

Centennial of the UNITED
MUNICIPALITIES OF

ALLEYN & CAWOOD TOWNSHIP

1876 - 1976

Most of the
information comes
from this book that
was written to
celebrate the
Centennial of our
Municipality by
Mauda et Eva
Milford.

In the beginning ...

The hills to the north flourished in their natural beauty and awaited the coming of man. Giant pines towered into the sky and covered the solemn plains. The white tailed deer and black bear roamed the wilderness as they had done for centuries, unmolested and free.

The people looked northward to the giant stands of timber. They saw a new way of life, a life rich with the feeling of being alive, a life filled with opportunity, and for some, a life filled with good fortune.

And so the wagon roads headed north along the Gatineau. Forgotten men poled up nameless streams to seek their fortune and fame. Settlements crept ever north as new blood came to the frontier towns.

And with the loggers came the farmers, the trappers, the fur traders, the merchants and the saloon keepers. Each seeing a need and making a contribution to the development of the new frontier.

Young men in the prime of life, reckless and free, heeded the "call of the wild". They came by stage coach, horse back, or rode the baggage wagons that carried supplies to the booming lumbering camps and mills firmly established along the route.

The way was rough and all had to walk up the dusty hills and over the worst of the road to lighten the burden of the horses. And finally, over the rise, Kazabazua came into view.

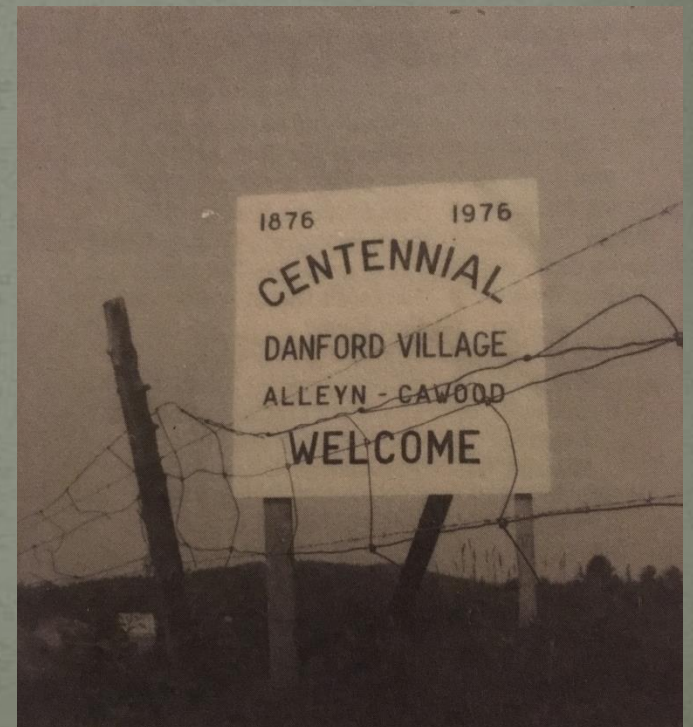
1855

1855 - Naming the Danford Community ...

One of the first settlers who came to seek fortune west of Kazabazua was Patrick Danford.

In 1855, he build his shanty on McLeod's Point and began to cut timber on the east side of the present Danford Lake.

Our settlement and resort lake still bear his name.



1861

1861 – William & Sarah Heeney ...

While lumbering opened the Gatineau hills, not all men who came were loggers. Some came to build churches and schools, to build a permanent community to service the needs of the pionners who worked the fertile land.

One such man was William Heeney. A school teacher by grade, William, along with his wife Sarah, six sons and two daughters, settled on Danford Lake in 1861.

The move to the Danford area had been his eldest son's idea who had taken the initiative and built a house on Danford Lake for himself and for his father's family. Much of the growth and development of our community can be directly attributed to the decendents of William Heeney.

1862

1862 – The Anglican Mission ...

The parish of Alleyn and Cawood originally formed part of the mission of Aylwin. All registrations of births, deaths and marriages were made in the parish books at Aylwin.

In 1862, the first church service was conducted in this mission by the incumbent of Aylwin, the Rev. Francis Codd. The first Anglican Church was built in the United Municipality of Alleyn & Cawood on the Balm-of-Gilead Road in 1867.

The present church of the Holy Trinity Anglican Church was built at a cost of twelve hundred dollars in 1906.



1866

1866 – Moise & Matilda Miljour ...

