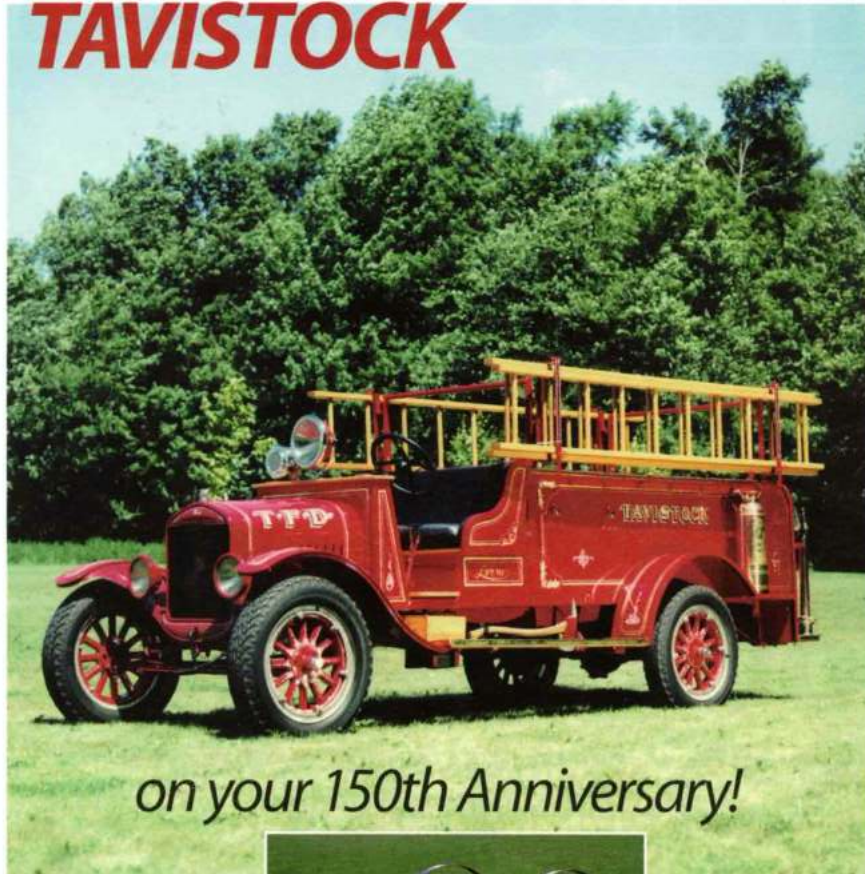


CONGRATULATIONS TAVISTOCK



on your 150th Anniversary!

**We are proud
to have been
a part of this
community
for the past
127 years.**



**ON DISPLAY
at our showroom:**

- Tavistock's Original Restored 1926 Ford Model T Fire Truck
- Original Hose Reel
- Original Fire Bell



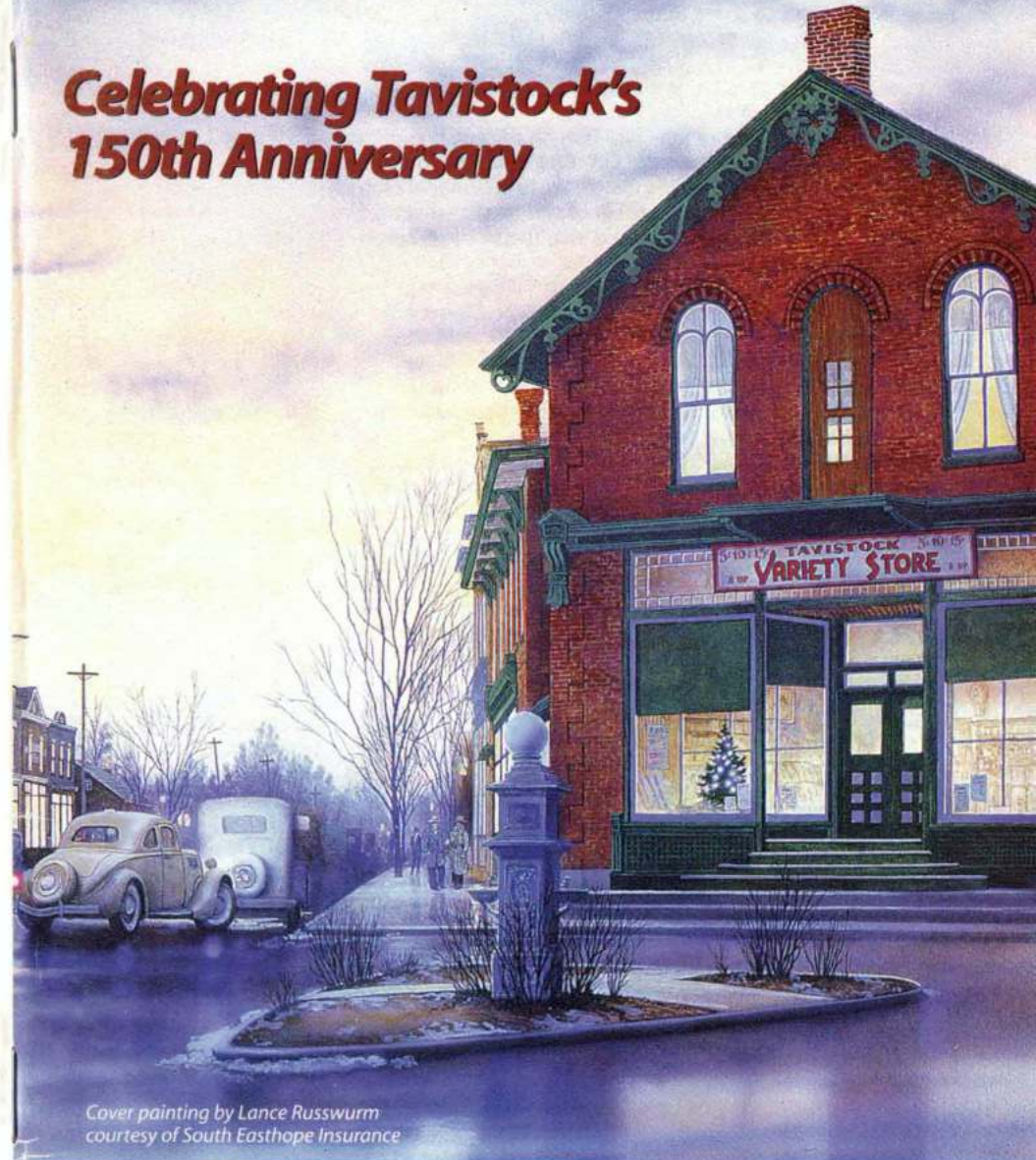
**SOUTH EASTHOPE MUTUAL
INSURANCE COMPANY**

62 Woodstock Street South, Tavistock
Telephone 519-655-2011



Official Souvenir
PROGRAMME

**Celebrating Tavistock's
150th Anniversary**



Cover painting by Lance Russwurm
courtesy of South Easthope Insurance

- Events
- Walking Tour
- Opening Ceremonies Programme

**Civic Holiday Weekend
July 31st to August 3rd, 1998**

Including a brief history of many Tavistock Businesses

FROM OUR WARDEN ...

On behalf of myself and the Council of the County of Oxford, I wish to extend congratulations to Tavistock on the celebration of 150 years. I would like to thank all the organizers for their hard work in organizing this event. I look forward to being in Tavistock to share in the festivities.

Mark Harrison, Warden, County of Oxford

FROM OUR PROVINCIAL MEMBER ...

I am delighted to offer my sincere congratulations to all residents celebrating Tavistock's 150th year.

I am sure these celebrations will bring back many warm memories as you recall past accomplishments and events. I would like to welcome back all previous residents of Tavistock as families and friends gather to celebrate this momentous anniversary.

Special recognition must go to all of the dedicated volunteers who have worked diligently to ensure that residents are able to mark this special year with appropriate celebration.

On behalf of the Government of Ontario please accept best wishes for an enjoyable celebration and continued prosperity in the future.

Sincerely, Ernie Hardeman, MPP Oxford

FROM OUR FEDERAL MEMBER ...

As you Member of Parliament for Oxford, I am honoured to bring you greetings on this significant anniversary - your 150th.

Being 150 years of age means that Tavistock predates the founding of Canada by 19 years. Your celebrations are a tribute to those hardy pioneers who first settled this part of Oxford County - "they built better than they knew." Congratulations to all!

John Finlay, MP Oxford

150th Anniversary Committee Members

Chairman	Dr. Bruce Halliday	Decorations	Brenda Smythe
Co-chairs	Mr. David H. Jutzi		Brenda Meadows
	Mrs. Chris Wiffen	Sports	Harry Wilhelm
Matriarch	Mrs. Doris Rudy		Joan Ferguson
Patriarch	Mr. James H. Francis	Hospitality	John Becker
Secretary	Mrs. Doris Gladding	Kids Program	Donna Swartzentruber
Treasurers	Mr. Pete Francis	Maintenance	Kevin Luckhardt
	Mrs. Patti McKay	Souvenirs	Darren Ferguson
	Mr. Ken Sommers	School Reunion	Carol Roth
			Mary Alice Roth
Food	Steve Cahill	Bands	Betty Schmidt
Promotion	Bill Gladding	History	Dr. Paul Bartlett
Parade	Mahlon Leis	Church	Rev. Delmer Epp
Entertainment	Ken Meadows	Antique Farm Show	George Stock

SOUVENIR BOOK

Chairman ~ Paul Bartlett
Design/Editor ~ Bill Gladding
Advertising ~ Joan Bartlett

This booklet produced by the 150th History Committee
Paul Bartlett, Sharon Walker, Blain McCutchen, Gillian Swanink,
Bob Quehl, Tom Zimmerman, Susan Luckhardt, Bill Gladding,
Chuck McIntyre, George Stock, Bob Rudy, Ron Becker



Greetings

FROM OUR CHAIR ...

May I, together with my co-chairs, Chris Wiffen and David H. Jutzi, and on behalf of the hardworking and enthusiastic members of the Tavistock 150th Anniversary Committee, offer you a warm welcome to our celebrations.

For those of you returning to Tavistock after an absence, we trust that you will meet old friends and find some familiar spots to help renew earlier memories.

Your Anniversary Committee thanks you for joining us on this festive weekend. We hope you have a pleasant visit, and we wish you well until our next Anniversary and Homecoming Weekend.

Bruce Halliday, Chair,
Tavistock 150th Anniversary Committee



FROM OUR MAYOR ...

As Mayor of the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock, and on behalf of its council, I would like to congratulate the village of Tavistock, on its 150th anniversary - a milestone for any rural community especially in this era of mega cities, mergers and annexations by neighbouring towns. The events planned are truly a marvel of what can be done when a community pulls together. This is what this celebration is all about, community pride and community involvement.

This gathering could not have taken place without the commitment and vision of many people, groups, organizations, and companies - all who came together for one common goal to celebrate this community's unending spirit; past, present and future.

I would also like to welcome the many residents past and present, as well as the visitors, especially the many distinguished guests most especially, the Mayor of Tavistock, Devon England, and his wife, John and Ann Wright, we hope that your visit is truly memorable.

Once again congratulations to the whole community, for making Tavistock a remarkable place to call home.

