

BRUCE BEACH HISTORY
YEARBOOK CONTRIBUTIONS 2005 TO PRESENT

Contents

2022 Changes In The Aquatic Fauna At Bruce Beach (<i>Frances Stewart – 2022</i>)	2
The Bruce Beach Church Since 1940 (<i>Frances Stewart - 2021</i>)	3
The First Ministers at Bruce Beach (<i>Frances Stewart - 2020</i>)	5
The First Farmers in Bruce County (<i>Frances Stewart - 2019</i>)	7
Emmertons, Hendersons and South Bruce Beach (<i>Frances Stewart - 2018</i>).....	9
Dances at the Clubhouse (<i>Frances Stewart - 2017</i>)	11
Bruce Beach History 1980 to the Present (<i>Frances Stewart - 2016</i>).....	13
The Snowdons (<i>Frances Stewart & Ken Taylor - 2015</i>)	15
Individual Cottage Histories - (<i>Frances Stewart - 2014</i>)	17
The Cameron Family (<i>Frances Stewart - 2013</i>).....	18
The McCosh Family (<i>Frances Stewart - 2012</i>).....	20
Two Historic Events in 2010 (<i>Frances Stewart - 2011</i>)	22
The Tennis Courts of Bruce Beach (<i>Frances Stewart - 2010</i>).....	24
Louis Bellemore and the French Settlement of Huron Township (<i>Frances Stewart - 2009</i>)	26
Bruce Beach Kilties (<i>Frances Stewart - 2008</i>)	27
The Tout Family (<i>Frances Stewart - 2007</i>)	29
The First Bruce Beach Sunset Watchers (<i>Frances Stewart - 2006</i>)	30
Andrew G. Wilson Sr. – Bruce Beach Historian from 1986 to 2004 (<i>Frances Stewart - 2005</i>)	31

2022 Changes In The Aquatic Fauna At Bruce Beach (*Frances Stewart – 2022*)

As many of you know, I am an archaeologist who studies animal remains excavated from sites, including a prehistoric village at Port Elgin. (See my notes in the 2006 and 2019 Yearbooks.). Reflecting my interest in animal populations over time, I decided to do a history note on Bruce Beach animals. Last summer, I asked older cottagers about any changes in animal occurrences that they had noticed over the years. Several people mentioned changes in the lake's fish. Invasive species, particularly zebra mussels, also found their way into our conversations. I got so much good information that I realized a single history note could not cover it all. Therefore, for this year, I am summarizing information about water creatures, mainly but not exclusively, the fish in Lake Huron.

In order to understand the changes in the lake's inhabitants, I turned to the scientific literature from which I give this very brief review of Lake Huron's aquatic food chain. At the base of the chain are plankton or the single-celled invertebrates such as diatoms, flagellates, and the algae which, we are all too aware of in the green rotting masses on the beach. These tiny, bottom creatures feed the next link in the chain, other invertebrates such as mollusks, mayfly nymphs, *Diporeia*, water fleas and the troublesome zebra mussels and its close relatives, the quagga mussels. In turn, these macroinvertebrates are eaten by fish that are primarily bottom feeders living in the cool water where they forage for their food. This third level in the chain includes whitefish, lake herring, shiners, smelts and yellow perch and other less common species in our lake. These foragers are prey to the top-level piscivores or fish eaters, such as burbot, walleye, lake trout, bass and the introduced chinook salmon, rainbow (aka steelhead) trout and brown trout. That is a very abbreviated account of Lake Huron's food chain but probably more than enough for some of you.

So how has the chain been broken in Lake Huron? Invasive species, which have entered the lake, have certainly upset the balance that existed when the Indigenous people and the first Bruce Beachers fished here. Zebra mussels accessed the Great Lakes with the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1959. When the ocean-going vessels emptied their ballast water, zebra mussels were released with it. Zebra mussels are big plankton feeders, and they reproduce fast, resulting in the recent clear water of the near shore areas. In the 1990s, they were joined by quagga mussels which live in the nearshore waters too but also thrive in the lake's deep waters. Quagga mussels were well-established in Lake Huron by 1997. One result was the large accumulations of mussel shells on the beach over the last 25 years. But these are less common now because whitefish have adapted their diet to one emphasizing mussels. Before the mussel invasions, plankton was a plentiful food source for both native species such as young yellow perch, whitefish, and trout and the introduced alewives (aka gaspereau) and young salmon. Thus, there has been a reduction in the catches of lake trout and yellow perch which used to be easy to hook, according to Joe Chandler (#2A) and Mary Lou Klopp (#35).