Another early settler who came to the Danford area was Moise (Sr.) and Matilda Miljour. Their homestead was built in 1866 and was located on the Otter Lake road (Route 301) now owned by Emile Beauregard (Aime Beauregard). Some of the original log outbuildings are still standing today.

While cultivating crops in the summer to raise his six children, Moise spent his winters working under contract as a jobber for the Gilmour Lumber Compagny. During his 50 old years as a jobber, Moise worked the full length of the Picanock River, his camps employed as many as 30 men during a single season.

No doubt these camps attracted many new settlers who eventually began to clear the land and turn the wilderness into a productive farming community.



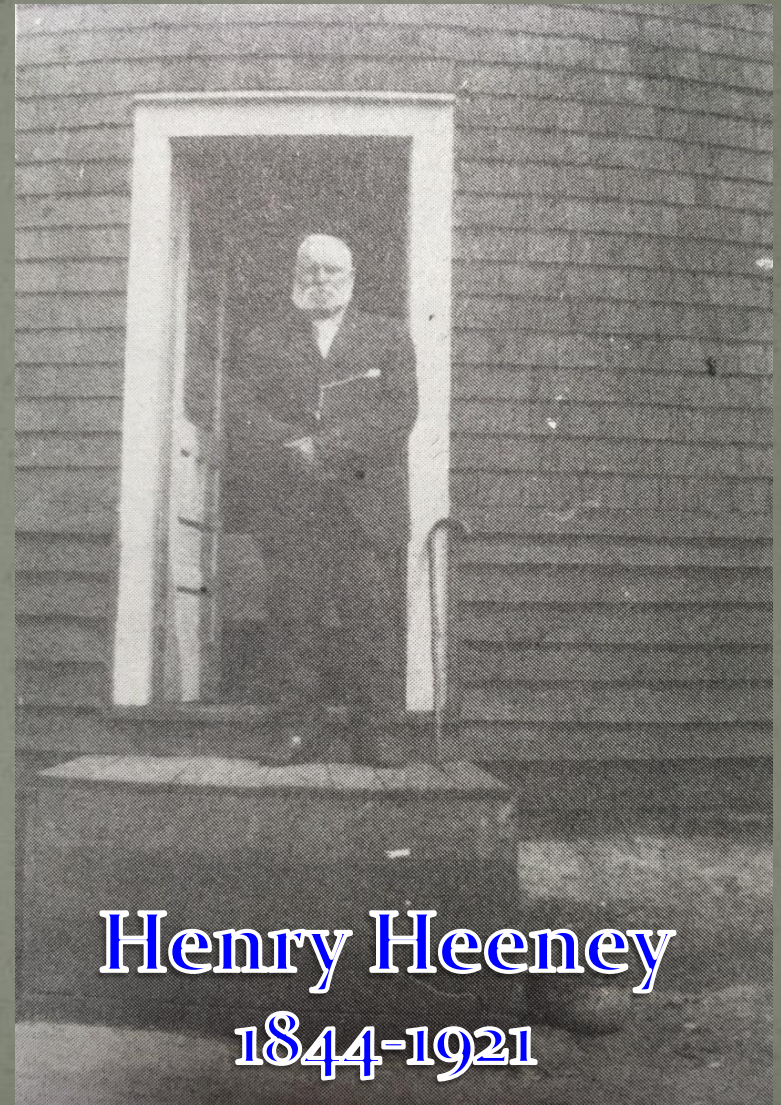
Original log farm built in 1866 by Moise Miljour Sr.

1868

1868 – The first Post Office ...

Henry Heeney, forth son of William & Sarah Heeney, acquired a considerable tract of crown land in the vicinity of what later became known as Danford Corners in 1866. Outbuildings, a barn and house were erected and Henry along with his young bride, Eleanor Jane Walse of Bearbrook, Ontario, took residence in the spring of 1867.

It was in this house that the first post office was established to service the pioneering community west of Kazabazua. The year was 1868. Henry operated this post office until 1915 when it was moved to the home of Archie Wilson.



Henry Heeney
1844-1921

In 1924, the post office was taken over by Bob McGee who owned the general store at that time. When Jim Wilson bought the store in 1929, he also inherited the post office and became our postmaster until 1951. The post office was moved twice more – to the home of Cecil and Lilian Rogan and finally in 1969, to the home of Sam and Phyllis Molyneaux.