Dave Oliphant, Mayor of East Zorra-Tavistock



Top photo: Tavistock's 100th Anniversary Celebrations July 30 to August 2, 1948

Schedule of Events

Thursday, July 30th

- 6-9 pm **Registration**
Headquarters in Curling Club Lounge
- 7 pm & 8:45 pm **Ball Games**
in Queen's Park

Friday, July 31st

- 3-9 pm **Registration**
Headquarters in Curling Club Lounge
- 5-7 pm **Chicken Barbecue - Legion Hall**
(sponsored by Tavistock Legion Branch 518)
- 6-7:30 pm **Kids Batting Competition**
Optimist Park
- 7:30 pm **Opening Ceremonies and Local Talent Show**
Recreation Centre (Arena)
- 8:00 pm **Soccer Reunion Game**
Optimist Park
- 8:30 pm **Merchants Slo-Pitch Reunion Game**
Queen's Park
- 8:45 pm **Ladies Fastball - Optimist Park**
- 10 pm to 1 am **Family Dance - Free Admission**
*Live Country Western Band - "Sunrise"
Recreation Centre (Arena)*

Saturday, August 1st

- 8-10 am **Pancake & Sausage Breakfast**
*Tavistock Memorial Hall
(Sponsored by Grace United Church)*
- 9 am to 6 pm **Registration**
Headquarters in Curling Club Lounge
- 9 am to 6 pm **School Reunion**
Tavistock Public School
- 9:30 to 4:30 pm **Soccer Tournament**
Optimist Park
- 10-12 **Church Tours**
Tennis Tournament
- Round Robin
- 10 am to 4 pm **Children's Activities**
Queen's Park (see enclosed flyer)
- 10 am to 4 pm **Horseshoe Tournament**
Optimist Park - Sign up at Registration
- 11 am **Soap Box Derby**
- William Street North
- 11:30 am to 2 pm **Lunch**
*"Sausage on a Bun" at the School
"Soup & Sandwich" at Memorial Hall
(Sponsored by Grace United Church)
"Family Teddy Bear Picnic" - \$2.00 each
in Queen's Park*
- 12 noon **Tennis - Open Play**
- 12-5 pm **Antique Farm Show**
Displays and Demonstrations
- 12-2 & 4-6 pm **Live Entertainment**
*"Jeff Tanner and Reflections"
Hospitality Tent in Queen's Park*
- 1-4 pm **Golf Tournament**
Tavistock Golf Course
- 2 pm **Historical Fashion Show**
*Tavistock Public School Gym
(Sponsored by the Woodstock Museum)*
- 2 pm to 4 pm **Celebration of the Church Community - Queen's Park**

Saturday, August 1st

- 5-8 pm **Pork Barbecue**
*Memorial Hall
(sponsored by the Tavistock Optimist Club)*
- 6-8 pm **Kids Batting Competition**
Optimist Park - Just Come
- 6:30-8 pm **Skateboarding Demonstration - Queen's Park**
- 6:45 pm **Ladies Slo-Pitch Reunion Game**
Queen's Park
- 8 pm **Tug-O-War Competition**
Queen's Park
- 9 pm to 1 am **Dance - "Lulu's Roadhouse Band"**
Recreation Centre (Arena)

Sunday, August 2nd

- 10 am **Ecumenical Church Service**
Queen's Park
- 11:00 am to 1:30 pm **Brunch - Memorial Hall**
*Queh's Catering - Tickets at the door
Adults: \$9.00 - Children under 12: \$5.50*
- 12-6 pm **Antique Farm Show**
Displays and Demonstrations
- 2 pm **Parade**
- 3 pm **Band Tattoo in Queen's Park**
- 3 pm **3-on-3 Basketball**
- School Courts
- 3 pm **Bed Races**
- 5-8 pm **Beef Barbecue - Memorial Hall**
*sponsored by Oxford County
Cattlemen's Assoc.*
- 5-8 pm **1939 Casino Band**
- Arena Parking Lot
- 7:30 pm **1977 & 1978 OASA Champs Reunion Game**
- Queen's Park
- 8-1 am **Live Entertainment**
*"Sunrise" & "Circle of Friends"
Hospitality Tent in Queen's Park*
- 8-11:30 pm **Much Music Video Dance**
*Recreation Centre (Arena)
- Admission \$5*
- 10 pm **Fireworks by "Starfire"**
Queen's Park

Monday, August 3rd

- 10 am **Antique Farm Show**
Displays and Demonstrations continue
- 11-3 pm **Special Musical Entertainment**
in the Hospitality Tent
- 11:30-3 pm **Hot Dog Barbecue Lunch**
- 12:30 pm **Mini Tractor Pull**
- 1 pm **Inline Hockey**
Recreation Centre (Arena)



Memorial Cairn Unveiling and Dedication
Sunday, August 2 at 11:30 a.m.



A Heritage of Quality

Since 1879



Armstrong Cheese Co. Ltd.

284 Hope Street West, Tavistock, Ontario 519-655-2337

Opening Ceremonies

Friday, July 31, 1998

Tavistock & District Recreation Centre

Call to Order:

Town Crier Doug Turvey

Procession with Bagpipes:

150th Anniversary Committee
Pipers Ralph and Randy Haddralls

National Anthem:

O Canada
God Save the Queen
(both sung by Charlene Zehr)

Greetings:

Bruce Halliday, Chair, 150th Anniversary Committee
Mark Harrison, Warden, County of Oxford
Ernie Hardeman, M.P.P., (Oxford)
John Finlay, M.P. (Oxford)
Dave Oliphant, Mayor, East Zorra-Tavistock
John Wright, Mayor, Tavistock, Devon, England

Introduction of Descendants of Henry Eckstein

Introduction of 150th
Anniversary Committee

by Co-chairs - Chris Wiffen and David H. Jutzi

Presentation of Awards for
Decorating Contest

Ted Blowes, V.P., National Committee,
Communities in Bloom, Canada
Chris Wiffen

Quilt Competition

Declaration of 150th Anniversary
Officially Opened

Mayor Dave Oliphant
Mayor John Wright

Entertainment

Master of Ceremonies Leon Paul

A Showcase of Local Talent:

Denim and Lace (stepdancers)

Rebecca Walker, Rob Ralph,
Dawn Marie Harris, John Coulthard

Katie Roth, Canadian Country Music

Champion Female 12 & under 1995

Highland Dance Group with Adrienne Routly

Pipers Ralph and Randy Haddralls

James Bickle (fiddle player)

backed up by "Sunrise"

Brian Schlotzhauer, Al Alderson, Doug Dietrich,
Ken Meadows and keyboards Linda Murray

Brown-Town Steppers

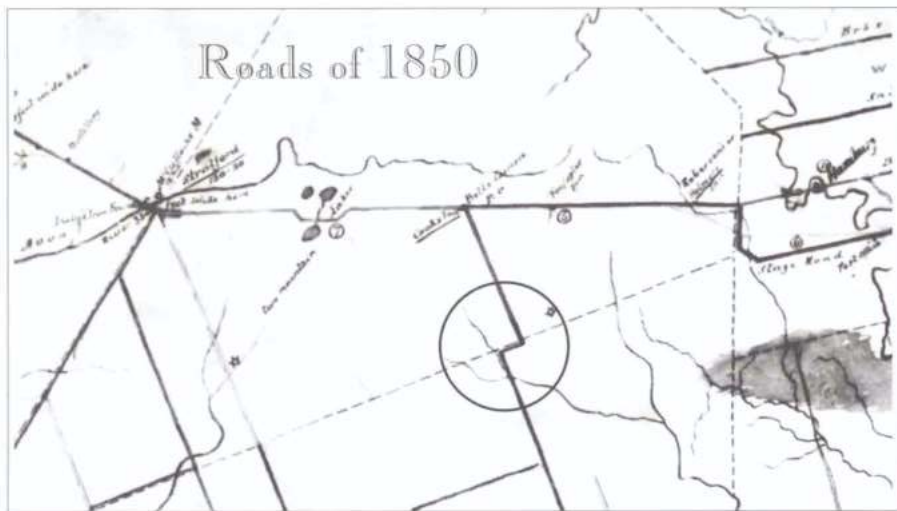
Amanda Brown, Teresa Townsend, Marcia Brown

Bev (Zehr) Kobe, Canadian Country Music

Champion Female Open 1989 & 1996

Followed by a **Family Dance** with "Sunrise"

Free admission



THE ROAD SYSTEM AROUND TAVISTOCK CIRCA 1850

The very first road map of Upper Canada was produced in 1850 by Major Baron de Rottenburg, the assistant quartermaster-general. In preparing this map, he relied on information received from many sources around the province. He attempted to classify roads in four or five classes. The Woodstock and Huron Gravel Road through Tavistock was labelled 'pretty good' while the Huron Road was 'tolerably good' and Bleams Road was 'bad'. Note (within circle) that the road between Bell's Corners and Woodstock follows the town line. By the time the road was completed in 1852 it had taken on a new direction and Tavistock's five corners was born.

WOELFLE PLUMBING & HEATING, TAVISTOCK

About 1885 J. D. Adams, established a tinsmithing hardware business in Tavistock, located on the premises where the National Trust Bank now stands. In 1902 he was succeeded by Ratz & Klein. In 1911 on November 29th, Martin Woelfle Sr. along with sons Martin A. Jr., Jake, and Peter bought out Ratz.

In 1945 on April 1st brothers Jake and Martin A. Woelfle continued the business. On the death of Jake Woelfle, his son Coney took over.

Harold Woelfle served overseas in the second world war from 1942 to 1946. After his service he worked at J. G. Field & Son Woollen Mill. In 1954 Harold began working along with father Martin A. & Coney Martin G. until 1958, the time of Coney's passing.

On September 2nd, 1958 Harold started his own business of Plumbing & Heating along with his father in the former Dyck building. In 1960 Harold built his shop at its present location, 10 Hendershot Street, supplying high grade modern plumbing and heating and air conditioning. Harold's four sons Ken, Keith, Kevin and Doug have all learned the trade.

This establishment remains one of Tavistock's longest running family operated businesses.

A sincere welcome to Tavistock's 150th.



Who was Alex. Mitchell?

Who Named Sebastopol and Inkerman? Was it Alexander Mitchell?

The reeve of South Easthope for the year 1852 was Alexander Mitchell, hotel keeper in Shakespeare. William Johnston, in his book *History of Perth County 1825-1902*, described Mitchell as "a gentleman of education and some refinement; one of a class of people in many instances but ill fitted to undergo the toils and privations inseparable from pioneer life. He was a person of literary attainments, and conceived the idea of giving 'Bell's Corners' a more appropriate name, by substituting that of his favorite author, the Bard of Avon."

Undoubtedly, it was Alexander Mitchell who named Sebastopol and Inkerman as well. But "Inkerman" was destined not to remain as the name for the town that was first surveyed by Mitchell.

THE GRAVEL ROAD

Mitchell had been a hotel keeper at Bell's Corners. He was one of a group of men who had pushed for the division of the Huron Tract into separate counties, to allow the eastern part to improve its ties with its neighbours. Perth became a separate county in 1850. Mitchell had also tried to convince the government that it should pay for a gravel road from Stratford to Galt (through Bell's Corners, naturally). The response to petitions he wrote in 1848 was one of indifference. With no help from the government he looked to private investors. Once again, however, he could stir up no interest in a gravel road linking Galt and Stratford via Doon and Hamburg.

Finding no interest to the east, he looked to the south. In February 1850, Mitchell and his associates formed the Stratford and Wilmot Road Company to build a road to Woodstock and the Dundas Highway. The company shortly afterwards reorganized as the Woodstock and Huron Gravel Road and started building south from Bell's Corners.

The road soon proved to be beyond the resources of the individual backers. The company appealed to the local municipalities for help. In 1852, South Easthope bought 70 shares of stock in the Woodstock and Huron Gravel Road at 5 Pounds a share. It just so happened that Alexander Mitchell was reeve of the township at the time.

By September of 1852, the grading of the road was finished and gravel was laid. The road between "Shakespeare" and Woodstock proved to be the main route connecting the Easthopes to the markets further east. The road was an important feeder for the Great Western Railroad when it opened through Woodstock in January of 1854. When rail service reached Perth County in December 1856, the importance of the road lessened.

THE RAILWAY

The first council ever elected in South Easthope met in January of 1850. Mr Andrew Helmer was elected reeve and Alexander Mitchell was clerk. Mitchell was clerk again in 1851 and in 1852 he was elected reeve.

1852 was the year that the councillors of the United Counties of Huron, Bruce, and Perth (Mitchell included) committed 125,000 pounds sterling to the Buffalo, Brantford, and Lake Huron Railroad. At a public meeting in Goderich on June 29, 1852, the directors of the Buffalo and Brantford Railway convinced the councillors present that the United Counties would best be served by a railway route that ran from Goderich through to Buffalo thus connecting the resources of the Upper Lakes with the markets of New York.

