gas pump. This truck was also used to help Frank Nelmes flood the skating rink.

Myron got a doctor to come from Espanola once a week to treat patients using curtains to form privacy cubicles in the Town Hall.

Today, Myron still lives in the house he built, and when he isn't travelling he spends time with his children and grandchildren.

**SCHERZINGER**                      **As Told By: Helmuth Sr.**

Helmuth Sr., who fought in World War II in Germany, came to Canada by boat. He landed in Halifax in 1951. He came on a contract with Kalamazoo Vegetable Parchment Company (KVP).

Clara came from Germany to join him later. They married in Sudbury and subsequently moved to Nairn Centre in 1957 where they raised their seven children who attended school here.

Clara, of course, was involved with all kinds of activities at school, churches, generously donated her time and money to all causes.

She started the recreation committee in Nairn Centre, belonged to the Ontario Association for Recreation, was a life member of the Nairn Anglican Church Women (ACW), Catholic Women's League, Girl Guides and Brownies and the Senior's Club. She was a consummate volunteer at the Espanola Hospital, selling tickets and baking cakes and cookies for multi occasions and charities.

She passed away in May 1995 at the age of 72. She is missed by the whole community.

**ODE TO CLARA SCHERZINGER (composed by Darlene Ladouceur & Pat Miron)**

**C**     is for a great cook  
**L**     is for love  
**A**     is for all she means to us  
**R**     is for respect  
**A**     is for appreciation for all you have done

**S** is for Santa Claus!!  
**C** is for cakes - Black Forest, of course  
**H** is for your helping hands

**E** is for excellence  
**R** is for religion  
**Z** is for your zest for life  
**I** is for ice cream - chocolate no doubt!  
**N** is for nice  
**G** is for go, go, go!!  
**E** is for enthusiasm  
**R** is for raffle tickets

## **BUSINESS STORIES**

### **NOTES FROM JOHN HAEGEMAN**

The Cleveland Sarnia Sawmills Company was made up of Cleveland and Sarnia businessmen. They held and logged the township of Foster, just south of Nairn Centre, during the years 1908 to 1909 and 1912 to 1913. This company removed some 31 million feet of White and Red pine logs; 1/2 million feet of Hemlock, plus 300,000 feet of Cedar and Spruce logs. These logs were watered to the Vermilion River and then to the Spanish. This company had a private telephone service from their Nairn Office to all their Foster Township camps - 1908-13. After leaving their Nairn operations 1912-13 they later on logged for 5 years around Pogamasing.

After their logs were sorted at the mouth of the Spanish River at Spanish, it took 14 days and nights of good weather to tow their logs to their mill in Sarnia. On more than one occasion their boom of logs was broken up in a storm on the lake causing great expense and inconvenience.

On July 14, 1902 they registered a timber mark # 983. It was the outline of a human hand with extended forefinger. Inside the hand was a number from 1 to 5.

Just as it is today, lumbering was the life-blood of Nairn 100 years ago. The coming of the railroad provided for the easy movement of goods which were needed in the lumbering woods. In the early 1900's there were employed 2000 men in the Massey area. Another 2000 men were employed in the Webbwood area. Plus another 1200 men in the Nairn woods.

There were several companies who logged on a large scale. Three of the main companies were: Edmund Hall, Graves and Bigwood and Cleveland Sarnia Saw Mills Company. In 1893, Edmund Hall registered a Timber Mark, "HALL" from Nelsonville, Ontario. In 1902, he registered another mark "FRED" from Nairn, Ontario.

The Graves and Bigwood Lumber Company, around 1907, bought out the holdings of the Sarnia Bay Salt and Timber Co. at Nairn Centre for some million and a half dollars. They logged extensively till 1924-25. They took 93,000,000 feet of pine off Vernon Township alone.

The Cleveland Sarnia Saw Mills Co. logged Foster Township and as early as 1908, had

telephone service to all their camps from their Nairn office. All the logs cut by all the companies ended up at the mouth of the Spanish River at Spanish, Ontario. Here they were sorted according to each company's mark.

## **TIMBER MARKS - LOG STAMPING HAMMERS**

In 1870 it became law, that companies using rivers to transport their logs had to stamp them with their mark and to register their mark with the Department of Agriculture in Ottawa. For a fee of \$2 a mark could be registered, provided it was not similar to a previously registered mark. Today that registry has over 2,000 registrations and some registrations cover many marks.

At the mouth of the Spanish River was the sorting jacks. Here was where over a million logs from Nairn, Massey and Webbwood area all had to be sorted out. This required 200 men, 15 hours a day from break-up to freeze-up. Every log was stamped several times on each end, so that at least one mark could be seen above the water. They were then placed in each company's pocket. When enough logs were sorted, they were towed by tugs to the various mills. Here they were made into lumber.

There were 12 mills within a 50 mile radius of the mouth of the Spanish, however most of the logs from the Nairn area were sawn elsewhere.