The Cawood community also had a small post office situated 10 miles south of Danford Village on the Cawood Road. All mail for this area came to the Danford post office and was collected by the Cawood Postmaster who travelled the distance by horseback.

The first Postmaster was Mick Knox who came for the mail once a week. He remained postmaster for 20 years and then Georges Foster took over the mail service. The post office was situated in the same vicinity as the present St. Peter's Church and Cawood school house.

Georges Foster continued this service for 44 years, at first picking up the mail twice a week and in later years, three times a week. This post office closed in 1944.

1869

1869 – Establishing the United Church ...

The year 1863 marked the beginning of Protestant missionary work in the Gatineau. In that year, the first Presbyterian & Methodist missionaries moved into Low, Aylwin and Allevyn Townships.



The present Danford Church was built in 1869 by Wells Evans & D. Morehouse. The land had been donated by Joseph Irwin, an ardent Methodist. In 1922, when the Methodist united with the Presbyterians, this church became part of the United Church of Canada.

1876

1876 – A Union of two Townships ...

And so we arrive at 1876 and the forming of the United Municipality of Alleyn & Cawood Township. The beginning of the century filled with the joys, the hopes and the heartaches of the pioneers who settled this land.

Neither Alleyn nor Cawood had sufficient property (100 square miles) to form a Municipality. Amalgamation seemed the only solution and so they registered as a single 'Rural Municipality' on June 14, 1876. On March 14, 1877 this name was change to the United Municipality of Alleyn & Cawood Township, which has survived for more than 100 years.



1883

1883 – A second Church ...

In 1883, a second church, St. Peter's was built on the Cawood Road, 8 miles from the present Danford Corners.

On Easter Monday, April 2, 1888, the United Municipality of Alleyn and Cawood was recognized as a separate mission – no longer a part of the Aylwin mission.

The first Minister appointed to the Alleyn & Cawood mission was the Rev. J. Senior who conducted church services at St. Peter's in Cawood and also at the Balm-of-Gilead church. It was during the incumbency of Rev. Senior (1889) that the foundation of the parsonage was laid on an acre of ground given to the church by Henry Heeney.

During the incumbency of Rev. T.W. Ball (1898-1906) the present church of the Holy Trinity was erected at a cost of about twelve hundred dollars. Two years later, in 1908, the Cawood church was also replaced with a new building.



St. Peter's Anglican Church Cawood

1887

1887 – Danford's Oldest House ...



**Oldest House in Danford Village
Built some 89 Years Ago**

John Young was a carpenter and millwright. He had been attracted to the Danford area by the emerging lumber trade of the Gatineau Hills. His original home, built in 1887, can still be seen on Danford's main street.

Some of the succeeding tenants and owners were Fred & Tory Presley, Joe & Celima Fraser, Andy & Beattle Knox and Sam Molyneaux.

1888

1888 – Sam Young ...

The next house built in Danford was erected by Sam Young, a brother of John Young. This house was located 'around the bend in the creek' and was also owned by Jim & Ray Anderson. Although having been renovated in recent years, the original still forms part of the present structure.

Other occupants include Elija & Vira Peck and Jim & Clara Milford.

As will be mentioned later, Sam Young built the first saw mill at Danford Corners. His oldest daughter, Jennie was born in the house shown and is the mother of Woodrow Presley.



**Original Home of Sam Young
Built in 1888**

1888 – Mrs. Violet Lacharity ...

Mrs. 'Grandma' Lacharity was one of Danford's oldest residents. She was born on August 29, 1888 in a farmhouse on the Cawood Road and has lived in this area all her life. As the fads changed, Granny has always been willing to go along with them and still takes an active part in community activities.





She raised five children – Bill Lacharity, Eadie Sage, Freeda Evoy, Lil Foster and Stella Miljour. Bill & Stella continued to make their home Danford Village.

1893

1893 – Railway Reaches Kazabazua Station ...

In 1889, C.P.R. railroad crews left Hull destined to reach Maniwaki, the Hudson Bay Trading Post, by 1902.

By 1892, the steel rails had reached Farrelton and the following year, Kazabazua.

Before 1893, all supplies for the logging camps, settlers and merchants of the Gatineau came north from Hull by horse and wagon. Barrels of salt pork, bag of flour and sugar, implements and tools, all were transported over dusty wagon roads on a two day journey from the Ottawa/Hull area.