Alexander Mitchell was smitten. Though he had shares in a more modest railway that planned to run from Toronto to Guelph (with an extension to Stratford), Mitchell was swayed by the logic of the directors from Buffalo. From then on, his

(continued on page 9,



**Located in the former
Glasgow Warehouse!**

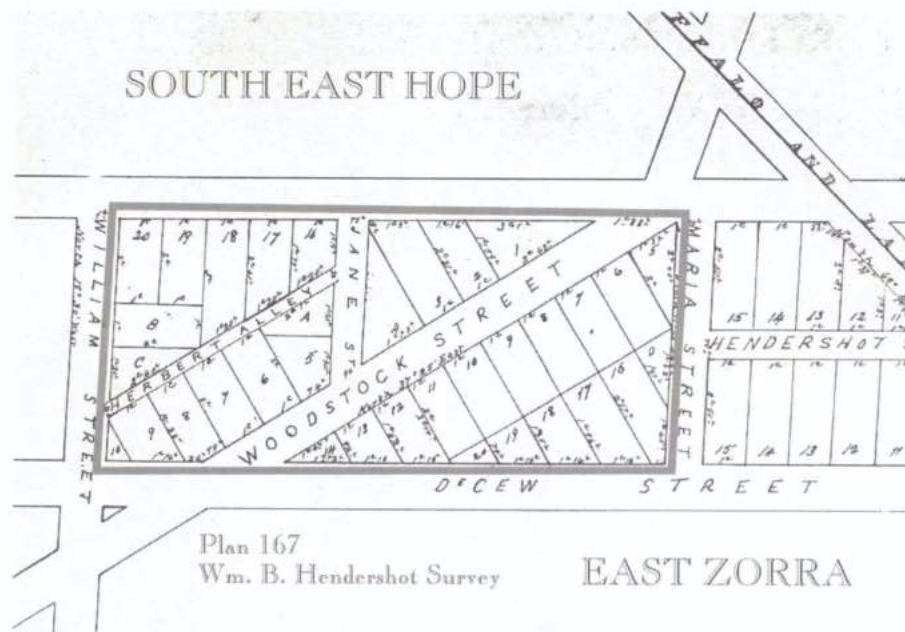


Albert Miller - 1936
George Schindler - 1937
Stefan Schoeck - 1940
Gordon Krug - 1948

Krug's Meat Market
Elmer Neeb and
Donald Mutch - 1964
Pete Baechler
and Alan Blum - 1984

KRUG'S Meat Market

28 Woodstock Street South, Tavistock
Telephone (519) 655-2221



Who was Alex. Mitchell?

(continued from page 7)

fortunes were tied to the Buffalo-Goderich line. How could he know then that the other, more modest, line was destined to become part of the Grand Trunk system, the grand design fashioned by Premier Francis Hincks to connect Sarnia with Montreal? In 1852 the Buffalo line may have been the safer bet but within two years the comparison was reversed.

THE SURVEY

In January of 1853, the BB&G railroad received authority to construct a line to Goderich and a survey was undertaken. On April 13, 1853, Alexander Mitchell was appointed the agent to purchase the right-of-way along the line from Paris to Stratford. It is interesting to note that, within two weeks, he had purchased lots 35 and 36, Concession 36, Concession 13 in the Township of East Zorra from Henry Schaefer. It is recorded that William Lingelbach held the mortgage for that purchase.

In October 1854, the BB&G announced that a station would be built where the line crossed the town line between South Easthope and Zorra. In December 1854, Alexander Mitchell purchased 50 shares of stock in the railroad valued at \$1,000 (at a time when most

shareholders were buying one or two shares at a time). Unfortunately for Mitchell the railroad went bankrupt almost immediately. The company was reorganized as the Buffalo and Lake Huron Railroad, but the original shareholders (including Mitchell and the County of Perth) lost 100 cents on the dollar.

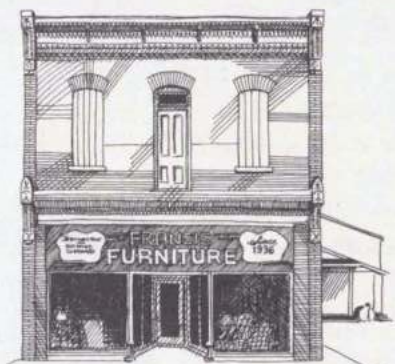
In September 1855, the siege of Sebastopol in the Crimea was finally successful and the British Empire rejoiced. By January 1856, Alexander Mitchell was advertising 100 lots for sale in the "village of Inkerman". Within the next few months, he sold property to George Miller, J. L. Hodge, Duncan Stewart, William Munro and the B&LH railroad to name just a few.

In October 1858, William Lingelbach went to court calling into question all land deals that had been done by Mitchell to that date. He held the mortgage but, despite the many land transactions, had not been paid. The court took some time to untangle the mess. In May 1860, the court sold the west half of lot 36, concession 13, East Zorra to the highest bidder, William Hendershot. By then, Alexander Mitchell was long gone. He had moved to the Queen's Bush by 1857 and, when last heard from, was in Texas.

Francis

OF TAVISTOCK

Furniture Store



Funeral Home



Since 1936

*A proud family business operated by
James H. Francis and Peter J. Francis
1-519-655-2431*

Inkerman Now Tavistock



Tavistock Gazette, May 15, 1930

These verses were composed by the late Geo. H. Kaufman, of Sebastopol, one of the early pioneers of the district. These lines were written by him to Mr. Henry Eckstein in 1857, during the opening of his new hostelry, later called the Commercial Hotel.

ORIGINAL GERMAN

Inkerman ist ein schoener Fleck,
Da denkt noch mancher an die Eck,
Wie war es den vor zehn, zwoelf Jahren,
Da sah man nichts als Himmels strahlen.

Baume waren rings umher,
Und die Froesche quackten zehr,
Viele haben sich gescheut
Das noch viele Menschen reut.

Das sie nicht da haben Land
An dem schoenen Kreuzwegstrand,
Einer hat sich nicht gescheut, um da hin in
Wald zu bau'n,
Und es hat ihn nicht gereut.

Jetzt ist der Gravelweg auch schoen,
Da sieht man auch Fuhren gehn,
Und die Jungfer klein and grosz,
Denn auch Inkerman wird grosz.

Nun hoert man die Eisenbahn brausen,
Das betaubt dem Baum sein rauschen,
Wenn als dann die Pfeife schreit
Und die Jungfer sich erfreut.

Da wird mancher Bursche denken,
Seine Junfer hinzulenken,
In das Brickhaus Hotel 'nein,
Dieses musz dem Eckstein sein.

Drum will ich Ihm auch schreiben
Ein Gedicht zur Ehrenfreuden,
Das der Eckstein hat gemacht
Alles was er vorgebracht.

Drum, so sag ich noch einmal,
Eckstein is der rechte Mann,
Der den Schluessel hat gedreht
Und auch Inkerman erhoelt.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Inkerman is a beautiful spot
Many will remember that corner
As it was ten, twelve years ago
You could see nothing but the sky.

There were many trees surrounding it
Frogs croaked
Many shied away from this area
Now many regret

That they don't own land
at this beautiful crossroad.
One didn't shy away from building
into this forest
and he didn't regret it.

Now there is a nice gravel road
You can see many loads driving through
and many maidens
because Inkerman is growing.

Now you can hear the trains
They drown out the rustling of the trees
when they blow their whistle
and the maiden enjoys it.

Many young man will take his
girl there
into the Brickhaus Hotel
It must be Eckstein's

Therefore I want to write a poem
in his honour and for his enjoyment
because Eckstein successfully
completed his plan

Therefore, I'm saying it one more time
Eckstein is the right man
who turned the key
and raised Inkerman.

National Trust

A Member of the Scotiabank Group

Phil Schaefer, S.T.I., C.F.P.
Branch Manager

Shelley Kaufman
Teresa Haig
Sharon Walkom
Sue Straus
Nancy Mueller
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Janet Streutker



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Bonnie Brae is proud to
have been a part of
the last 150 years.



We celebrate with you!

BONNIE BRAE HEALTH CARE CENTRE
55 Woodstock St. N. Tavistock 655-2420

Happy 150th Anniversary Tavistock!

Ross Yantzi's
PAVESTONE
PLUS LIMITED
655-2298

Box 461, Tavistock, Ontario • Telephone 519-655-2298 • Since 1986
Ross, Rose, Roslyn, & Reid and Staff



A Hive of Industry

STRAITFORD BEACON, JULY 13, 1877

Go where you will, our busy little town resounds with the sound of hammer and trowel, and building is going on with a rapidity which augers well for our future prosperity. Manufacturing, the road of all progression in successful towns, is neither few nor far between in Tavistock and we are glad to report that despite the gloomy forebodings which we read in Opposition papers, there is no lack of work for our mechanics and craftsmen.

George Malcolm, "The Old Reliable", pioneer of the milling business, hereabouts has a well-equipped gristing mill with a capacity of over 100 barrels a day. It has four run of stones, is driven by steam, and installing the very latest machinery, turns out an article of flour which ranks high in the markets of the Maritime Provinces and Scotland to which it is principally consigned.

Messrs Klein, Kalbfleisch & Co. have recently embarked in the same business and have erected a large three-storey building of about the same capacity as Mr. Malcolm's mill. The machinery, which is all new, is driven by a beautiful Corliss engine manufactured by Mr. Jacob Beck of Baden, which does its work with less noise than a sewing machine. The flour manufactured by Messrs. Klein, Kalbfleisch & Co. stands well in the Montreal market. They are about to erect a large addition to their buildings.

To provide barrels for the flour manufactured by these two firms furnishes occupation for an extensive stave and barrel factory, owned by Mr. John Zimmerman, which employs about 15 hands, and has the best labor saving machinery. Mr. Falk and Mr. Heidenman are also coopers, making considerable quantities of tight work, for which they had a ready sale.

Somewhat akin to the stave business is the manufacture of cheese boxes, which has developed into an important industry of late years. Messrs. Robinson & Robertson, a branch of the well known Harriston factory, turn out boxes of a superior quality by the thousand, and supply most of the cheese factories in this section.

Messrs. Schaefer & Kalbfleisch employ about 20 hands in their sash and door factory. The number of buildings going up in town and country has created a demand for the products of their mill.

Messrs. Field & Hetherington, late of St. Marys, who purchased the mill formerly worked by Mr. J. Steinman, are doing a fine trade in woollen goods. They are both practical as business men, and having the advantage of first class machinery, and giving the business their closest personal supervision, they are at the high road of prosperity.

Of flax mills there are two, one owned by Messrs. Klein, Kalbfleisch & Co., the other by Mr. F. Jacobs. These, however, are not working at present, but are making extensive preparations for the coming season. The flax business is a leading industry amongst us, circulating a large amount of money, and giving employment to a great number of persons.

Since commencing operations about a year ago, Mr. Wendell Schuler, potter, has had no reason to complain. The articles manufactured by him are quick of sale, and he has no difficulty in finding a market.

In addition to the numerous list above, there are also three carriage factories, owned by Messrs. M. Diebel, W. Matthies, and K. Wettlaufer, and several builders, amongst them - Messrs. Krantz, Kalbfleisch, Hellmuth and others.

Of course there are several good stores - the most extensive being those of Messrs. Krug & Falk and Mr. C. Ernst. The former have nearly completed a fine storehouse, which the wants of their business required.

A notice of our industries would be incomplete without a reference to the commercial cheese factory of Messrs. Ballantyne & Gillard, which although not strictly within the city limits, has done not a little to spread our fame to the world. The cheese manufactured by Mr. Gillard, who runs the factory, is a gilt-edged article and is not excelled by any in the Dominion.

Our population is increasing rapidly!

McDermott Motors Ltd.

Ron McDermott, great grandson of Michael McDermott, is the fourth generation of mechanics to operate from the present location of 41 Hope Street East, Tavistock. The old board and batten building dating back to 1885 was torn down and replaced with a newer, more modern structure in 1983. Ron and his wife, Jane, took over the business in 1985 when Ron's father, Stan, retired.

Ron has sold and worked on many different makes and models over the years. It is a full maintenance service shop that offers fully reconditioned used cars and late model lease returns. Please feel free to drop by the shop anytime to view our selection of used vehicles, or discuss finding a car to suit your needs.

NOW and THEN!