Another invasive species is the alewife. Alewives are native to the Atlantic Ocean, but they were able to enter Lake Ontario using the Welland Canal to get around Niagara Falls. They became widespread in the Great Lakes in the 1950s and 1960s. Alewives eat the eggs and young of native fish as well as large amounts of algae and the small animals at the bottom of the food chain. This consumption led to the extirpation of the top fish eaters in the Lake- notably the lake trout. When the alewives had eaten themselves out of house and home in the 1960s and 1970s, massive die-offs occurred. Do you remember their carcasses littering the beach and having to dig pits to bury them? In order to control the alewife population, Pacific Chinook salmon were released into Lake Huron in the 1960s. The salmon fed on the alewives causing a great reduction in their numbers by the 1980s. In 2002, the alewife population was reduced by 50 percent. It collapsed in 2003, and by 2005, the alewife population had dropped to near zero and they have not had a resurgence in our lake.

Conversely, the Chinook salmon numbers increased on the abundant alewives so much so that salmon sport fishing became a tourist draw in Kincardine as well as other towns along the lake. Beachers

enjoyed catching them too. But the crash in the alewife population, beginning in the 1990s, reduced the salmon's food source and thus, salmon became scarcer too.

However, the decline of both the alewife and the Chinook salmon has allowed a rapid increase in the native fish species populations. Emerald shiner, one of the forage fishes, declined because they were prey for the alewives, but shiners are currently increasing. In addition, both Jim Maxwell (#28) and Mary Lou Klopp (#35) mentioned that smelts were more common in the past but have not been seen in recent years. But they are increasing now. Lake Trout is once again the top predator and there are increases in the numbers of walleye, smallmouth bass, and chubs too.

Another invasive species is the sea lamprey (aka lamprey eel). Like alewives, these parasitic fish were introduced by ship ballast and used the Welland Canal to migrate into Lake Erie and from there, swam into Lake Huron. They were first recorded in the Great Lakes in 1939 and rapidly increased their populations having no natural predators. They attach themselves to feed on the top fish predators: trout, salmon and whitefish in our lake. The lamprey nearly eliminated the lake trout population in the 1950s and 1960s but in the 1960s, the lamprey threat was reduced by chemical treatments, physical barriers, and electrical currents which directed them into the traps in their spawning streams. By 2019, these lampreys were reduced to about ten percent of their peak numbers. Currently, the control measures are continuing.

What is commonly referred to as the Asian Carp is actually four species of large carp: bigmouth, black, grass, and silver. Because all these species are fast-growing, prolific consumers of plankton and disturb the spawning grounds of native species, they are a threat to the native top-level fish populations, notably lake trout, walleye and perch. These carp were introduced in the southern US for aquaculture but escaped into the Mississippi River and have been moving north toward Lake Michigan. The good news is that there are great international efforts focusing on the tributary rivers of the Great Lakes to prevent their spread and as of spring 2021, they had not been detected in any of the Great Lakes. Finally, for water critters, in recent summers, I have not been able to collect tadpoles from the gullies to continue a tradition of raising these in containers on the verandah for my grandchildren to see them metamorphose into frogs. David Fallis (#10a) agreed and added that water striders and water beetles were also rare now. Crayfish and their bleached claws are rarely seen on the beach now, but George Sled (#159) told me that this past summer, his grandchildren reported seeing small crayfish in the water among the rocks just north of his cottage. Perhaps like the native fish, these invertebrates are making a comeback. On that positive note, I will stop but I too will come back next year with the history of our local birds.

The Bruce Beach Church Since 1940 (*Frances Stewart - 2021*)

In this year's note, I focus on Bruce Beach Church activities from 1940 to today. What is presented here is a summary of part of my talk at the church service celebrating the restored altar on August 15, 2019.