1895

1895 – Orange Picnic ...

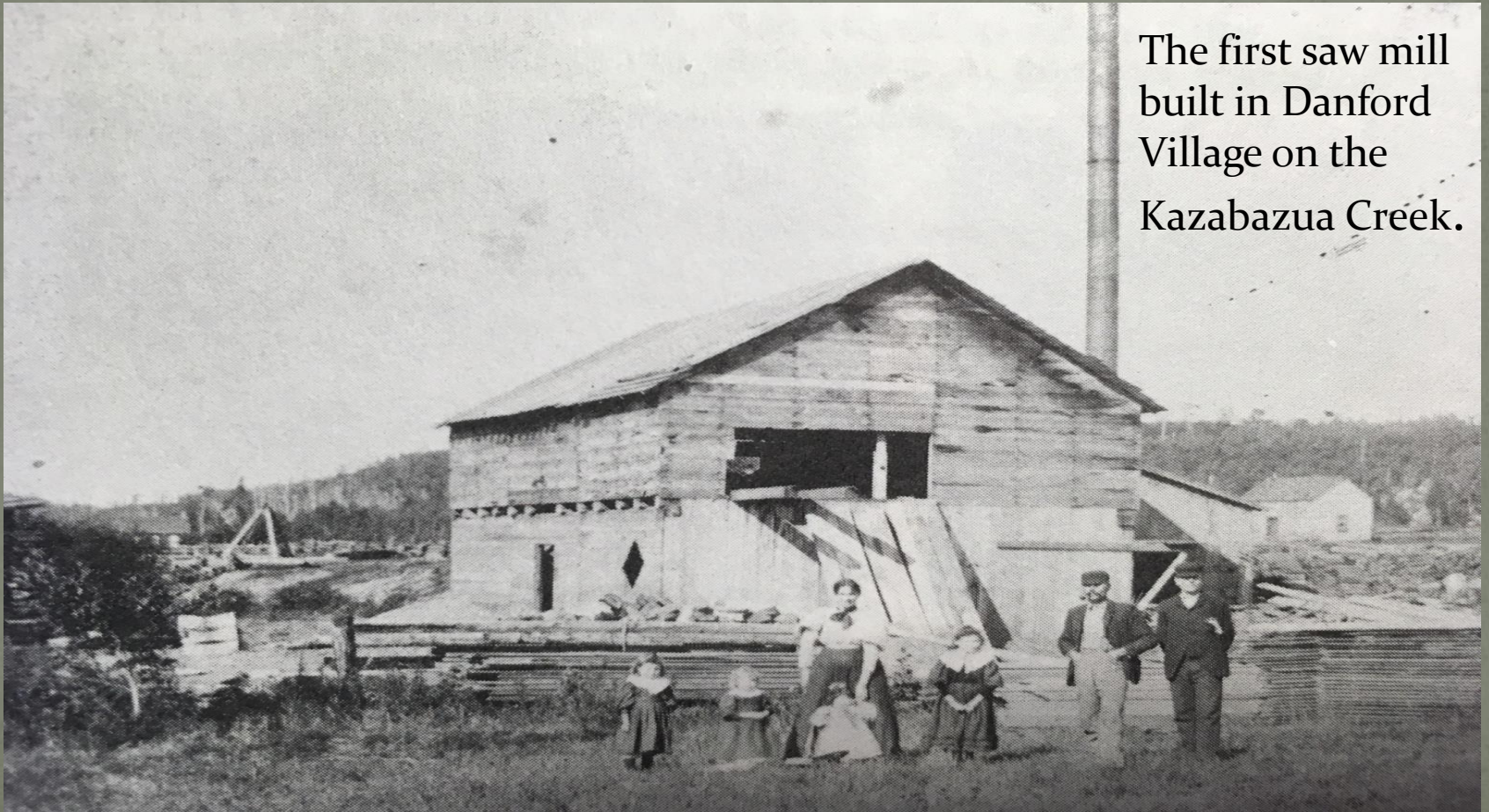


Orange Pinic help in Danford Village in 1895 ... Some faces are familiar – Violet Lacharity, Mrs. Sam Milford, Alex Foster, Mr. & Mrs. Dave Rogan, Ester Howard, Doug Jamison, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Milford, Mr. & Mrs. Willie Gibson. Forgive us if you recognize some that we didn't.