Michael McDermott
Founder



*Proud publishers of this
commemorative souvenir booklet.*

Serving Tavistock and Area since 1895

The Tavistock Gazette 

119 Woodstock Street South, Tavistock • Bill & Sheri Gladding and Family

*Welcome Back to Tavistock
during our Sesquicentennial Celebrations!*

BOB'S GARAGE & AUTO BODY

General Mechanical - Body, Paint & Collision Repairs
Bob and Betty Stere - 83 Hope Street, West, Tavistock Phone 655-3166



Pioneers in Business

Among the pioneer families of Tavistock, John Zimmerman left a legacy which is remembered to this day. His great grandson, Tom, still lives in the original family home.

"John Zimmerman was born in Neiderhonne, Germany, near Kassel, in 1831 and came to Canada as a teenager.

He learned the carpentry trade in the Plattsville area and worked as a contractor. With Martin Shelby and Henry Hoffman, two coopers from the area, he came to Tavistock in 1868. A stave and heading factory and contracting business was established. In 1870 the operation employed 5 men and 4 boys. Within a few years he became the sole owner. A dry kiln, cooper-shop, and sawmill were added. (top photo)

In 1872 he married Gertrude Schmidt and they had six children: William, John, Harry, George, Mary, and Katharine. (bottom photo)

The business grew rapidly, benefitting from access to the GTR line, industrial modernization, and the expansion of flour mills, which increased demand for barrels and cooperage supplies. Shortage or nearby timber was a major concern.

John retired in 1900 and transferred the business to his sons, John, Harry, and George, under the name of Zimmerman Brothers. William had entered the Evangelical ministry. After three short years of retirement John Sr. died in 1903.

Zimmerman Brothers started a sawmill with extensive timber rights at Nottawa in 1903 and in 1906 they bought John Kalbfleisch's box factory and planing mill, which enabled them to operate on a broader base. Butter and cheese boxes, furniture, sash, doors, lumber, and cooperage stock were made. They also continued to work as building contractors. In 1910 there were 65 employees and the Gazette quoted the company as saying that business was flourishing like a green bay tree.

Zimmerman Brothers Ltd. was incorporated in 1919 and in 1923 the contract to build the arena was obtained. Fox raising was also begun that year. Mrs. Gertrude Zimmerman passed away in 1925.

From 1919 to 1930, 75% of the business turnover was in wooden boxes and boxes in knockdown form called shooks.

After John's death in 1937, George became president. Reverend William passed away in 1941, his son, Howard, having become secretary-treasurer and after Harry's death in 1942, George's son, Harry, became vice president. Considered a war industry, the factory made boxes for ammunition and foodstuffs, with staff reaching a high of 130, 25 or more being women. Tavistock possessed a good workforce.

In 1949 Percy Bleay, one of the top fox breeders in Canada, came from Alliston to manage the ranch and to start raising mink, as the foxes were being phased out.

George passed away in 1954 and on December 11, 1956 the factory was destroyed by fire. It was not rebuilt, but the mink ranch was developed into a major enterprise. The vacant factory site was sold to Yantzi Feed & Seed in 1961.

The corporation name was changed to Zimmerman-Bleay Ltd. in 1965, continuing to be one of the top mink ranches in Canada. It ceased operation in 1972.

Miss Mary Zimmerman died in 1966, having been predeceased by her sister, Mrs. Katharine Barber, in 1958. They had resided at the family homestead. In addition to its involvement in Tavistock's business history, the John Zimmerman family was active in the municipal, church, and social life of the community."



John Zimmerman Family c. 1890



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Tavistock Public School

Tavistock was not served by its own schoolhouse until 1879. On November 24th that year, the Tavistock Public School opened with the inspector of public schools for Perth County handing the school over to the representative from Oxford, Mr. Carlyle. The new school master was Mr. Abraham Bretz, who, having served previously as principal at Sebastopol, was signed on for some months prior to conduct classes in Loth's Hall, behind the Commercial Hotel.

Meetings were held more than a year earlier to plan for the construction of a school in Tavistock. At a meeting held in October of 1878, school trustees gathered to consider the most suitable place for building a new schoolhouse. It was decided to purchase one acre on the northeast corner of the Henry Eckstein property, and to erect a building with a capacity for accommodating three hundred pupils. The building was to be "two stories high with basement and hot air furnace, not to cost more than \$3,600, land, fencing and woodshed included". However, in late November plans were delayed for lack of money.



Sometime within the year, the school trustees were successful in raising the needed funds to erect a two-room schoolhouse. The building was designed by Alex Hepburn of Stratford with masonry by Hildebrand of Stratford and woodwork by Adam Fuhr of Tavistock. The building measured 38x56 ft. with 18 ft. ceilings and the two rooms separated by a sliding door. A bell was also placed in the cupola.

The following spring Rev. Levi Wildfang chaired a program of vocal

and instrumental music to raise funds for the school library.

An inspection of the school was reported in July of 1883 with Mr. Valentine Stock as principal in charge at the time and the junior department served by Miss Ross. It was noted that "Before entering the yard, a new sidewalk and a row of young maples ... beautiful flower plots skirting the walk and a neat clean yard ... As school was called, the pupils were lined and put through some good physical drill exercises..."

"The thoroughness, good reading and spelling, and close attention of the pupils show that they are doing good work." The inspectors were "highly pleased" with the progress the school was making.

Mr. Stock had attended the Normal School at Toronto, graduating in 1879 and after spending over six years in the teaching profession, being principal of the Tavistock public school one year, resigned in November of 1883 to enter the mercantile business.

In 1888 it was reported that Moses Dippel, a former teacher in Tavistock, had taken on the management position of the Waterloo Chronicle, and would soon be school principal in Elmira. The following year it was noted that the public school was "flourishing and therefore overcrowded" with an attendance over 150 pupils. The trustees planned to furnish a third room and employ a second assistant with Kate McTavish taking the position. In January of 1891 the school was reopened with Miss M. Cameron hired for the third department which was located in the basement. Mr. Stock was also elected for his third term as a trustee that year. At the close of 1891 her students presented Mrs. Bornholdt with a gold pencil and bracelet.

The first real expansion of the school came in 1898 when a second storey was added. Reports said they were "rushing the work" in order to have it ready for the new term. The school report for May of 1899 showed 81 boys in attendance and 98 girls. The average attendance for the month was 152.9. A 1902 report



stated the building was worth \$5,000, and consisted of four departments, under Principal Charles Cameron and three female assistants. The attendance was set at 200 pupils. Sometime previous to this a Grade C Continuation school had been set up here for students to obtain at least two years of secondary training without leaving home. Under Mr. Richardson's guidance between 1888 and 1890, more candidates had passed at the entrance exams than ever before.

In July of 1903 Miss Hagel had resigned after teaching in Tavistock for three and one half years. The school reopened in August with teachers, Mr. Gaspell, Misses Hamilton, Can and Adna Bell, and Miss Law.

In 1910 principal J. J. Edwards proposed an addition to the school, but it was not until 1916 that two more rooms were added to the northeast corner. Jacob Seltzer was contracted for the brick work and H. W. Kalbfleisch the woodwork. Miss McTavish used Russell's Hall on the corner of Woodstock and Jane Streets for the lowest grades from September 1914 until the new wing was completed. The teachers in 1916 were Misses J. F. Lawrence, principal; Jessie Bell, assistant; Mary McDonald, Helen Ward, Constance Hutchison and Winnie McTavish.

A new school was built on Maria Street in 1966 with a \$2.9 million addition built in 1993 which opened in March of 1994.

Top photo, former Tavistock Public School students gather at the Old Boys Reunion in 1930. Photo by Denton Photo Studio, Kitchener.

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The attempted murder of a teacher from the school on the 15th line of East Zorra drew public attention to the village of Tavistock and neighborhood in 1890. The following is a front page article published in the *Woodstock Sentinel Review*. November 29, 1890.

German Canada

A Visit to an Interesting Settlement ...

Tavistock is not so large as some other places that one could speak of, but it can boast of a suburban resort which if not very large has an important name. The suburb is called Sebastopol, and the tavern and church which constitutes its chief industries are connected with the village proper by a very respectable board sidewalk. The distance between them is about three-quarters of a mile, and the two populations are said to amount to about 1,000 souls.

Of course the first thing that strikes an Englishman on entering Tavistock is that he is farther from home than he would be led to imagine from the distance he travelled by train if he came from Woodstock or Stratford. He sees peculiarities in the signs that attract his attention, sometimes in the lettering, sometimes in the wording, sometimes in the spelling. He sees peculiarities in the buildings, in the fences and in the people. And when he goes into the hotel he sees a portrait of the young German Emperor with the Words, "Gott mit uns," printed above and "Wilhelm II" underneath. Nailed over the entrance to one of the hotel sheds is a white board on which is printed the following notice, evidently intended as an assertion of individual right and independence.

NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that all persons who support or in any way aid the Dunkin or Temperance Act will be obliged to pay a certain fee(!) for the use of these sheds.

Alongside of the above notice was another in German. There are five hotels in the place - inclusive of the one in Sebastopol - and they all seem to do a paying business. Lager beer is the principal drink during the summer, but with the approach of the cold weather "schnapps" come - or comes, I am not certain which - into favor. One thing I noticed about the bar-room crowds was that they were seldom noisy and hardly ever profane. They drink their beer or their "schnapps" and smoke their pipes, and the more they drink the more solemn their conversation appears to become. One of the hotel keepers assured me that there was a dance at



Omish Man from Tavistock

his place, shortly before my visit, and over a hundred of the young people of the neighborhood were assembled and altho' barrel after barrel of lager was emptied there was not a solitary word of profanity used.

An important industry in the village is the flax milling business, which gives employment to a large number of people during the summer pulling and housing, and in the winter scutching. There are business combinations, too, that strike you as startling. For instance when I asked where I might hire a horse to take me into the country I was directed to a jewelry store, where I was accommodated. And again when the friend who accompanied me asked the hotelkeeper, whose guests we were, for a lemonade he replied that he was very sorry that he could not accommodate him as he had not been down to the barber shop and had no lemons. Curiosity to see the connection between lemons and razors brought me to the barber shop. I soon found that I could be furnished with a clean shave, a stylish hair-cut, a box of lemons, a dish of oysters, a peck of apples, a pound of candles, a set of horse shoes, a good cigar, a plug of tobacco, a stick of licorice, a hot lunch or a cold one and other things that have escaped my memory. I selected the shave from the extensive list and during the operation I learned that the artist had, up till six months ago, been a blacksmith and had actually held down

(continued on page 21)

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German Canada ...

(continued from page 19)

the hammer and taken up the razor without a moment's preparation or warning. I believed every word in this regard that the barber told me and regretted for some time afterwards that I had not gone in for lemons instead of a shave.



The "Prince" of Tavistock

Of course such a village must have its celebrities. Here is one of them. He is called "Prince" because by common consent he is acknowledged to be the prince of the section. He seemed to me to be partial to schnapps, but this must not be taken that he had any prejudice against lager. His partiality to schnapps was the result of a peculiar accident that had just befallen him. He won a goose at a raffle and passed it over the bar with instructions to the barkeeper to return it to him in liquid instalments. The demands for instalments came so fast that the goose disappeared in less than half an hour. The rest of the story had better be told in his own words: "I swallow dot goose already too fast and some dem feathers dey stick in de throat un I taken some dem schnapps to wash him down. Vot you tinks? Haugh!"

The washing down of the feathers was a slow process and I don't think has been completed yet.

One of the most interesting things in connection with the village is the store. There are three general stores in Tavistock kept by Mr. Krug, Mr. Stock and Mr. Falk. A visit to either one of these would be a revelation to a person unacquainted with the trade they do. There you can buy the

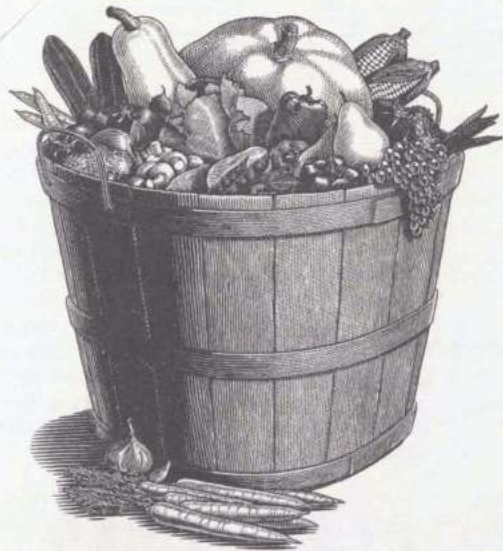
cloth for a suit of clothes and have it made up or you can buy a bottle of patent medicine to regulate your liver and help nature to perform its wonderful functions; you can buy a pipe and tobacco to put in it and you can buy a hymn book for yourself and a set of school books for your children; you can buy a cigar or a box of dye to color your spring overcoat; you can buy a pair of shoes or a wagon tire, a necktie or a barrel of nails. You can buy almost anything you can think of it and you can buy it in either English or German and be waited on with civility.

