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Prime Time

Memories of a lifetime spent in Campbellford

by Francis W. Long
 Do you remember when there were only four pay telephone booths in Campbellford? One was located at Neil O'Keefe's St. Lawrence Hotel. Others could be found at the Royal Café, Long's Confectionery Restaurant, and at the Chateau Restau-

rant on the west side of the river. Frank Long, my father, and a former mayor of the town, managed to capture the ultimate telephone number for his business started in 1909—1-2-3. He later had to surrender that number for emergency use, and was assigned 1-3-0-0.

You have to be a Campbellford oldtimer to remember what the four corners at Doxsee and Bridge looked like back in the good old days. The post office was certainly not there. Instead, there was T.J. Horkins Grocery on the corner, with steps leading to the entrance, Edge Dolman's men's store was located at the site of what was to become the Canadian Tire Store for many years. For some reason, Dolman's store also had a grocery line for a time. Manson Labrash delivered the groceries. Across the street was yet another grocery emporium, known as George O'Sullivan's Grocery Store.

In the spot, occupied for many years now by the Aron Theatre, there was an open lot which housed a livery stable, to serve the needs of the St. Lawrence Hotel on Front Street. Further along on Bridge Street toward Front Street was P.H. MacMillan's egg grading station, beside Claude Fairman's Bakery. This was later to become Dooher's Bakery, still a Campbellford landmark, although in a different location. Dr. O'Hara had a veterinary clinic on the second floor of the same business block that housed MacMillan's and Fairman's. In more recent times, Dr. Jack Trimble took over this practice. In many respects, the MacMillan's including P. H. and his son Hector were the most successful. The egg grading business became Campbellford IGA, and the MacMillan's were involved with Campbellford Chrysler. The MacMillan name has also been associated with local politics for many years.

The current site of Dooher's bakery was an open lot, owned by E.L. Ruddy, famous for their signboards. Joe Dunk's Grocery was along that south side of Bridge Street for many years. The current site of Trish's Country Kitchen has been a restaurant for much of its history. Folks with a good memory will recall Stanbury's Restaurant at the same location. Ruth and Ed Stanbury were known to open up very early for the breakfast crew who came to depend on the Stanbury's for good coffee and hearty morning fare.

It doesn't seem that many years ago when Bridge and Front Streets was a banking corner with the Bank of Montreal and the Royal Bank staring at each other across the intersection. The building which housed the Royal Bank was later destroyed by fire, and is now a small parkette. Quite a change!

T.J. Craighead had a popular Gift and Stationery store next to the Bank of Montreal.

Tommy Laval also had a stationery store located near Bennett's Furniture still part of the Campbellford business streetscape, and in about the same location.

In those days, the Bennett family also were the town funeral directors, with their business located on Frank Street. Further down at that end of Front Street was Menzie's Hardware, and the Campbellford Herald, the newspaper office, and commercial print shop. Somewhere at that end of Front Street was the Bell Telephone office. It is said that the night operator slept on a couch, and had to be awakened to plug you in should you wish to make a call. Across the street on the river side was the old post office building, and a Chinese laundry, long since torn down. The post office was moved to the town hall building when it was erected in 1939. Further up Front Street near the bridge was the Ferris Building. It was later to become the Burgis Pro Hardware. In the early years



Francis Long poses in his cadet uniform

it was occupied by W.J. Armstrong who operated a general store. This business was taken over by J. M. Ferris who later was the postmaster for a number of years. I remember two big removable grates in the sidewalk in front of the store. Below these grates were large pits used to store large quantities of four-foot cordwood for firing up the huge wood furnace in this building. Likewise at the Presbyterian Church, there were windows on either side of the front doors, and the rooms under the stairs inside were filled with logs to fire the big wood furnaces in winter.

In the Ferris Building as well was located the pharmacy operated by Fred W. Woods. It was later to become the Barnum Pharmacy for many years.

