

## **CAMPBELLFORD MEMORIES**

### **The Old Neighbourhood**

**By Francis W. Long**

My brother Doug and I were born at my grandparent's house, at 79 Centre Street (Vernon Dunk's home). I remember many visits back there as a boy. On the front lawn were two Manitoba Maples, just far enough apart to swing a cloth hammock. Doug and I always enjoyed the early transparent apples from the orchard back of the house. Grandpa sold a lot of garden stuff at 25 cents a basket. The verandah porch across the front of the house still stands where we would sit out of an evening in lawn chairs. Shortly after I was born, my folks bought a house on Rear Street, now 109 Doxsee Avenue North. At that time the area was called Market Square. Front and Rear Streets were joined by Market Street. Next to our house was a lot covered by hydro wooden poles belonging to the public utilities (now Denny Collins' house. Next to the south was Charlie Haig's home. Charlie was the well known and much beloved public school principal. He had a large market garden at the back. Across the street was an unpainted building housing the weigh scales. To the south was a domed arena with a metal roof, called Covert's arena. Sam Covert was a trucker. Across from our house was an open commons, where we skated on the puddles in winter. On Market Street in the early days was Clem Bayes blacksmith shop, which became Ken Laundry's gas station.

The red railroad shed next to our house fell down when I was a toddler. In its place John L. Hay built a dance hall. As children we grew up listening to the tune of "Hold That Tiger" outside our window on Saturday nights. There was not much sleep for us until we finally heard the strains of the "Home Waltz". That dance hall has had a colourful history. During the war years, it housed a wooden toy factory. Later it was Harold Pierce's Body Shop. In more recent times it became Campbellford Chrysler, and now Beamish Carpet.

We had some great neighbours on our street. Just to the north was the home of Jeanette and Pat Kelly. It is now occupied by Doug Burgis. They had two sons, James Michael, and Joseph, who were the same ages as my brother and myself. Both of these boys became prominent lawyers. J.M was with the Campeau Corporation which built the Harbour Castle facility in Toronto. Jeanette Kelly lived to a good old age in the Tanner nursing home across from the Presbyterian church. Her mother and father, the Fitzpatricks, lived on Doxsee Avenue as well, in a brick house across the road, next to Andrew Hay. Mr. Hay had a barn, complete with a cow, and a few chickens. Further on the north side lived Vince Farrell, and then Alma Dunk. North of Kelly's on our side was Russell Jacques, Percy Denyes, Mae Callaghan, and a nice old lady named Miss Matthews whom I liked to visit.

I remember when the Davidson arena was built. They had a lot of the wooden trusses in place and one night there was a windstorm that blew them all down with a crash. Do you remember the big boys who came down Front Street ringing a bell, and shouting "Hockey match tonight, Davidson arena, Campbellford and Stirling"? Campbellford and

Stirling were arch rivals. To accommodate the crowd they ran special trains back and forth.

Do you remember the restaurant on Park Street by the bowling alley, where you could sit in your car, and have food brought to your window on a tray? In later years there was a similar business called Jack's Place, run by Jack Torrance, at the Edgewater Park.

Our home on Rear Street was close to our store, just two blocks away. There was a big red barn back of our house, across from the High School owned by the town, where they kept the "steam roller". A chap named Frank Brown ran it, and sometimes Bill Nicholas. They tore up the gravel road where there were puddles, and then rolled fresh gravel with the big heavy roller. These indeed were the good old days!

We are all looking forward to celebrating together the 100 years of history of Campbellford.