Just as Bradley's book was central to our early history, so too is Ian MacEachern's - *A History of Bruce Beach*, published in 1983, to this report. In addition, many cottagers sent me information about ministers in their families. I sincerely thank them for their contributions which have been added to our archives.

In the MacEachern volume, Bradley's history is summarized, and new information is presented relating to the church. For example, in 1940, the Bruce Beach Association executive was authorized to build a shell in the church grove so that services could be held here even during bad weather. I think it

fortunate that there were insufficient funds to spoil the view by erecting a shell here. In cases of inclement weather, church relocated to the clubhouse, after its construction in 1933.

In 1941, a piano was purchased from the Heintzman Company for 75 dollars plus 10 dollars for transportation. The Heintzmans donated 35 dollars in labour costs and parts. Apparently, this piano replaced an organ which Bradley recorded being purchased in 1924. In 1961, the Heintzman piano was replaced by an organ. The current Yamaha keyboard was purchased sometime after 1990. More recently, in addition to the keyboard, a joyful noise has been raised by George Sled and Rev. Bob Geddes both on the harmonica, Rev. Ruth MacLean on the viola, and Barb Strain on the accordion.

Many of you know that in 1941 the pulpit was built in memory of Stephen Tout, but you might not be aware that he reserved the current church grove part of his property for church services from 1907.

In 1949, Davy Moore was appointed to look after the property and it was decided to pay boys 50 cents a week to set up the benches and put out the hymn books. After the services, the pews were tipped over to keep rain from soaking into the wooden seats during the week. Kids, including myself, delighted in pushing over the last bench with the consequence that all those in front toppled like dominoes.

The last two-thirds of the MacEachern book contains reminiscences written by various beachers, some of whom included information about the church. For example, from Florence Roulston's account, we learn that Jim Anderson, the original Bruce Beach spiritual leader, was a commercial traveler from Toronto who heard about Bruce Beach from Angus Munn, one of his customers. She also noted that the neighbouring farmers attended the Sunday services led by Rev. Robert Martin in the early years of the church.

Don Farquharson recorded that in the early 1920s, the beach was referred to as "The Ministers' Paradise". This name might have had two meanings. It reflected not only the large proportion of clergy cottaging at the beach, as outlined in last year's history note, but also how much the ministers enjoyed the beach.

Bob Ledingham remembered that Rev. Donald McKerroll encouraged Revs. William Bremner and Richard Davidson to join him at Bruce Beach. He also records that the Bremner and McKerroll cottages were joined together as identical semi-detached units (now #41), but that differences over church union in 1925 caused Bremner to move out and build a new cottage (now #42). According to Jim McBurney, outdoor worship was still going strong in 1983. He added that during WWII, hymns were sung at the Carson's (#147) on Sunday evenings often accompanied by an organ or Rev. Carman Dyer's violin, which others reported he played beautifully. Howard Anderson added that evening hymn sings were held at the Rev. A.C. Stewart, Rev. J.E. Anderson, Dyer, Henderson and McBurney cottages. According to Barb Strain, these continued up until at least 2019. Once we are over Covid-19, perhaps they will resume.

The most detailed account of the church was submitted by Kay Fallis. She wrote that many services opened with 'Unto the Hills Around' and I can add that congregants would have to suppress giggles towards the end of the summer when the visiting minister asked us to sing this hymn yet again.

Kay stated that the cedar trees still growing behind the altar were planted in 1944 to replace the original canvas reredos and that locust trees were planted for shade when the large elm in the northeast corner

succumbed to disease. The locust trees didn't survive and were in turn replaced with the current lindens and maples. I can add that four years ago, the oaks at the back were planted.

The Lanes recorded *having* to go to church and that the parents sat in the pews while the kids and teenagers sat on a grassy knoll at the back. There was repressed mayhem as boys slipped caterpillars down the backs of girls' dresses.

Using the much-appreciated information that cottagers provided and from the Bruce Beach Yearbooks, I was able to work out the percentages of cottages owned by ministers over the more recent decades. Thus, beginning in 1940, 26 percent of cottages were owned by ministers. In 1950, it was 18%; in 1960, slightly over 10%; in 1970, 7%; in 1980, 6%; in 1990, 4%; in 2000, 2% and in 2010, 2%. This decline in ministers at Bruce Beach mirrors the situation common throughout Ontario and beyond. On the positive side, as cottages owned by ministers declined, the number of cottages owned by their descendants increased.