On the West side of Front Street North were a number of businesses that are sure to bring back some great memories. There was a popular candy store, owned by W.J. Marsh, later to be run by Charlie Dunkley. How about the Moonlight Café, now the Riverview Restaurant? There was Bonnycastle's Photo Studio, later to be called George Bailey's Photo, and Tredree Photo & Music. On that side as well, was J.P. Archer's "Tip Top Men's Suits." Mr. Archer was a "multi-tasker" it seems. He was also the stockbroker in those days.

Few people with Campbellford roots will forget Loucks Rexall Drug Store. The store was owned by Arthur Kent Loucks, a man with an engaging personality whose store was famous for its Rexall one cent sales, and Laura Secord Chocolates. Further along was the Royal Café owned by a family named Lee for many years plus a harness shop where men sat around a pot-bellied stove playing checkers. I wonder if any harnesses were ever fixed! It is likely that most gentlemen in the area will remember getting their hair trimmed by Benny Runnells. His shop was next to the harness shop, and his successor, Harold Douglas is still in business a few doors down the street from Benny's. Benny, was a real character, who commuted from Dartford, near Warkworth, each day. Cyril Sloggett's Men's Wear was tucked in between the barber shop and Long's Confectionery Restaurant. Charlie Thompson took over Sloggett's at a later time.

Long's Confectionery Restaurant was a business which seems to engender about as many memories from old time Campbellford residents as any other.

Continued on next page.

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Local restaurant was where everything happened

Continued from previous page.

That might be for its lengthy existence—1909 to 1974. But more likely it is because of the happy times with relatives and friends that Long's represented.

It was a place to go for a treat after school, after the show, or for a family dinner out. I have heard of several marriage proposals made at Long's, as well as many important business deals, and court agreements between crown and defence. Long's was far more than just a restaurant. It was the site of delicious baked goods, homemade candy, and ice cream made on the premises.

Back in the 1930s and 1940s there was the police office with a few cells which made a loud clanging sound, heard clearly in Long's next door. This tiny office was tucked in between Long's and the Hollywood Theatre. The Hollywood was the scene of the five-cent matinee, and the owner Abraham Rappaport had special photo night prizes. Mr. Rappaport was quite the developer as well. He built a number of cottages, and a small hotel which he called the Villa Trent along the Trent opposite to where the Campbellford arena is located today. It is said that he brought in loads of sand for children who were guests at his hotel beach. A fruit and vegetable market owned by the Pace Family was next to the Hollywood.

Across the street on north Front Street were a number of business locations that some people might remember. Included in this group was Perfection Bakery, Harry Denike's Grocery, later to be owned by Pat Patrick. As well Tommy Baker owned an egg grading station near the current site of the bowling alley, plus Clayt Rowe's Car Wash. The large stately brick house was owned by Dr. H.T. Scott who was a chiropractor. The Sharp family owned a dry goods store in the same area of north Front Street. File and Vice was a hardware store which came along at later time. There was really a Mr. File and Mr. Vice involved in the ownership of this store. Across from Long's was Johnny Irwin's Country Store where you brought your basket of fresh eggs for sale.

Do you remember the big brick house at the corner of Dosssee Avenue and Bridge Street, the current location of the Bank of Montreal? It was the site of the Woodlawn Catering business. On the other side of the street, now the location of Mac's was William's Service Station, later to be known as Clare Ames B.A. Station. Ames garage was a fixture at that corner for many years. J.C. Williams was the driver's licence examiner for a long time. Your road test consisted of a trip around the block. That, and \$2 would earn you a regular license; \$5 and a photo would net you a chauffeur's licence. In the brick house directly across from the heritage centre was the real estate office, operated by a broker named T. L. Diamond. He apparently had assembled quite a number of rental houses bought for taxes in the hungry thirties. It is said that some of the houses had been purchased by Diamond for as little as \$100, for unpaid taxes. Dosssee Avenue, by the way, was named Rear Street until about 1950. You couldn't claim to be a real Campbellford native if you don't remember the little corner store in a home at Front and Dosssee. It was owned by John and Dorothy Herd, and was known as "Neighbourhood."