1896

1896 – The first Permanent Saw Mill ...

While small mills have operated in many areas of the Township, the first permanent saw mill to com to Danford area was built by Sam Young in 1896. It stood where Mason Milford now lives along the Kazabazua Creek.



The first saw mill
built in Danford
Village on the
Kazabazua Creek.

Mrs. Young and children, Sam Young and his brother, [John Young](#).

1896 – The Transportation of logs ...

Most loggings camps consisted of a cook house and bunk house. The bunk house was normally a single room filled with bunk beds. These camps were built of logs and were abandoned after the surrounding wood supply had been depleted. Usually, the men could work for 2 or 3 winters from one camp.

Most camp operators kept a small supply of stores to meet the emergency needs of the men. Mitts, pants, shirts, tobacco and sundry supplies were kept at the camp for sale to the loggers. The Wilson camp along Kazabazua Creek usually employed 12 or 13 men, mostly from Danford Village. Some camps along Picanock River hired as many as 30 men.

It must be noted that many farmers were jobbers who cut wood on their own land and did not stay in these camps.



And the men. They came as farmers and ended up logging. They came as loggers and ended up farming. Bush work was a winter occupation. This left the summer free to colonize government land, built a house and plant a garden. Each year a little more land was cleared, and soon through chance, the logger became a farmer. And the farmers in turn went to the bush in the winter to buy much needed implements to produce a summer's harvest. They became one in the same.

Bush work along Kazabazua Creek usually started in early October and lasted until the spring ice breakup. From October to December, the men cut timber and hauled it to skidways to await the coming of the snows.

Their job was no easy task. They worked from sun-up until sun-set for their employer, 6 days a week. And their pay was 2.00\$ per day. Should they desire to come out on weekends, they walked out on Saturday night after dark to their home and walked back in to the camp on Sunday.

Their food, salt pork, potatoes, beans, soup, molasses and pies made from raisins and dried apples. Prunes were another camp favorite. When the cold weather arrived, fresh beef and fresh pork were added to the menu.

In January, roadways were cut and plowed through the bush. Hardwood, which will not float, was hauled directly to the mill by sleigh and the softwood was transported to the Creek. This task usually lasted until the ice freed the waterways in March. Then the drive began.

To assist in the floating of the logs to the mill, a dam was built on the upper reaches of the Kazabazua Creek. Water could be released according to the supply and demand. At the offset, the men usually worked in group, gradually breaking up the big jams and then they scattered along the Creek to danger spots.

The drive ended when the logs reaches the mill. This is another familiar picture of our mill at Danford Village.



If a jam started to from that single man could not handle, he would send for more men. Gradually, all the winter cut logs were transported of floated to the mill and the blade of the sawyer.

1901

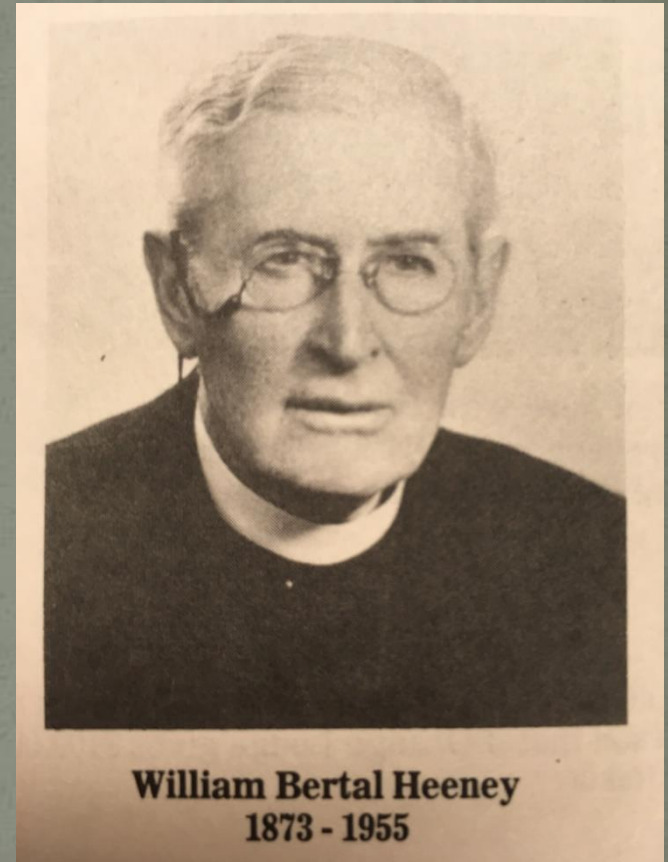
1901 – The Minister in our Midst ...