Despite this decline, the influence of James Anderson and our early ministers at the beach still reverberates among us. Bruce Beach, by whatever name it is called, is a beautiful spot. Equally important as our natural environment is the strong community that exists here. Religious leaders taught us to be considerate of each other. Beachers still believe in helping one another. This is demonstrated by the number of volunteers for the many sports events and helping to maintain our sport facilities, for the BBQ, and by cottagers willing to be executive members of the Bruce Beach Cottagers' Association and the Grove Associations. I would be remiss not to mention the current executive members of the church who are to be thanked for keeping the church going and for having the pulpit restored in 2019. Church services were not held in July last year due to Covid-19 restrictions, but were resumed in August, following safety protocols.

Another important legacy is the belief that people are important as people not because of the wealth or status they hold. That is certainly true at Bruce Beach where it is far more important what family you belong to than what your income is. I think this comes, at least in part, from the first ministers making very little money. They were not, could not, be flashy people.

Related to this, I think our strong sense of community goes back to those first ministers. Ministers used to live in manses which, at least in my grandfather's case, could not be altered in any way without a church committee's approval. Also, manses were used for church functions several nights and afternoons in the week. In contrast, their cottages were their own that they could build and alter as they wished, and which were not public buildings. Also, ministers were frequently moved to new charges in different locales. Because of these things, they highly valued their cottages and they felt rooted here as opposed to the places where they preached perhaps for only a few years before moving again. They passed on to us a love of Bruce Beach and its community. We feel grounded here because they felt that way. We can be thankful that ministers have been a large part of our history.

The First Ministers at Bruce Beach (*Frances Stewart - 2020*)

Last summer's last church service in the Church Grove was a rededication of the pulpit which was restored earlier that year. I have put a copy of the beautifully illustrated Order of Service produced by Barb and Bill Strain in our archives. It includes a news item on the original dedication from *The*

Kincardine News of August 28, 1941, remembrances of plaque donors, and a list of benefactors for the pulpit repairs.

In 1941, the pulpit was dedicated to Stephen Tout in a service in which my grandfather, Rev. Dr. William Henry Sedgewick, assisted. For the 2019 service, I was asked to speak about the ministers of Bruce Beach. What follows is a summary of the first part of my talk which was about the early ministers. For information on these ministers, I relied on our Bruce Beach Bible, the *Souvenir History of Bruce Beach* by Rev. W. A. Bradley (1937). Because this book is readily available on-line, I will present an analysis of his account rather than repeating what he wrote.

Bradley described the first Euro-Canadian campers of 1894. One of them, Pauline McInnis, provided a few more details on their first visit to the beach. She wrote, "...the annual Sunday School Picnic of the Huron Presbyterian Church was held on the 24th of May at Tout's Grove. During the afternoon, a few of the school officials took a southerly stroll along the shore. They came to a most attractive opening in the woods, surrounded by cedar, maple and pine trees not too far from the shoreline. My sister, Margaret McInnis, on seeing this delightful spot, exclaimed, 'Wouldn't this be an ideal camping ground?' And so was born the historic Bruce Beach". From Pauline's account, reprinted in the *Paisley Advocate* September 2016, page 9, we can see that religion was at the very beginnings of Bruce Beach.

For the first nine years, there were no clergy summering here. Once James S. Anderson arrived in 1900, he led religious services each Sunday evening and was heavily involved with the church even after the arrival in 1903 of the first cleric on the beach, Rev. Robert Martin. The following year, Martin was joined by Rev. McNab and in 1907, five more clergymen arrived. The influx of religious leaders continued so that in 1908, there were ten of them compared to seven lay families.

Ministers continued to make up a large proportion of the summer residents for at least the next 15 years. From 1907 to 1909, most of the cottages were owned by ministers but from 1910 to 1914, lay persons owned slightly more. However, in 1915, five new ministers built at Bruce Beach. With these additions, clergy cottages again outnumbered those of the laity but only by one. Interestingly in that year, two of the new ministers were Methodists. All the others were Presbyterians as were most of the later arrivals. Also, four cottages were constructed beyond the 8th Concession and two of these were ministers' cottages. From 1916 to 1922, the ratios of cleric's cottages versus those of laity see-sawed but the differences were only of one to four cottages. The year when the greatest number of ecclesiastics arrived was 1922, when there were eight new ministers. The result was 40 cottages each for ministers and laity by 1923.