Business and Commerce on the west side of the Trent around Grand Road and Bridge Street is now bustling, but it was not always the case. There was a single Drug Store owned by J. Ernest Birks located where a variety store is located now across from the Old Mill Park. There was just one restaurant on the west side of the river. It was originally the Clifton Tea Room run by the family of Charlie Smith. The Clifton later became the Chateau Restaurant. This restaurant got a lot of its trade from the Campbellford Cloth Mill, which ordered up many take out sandwiches, and beverages. There were several grocery stores serving people on that side of the river. The best known, and longest serving was Gay's Grocery. There was also one owned by Sam Clegg. There was also Dooher's Neighbourhood Store, as well as Hampson's General Store up near Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, and Keir's Grocery on Church Street near the Anglican Church. You could treat yourself on the west side of the bridge with a trip into Charlie O'Connor's Ice Cream and Confectionery.

Do you remember the woollen mill with its large and distinctive water tower? There was the weave room along Grand Road where the mill park is located today. In the warmer weather you could hear the clacking machinery through the windows as you passed by. I wonder how many of the workers suffered permanent hearing loss working in that area of

the mill. Just beyond the weave room was J. M. Benor's planing mill. Across the street was the Barrymore carpet factory. A bit farther down Grand Road, you can still see the pillars of what people around Campbellford call the black bridge. It was actually a siding into Connor's Lumber Yard, today the Baptist Church. Over at the station proper was the coal yard, and the weigh scales. The trucks of coal were loaded from the big bins, and weighed before and after, so you got your coal bill with gross, tare and net weights. The coal was carried upstairs in heavy canvas sacks, or offloaded from the truck with a shovel down a metal chute, into your cellar or coal shed. Coal was about \$15 per ton, and was available in stove coal, nut coal or coke, and was branded with blue or red dye. If you were fortunate, you were able to get your five tons of coal put in your bin and paid for in the fall. You were then all set for the winter. Otherwise you paid for your coal by installments. The two coal and lumber dealers in Campbellford in those days were H.M. Fowlds, and A.C. Connor & Sons. Both firms went into the oil delivery business when coal was phased out.

On the corner of what was the Ojamae Ford dealership, was a house occupied by Verne Marks. You might remember that the house had unpainted wood siding. Verne had a workshop next door. He was a machinist, could make just about anything, as did another mechanic, Walter Henson, over the tracks on Wallace Street.

It is a good many years since the trains came into town, but in the railroading heyday, there are a few names that you might remember. Art McConnell was the stationmaster. Mr. C. L. Redden the telegrapher. Rail express was very important in the days before the emergence of truck traffic. Mr. Osterhout handled the express delivery out of the station, while his daughter Violet ran an express office downtown, and sold money orders and looked after express billing. Peter Monaghan worked at the station for many years, but perhaps was best known in later times as an expert bike repairman.

There were two blacksmiths in town as I recall. Clem Bayes had a shop on Market Street that became Oscar Mason's Fuel and even later the Canadian Tire outlet. In more recent times it was to be known as Ken Laundry's Gas Station.

The other blacksmith shop was owned by Alex MacDonald and located near the Dixie Lee Fried Chicken outlet. Alex had some other interests too. He was the fire chief for a number of years, and played the tuba in the town band as well.

Speaking of musicians, there was a gentleman I knew as Mr. Spencer who owned an implement dealership near the current post office. Mr. Spencer was a piper who had the unusual habit of practicing his bagpipes on the flat roof of his store in the evenings leading up to the July 12 Orange parade.

Continued on next page.

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Coming Events in the Trent Hills Community

April 1st, 2005
Come tour Newfoundland with Us, at the Warkworth Town Hall Centre for the Arts. Enjoy the sights and sounds of Newfoundland at 7:30 pm. Cost is \$5.00 per person with light refreshments served. For more info call 924-2955.

