

## On Heritage Trails by Allan McGillivray

### The wild west

In earlier days, the Brock Road, Durham Road 1, split north of Claremont, and a branch went west and north to connect with the Uxbridge-Pickering Townline near the 4th of Uxbridge. The 4th continued north into Scott Township which is now the part of Uxbridge Township north of Davis drive. This was a main route by which grain and lumber was taken down to Lake Ontario. Like many such major early roads, there was a hotel every few miles. There were hotels at the Uxbridge-Pickering Townline, at Regional Road 47, at Roseville, and at Sandford. Further north, the route went west to the 3rd with a hotel located in Zephyr and one at the north end of the 3rd at Ravenshoe Road.

In the 1850s, Joseph Galloway had a hotel at the 4th and the Uxbridge-Pickering Townline called the Mount Pleasant Inn. The area soon took on the name Mount Pleasant, and even a Primitive Methodist Church a couple of kilometres to the north was sometimes called Mt. Pleasant as was the nearby cemetery. Another hotel run by Henry Vanzant near the townline intersection was called the Ontario House. By 1874, it

was known as the Buffalo House, and the area became known as Buffalo Corners.

One of the hotels had an outside stairway, and the story is that after a few drinks some of the guys would try to ride their horses up the stairs. Apparently one fellow could get his horse up the stairs and back down again.

The little cemetery further north is now called Eastgate Cemetery. Hezekiah Eastgate once owned the adjoining land.

Nelson Bice was running the North Albion Hotel at Roseville by the mid 1860s. The local post office, which was open from 1879 until 1889, was called Rothes which is also a place in Scotland. The news from there was in the newspaper under Rothesville which is pronounced almost the same as Roseville. That's how the name Roseville came about.

Lance Hutchinson ran the hotel there for many years, and the area was also sometimes referred to as Hutchinson's Corners. Phillip Mortson had a blacksmith and carriage shop there by 1877, and the little hamlet became Mortsonville for awhile.

The hotel building is still there on the northeast corner, owned now by Uxbridge councillor Pat Mikuse.

North of Durham Road 8, and east of the 3rd, there was a sawmill settlement called Randallville as the Randall family once owned the property. By the 1870s, there were about 10 houses there as well as the mill. The first Siloam post office was a short distance away on the 3rd as was the school. This little settlement was also known as Slabtown because of all the slabs from the sawmill that were piled there. The early Uxbridge Trail went over the dam at the mill. When the Widdifields owned the property, the pond became known as Widdifield's Pond, a name which is still on some maps. The hamlet disappeared when timber was no longer available for the mill.

Sandford post office opened in 1862. One idea is that it was named after Sir Sandford Fleming who designed the first postage stamp about that time. However, there is a place called Sandford in Lanarkshire, Scotland, and some local settlers were from Lanarkshire. Did they bring the name with them?

The area on the 3rd south of Ashworth Road where the trailer park is located was known as Titusville as a Titus family once lived there. Our neighbour, Arnot Harrison, said he knew a fellow who had a girl friend there. One

time when the guy went to see her, he came running back out the lane and a rabbit jumped out in front of him. He said, "Get out of the road, rabbit, and let a fellow run who has to."

I once mentioned Titusville at a Historical Society meeting, and the late Gould Barton knew the name, and said they used to go hunting

there.

Some current maps show the name "Dumphuston" at the corner of the 3rd and Ashworth Road. As far as I know, there never was such a name used for that location, and why it is there is a mystery.

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