After 1923, cottages owned by laity were more common than those owned by ministers, a trend which continued until 1930 when details on cottage ownership were no longer recorded by Bradley. However, at the end of his book, there is a list of the cottages and their owners as of 1936. From this list of 171 cottages, at least 51 are owned by reverends. (The number might be slightly higher because I could not decide whether some persons listed as Dr. were Reverends.) Thus, the number of cottages owned by ministers in 1936 was approximately 30 percent of all those on the beach at that time.

In total, between 1894 to 1935, there were 70 ministers at Bruce Beach, although not all concurrently. A list of their names can be found in the Order of Service for the Centennial Church Service of July 31, 1994. I have added a copy of this to our archives.

There are other interesting church items in Bradley's history. He stated that "owing to the growth of the colony towards the north, the place of the Sabbath services was moved, from the McCosh flats, beside the hill, to the Tout flats behind the Henderson cottage" (#37). This move was in 1918.

In 1919, there was seating for 125 worshippers when a platform and a folding pulpit were acquired. By 1923, extra seating had to be procured to accommodate increased attendance. The following year, an organ was purchased and the collection plates, which we still use, were donated.

In 1925, the church shed was built, *in less than a week*, and it was then called, at least by Bradley, the Church House. Previously, the organ and hymn books had been stored in my grandfather's cottage (#34), and the benches in the West's (#33) garage.

Services continued to be well-attended throughout the 1930s and in 1937, Jean Ernst began teaching Sunday School to an average of 60 children. According to an article by Mrs. Wm. Murdock in the *Lucknow Sentinel*, it was in 1920 that the Sunday school was organized.

So ended the church-related information gleaned, primarily, from Rev. Bradley's history of Bruce Beach. Stay tuned for the continuing saga of the Bruce Beach church in our next issue.

The First Farmers in Bruce County (*Frances Stewart - 2019*)

A number of my previous history notes have focused on the first Euro-Canadian families that farmed in the immediate vicinity of Bruce Beach. Their pioneering efforts and the friendships they extended to the first Bruce Beachers were gratefully acknowledged. This year, in response to Canada's Truth and Reconciliation calls to action, I am going even further back in time, to the first people who raised crops in Bruce County – the Wendat, also known as the Huron.

The first confirmed evidence of a crop plant in Ontario is maize (*Zea mays*) and it was grown by people archaeologists have named the Princess Point complex. They were situated in south central Ontario. There is some debate about the dates of this culture, but most archaeologists agree that it existed from A.D. 500 to 1100. Only some of the Princess Point sites have yielded the remains of maize, and these sites are on the floodplain of the Grand River, 30 km north of where it flows into the eastern end of Lake Erie, near the modern village of Cayuga. Radiocarbon dates run on remains of corn itself show that by A.D. 500, the Princess Point people were growing maize as a supplement to their existing regime of foraged resources which included wild rice collected from the western end of Lake Ontario, near what is now Hamilton. Fish, birds, mammals, and plants comprised the diet of these people who over a 500-year time span changed from hunter-gatherer-cultivators at about A.D. 500 to cultivator-hunter-gatherers by A.D. 1000.

These people, who came from migratory groups who moved in seasonal rounds to areas where they could extract different resources, established semi-sedentary settlements near water. Most of the population remained in these settlements year-round, while small groups left to extract subsistence items when and where they became available. For example, people left when fish formed into schools or when fruits and nuts ripened. As time passed and the culture changed, some of the Princess Point people developed into the Huron-Wendat Iroquoian society. The latter group is of particular interest to us here.