April 2, 2005
Euchre Party at Seymour West W1 Hall, County Rd. #30 at 8pm. \$3.00 a person, light lunch served. Contact: 653-5197

April 3, 2005
All you can eat Brunch at the Odd Fellows Hall, Victoria St. Campbellford. 10:00am to 1 pm. Adults \$5.00, Children \$2.50. Wheelchair accessible.

April 4, 2005
Campbellford & District Horticultural Society, Monthly Meeting. Held at Jenkins Hall, behind Christ Church Anglican, 8 p.m. Guest Speaker is Marg Fleming; topic is "Colour in your Garden". Contact: 653-5767 or 653-3675.

April 5th, 2005
Trent Hills & District, Port Hope & District, Cobourg & District and Brighton & District Chambers of Commerce are holding a forum for Home-based businesses and Entrepreneurs. Held at Pine Ridge Golf Course, 4020 City Rd., 30, Warkworth. Registration @ 4:30. Light meal provided. Session from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Contact Trent Hills-705-653-1551, Port Hope-905-885-5519, Cobourg-905-372-5831, Brighton-613-475-2775.

April 7 & 8, 2005
Rummage Sale at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. Friday April 7 from 9-5 pm. Saturday April 8th is Box day from 9-2pm, \$4.00. Contact Evelyn Campbell

April 9, 2005
Spirit of the Hills presents "Hills Are Alive" concert, a showcase of members of Spirit of the Hills. Come and see your friends and neighbours singing their hearts out. Guests include Kim MacNeil-Gundersen and Fleshood and Dwyer plus other great acts. Doors open @ 7 pm, show starts at 7:30pm. For more information call Meiron Jones at 705-924-1230

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1933 Campbellford pulpwood fire burned for a week

Continued from page 11.

Listening intently to the piping, I am sure, was the staff at T. E. Halls Car Repairs, and Ford Dealership right next door. If your memories don't go back quite as far, you will probably have recollection of Jack Douglas' Esso garage at the same location.

Can you remember the pulpwood fire in 1933? My father, Frank Long, had just been elected to council for the first year, and was chairman of the fire department. He suggested that the fireman concentrate on saving the pulp grinding equipment, which they did. The fire burned for a week, and was so hot that it

burned the Ibey's home located several hundred yards away.

Another name to remember in those times was Trent Valley Creamery, Stuart Carr, and his dad H. N. Carr, a long time MPP, made the best butter around.

And they had the prizes to prove it. It sold for 25 cents per pound. We used to purchase 40 per cent whipping cream from the Carrs for 40 cents per quart, and buttermilk for baking for five cents per pail. The creamery was located on Dosssee Avenue, and had a large chimney which I am told was used in the manufacture of dried buttermilk. The building is gone now, but was on the site of the current Arc Industries facilities.

Over on Ranney Street, there was a wooden arena used for curling. Later that location was to become the Bata Shoe factory. Today, it represents an extension on the library building. Back in the 1930s and 1940's there was a wheelwright on Ranney Street as well. His name was Ernest Skitch; he made spoked wagon wheels, and axe handles etc. Ernest was also a man of many talents. He apparently went door to door selling meat products from his wheelbarrow when the wagon wheel business was a little slow.

On the west side of the river, just by the bridge, there was Maude Tripp's Gift

Shop and Charlie O'Connor's Billiards. R.J.A. MacGregor had a sport and bike repair shop further down the street.

On Front Street North, at one time there was a Dominion Store, managed by Douglas Watson, and Harry Bensingler worked there as a boy.

There were several appliance and electric stores including Frank G. DeCarroll, J. M. Benor, Hector MacArthur, and son Denny, Frank Garneau, and Jack Dunsmore's.

Cliff Gibson had a stationery store in the old bank building, W. J. (Wink) Callaghan had a men's wear shop, and later on Monica's shoes. Fred Macoun ran a pool room until he sold it to Manse Shaw. Across the street, you will remember Lena Duncalfe who ran the T. Eaton order office. Other names that come to mind are George Nicholls who ran a clothing store, and Jack Coxwell who operated a Photo and Gift Shop for many years. Somewhat more recently Mort Sayers had the Selrite Store which became what is today's Stedman's location. On the opposite side of the street, W.H. Brady had a 5 cent to \$1.00 store which has turned into Economy Fair.

