

# Rural roots

## VINTAGE VIEWS

By Tim Mosher

*Tavistock and District Historical Society*

Until the railway came to Tavistock in 1857, Sebastopol was the largest local community, but once rail service began, growth moved 1 kilometre south to the village with five corners at its centre.

Hope Street East and West create two of these corners passing through the main intersection and this photo shows almost half of the eastern end of that road.

Boardwalks, dirt roads, tidy homes with big vegetable gardens, outhouses, young trees and the railway along the bottom fill this century-old photo with the details of a growing, rural community.

The J.G. Field woolen mill is barely

visible close to the far edge of the village and St. Paul's Lutheran Church is about 25 years old on Wellington Street, almost in the centre. Minerva Street runs diagonally across the bottom parallel to the tracks and Hendershot Street leads towards the church.

The diagonal line that seems to be some type of construction that goes under the railway remains mysterious.

What's missing? Pedestrians, buggies and swimming pools which – at the time – were reserved only for the biggest cities. Hydro or telephone poles are only on Hope Street. A post card of this photo was printed in 1911, so the photo was likely taken shortly before then.

This week's history mystery: What's the clue that tells you the day of the week the picture was taken? This question is open to all ages. Forward your answer stating your name, community or rural route number and your age if you're under 19. The first person to send the correct answer will have this information published in the next edition. Email your answer to [tim\\_mosher@hotmail.com](mailto:tim_mosher@hotmail.com).

The answer to last week's history mystery: The question was, "Name the two clearest problems in this picture" of four young, posed musicians, from the point of view of a serious or professional photographer. The first person to forward the correct responses was Barry Wolfe of Baden, who

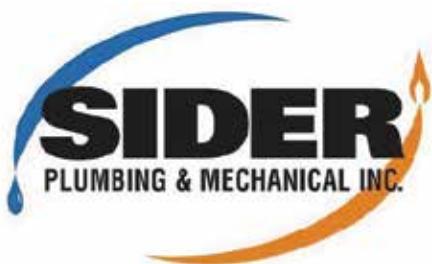
wrote that the girl was not looking at the camera and the boy on the far right is covering his face with his hand and violin.

Addendum: An enterprising, anonymous reader found the name of the quartet and all four musicians in a front-page item published in the Tavistock Gazette on April 20, 1922. The group was called the Kiddies Kleff Klub and the youthful musicians are, left to right, C. MacKay on xylophone and Helen Collins, Walter Collins and F. Arnott on violins, all of Tavistock. This person also had success finding – as suspected – a second photo of the group in the Lemp Studio Collection that's better compositionally than the one I found. See image #9015.



(LEMP STUDIO COLLECTION #5034, COURTESY OF MARY LOU ROSS)

This high viewpoint looking east over Tavistock towards Punkydoodle's Corner took some effort by the photographer because he had to carry his heavy camera, tripod, a lens or two, big negative holders and dark hood up the water tower to take the picture.



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