Iroquoians were the only Indigenous farmers of north-eastern and central North America. In Ontario, the Huron-Wendat were farmers long before European settlement. They were very successful horticulturalists on the mainly sandy soils between Georgian Bay and Lake Simcoe in Simcoe County, the area we now call Huronia. The women were the farmers, and they mainly grew corn of the Northern Flint variety but also tobacco, squash, beans and some sunflowers. The corn cobs were twice as large as those found on the Princess Point sites and the kernels were longer, wider and thicker. But the cobs were still of the eight-row variety, not the 12 rows we have now. The Huron-Wendat relied on farming, but they still gathered wild plants, fished, and hunted to supplement their crops. It was the men who fished and hunted. The Huron-Wendat had no domestic animals except the dog, which they rarely ate. The Huron-Wendat lived in longhouses in villages of hundreds or thousands of people, but they also had seasonal foraging camps with small dwellings. For example, fishermen travelled to Georgian Bay in November for whitefish, and hunters, accompanied by Champlain in 1615, walked south and then around the eastern end of Lake Ontario into what is now New York to hunt deer. Growing corn has the effect of depleting the soil of nitrogen and other nutrients which was partially countered by the nitrogen-fixing attribute of the beans and fish fertilizers. Even so, every 10 to 15 years, the corn yields would be so poor that new fields had to be prepared and the villages moved to be near the crops. The distances between the villages were not great, except in one unexplained instance.

For some reason(s), in the mid-14th century, some of these people moved their village to the shores of Lake Huron, at what is now Port Elgin. These then were the first farmers of Bruce County. The archaeological site is named the Nodwell village, after the family who owned the land on which the site was located. Radiocarbon dating places the site at A.D. 1340 ± 75 years.

Nodwell consisted of 12 longhouses which sheltered about 500 inhabitants. From the stains in the soil marking the locations of the posts used to construct the house walls, it can be seen that one house predated the others. This house was torn down and sections of two others were built over the area where the first house had previously stood. This first house had very few remains in it of any sort. But when I analyzed the faunal remains excavated from it, I found that the bones were overwhelmingly from fish. From this, I concluded that this structure was used over the warm weather months while its inhabitants built the other houses and cleared the fields for planting the following year. Fish dominated the animals remains in one other house as well and so it seems probable that it too contained members of the initial work party. Two rows of palisades were also constructed around the village. The cutting of the cedar posts and elm bark for the construction of 12 longhouses in addition to the palisade and clearing the fields would have required a large workforce and there were no nearby villages with men to help in these tasks. The Nodwell site was about a 130 km west of Simcoe County. This site is unique in that it is the only Iroquoian archaeological village in Bruce and Grey Counties, although there are a few fishing camps. Like its unusual appearance here, it disappeared, leaving no subsequent village. Unlike us, they did not return to the shores of Lake Huron.

More information on the Nodwell site can be found in my monograph, *Faunal Remains from the Nodwell Site* and in J. V. Wright's *The Nodwell Site*. More on the first cultigens in Ontario can be found in several articles by David G. Smith and Gary Crawford in the *Canadian Journal of Archaeology*.

Finally, I hope you all have replaced last year's note in your Yearbooks with the corrected version sent out by Ross. If anyone still wants the correct version, they can contact me at frances.stewart@mail.mcgill.ca or drop in to 34 Bruce Beach.

Emmertons, Hendersons and South Bruce Beach (*Frances Stewart - 2018*)

The area considered this year is south of Concession 6, a recent addition to the Bruce Beach Cottagers Association. This area has been given various names but now most cottagers refer to it as South Bruce Beach. But it was not always called that. The first published listing of cottages at Bruce Beach was in 1925-26 and in it the cottages were entered in four Divisions, with the cottage furthest being 3a (Kennedy's) in what was then Division 1. Later, two cottages south of the 6th were included in this Division. The Christopher cottage (#15a) was added in 1948 and two years later, the Crozier's place was added. Norm and Jean Crozier were the owners of the popular Bruce Beach Store, which might have influenced the decision to include their building in the Yearbook even though it was near the end of Gordon Street and not on the beach. In 1961, Division 1 was sub-divided into cottages "South of the 6th Concession" and "North of the 6th Concession". At that time, cottages from 15a (Christopher's) to 34a (Morgan Henderson's) were in the former group. In 1973, the Divisions were changed to Areas and those cottages previously in the north section became Area 2 (it was not until 2010 that Groves names replaced Area designations for cottages north of the 6th in the Yearbook). Since the 2012 Yearbook, 31 buildings have been included under the heading South Bruce Beach.