There are others of note who plied their trade in Campbellford. Mr. Arthur J. Armour was a long time stock and bond broker. A. L. Riendeau sold insurance and musical instruments for a time on Front Street. Now, that was quite a combination! Peter Battman's mom and dad lived upstairs and both father and son played in the town band for years. Do you remember when the Ogilvie's lovely stone house was deeded to the Legion members by the town for \$1 at the end of the war in 1945. It is still the Campbellford Legion to this day.

A local builder of note was James Blue, who built many fine old homes you can still find today. He was one of the builders of the Carnegie library. Another builder was a man named McKeil who was apparently instrumental in crafting a number of cenotaphs in the region. His son, Ernest, had a small specialty printing shop, now occupied by Paul Smith's law office.

On a professional note, the local dentist for many years was Dr. Owen C. Watson. Dr. Watson was a noted public speaker, and acted as master of ceremonies at a number of events. He also authored a little red book about a local character named Bert Runnells who stammered. There were two lawyers whose names will bring back memories, J.F.R. Douglas and N. Alex MacColl served the needs of citizens of Campbellford for many years. In an earlier period there was a lawyer named J.D. Lynch.

Who could forget the Kingston family? George, Wilbert, and Ken Kingston, and their staff ran the Campbellford Herald. George Lucy was the linotype operator, and had a weekly column "Heard on the Street Corner" by the "Herald Robin." James Bell was in charge of job printing, including our restaurant menus. At times, that could be quite a task. James also printed the voter's list. Hylton Coxwell was a linotype operator, and Steve Maguire was a proof reader.

I remember going to school when the first bell rang at 8:30 a.m. and buying five cents worth of clay marbles at Tommy Horkin's store. At school, you sat on the sidewalk, spread out your legs, and put the glass alley in a crack. The other kids around had to hit the alley to capture it. You had all the marbles that missed the mark.

Continued on next page.



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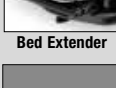
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TAKE NOTICE that tenders are invited for the purchase of the lands described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time, Thursday, May 5, 2005 at P.O. Box 40, Stirling, Ontario, K0K 3E0.

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day at the Township of Stirling - Rawdon municipal offices at 98 East Front Street, Stirling, Ontario.

Description of Lands	Minimum Tender Amount
Part of Lot 3, Concession 9 Township of Rawdon, now Township of Stirling Rawdon County of Hastings, being Part 1 on Plan 21R-11569	\$6,796.13

Municipally described as R.R. #1, Springbrook, Ontario K0K 3C0

Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit in the form of a money order or of a bank draft or cheque certified by a bank or trust corporation payable to the municipality and representing at least 20 per cent of the tender amount.

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to or any other matters relating to the land to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers.

This sale is governed by the Municipal Act, 2001 and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and the relevant land transfer tax and G.S.T., if applicable.

The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser.

For further information regarding this sale and a copy of the prescribed form of tender contact:
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Quinte Wildlife Conservation Dinner celebrates 20 years

BY JOYCE ROBAR

Quinte West - The Quinte Wildlife Conservation Dinner will be celebrating 20 years of helping flora and fauna projects in



■ Brighton artist Trevor Marshall is donating "Fear" an original acrylic painting for the Quinte Wildlife Conservation Dinner to be held on Saturday, April 23, 2005.

the Quinte area, and youth programs at centres such as Godrich-Loomis Nature Camp in Brighton.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 23, 2005, as high quality art items from local artists Michael Dumas, Doug Comeau, Tracy Collicott, Mia Lane, Debi Fitzgerald, Brian Atyeo, Jean Ling, Lynn VanderHerberg, Don Stinson, Trevor Marshall and many more go on the auction block.