The population of Tavistock is - including Sebastopol - set down at 1,000 and of these there is only a small proportion that is not German; but of all the people who do business at Tavistock more than two-thirds ask for what they want in English. There is a marked change in this respect since, say, thirty years ago. The young people as they grow up learn the English and use it very freely. They also adopt the English custom of dress and the English manners of living. They read



An Omish maiden

English literature, too, and take English papers. The old folks are, of course, naturally fond of reading the German papers. There are quite a number of these distributed at Tavistock postoffice, including the Ontario publications, some church papers and a few from the Fatherland.



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A Walking Tour of Tavistock



44 Hope Street West

This house is an excellent example of Italianate architecture complete with bracketing under the eaves so typical of this style. Other Italianate features include the central gable at the front facade highlighted by a round window; the round topped four pane windows and the use of quoining in the brickwork. Henry Diebel constructed this house after purchasing the site in February 1876. This house became the residence of prominent area doctors, the first of whom was Dr. James P. Rankin.



Oxford Hotel, 40 Woodstock St. S.

This Edwardian building replaced the Union Hotel in 1906. Fred Liebler bought the property in 1897. The simplified grand proportions of this building is a feature of Edwardian architecture, as is the use of sandstone for the foundation and window dressings. The round-arched palladian windows as well as the triangular pediment at the roofline of the front facade are features of Edwardian Classicism design.



52 Woodstock Street South

The original portion of this house consisted of a two storey frame structure with clapboard siding constructed about 1855. The single storey portion to the east dates back to 1870. About 1890 Dr. Otto G. Niemeier made extensive changes to the structure which included the addition of a red brick facade complete with round arched (palladian) windows and a corner entry. This structure is now protected as a significant property under the Ontario Heritage Act.



76 Woodstock Street South

An excellent example of Gothic architecture, this house was built in the 1880's by either Benjamin Shontz or Jacob Wagner who were involved with the Tavistock Flax business. The house features a steeply pitched roof and gables; windows with pointed tops, and decorative bargeboard trim. Typical of Gothic buildings, this house was once covered with vertical board and batten siding.



94 William Street South

The impressive Second Empire house built by Frederick Krug who owned and operated the Glasgow Warehouse. Once an excellent example of the Second Empire style, the yellow brick house boasted a mansard roof with intricate ironwork at the roofline and on the third storey windows; bay windows; wonderful porches; decorative chimneys; wide frieze board and brackets; and decorative lintels with grape keystone detail over each window.

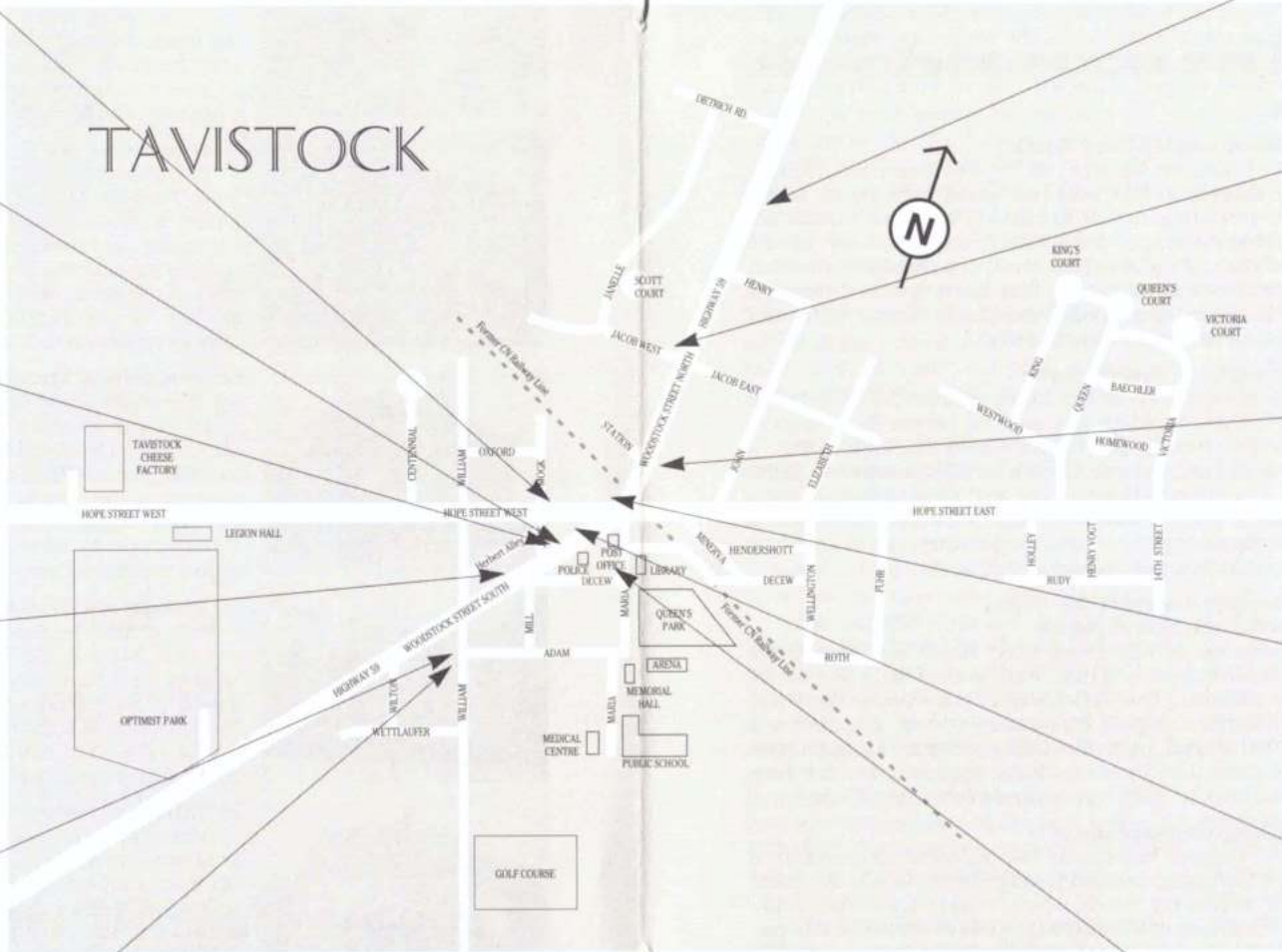
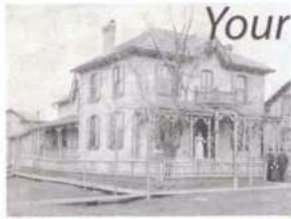


106 William Street South

This Italianate house was constructed by John Fleischauer, a contractor and lumber dealer in the village during the 1880's. Original Italianate detailing included the use of brackets under deep eaves; decorative ironwork; round-topped four pane windows and decorative brick quoining at the corners. The front storm porch is also an original feature of note and was designed to protect callers from the harsh Ontario winters. *(continued following map)*

A Walking Tour of Tavistock

Your Guide to some of the Historic and Architecturally Significant Buildings and Sites of Tavistock.



Walking Tour

(continued from page 23)



218 Woodstock Street North

This house was built in the Italianate style of architecture in the early 1890s by John Lemp Sr. who was a woodworker and a master mechanic. His woodcarving skills are evident in the interior woodwork which includes intricate inlay work, as well as in the intricate gingerbread trim which adorns the exterior of the house. Italianate features of note include the deep, projecting eaves; the bracketing at the eaves; the use of bay windows and the L shaped front facade.



113 Woodstock Street North

This house was built in 1903 by the Zimmerman family in the Edwardian style with the grand proportions of the robust verandahs typical to that style. Other features are the triangular-shaped pediment at the top storey on the front facade; the plain eaves; the large, simplified roofline, and the use of sandstone for very heavy window dressings and the foundation. 113 Woodstock Street North still remains in the Zimmerman family.



32 Woodstock Street North

A hotel has been in this location since the early 1860's when a frame building was used by George D. Matheson who also served as postmaster. David Trachsell and R. J. Kube were later owners, but the building burned in 1894. Mr. J. J. Wettlaufer constructed the 3-storey Romanesque-towered Arlington Hotel in 1897. It burned in 1964 and was replaced by the present single-storey motel presently operated by John vanBoekel and family.

The former Commercial Hotel 5 Woodstock Street North

The corner of Woodstock Street North and Hope Street West marks the site of a hotel built in the village in 1853 by Henry Eckstein. That hotel was directly across the street from Eckstein's original log building which he constructed upon his arrival here. Originally a brick Georgian style building, the hotel was drastically remodelled to the Neoclassical style in 1896. (presently Becker's Milk, JPI Gas)



The Glasgow Warehouse

The Glasgow Warehouse was a Gothic style business block which once boasted a magnificent facade complete with a two-storey porch which wrapped around to the Hope Street side of the building. Some of the original barge-board still remains intact. Built by Jacob Wagner in 1871 and purchased from his estate in 1874 by Fred Krug and Adam Falk, they added to the existing structure and renamed it the Glasgow Warehouse.



18 Maria Street, Tavistock

This site was once occupied by a one-and-a-half storey frame house which was incorporated into the existing brick structure by Valentine Stock in 1905. The house today remains an excellent example of the Queen Anne style which features contrasting building materials in the choice of red brick with grey sandstone window dressings and foundation; the use of different sized and shaped windows.



Architectural Primer

If you were looking for the finest Gothic house in Oxford County, you would go to Tavistock. Looking for an Italianate house? Go to Tavistock. One of the purist examples of that style is found there. Edwardian? Again, go to Tavistock. Because of a building boom at the turn of the century, a large number of Edwardian houses are found in Tavistock. An examination of the types and styles of houses found in a community can tell a lot about that community's history and values.

Architecture in this province really begins with the coming of the United Empire Loyalists to Ontario. The Loyalists brought with them the expertise to build the kinds of houses they had been building in New England before they left. And the style then in vogue was called "Georgian".

The Georgian style had originated in England. The Great Fire of 1666 had wiped out the city of London and the city had to rebuild. There was great interest at the time in the Italian Renaissance and its celebration of things human. Those human inventions, the rectangle and the triangle, formed the basis of their architecture. The new style that evolved in England in the 18th Century during the reigns of the various Kings George was known as the Georgian style.

The Georgian house was a symmetrical house. It was rectangular in shape with a central hallway. There was a chimney on each side. The roofs were steeply pitched with gables at both ends. The eaves had a slight return at the end so that, if an imaginary line was drawn between the eaves, a triangle would be formed. The only decoration on these plain, unadorned buildings was around the front door.

Order and symmetry, everything in its place. Who is in charge here? Nature? Chaos? No way! Man is in charge. What a

piece of work is man. The Georgian house was perfectly suited to the conquest of the wilderness. There is no better image of the triumph of man over nature than that of a Georgian house sitting solidly and squarely on a recently cleared lot.

The Georgian style was popular in southwestern Ontario until about 1850. Because the style was already passing out of favour when Henry Eckstein erected his log building, there are few examples of these houses around Tavistock. The Fryfogel Inn on the Huron Road and the Wilker home just north of town are two older buildings in the Georgian style.

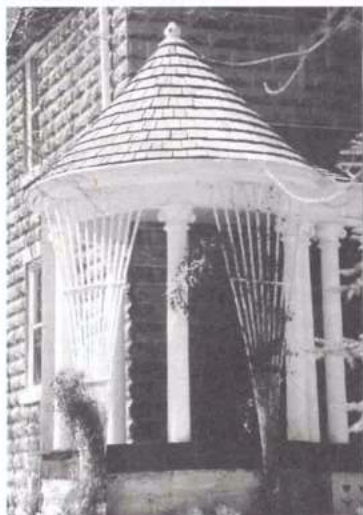
There are also few examples in Tavistock of "neoclassical" architecture, the next style to appear. This style was a further celebration of the accomplishments of man, this time extending right back to the man's classical beginnings, the "Golden Age" of Greece and Rome. Turn a Georgian house ninety degrees so that its end faces the street, extend the triangular pediment out somewhat and support it with columns painted white, and you have something that looks like the Parthenon. Features other than columns and pillars that impart a classical appearance to a building include: balconies; recessed doorways; large windows with a rounded top (palladium windows); quoins (rectangles of brick or wood in a vertical series along the corner edge); and cupolas on the top.

