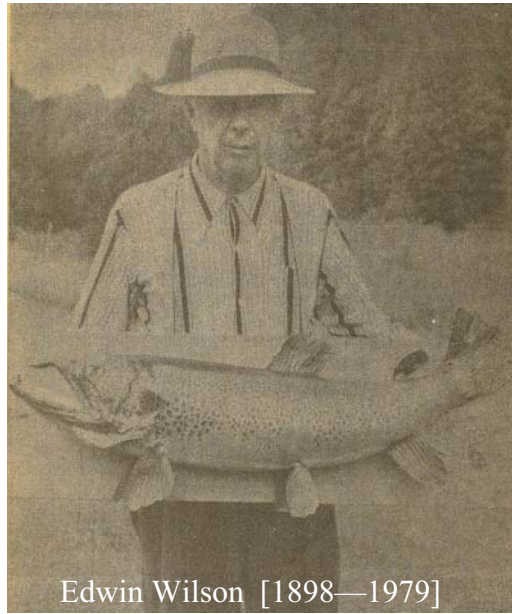




Society Newsletter

A fish story like no other and that's the truth

These days Garden Hill Pond is covered with Canada Geese nearly all year long. Even at times on the coldest days of this 2016 winter they had the mouth of the pond just south and west of the Wilson home covered, and hundreds flying above looking for clear water to land in. But that was not the case when Edwin got his wife, Ida, to paddle him out on the pond to see what was disturbing the ducks. He initially thought possibly it was a turtle after them, but when he reached down and grabbed hold of the stunned object near the surface, he found himself struggling with a 13 pound, 32 inch, brown trout. The rumour in the community, was that he hit the trout on the head with the paddle. Mr. Wilson told his neighbours and media afterward that he had never caught a fish before in his life, so he had this one stuffed for proof to show that he had discovered a special method for catching fish and this isn't "just a fish story."



Edwin Wilson [1898—1979]

If you visit Dorothy's House Museum in Garden Hill — and we hope you will — you can see the real thing protected in a glass sealed frame hanging in one of the rooms in

the Museum. The picture above, showing Edwin holding his catch is copied from an early newspaper article that this writer borrowed from his daughter, Barbara Irwin, and is rather faded. The writer tried photographing the one in the Museum, but the glass covering deflected the image and it became barely visible for publishing. Edwin Wilson's ancestors came from Yorkshire, England and made Garden Hill, in the former Hope Township, their home in 1841. Harvey Currell, writing in the old *Toronto Telegram* in November 1969, was quick to sense that these early immigrants "...possessed a strong historical sense, family members carefully preserved many records and tools having to do with their life as early settlers in Canada," he said.



Photos: Courtesy Barbara [Wilson] Irwin

Edwin and his wife, Ida, [who lived to be 105 years] raised four children: Jackson, Barbara, David and Gordon. Barbara and Gordon still live in the Municipality of Port Hope.

Wilson story continued on page 3



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Preserving the past for future generations

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We're on the Internet

Printer
Paper Works

Interim President's report



PHDHS [former EDHS] is pleased to have the support of the following business members

First off, Rod and I would like to wish everyone a belated Happy New Year 2016. On our trip to Florida in November we had good travelling and on arriving the temperatures were in the 80s but currently in the 40s to 60s. The month of January poured rain and broke all records for Florida with a total of 12.84 inches. Rivers and ditches were flooded in different areas.

Two days after arriving we bought and planted milkweed plants, then a female Monarch flew in and laid eggs on the milkweed and in the process we raised over 100 Monarch caterpillars into pupae stage. When hatched we released them back to nature. In addition to this activity we travelled to several shows in Orlando, Ft. Myers, Sarasota, and the Acadia area. So we have been very busy.

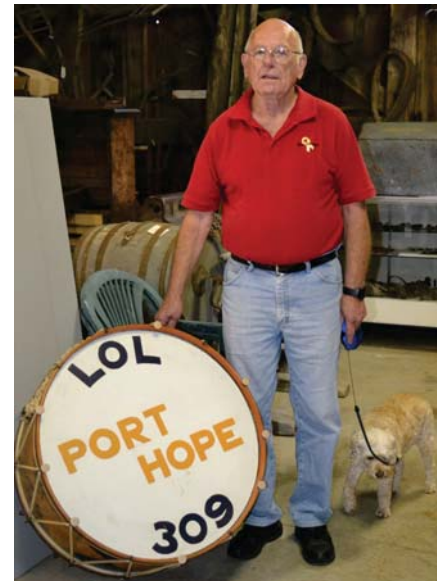
That said, I am glad to report Dorothy's House Museum received a "De Laval 518 Cream, Milk Separator [1941]" with tools and a stainless steel basin from Dan & Pat Le Blanc, August 10, 2015. This item, previously owned by Pat's uncle, Glen Gavel, and his wife Vi, was once used on their Holstein Dairy Farm, located east of Highway 28 off Vimy Ridge Road, later named Glen Gavel Road. In October the Museum received another donation, a "Bass Drum, LOL 309, PORT HOPE — Loyal Orange Lodge." It was brought back to Port Hope by Ron Seegmiller of Elmwood, Ontario in response to the wishes of his late wife. Special thanks to the Le Blanc's and Mr. Seegmiller.

I'm hoping to see everyone at the DHM 2016 Annual Fundraiser Yard Sale, as it was a great success last year. All proceeds go to maintenance and upkeep of the Museum. Also, a special reminder of the AGM, Wednesday, May 18, 2016 at the GRCA, Hwy. 28, Port Hope, Ontario.