On the 18 February, 1873, a son William Bertal was born to Henry Henney and Eleanor Jane Walsh. William was the third of eight children, six of whom were boys.

William's schooling started in a one-room log building on Danford Lake and at eighteen years of age (1891), he attended Lachute Academy, a high school in Lachute, Québec. Two years later, Bertal entered the Diocesan College in Montreal and registered in the Arts Faculty at McGill. His college education was completed in 1899 and he graduated from theology two years later.

Now came the happiest and most important moment in his life. On Whit Sunday in 1901, Bertal was ordained and appointed curate of Christ Church in Belleville, Ontario.

Before Bertal Heeney retired in 1942, he was honoured with the little of "Canon", a worthy tribute to a man who spent his life in the work of God. Canon Heeney passed away in 1955.



1902

1902 – The Danford General Store ...

Soon after the turn of the century, Danford Village was to receive its first general store. It was built by Duncan & Bill Presley, two older brothers of Violet Lacharity. The Presleys soon tired of their enterprise and three years later, sold it to Sam Anderson.



Before the original store burnt in the 1920's, it had been passed on to Wilson Gibson and then Bob McGee. The latter owner soon built another' store on the same site.

In 1929, the store was purchased by Jim Wilson and burnt again in 1936. Our present store was built the same year. Jim Wilson operated the store until 1951 when it was taken over by Milton Peck for a short two year period. Jim Rogan, along with his wife Clem, became the next owner to operated the store.

In later years, his two sons, Dave & Bill gave assistance until it was sold in our centennial year to Alex and Mary Tanner. Andrew and Stella Miljour bought the store in 1980 and sold it to their son, Andy Miljour and Charmaine Hooley in 1988. Andy sold it to his sister, Daphyne Miljour in 1994. It is now owned by Susan Tanner and Ricky Lafleur who bought the store in 2012.



1909

1909 – Municipal Town Hall...

We find our first mention of a town hall in the municipal records on September 6, 1909 which read, "Moved by Alex Howard, seconded by S. Anderson that if Orange Lodge gives 100.00\$ toward building a town hall that council will give 100.00\$". This Town hall was never build.

The next mention in the records appeared on June 5, 1916. It read, "Moved by Jas. Milford and seconded by Geo. Foster that Municipal Council of Alleyn & Cawood buy the old Orange Hall for the sum of 40.00\$".

While the origin of this building is unknown, it was purchased by the council and used as a municipal hall for many years.



The Municipal Town Hall sits to the left of the Anglican Church on the same side of the road. To the far left is the Danford Village school which is now the home of Phillys and Bill Lacharity. The young lady in the foreground is through to be Stella Lacharity.

1910

1910 – Archie ...

In 1910, another saw mill was built on the creek by Mr. Bienvenue, one mile from the Kazabazua Station. Both of these saw mills were purchased by Archie Wilson, the first in 1906 and the second in 1922.



Archie is shown with his wife Grace and their two oldest sons, Jim & Bruce. The elderly gentleman is Thomas Shea, builder of the present anglican Church

1913

1913 – The Village Blacksmith ...

The first public Blacksmith shop was built in Danford Village by Tom Racine in 1913. It was located directly behind the General Store, then owned by Bob McGee. From 1915 to 1933, it was operated by Joe Racine, Bill McRae and Irwin Mulligan, in that order.

In 1933, Albert Mayer took over the shop and operated it for a year and a half on that location. At that time, Jim Early was selling buggies and accessories in a small building located between the town hall and the home of Andrew and Stella Miljour. When this building went for sale, it was purchased by Albert and moved to the opposite side of the Miljour home. This became the new Village Blacksmith shop.

Horses were brought from far and wide, lumbering camp, jobbers, farmers and horse lovers to this, the only Blacksmith shop in the area to have their horses shod. The ring of the anvil could be heard through the Village and the children found a mystic pleasure in watching the Blacksmith at work.

During Albert time, he recalls making 44 truck boxes, numerous cutters and sleigh and repairs to vehicles even included engine overhauls such as the grinding of valves and piston replacement. All now a part of history, the Village Blacksmith Shop.