Renowned Brighton art auctioneer Jim Nelson will once again be centre stage as he works the floor to get the best possible prices for these fine paintings, carvings and sculptures. Nelson will be auctioning off approximately 20 live auction items and there is always a large and varied selection of silent auction items to bid on.

Once again there will be special raffle packages up for grabs. For the romantic, jewellery designer Bill Rolf has created a beautiful 14 karat gold ruby pendant which will be packaged with an original carving of a loon, a dozen roses and more. The outdoor sports package includes a handmade cedar strip canoe built by George Wickett with materials donated by Jamie Trudeau. Included in the package are life jackets and paddles, everything you need to make that outdoor boating experience a good one.

People who want to get away can outfit their backyard with a new barbeque, Adirondack chairs made by Conservation Dinner Chair Keith Edgett, a mosquito magnet, barbeque utensils as well as a gift certificate from Farmers' Market in Trenton.

Tickets for the gala event are going quickly and can be purchased through any Conservation Dinner Committee

member, at the Brighton Municipal Office, Timberwolf Gallery, or at Wilkinson Financial in Trenton. Call Marianne at Wilkinson's at 392-2593.

Social hour begins at 6 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Trenton with a catered dinner by Two Loons Restaurant beginning at 7 p.m.

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Memories of school ... way back when

Continued from previous page.

At school in the spring, there were always lots of skipping ropes, and girls swinging long ropes by twos.

There were two public schools where the Hillside Park and swimming pool is located now. The big school had three stories plus a basement full of coal and furnaces, and wash-rooms. I recall vividly Principal Charlie Haig ringing a large school hand bell at 1:30 when we returned from what people referred to as the dinner hour. As we filed back into class, we didn't dare make a sound, or we would hear from Charlie. The older the grade you were in, the more flights of stairs you would climb. The kindergarten and junior grades were in the other smaller school. It served as the high school until 1923.

There were public school cadets every spring in those days. The uniform provided consisted of brown cotton knee pants, a brown short sleeve shirt, brown socks, and if possible brown shoes. You carried a wooden rifle and drilled to the sound of a kettle drum carried at the back of the columns by some lucky boy. There were no girls in cadets in those days.

Cadets got a little more serious when you got to high school. Principal E. H. Greig and teacher Ellis Darling drilled the boys on the lawns of the school in May. The uniform was khaki breeches, with puttees, black shoes (well shined, thank you), a brown shirt and a khaki jacket with red epaulettes, and a wedge cap with two shiny brass buttons. We carried old Lee-Enfield rifles with the bolts removed, but they still weighed a ton. It always produced a sore shoulder when you toted the gun around for a while. We marched to the beat of a drum: ta-da-dum-ta-da-dum ta-da-dum-dum-dum etc. Major George Free usually did the inspection. After this Mr. Greig and his staff had a real treat in store for us.

We paraded downtown, to guess where? Long's Confectionery Restaurant of course, where we had sundaes, apparently paid for by Mr. Greig. The sundaes were 15 cents, and the favourites were Chop Suey, consisting of chocolate syrup, raisins, walnuts and cherries over vanilla ice cream, or fruit salad with a mixture of nuts, strawberries, and pineapple, drizzled over vanilla ice cream. Satisfy that longing!

Would you remember the seven high school teachers of the mid-1930s? There was the principal E.H. (Baldy) Greig, Ellis (tarzy) Darling, Earl Stephens, Marion Dixon, Mary Stephens, Kate O'Shaughnessy (little Kate), and Kathleen Ferris (cactus Kate).

And finally, we remember the bells and whistles that were part of our lives. There was the deep boom of the mill whistle. There was the fire bell, counting out the various wards, one to four. There was the tolling of the bells for funerals held at the A. D. Bennett Funeral Home on Frank Street. There were distinctive church bells too especially the Angelus ringing from St. Mary's Catholic Church on the hill.

These are some of my memories of a lifetime spent in Campbellford. I am proud of my town, and I am pleased to have shared some of these thoughts and recollections with you.



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