The neoclassical style was popularized in the United States by Thomas Jefferson who wanted to legitimize the young republic by equating its institutions and virtues with those of ancient Greece. Before long, the neoclassical style was used in the building of most city halls, state capitals, churches, and banks thereby implying that power and authority lay within the walls of

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Architectural Primer

A FEW OF THE ARCHITECTURAL GEMS AROUND TAVISTOCK



Architectural Primer...

(continued from page 27)

those institutions. In Ontario, neoclassical buildings were common in cities that were settled by Americans (Princeton, for example). Tavistock has few examples of neoclassical architecture, but check out the classical features on the original school (an institution of higher learning) and on the park gates (celebrating the institution of the British crown).

Though there are few Georgian houses in the Tavistock area, there are a great many houses in a style derived from the Georgian style. These are the "Ontario Houses". The Ontario House is a one and three-quarter story house that, like the Georgian house, is built symmetrical around a centre hall plan. It differs from a Georgian house however in that, over the front door, there is a gable. This gable serves to protect the entrance from falling snow in the winter and allows for a window above the door to illuminate the upper hallway.

The Ontario House is unique to this province and became a very popular house to build in the years between 1860 and the first world war. Almost six out of ten farm houses in Ontario are built in this style. Once you learn to recognize the Ontario House, you can see them everywhere. How many, for example, can you spot on Decew Street in Tavistock?

Another feature of an Ontario House that makes it different from a Georgian or a Neoclassical house is the amount of decoration found on the house. The small window above the door can come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes. The gable and eaves are often adorned with carved wooden trim, called "barge board". And on the top of the gable is often found a "finial", a rod-shaped protrusion that points heavenward. Each of these features allows for an expression of variety and uniqueness. This ornamentation on an Ontario House is evidence of a change in architectural priorities that occurred in the last decades of the nineteenth century (1860-1900). Builders became tired of the rigid cubical shape of the classical forms. Romanticism was now in vogue, Byron and Tennyson, Ruskin, Turner and Sir Walter Scott. Queen Victoria was on the throne, and the name that was

given to describe the architectural styles of the Victorian era was "picturesque".

The "Italianate" style was one of the early styles of the picturesque period. Travellers returning to England and the United States from a Grand Tour of Europe were enthralled with the grand villas they had seen in Italy. Few however could afford the bell towers that went with them. As a less expensive compromise, the Italianate style (1870-1880) developed.

The characteristic feature of an Italianate house is the wide roof eave that is supported by brackets, usually in pairs. It is box-shaped, two or three stories in height, often with a central porch in front. The windows are round along the top edge. Cast iron appeared on the porches, balconies, railings and fences as it was starting to be mass produced at the time. John Fleischauer built a house on William Street in Tavistock that is pure Italianate.

Stratford Beacon 1884 July 11:
Mr Fleischauer of Gadshill is building a residence in Tavistock.

An Italianate house is solid and heavy and hugs the earth. "Gothic Revival" houses, on the other hand, are oriented upwards. Gothic was a Christian architecture and its peaks pointed to God. Gothic houses are built in a wide variety of shapes just like the medieval castles and cathedrals from which they borrowed their features. Gothic houses have tall chimneys, steep roofs, and long narrow windows ("Methodist" windows), all of which serve to emphasize the vertical.

The finest example of a Gothic House in Oxford County is perhaps the house in that style on Woodstock Street South, a house which undoubtedly had vertically-aligned board and batten on it when first built. The Glasgow Warehouse building in the town square - the building which is instantly recognized to all in pictures of Tavistock - is also in the Gothic style and should be a protected treasure.

A third style of house that is included in the picturesque category of architecture is the "Second Empire" house. The city of Paris had become the capital of the world by 1860 in terms of art and fashion, and the world tried to copy everything Parisian. The style of architecture that developed in the Parisian fashion was called Second

(continued on page 31)

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

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Architectural Primer...

(continued from page 31)

Empire (from the French Second Empire of Napoleon III, 1852-1870). The hallmark of the style was the mansard roof, named after its inventor, Francois Mansart.

A mansard roof is found on the "The Maples", the house built by Fred Krug at the corner of William and Woodstock Street. The third floor of the Commercial Hotel was also built in the Second Empire style. With the exception of a mansard roof and perhaps French windows, a Second Empire house differs little from a Gothic Revival or an Italianate house. When the French were soundly defeated in the Franco-Prussian War of 1871, the Second Empire style fell out of vogue.

Stratford Beacon 1886 July 16:

Mr. F. Krug will soon have sidewalks, not just on one side of his property, but on both sides. He has a wrought iron fence on one side and is in the process of erecting one on the other.

As the reign of Queen Victoria continued, decoration on houses got fancier and more intricate. Nothing was ever gaudy enough. In an attempt to copy the stone sculptures of the medieval cathedrals, Gothic houses were covered in carved wood. Elaborately-carved bargeboard (called 'gingerbread') filled the gable ends. Bargeboard seen on an Italianate house is evidence of a Gothic influence.

The invention of the power saw and the profusion of pattern books gave the carpenter the tools he needed to make the houses even more picturesque and intricate. Carpenters found the inspiration for their cutouts in nature. Sunrise and sunset motifs were very popular; they were cut from thin wood then nailed to the facades of buildings. The movement of the sun on the intricately carved bargeboard cast constantly changing shadows on the walls of the houses.

The railings on porches were designed

in a wide variety of patterns. The Eastlake verandah, a delicately carved verandah with lots of knobs and turnings, was very popular in the 1880s and 1890s and can still be found in a number of places in Tavistock, including the Glass Swan and the house built by John Lemp.

The culmination of all these picturesque, Gothic styles of architecture was the Queen Anne style. Queen Anne houses were fashionable at the turn of the century. In the Queen Anne house, asymmetry was taken as far as it could go. Wings, porches, gables, and towers protruded in all directions. There were a number of roofs, each with a different slope. The roofs and walls were covered in shingles displaying several different patterns. And features borrowed from the Greeks and Romans were evident: Queen Anne houses usually had a gable (pediment) somewhere on the front.

The Queen Anne style was a throw-back to the reign of Queen Anne 150 years before when craftsmanship was valued. Craftsmanship and attention to detail were especially evident inside the house. There were inlaid floors, chandeliers, painted ceilings, and elaborate staircases. Tavistock has a number of houses near the centre of town in the Queen Anne style.

Tavistock Gazette 1901 June 13:

Mr. Fleischauer is removing the trees in front of the property on Hope Street West in order to build his new block.

Even the commercial buildings in Tavistock are worth examining. Many of them sport a "false front", a style that was popular in the 1890s. False-front buildings first appeared in the aftermath of the California Gold Rush. They reflect the desire of merchants in a small frontier town to make their simple shed and gable roof buildings appear larger, and more important, like the flat-roof buildings of the city. The merchant also wanted the casual shopper to see his sign (usually located on the false front).

The false front has remained a significant commercial architectural form all over

(continued on page 33)

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Architectural Primer...

(continued from page 31)

the country in older towns and villages like Tavistock. The false front was rarely applied to residential architecture. The few houses on which false fronts appeared were most often located on the main street and built to conform to the rest of the streetscape.

Queen Victoria was the very model of pomp and ceremony, morality, and high standards. Edward was different. He was a playboy, friendly and affable, a real talker. By the time Victoria died in 1901, people were looking for a change and Edward provided them with the right model. In architecture, there was a move away from elaboration and intricacy, away from the picturesque, to a style more simple and basic. This was the Edwardian style and it was in vogue from the turn of the century to the end of the first world war.

There were a number of large houses built in Tavistock at this time in the Edwardian style. They were no longer rectangular in shape like the Italianate houses but were staggered. They had shallow roofs with eaves that were wide but not too wide. They were simplified with little in the way of decoration - except, that is, for the windows and verandahs. There was a significant change in the construction industry during the Edwardian period. Mass produced factory-built elements became readily available. That meant that the consumer did not have to have everything built on the spot; instead he could order what he wanted from a catalogue. Edwardian houses therefore had large, factory-made doors and windows, often in more than one style. And verandahs! Edwardian houses have large verandahs. That is where the energy and elaboration was expended.

Another style of architecture that was evident in the period between 1890 and the first world war was the Vernacular Style. The "vernacular" is "the speech of the region" and houses in the Vernacular Style were the houses of the working man. They were inexpensive houses built along simple lines, often from a pattern and in a row by one builder. Despite their apparent simplicity, the house could be made unique through the use of differing windows,

shingles, verandahs, and doors. In Tavistock, a number of houses in the vernacular style are found in the northeast corner of the village.

After the war, there was a movement to smaller, less expensive houses built in a wide variety of styles meant to fit into the existing neighbourhood. There were cottages and bungalows and Tudor Revival houses. When the depression hit building came to a standstill. The industry did not pick up again until after WWII.

Since the second world war, different styles have gone in and out of vogue. There was the ranch style house, then the neocolonial style, then the split level. Styles will continue to change and evolve.

And just as houses have gone through different styles to fit the times, so have barns. But that discussion will have to wait for another time.

Article prepared by Susan Luckhardt, Bob Quehl, Charles McIntyre, and Paul Bartlett (with the help of Eleanor Gardhouse and Jack Hedges of Woodstock and Carolyn Bart-Riedstra of Stratford)



Above, Taylor Heights in Tavistock from the air, looking south. Dietrich Road is in the foreground. Air Services provided by Stratford Air Services RR #1, Stratford Phone 271-4881.

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Pletsch's retirement, the business was divided into Pletsch Electric & Pletsch TV. The electronic portion of the business was purchased by Martin Blikman and Jim McKenzie. In 1984, upon Mr. McKenzie's retirement, Lorraine Blikman purchased his shares. In March 1997, the business was purchased by DAVID & SUSAN WIFFEN.

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Temperance

One of the biggest issues in Canada in the late 1800s was prohibition, the attempt to forbid by law the selling and drinking of intoxicating beverages.

The provincial Liberal government of Oliver Mowat passed the Liquor Licence Act of 1876 (the Crook's Act) which transferred licensing authority out of the hands of municipalities to provincially appointed commissioners who gave out licenses and inspected licensed premises.

The federal government got into the act when it passed the Scott Act in 1878 which allowed any county or municipality to prohibit the sale of liquor in the entire municipality if a majority was in favour (also called the "local option").

South Easthope had a large population of people of German heritage and Germans tended to support temperance, not prohibition. Perth County fell under the Crooks Act. East Zorra and Oxford County, with its Scottish and English heritage, voted to fall under the Scott Act; alcohol could no longer be sold in East Zorra.

This made for an interesting situation in Tavistock which was located astride the county boundaries. The part of the village north of Hope Street, in Perth County, was "wet". The part south of Hope Street, in Oxford County, was "dry".

OXFORD BUSINESS MOVES HERE

"There is a building boom in Tavistock. It had been said that should the Scott Act pass in Oxford, it would make this place boom. In the last week or two, a millinery store, a tinshop, a pump factory, paint shop, and last but not least a flower and garden plant house have opened. All we need now is a bakery."

*From the Stratford Beacon,
28 May 1884*

SCOTT ACT DEFEATED IN PERTH

Last Friday evening our lovers of beer rejoiced around a bonfire over the defeat of the Scott Act in Perth. Although some of them took too large a share of the half

dozen kegs of lager tapped for the occasion, yet the demonstration was simply a quiet rejoicing with music, vocal and instrumental, and dancing by some of the more demonstrative ones round the bonfire. A little after midnight all quietly dispersed. The Scott Act is working effectively in some parts of the county of Oxford, since some of those in whom the drinking habit has become fixed, have to resort to a trip to Tavistock where they become "gloriously feu" and have to be helped on the train to be got rid of when our villagers get tired of them.