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Standing from left to right in July '62 were Allen Peck, Alfred Peck, Glen Lacharity and Andy Miljour. The logging truck shown was owned by Andrew Miljour.

1916

1916 – Then came the automobile ...

The first automobile to belong to a Danford resident was purchased in 1916 by Wilson Gibson. Archie Wilson and Jim Milford followed in 1917 and Georges Foster in 1918.



Sunday outing in a 1917 horseless carriage. Mr. & Mrs. Jim Milford and children Percy, Edith and Doug.



Ernie Peck in his 1922 Model T Ford. Passenger Jack Foster sits in the back while an unknown girl smiles from the front seat.

1919

1919 – The First Cawood Mill ...

Cawood was to see it's first mill in 1919. This mill was built and operated by Georges Foster for 27 years until his death in 1946. The most of the wood processed in this mill was cut on C.I.P. limits and sold to the French Lumber Compagny.



Jack Foster at work in the Cawood Mill

Unlike the two Wilson mills, Georges did not have the advantage of a creek to transport his wood. All wood had to be hauled out of the bush on sleighs in the winter. His son Jack, operated this mill for another year and then it too, beacme a part of the history of our community.

1927

1927 – Balm-of-Gilead School house...

Rural schools were erected at various points in the community to service the needs of families within that immediate area. In short, a specific farmer would allow school to be built on his property but would not give up title to the land.

When the school was no longer needed, the property reverted back to its original owner. In some instances, the building was left on the property in question for the benefit of the donor and in other cases, it was moved to a new location where there was a need for a new school house.



These small one room schools can be traced back to Cawood, Danford Village, Grove Creek, Balm-of-Gilead, only to mention a few.

1946

1946 – The last drive down ...

The Danford saw mill closed in 1940, but the planer mill, located at the same site, was operated by his son Bruce until 1950. The last drive down the Kazabazua Creek was made in 1946, the years Archie passed away. With his death, the station mill also closed down.



Archie Wilson's wood lot at the Danford Village Mill, Building in the foreground are the carpenter and mill blacksmith shop and to the right, the mill office. In the background is the Village of Danford. Framed by Giroux Hill are the General Store, Village Blacksmith Shop, homes of Ray Emery, Jim Gray and Doug Milford.

1947

1947 – Danford Lake Hotel...

The history of every frontier town has been darkened, at one time or another, by the smoke of burning buildings. Danford Village was no exception.

Archie Wilson built his home in Danford Corners in 1914, the site of where was the Danford Lake Hotel. Fire struck in 1925. As he began to build a new home out of the ruins of what he could salvage, Archie could not have known that this new building would one day become the Danford Lake Hotel.



The Danford Lake Hotel. Show from left to right are Glen and Janice Gardener, and the Wilsons – Michael, Joan, Andy, Edna, Debbie & Jim.



Elwood Wilson in 1940

It is curious to note that in the same year, on June 2nd. 1925, the Municipal Council proposed that a vote be held to determine if the community should have an outlet for beer and wine.

While no records exist of the outcome of this vote, it can be assumed that the 'dry' vote won. Danford was not to see a local hotel for another 22 years.

The magic year was in 1947 – Elwood Wilson became the first hotel proprietor of Danford Lake. He was followed by Fred & Edna Wilson, Tom Kearns, Georges Woods, and finally back to Edna Wilson, our centennial year host at the Danford Lake Hotel. The hotel is now closed.

1957

1957 – Electricity came to the wilderness...

It seems too short a time span to call our Municipality a wilderness just some 19 years ago, at the time of the centennial. But prior to this time, all residents depended on coal oil lamps, candles, and for the few businesses, privately owned electrical system run by oil.

Jim Rogan purchased the first television set two months before electricity arrived in our community. It was installed in the General Store and was powered by the store delco electrical system. Adults, as well as children flocked to see picture in a box. The store became so congested with viewers that poor Jim was unable to distinguish his store from a movie house, let alone try carry on a normal trading business.