Edmund Hall's logs were towed to their mill in Bay City, Michigan. Graves and Bigwood had their mill at Byng Inlet on Georgian Bay and the Cleveland Company took two weeks to get their logs to their Sarnia mill.

This is just a short summary of some logging history. Many pages could be written about this part of our past.

## **BUSY BEE AND RAINBOW RESTAURANT**

**As Told By: Ray Harding**

The existing Rainbow Truck Stop had its modest start about 1952 when the new highway 17 came through Nairn Centre. The building, then owned by Brodie Cumming, was moved from the site which is now Wayne Insley's property on Minto Street to its present location.

From the late 1950s to some time in the 1970s, the restaurant was operated by Charles Robert Robinson and was called Bob's BA Service Station.

Ray and Jeannette Harding bought the business on March 24th, 1979 and named it "Rainbow Diner". They also bought six acres of land surrounding the diner and expanded the operations to its present day size and form. It was then transformed into the Rainbow Truck Stop. Ray Harding, being an ex-truck driver saw the need for these facilities and provided fuel, general mechanical services etc., from the garage while Jeannette and family ran the restaurant. A "one stop shop" for drivers.

The Rainbow Truck Stop was sold to NOCO in 1990.

Ray and Jeannette tried retirement for a few years, vacationing in Florida, but missed the excitement of working. They bought the old Nairn Texaco site on Highway 17 which had



been closed for some years, renovated and opened for business as the Busy Bee Country Store and Restaurant on July 18th, 1994.

Ray was alternately reeve and councillor for Nairn Township between 1981 and 1984. He was reeve 1988 to 1991 and was appointed to that position again in 1994.

**T. BELL TRANSPORT INC.**

**As Told By: Ted Bell**

Ted Bell came to Nairn Centre from Carleton Place near Ottawa via Sudbury where he worked for eleven months in 1968. Work underground at Crean Hill was not for Ted, however. Shortly after that, he arrived in Nairn Centre and formed a company named Nairn Construction with Mrs. Anne Odnokon. They acquired more equipment gradually and the company grew.

Ted co-owned Nairn Construction until 1989 when he founded his own company and called it "T. Bell Transport Inc."

T. Bell not only offers rental of equipment such as thirty tractor trailers, twenty heavy equipment units, he also runs a garage to service and repair equipment for the public as well as his own concern. He employs 40 people overall and the trucking industry is his mainstay.

Mr. Bell, although extremely busy, took time to serve on the Nairn council from 1984 to 1988. He lives in Nairn Centre with his wife Diane and two daughters.

**ODNOKON CONSTRUCTION LTD.**

**As Told By: Jack Norman**

**Odnokon**

John Charles Odnokon founded his construction company around 1958, quite small at first, hiring only a few people, such as Earl Beer, to operate two trucks, loader, backhoe, doing mainly logging and road building.

In 1968, John Charles died in a tragic accident while driving to his Beaver Lake gravel pit. The front-end loader that he was driving went over the embankment on the hill just east of town.

Mrs. Anne Odnokon was then left to run the construction business as well as the Trio Hotel she and John had bought in 1965. However, business picked up around 1973. A tandem was purchased and Ted Bell who worked for Anne, drove the machinery while son Jack did repairs in the garage, too young still to help with the running of the business. In 1975, the company secured a contract with Agnew Lake Mine, hauled wood chips for E.B. Eddy among other operations which employed over 100 people. In 1979, the name was changed to Nairn Centre Construction. In 1981, the Agnew Lake Mine closed down and forced the company to down-size its operation to 15 employees.

Jack bought his mother's shares in Nairn Construction Company in 1981 and co-owned with Ted Bell. Hauling wood chips for E.B. Eddy, logging, yard work, etc. Sixteen to twenty trucks and drivers were being kept working consistently.

In 1989, Jack formed his own company and went back to the original name of Odnokon Construction Limited (OCL Trucking and Excavating). He is operating from the same garage, albeit much improved, as his father used to all those years ago. He employs

15 full-time and 15 part-time people, doing construction work, mainly.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We have not attempted to write a history book, but rather a book to revive the memories and to keep them alive for generations to come. It is the result of the time spent reminiscing with a few of our residents and sorting through their potpourri of stories. We would like to take this opportunity to show our appreciation of those who took the time to share with us a bit of their knowledge. No matter how little they feel their contribution was, they cannot possibly realize its immense importance to us. For without them, there would not have been a book but only a page. They loaned us precious photographs, offered advice and told us about life as they saw it.

We regret that time did not allow us to contact everyone to tell us the hundreds of untold stories, waiting to be written about Nairn Centre. There was a scarce amount of written material about Nairn Centre and because we had to rely on direct contact with residents for our information, we apologize for any omissions, errors and discrepancies that may occur in this book. We hope that you can overlook these and enjoy the book for what it is....a glimpse of yesterday. We would especially like to thank Beverly Hickey our summer student who helped with research and helped to put this together.

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## HISTORICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS & HELPERS

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Debbie Lapierre	- Member
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