*Reprinted from Stratford Beacon,
June 26, 1885*

HERMAPHRODITE COMMUNITY

Tavistock is a sort of Hermaphrodite community, half Scott Act and half Crooks Act. On one side of the concession line is Oxford with its Scott Act in force; on the other is Perth with the Crooks Act and the booming bars. It is due to the memory of the author of the latter act to say that on Tavistock Show day, Perth is much the more popular; and that in spite of the attractions of "glorious old Oxford" her sons seem to prefer the soil of Perth, where the sparkling lager and fragrant limburger do abound.

The village is a right smart place, one of the liveliest and most thriving in the whole district. The mills, the stores and the hotels do a business that might make some people in larger places turn green with envy. Yesterday it looked as if the whole country side had emptied itself on the streets. Paukie Scotchmen, burly Englishmen and the happy contented Germans were there as they can be seen over the water, worthy representatives of the old fatherlands. For a cold and cheerless day the attendance was surprisingly large--a fine representation of the agricultural population of the district. The show, upon the whole, was very good.

*From the Woodstock Sentinel Review,
24 September 1887*

HOW WE BEGAN!

The corner of the 15th and County Road #24 is where Yantzi Bros began in 1951. Lumber arrived by train, was loaded onto a truck and taken to the shop where it was unloaded by hand. Although, most of the material was used in their construction business, a small retail business began as well. By 1980 the construction business was replaced by the ever growing retail store and renamed Yantzi Building Supplies. By 1986 Jim, Joyce and Darlene had all joined the business, each as shareholders and each specializing in a different area. Renovations to the building and expansions in products and services are on going. The Yantzi family is quick to agree that almost 50 years in business is best attributed to the hard-working, dependable staff and a loyal community.



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Fire Protection

At a public meeting in April 1911, Reeve Appel remarked that the people of Tavistock had been talking of fire protection ever since he had come to the village, and until then it had ended in talk. But a resolution had been passed at the previous year's nominations urging the incoming council to finally do something about it. In response, Council organized a committee to gather information on the subject.

In May of 1911, Tavistock Council unveiled a waterworks plan that would provide water for fire protection as well as for domestic use. Even though the proposed system would increase village taxes, most of the businessmen in town were whole-hearted supporters of the system. Tavistock had reached a crossroads in its history and the future appeared to be clear.

The By-Law carried by a "substantial" majority. 109 voters said "Let us have property protected, "and 45 voters conscientiously voted, "we are safe enough as we are." The long-discussed question of fire protection had at last been settled.

With a waterworks system about to be built, the next step was a fire brigade and a meeting was held to get it organized. Peter Steinman was appointed Fire Chief and twenty others were enrolled in the Brigade. Everything seemed to be going smoothly. "We have a plentiful supply of water," commented the newspaper, "good machinery for forcing the water through the mains, and in a very short time the apparatus will be on hand for the men to work with. With conscientious practice on the part of the members and a little encouragement on the part of the villagers, our brigade should soon be in a position to cope with almost any fire that is likely to break out in the village."

The waterworks test was an unqualified success. Taking everything into consideration, Tavistock could claim that it

had "the best and most complete system of waterworks for fire protection of any place of its size in the Province."

In June of 1912, Tavistock Council proposed a by-law to raise a further \$4,500 in order to provide a place in which to store and care for the hose reel and hose, and other apparatus belonging to the fire brigade. At that time, when any of the hose was used it had afterwards to be hung in different parts of the village to dry. Where was the hose? And in what condition was it for immediate use? Only those who had the hose in charge knew. The building under consideration was to contain, besides the fire hall, a tower in which to dry the hose, a lock-up, an office, and a hall in which to hold Council meetings, Board of Trade meetings, School Board meetings, Police Court and Division Court.

The By-Law was defeated: In favour, 27; against, 77. The citizens of Tavistock had decided they did not need a firehall.

A letter to *The Gazette* editor in February of 1914 stated that the fire department of Tavistock is "a sham, a delusion and a snare" ... "to see a number of men dragging a reel of hose through the streets with a look of indecision clearly marked up on their features - at one moment as though they were in pursuit of a mad dog, and the next indicative of their determination to return the hose to its stable in utter disgust ... (it is) no wonder citizens stand at street corners and laugh at this ludicrous spectacle."

In 1914 the Fire Underwriters checked the Tavistock system. When the system failed because the alarm whistle was frozen, the town council recommended improvements. An addition was built onto the PUC powerhouse in 1918 to store fire equipment, a fire bell was added in 1920 for \$39.00, and a fire truck was purchased in 1926.

Congratulations Tavistock on 150 Years!



The hardware store was founded in 1901 in a building where National Trust now stands. In 1937 the business moved to the George Eifert Block where it is now situated at 43 Woodstock Street South. The store has been serving Tavistock and area for 97 years, where quality hardware, fair prices, and good service still prevail.



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Generations of Generators

BY THE LATE WES SOMMERS

"Even during the Roaring '20s, there were a number of farmers who were lucky enough to be able to enjoy hydro electric power. In those days the load would generally consist of a few light bulbs in house and barn (25-40-60) and the very odd 100-watt lamp, with a 5 h.p. repulsion-induction motor that would operate an old-fashioned grain grinder that was driven with a flat belt. This was the labour saver, and would eliminate a weekly journey to and from town with the horse and a wagon load of chop. A 1/2 h.p. motor would pump the water for the stock; a washing machine for the missus was still a bit of a luxury - but would generally be a follow-up for a salesman a month or two after the installation of the wiring and as a few more milk cheques had made an appearance. A hydro failure during the daytime would likely go by unnoticed.

During the Dirty '30s, a hydro failure could do little harm to the farmer as his produce had very little value, moneywise that is. One thing - electric current also came cheap with the third rate being 3/4 cents per kilowatt with only nominal kilowatts needed in the first and second rates. But listen - when the '40s and '50s came rolling by, along came the need for auxiliary power. Blackouts were fairly common during the '40s as were some brownouts during the '50s, as the demand for electricity soared. Many new power lines had to be built and many more boilers had to be fired up along with the great dams that generated many megawatts; the three-motor farmer had come a long way and was likely to have around 30 motors in operation. The hydro is yours - use it sogan, that was now nowhere to be found.

We're now in the '60s and continuous power is a must in many a farming area. Standby Power is moving in fast as Hydro officials are starting to recommend and assist on the more critical operations. Even a few fully automatic units made their way to farm operations that were left fully unattended during a 24-hour period. In those days the Sommers Company usually made up their own automatic power sets as ready-made power packs were not as readily available from the factory as now. Along came the '70s and it is now impractical for big business (farming) to safely plan ahead without plenty of backup



Painting commissioned to artist Peter Etril Snyder to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Sommers in 1996.

power. Tractor drives - gas - gasoline, and fully automatic diesel sets are now almost as common as old dobbin was during the '20s. "Why work on making a fortune only to lose with the First Hi-Line Failure?" Power failures can and do happen - don't be fooled. They strike just as fires, cyclones, hurricanes or even heavy fog can short out insulators. Losing control of an automobile is another great contributor."

Ken and Jim Sommers are the present owners and managers of Sommers Motor Generator Sales Ltd. and they are still fortunate to receive good advice from one of the founders, their mother, 'Kay Sommers'.

Sadly, Wes passed away February 12, 1995 but he had been active in his beloved business almost to the end. Today, Sommers still practices basically the same business as envisioned by the founder but it has expanded to include an electric motor rebuilding shop, a generator repair facility, a rental generator fleet, service trucks and skilled personnel who specialize in this field. Sommers stocks a large inventory of electric motors, generating equipment, and related apparatus of all sizes, types and voltages and sells and services over a large territory.

Despite rapid technological changes in this industry, Wes's advice to his young sons still rings clear, 'Learn the basics and always provide good service'.

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The Grey Ghost

EXTRAORDINARY TROTTER PUT TAVISTOCK ON MAP

Rome owes its existence to a wolf, legend has it, but it took a horse to put Tavistock on the map. Seventy-seven years after his death, people here still speak with pride about a trotter named The Eel.

Back in 1907, horse-racing commanded as much public attention in North America as all the other sports and art forms combined. So when a small, dapple-gray stallion from Tavistock began winning almost every race at the largest tracks in Canada and the U.S., people began asking, "Where's Tavistock?"

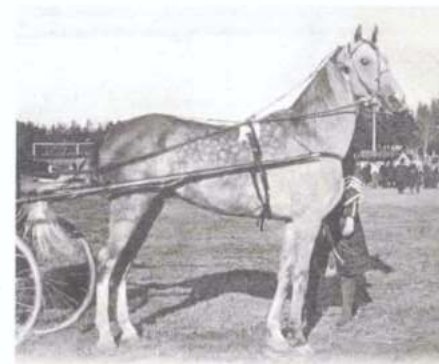
The Eel, it seems, was one of those phenomenal creatures that happen along only once in a century, without any really logical explanation. To understand how a horse could become as famous as he did, one has to remember that in 1902 when The Eel was born, there were almost as many horses and buggies on North American roads as there are cars today.

Frank Entricken, the 40 year-old owner of two brickyards, one near Tavistock, the other near Stratford, bought a horse called Silver Joe to use as a buggy horse for \$190. He drove him on the buggy one day to the Stratford Fair where he bumped into Danny McEwen, a horse trainer from London. McEwen liked the horse so much he told Entricken he should train him to race. Entricken turned him over to McEwen to train.

During his first racing season in 1907, Entricken's sometime buggy horse began cleaning up on some of the best race horses on the continent. Almost overnight he became the biggest sensation on four legs. Later, Entricken changed the horse's name to The Eel, probably because he slipped so easily past all his competitors.

To begin the 1908 season he entered the horse under his new name in the annual ice derby on the Rideau Canal at Ottawa. The Eel won over the Americans who had purposely shipped in the best horse they had, a mare called Anita from Syracuse, N.Y.

In the five seasons that followed, The Eel brought Tavistock more publicity than it had enjoyed before. Civic parades with The Eel and a brass band or two in the lead, followed most of The Eel's great victories at tracks in Canadian and American



cities. The press of the day covered them thoroughly, never failing to mention The Eel's hometown.

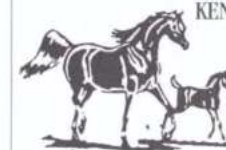
The Eel's death near the end of October, 1912, followed his most brilliant racing season. He died the day before he was to have run against America's most famous horse, Dan Patch, at Columbus, Ohio. The official diagnosis was congestion of the lungs, but Entricken believed until his dying day in March, 1926, that jealous competitors had managed to poison The Eel. A writer in the *Chicago Horse Review* described The Eel as an exception that defied every rule, and called him "the gamest race horse America has ever seen."

The best time ever paced by The Eel was a mile in 2.02.25 minutes. The world's record today is 1.48.3 minutes. Racing expert Neal says the difference is attributable to the much lighter and more streamlined design of racing sulkies and harness as well as to better tracks and more advanced development of the racing breeds.

Kitchener Record, 1989

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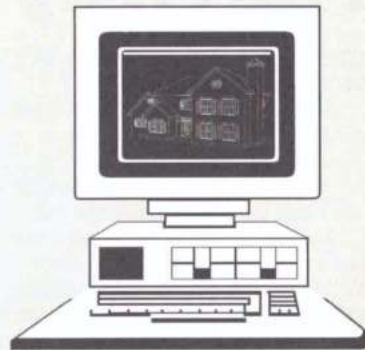


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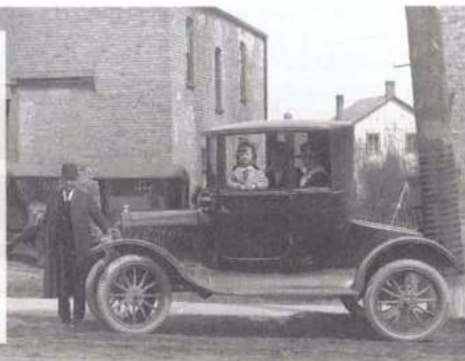
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Happy Memories of A General Practitioner

BY THE LATE DR. H. M. TAYLOR

It was in 1930, that I found myself looking for a locality in which to begin my work. I heard of the recent death of a physician in a village in the northern part of Oxford County in rural south-western Ontario.