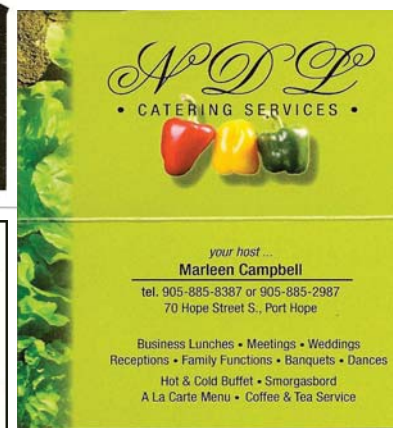
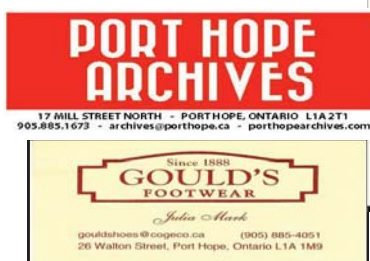


See you all in the spring.

Joan Ashby
Parrott
Interim
President



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Wilson Story: Continued from page 1

According to Currell, the Wilsons also passed down many an anecdote by word of mouth, like the story concerning his great great grandfather, who supplemented his farming with part-time cobbler work. One day the wife of a rather frugal neighbour brought him her shoes to be mended. She described what she wanted done to them and then, quite seriously, added: “And could you put a halfpenny’s worth of screeching leather in them? I’d like them to sound like new shoes.” Edwin told this story to Harvey Currell, while interviewing him in ‘69 while showing him through his barn containing the large collection of artifacts.

Currell said Wilson had one of the best private collections of Canadians he had ever seen, including many tools, farm implements, heirlooms, books, letters and records that told the story of Port Hope area and his own family. At the time the first thing a visitor would see right beside the house was an old hand-made horse-drawn seed drill for mangolds and turnips. When you entered the main part of the barn there were antique store showcases and an assortment of tin trunks, full of books, newspapers, records and heirlooms. There was also a 1608 Bible with a flyleaf inscription that read: “James Anderson, his book; bought at the roup of the deceased David Livingston., Feb. 13, 1752.” Currell said he learned that a “roup” was evidently a sale to dispose of a man’s possessions after death. And there were also “Bound volumes of 11 years issues of the *New York Albion*, a newspaper published in the 1830s devoted to news and topics of interest to English people living in the U.S. and several atlases of Port Hope district and many early school books.

Mr. Wilson hoped the barn would be just a temporary place for the collection. As a member of the Port Hope and District Historical Society [former East Durham Historical Society] he was anticipating the society would be able to establish a museum to which he would donate most of his material. That anticipation and dream was realized in 1982. After being ousted from the old fire hall, following the flood, the Society had no headquarters until a local building became available through the generosity of his sister, Dorothy Wilson, and the support of her sisters, Pearl and Ruby. The Society was given a house in Garden Hill, now known as Dorothy’s House Museum, which officially opened with an impressive ceremony attended by Hon. Allan Lawrence MP, Howard Sheppard MPP, Reeve Howard Quantrill of Hope Township, and Mayor William Wyatt of Port Hope. *The Independent* reported June 16, 1982, that more than 100 spectators showed up for the official opening.

Port Hope’s Fall Fair 2015 theme: Denim

Port Hope had for its theme last year “Denim” and the two pics on the right are some of the items displayed in the PHDHS booth which the Society participates in every year. The quilt on the left was created and displayed by the Perrytown women and highlights St. Paul’s Perrytown Church 100 years in stone.



Local History Quiz — By Tim Austin



- 1) In what year was the first tension power line run through Hope Township (1911, 1913 or 1915)?
- 2) Where is Mosquito Mountain?
- 3) What is the name given to the hill north of the Village of Canton (between the mill and the Canton School)?
- 4) Where was the Port Hope Opera House located?
- 5) Who wrote the Port Hope High School's theme song (Roll out the Banner of Port Hope High) in 1959/60?

Pics from PHDHS's Heritage Fair 2015



Answers to Quiz

- 1) The Seymour Power Company ran the first line through the township in 1911. The first hydro service line in the Township was the Welcome-Canton line and was erected in 1921.
- 2) The big hill north of the four corners (County Road 9 and 10) at Garden Hill was known as Mosquito Mountain.
- 3) The name of Sandy Gully was given to this area.
- 4) The second floor of what is now the Royal Bank of Canada. There are still old posters visible on the walls of the building.
- 5) The author was Judy Dreislma. She composed the song while living with her family in Canton. The music was composed by Dwight Dean Wilson.

Events Calendar 2015

Public meetings will be scheduled on basis of opportunity and when needed. Such meetings will be held at the Ganaraska Conservation Authority Meeting Room, 2216 Hwy 28 North, Port Hope, ON

Heritage Fair

Sunday, May 1, 2016

AGM [Annual General Meeting]

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

Fri, Sat. Sun, June 24, 25, 26
Fundraiser Giant Yard Sale

Dorothy's House Museum 2016

Summer Hours to be announced in a later issue of the Newsletter.

Contact Information

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Note: If no response please leave message at 905-797-2291

Membership Rates

Single \$15.00
Couple \$25.00
Business \$40.00
Lifetime \$75.00

PHDHS is a charitable organization and can issue Tax Receipts for donations of \$10.00 or larger.

If you have a story or story ideas, please contact Cal Morgan at cmorgan@eagle.ca