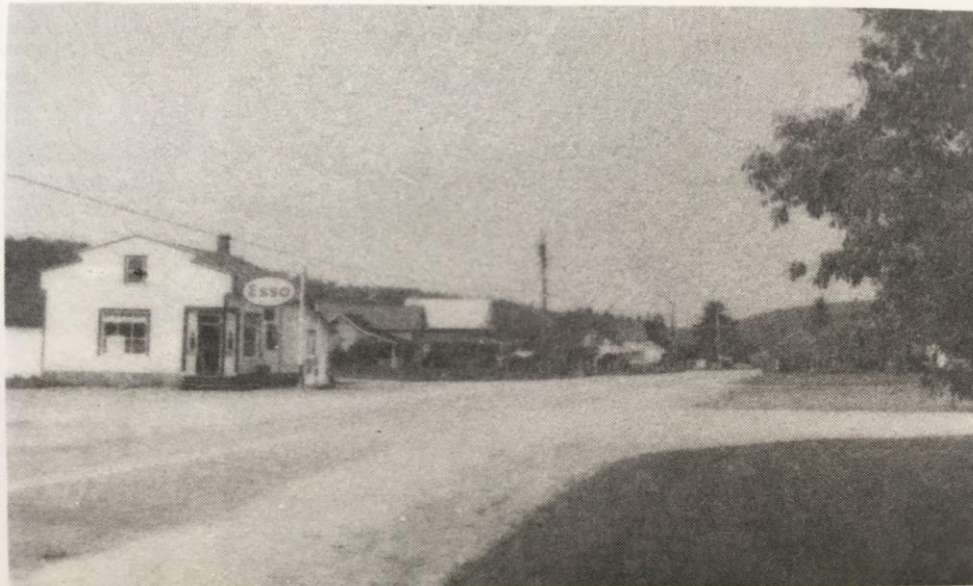
Too soon we take for granted the discoveries of yesterday.

1960

1960 – Paving the way...

It was decided by the County Council in 1960 that all the Village in their municipalities should be paved.

Jack Foster was selected to supervise the paving of the Danford Village byways. Supported by colonization funds, the small community soon became a hive of activity. The following year, the road from Kazabazua to the Station was paved. The final stretch from the Station to Danford was paved in the summer of 1966.



Paved Roads in Danford Village

Gone forever were the mud and potholes, gone forever were the sand traps of the plains, memories to live only in the minds of those who were here.

From dirt and ice roads to paved and plowed roads – another small step in the progress of our community.

Looking back we see in the council minute books that on January 2, 1911, Jas Milford be appointed to roll the road to Kazabazua Station for the winter at \$2.00 per trip. Rolling the roads – a large roller was pulled behind a team of horses to pack the snow sufficiently so that a sleigh could be drawn without undue discomfort to horse or man.

By spring, these rolled roads wandered through the plains, a sheet of ice some three to four feet thick with all the greenery of spring in bloom about them. Travel almost ceased until they melted and the roadbed dried ou to some degree.

The pratice of rolling the roads continued for another forty years. During this time, only the horse and sleigh moved after the first snowfall. Cars and trucks were stored for the winter, their tires removed and kept in a dry place until the coming of spring.

Then in 1945, the E.B. Eddy Lumber Compagny and Edgar Boyle bought cuts of timber from farmers and land owners in the area. This was to change the whole scene – they began to plow the roadways in winter so they could transport their wood a full 12 months of the year.

1976

1976 – Memories of the Centennial...



**Our Centennial Mayor Joey Peck and wife
Mabel.**



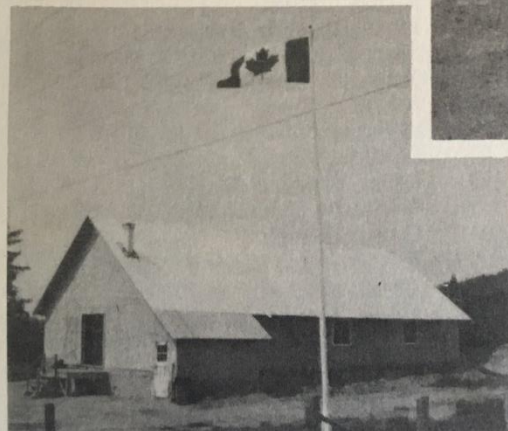
**Our Centennial King & Queen
Dwight & Daphne Giroux
Daphne - daughter of Andrew & Stella
Miljour.
Dwight - son of Fred & Irene Giroux**



**Centennial Square
Danford Corners**



**Charlie & Lila Peck
celebrate their 50th wedding
anniversary in our Centennial year ...**



**Bethney Hall
Balm-of-Gilead Road,
Danford Village**