Tavistock appeared to be a stable type of community and we decided that it would be a good place in which to conduct a general practice for a few years. However, as time passed, we became quite content to remain in our small village, which offered the kind of life we enjoyed and provided financial returns which were adequate for our needs. Now, after thirty years, we are still living in Tavistock. Life in a village actually has much to offer those who are willing to participate in the social activities, take part in municipal affairs and show an interest in church life of the community. So the doctor and his wife have opportunities for service and pleasure entirely apart from professional activities.

The position of a doctor in a rural community is a bit different than it is in any other locality. Here he has a better opportunity of developing an intimate acquaintance with many families and finds himself welcome in the home as a trusted friend and advisor. In my opinion, there is not a better place for a physician to become a family doctor in the fullest sense, than in a rural community, where his patients expect him to provide personally, or arrange for their complete medical care. When he finds it advisable to obtain the help of a confrere or consultant specialist, it is usually not difficult to secure the consent and co-operation of the patient and his family.

In the early years of my practice, no

regular office hours were observed, and patients arrived for consultations at a time when they thought the doctor would likely be at home, which unfortunately, in the opinion of many was at meal time. Some felt that the best day of the week to see the doctor was Sunday, because they were dressed up anyway and, in addition, the trip to town did not involve loss of time at work.

In the earlier days, roads in this district were sometimes impassable for cars during the winter months and many country trips were made with horse and cutter. In the spring of the year, one sometimes resorted to the use of horse and buggy, when the roads were 'breaking up'. However, in recent years, due to the improvement in the condition of the roads and the more efficient methods of snow-ploughing, one seldom finds it impossible to use a car.

We now have a group of four general practitioners working together. We are happy and feel that there are many advantages in group practice.

In writing this article an attempt has been made to bring to the attention of those who may be interested, certain information which may explain why one country doctor has many happy memories in a rural community.

*from The Tavistock Gazette,
14 December 1960*

TAVISTOCK MEDICAL GROUP STAFF 1998
Left to right: seated - Joan Leeming, Marilyn Zehr, Shannon Martin, Colleen Card; standing: Betty Zehr, Dr. Ken Hook, Dr. Anand Hegde, Dr. Brad Card, Dr. Roddy Caulfield, Dr. Paul Bartlett, Trish Wettlaufer.
Absent: Sue Kennell, Connie Yausie.

The Krug Funeral Home

You have to admire the pioneers in the funeral business. Invariably they started out with nary a nickel to their name but with an abiding desire to provide a needed service to the community. Jack Krug was such a pioneer.

In 1915 when Jack and his wife Rebecca established the Krug Funeral Home it was literally on credit ... a gentleman's agreement with the Dominion Casket Manufacturers that every coffin would be paid only after it was sold. As a personal thank you for the confidence shown in him, Jack purchased each and every casket from Dominion for the next 30 plus years. Upon taking over the family business son Robert continued the tradition. Loyalty has always been one of the hallmarks of the Krug Funeral Home steadfastly accompanied by the core values of integrity, respect and service. These are old-fashioned words but they ring true and have withstood the test of time.

Time has brought changes. In Jack and Rebecca's day visitation was at the home of the deceased ... oft-times in winter resulting in Jack having to walk the last few miles through snowdrifts to meet with the family. On funeral service day two jet-black horses, Fitz and Fritz, were hitched to the hearse and transported the deceased to the church where invariably the entire village paid one final tribute. Payment was often made in chickens or eggs or produce from the garden or cords of wood ... times were tough in the period surrounding WWI and subsequently in the dark depression years.

By 1948 when Robert and Beatrice took over the reins Fitz and Fritz were replaced by a gas-driven hearse affectionately dubbed the "Black Maria". Visitation was now held at the funeral home, resulting in Bob and Beatrice and Sherrill living above the shop. Payment by produce gave way to payment by cash. Bob certainly granted credit but never graduated to credit cards. In sad times the Funeral Home was still the meeting place for the last farewell. In glad times, it served as a welcoming place for entertaining people from all walks of life and from all parts of the world.

Through the years and through the generations the values of loyalty, integrity, respect and service have never faltered. They served as the foundation upon which a family business survived and thrived. On August 1, 1998 Beatrice celebrates 50 years in the funeral business. This is a tremendous milestone ... but then, she's a tremendous lady.

Sponsored by: Glendinning Funeral Home "Krug Chapel"
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Serving Tavistock Since 1898

Tavistock: Wettest Spot In Province

*Reprinted from the Tavistock Gazette,
April 4, 1947*

A condition which has existed in Tavistock for many years was again forcibly and very damply brought to the forefront on Saturday.

With the continual downpour of rain commencing mid afternoon Friday most every drain within the municipality just couldn't compete with the tremendous amount of water with the result that many homes and businesses had water in the cellar ranging from an inch or so up to three feet. Furnace fires were put out, motors operating burners for oils and stokers were short circuited, fruits and vegetables stored in many cellars were water-soaked, even jars of canned fruit and jams and jellies were floating around, to say nothing of woodpiles floating helter skelter in the murky, evil-smelling flood water bubbling back from the cellar drains.

It seems there was never any plan made of any drains laid in the municipality. They are of all sizes: there are private drains and municipal. There are 18" drains emptying, or trying to empty, into 12" drains, 10" into 5", a veritable hodge podge maze of assorted sizes instead of a set size. Water always flows downhill of its own accord, and the 'lay of the land' in this immediate corner is flat.

Tavistock is just below a natural watershed. This can't be helped but it is believed the condition can be remedied considerably by the installation of adequate drains and a proper plan. It is known that Tavistock was much more fortunate in regards to flood damage than other municipalities, but nevertheless this is a situation that could be bettered. There is no reason why a condition that has existed for years should continue to exist. To remedy the situation will take considerable thought, planning, cooperation, and money.

TAVISTOCK MOVES AHEAD

The village of Tavistock moved from the 19th Century to the 20th in its methods of getting rid of wastes, by spending \$420,000 to acquire a sewer system and a 36 acre lagoon for treatment and disposal



Walter Moritz, of Aylmer, carries his sister, Mrs. Heinz Riedel, towards high ground after a severe thunderstorm flooded Tavistock streets Friday, June 16, 1967. Described as the worst flood in the village's history, residents donned hip-waders and rubber boots in a frantic effort to get to higher ground. Clarence "Seppy" Wilker, village foreman, read the rain gauge each day through the year. The rainfall of 13.27 inches that fell in Tavistock during the month of June, 1967, was the record for all of Southern Ontario since official records had been kept.

beginning work in 1962. Tavistock people were assuming to put an end to the hodge-podge collection of septic tanks, cesspools and outhouses which had served the community until then.

A site was picked for the lagoon and a route laid out for the trunk sewer which would run the whole length of the village. However, work on the sewage project was slowed because fast flowing streams at the east end of town and the striking of large beds of quicksand at several points caused unforeseen delays.

A large excavation dug at the east end of town to house the pumping station caused three springs near the bottom of the excavation to break through and the huge hole was partially filled. On Hope Street West almost a full day's work was lost as the workmen encountered a large bed of quicksand, necessitating full shoring of the ditch until the quicksand bed was passed through.

The Stratford *Beacon Herald* stated that "other urban centres could profit by Tavistock's example. Tavistock is not the only municipality which is dumping raw sewage into streams to pollute the rivers."



Celebrating Tavistock's Agricultural Heritage

Farming and the businesses that serve agriculture have formed an integral part of the Tavistock community throughout its history. Tavistock celebrates its agricultural heritage August 1-3, 1998 with an antique farm equipment show, participation in the 150th celebration parade and a mini-tractor pull.

Thank you to the following businesses of Tavistock and area whose generous support makes these events possible:

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Tribute To A Soldier

**GALLANT ACTION OF
CPL. FRANCIS WEITZEL
WINS PRAISE OF H.C.I.
OF C. REGIMENT**

Tavistock Gazette, July 19, 1944

A gripping story, written by Ralph Allen, the *Globe and Mail* war correspondent with the Canadians in France, appeared in the Toronto paper's issue of last Tuesday, and in another Toronto paper on Monday of this week appeared a similar story, though in the latter case the name of L.-Cpl. Frank Weitzel of Tavistock was used. The Gazette secured the permission of the *Globe and Mail* to use Ralph Allen's story, and also the permission of the Regional Censor of Publications to publish the following.

In part Ralph Allen's story, dated in France on July 9, read: "During the hours between dawn and noon, the officers and men of an Ontario infantry battalion rested beside a stone wall and talked about yesterday's battle while they waited to go into another one today. There was a lot of talk about, for this unit's part in yesterday's break-through to the outskirts of Caen was perhaps the most violent one-day action any Canadian battalion has fought in Normandy. But sooner or later, everybody who talked about yesterday's battle talked about the same big, good-natured corporal from Western Ontario.

The corporal's platoon commander and his platoon sergeant told it the best.

"The slowest, easiest-going, nicest soldier in the whole platoon," the sergeant said. "A great big guy about 23 years old. He used to work on a farm and he liked to kid about that as much as we liked to kid him. When it got the toughest - and it was pretty tough sometimes sitting under those mortars for 30 hours before we attacked - the corporal would chuckle, and say: "I don't know about you other guys, but I was never so well off in my life. The last year before I joined the army my total wages were \$350. Look at me now!"

The lieutenant told the story from there: "In yesterday's attack he was hit in the leg before the platoon reached the starting line. His platoon was to filter through that orchard over there, and clean it out. When they reached the orchard there were three men besides the corporal.



They had got close enough by then to start catching both machine guns and the mortars. The corporal saw there were more Jerries in the orchard than he had expected. He took the Bren gun himself. Then he sent one of the men back for reinforcements, and moved on with the other two."

The lieutenant nodded silently across the adjoining wheat field, where there was a second orchard - an orchard of upturned rifles stuck, bayonet first, in the ground, each rifle with a Canadian infantry helmet resting on its butt. Beside each rifle a soldier lay dead. They would be buried later.

"The corporal knew there weren't any reinforcements. He had been across that field himself, and he knew why," the lieutenant continued. "He kept going down the orchard with his Bren gun on his hip and two riflemen beside him, then only one, then nobody but himself. The trenches were thick and well filled. The corporal cleaned them all out but the last one. He took a platoon of Germans or more with him, not counting the wounded. We found him this morning, lying in front of the last slit trench on top of his final objective. He was full of bullets. He had cleared the orchard."

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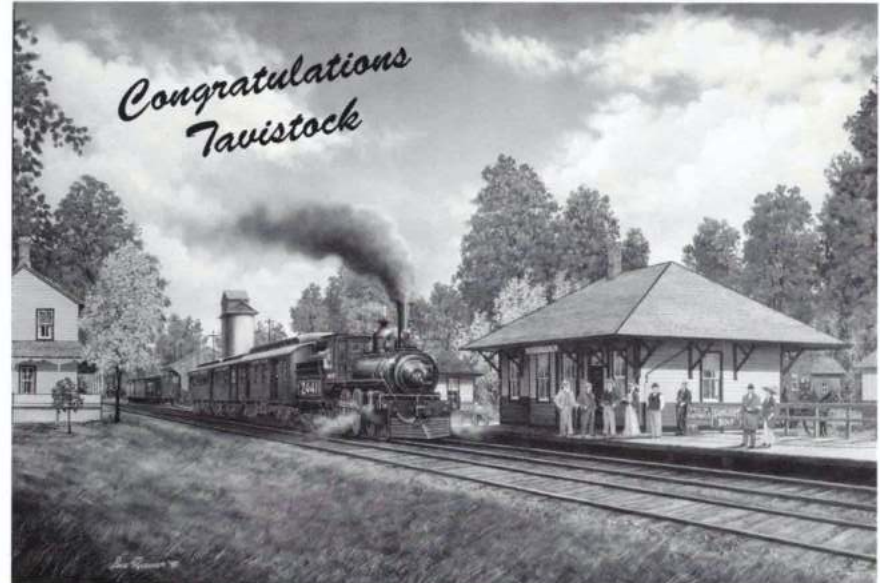
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Sunday, August 2 – 2-4 p.m.

at 62 Woodstock Street South, Tavistock

On display: 4 original scenes of Tavistock by artist Lance Russwurm
and vintage fire equipment.