While looking through the Yearbooks, I noticed that from 1950 through 1950, Blair's Gove cottages were included in the Yearbooks under the heading "Blair's Grove". This was surprising because for over 65 years, we have not considered Blair's Grove a part of Bruce Beach.

From the early 1900s, South Bruce Beach was known as Emmerton or Emmerton's Beach. This is the name of the family who farmed the land immediately west of South Bruce Beach. The first Emmerton to farm in our vicinity was John Emmerton, He was English as was his wife, Caroline, and they sailed for New York in 1849 with six young sons. The oldest was 13 and the youngest was three months. After nine weeks at sea, they made their way to Goderich. From there, "they took a small boat to Stoney Island and walked down the coast to claim Crown Lots 41-44 on Con A (*Families and Farms of Huron Township 1985:23*). These lots are just north of the 8th Concession.

John was not a farmer. He was a bridge builder and a framer, and he used these skills to build the Anglican Church at Lurgan, with his son and other volunteers, in 1857. Perhaps because John was not much interested in farming, only three of his sons remained in Huron Township, farming lots on 43,44, and 63 (*A History of Huron and Ripley 1975: 175*).

However, some of his grandsons acquired lots in the South Bruce Beach region. It is difficult to sort these grandsons out because John and Caroline name their first-born John and three of their grandsons were also named John. However, in 1900 John Has obtained lot 29. In 1911, the same or another John had Lot 30 and, in 1919, John J. owned Lot 28. These lots are immediately South of the 6th Concession. It was Gordon, son John James and great grandson of John and Caroline, who sold the land which eventually became South Bruce Beach. The Blairs farmed on lots immediately to the south of the Emmertons giving rise to the name Blairs Grove mention above.

Henderson's Beach was the next name for South Bruce Beach. It was called this because the Henderson sisters, Elizabeth and Pearl, bought more than 50 acres of Lots 29 and 30, from Gordon Emmerton on September 8, 1945 (*Ontario Parcel Register for Bruce County, Book 142*). About ten years later, the

Henderson subdivision (*Plan #483 Huron Township*) was officially registered. Bill Henderson recorded information about this purchase in his memoirs which his son, Sandy Henderson (#112 Gordon Street) kindly lent me. I quote on the section on Bruce Beach here at some length:

In the early days of Bruce Beach, the south end, below the 6th Concession of Huron Township was nothing but sand dunes and treeless. It was a favourite spot for wieners and corn roasts. We were surprised to hear one day that Aunt Pearl had bought the whole southern section for \$2,500 (actually it was for \$2000 according to the Ontario Parcel Register). There were many who considered her very foolish to spend money on such a wasteland. She had the foresight to believe that the area could be turned into a "Garden of Eden" as she described it. She had the front part facing the lake, subdivided into lots, a front and a back row. She was charging \$1000 a lot for the front row and \$500 for a back row. In an endeavor to create interest, she gave the most southerly lot to my brothers hoping we would build a cottage (the Ontario Parcel Register shows that Pearl and Elizabeth, spinsters, sold this lot to their brothers, Morgan, James, Donald and William, in 1953, for \$1.00). My brothers went ahead and erected a cottage but at the time didn't have money to put into it (the Henderson Brothers at cottage #33a are first listed in the Yearbook in 1955 and William Henderson at #32a in 1961). It wasn't long until people took an interest and began buying the lots and as lots became scarcer the prices rose... As there was talk that there might be a third or fourth row of lots developed, the South Bruce Beach Cottagers Association, to which we belonged, held a meeting and it was proposed we buy the 40 or 50 acres that remained. This we did and have it reforested and a tennis court at the north end (Wm. Henderson, n.d.:104). According to the Ontario Parcel Register, J.E. Marshall (#138 Gordon St. and A. Blanchard (#128 Gordon St.), Trustees for the South Bruce Beach Tennis Club, purchased three lots for a tennis court from the Henderson Estate for \$1.00 in 1962. Then, according to the South Bruce Beach Cottage Association Wikipedia page, in the spring of 1966, cottagers got together to discuss buying property behind the second or inner row of buildings to create a greenbelt and ensure a quiet resort area, as the Henderson sisters had in mind. In 1968, they did purchase a further 30 acres as a greenbelt and in 1976 they planted 18,500 pine trees there. By 2011, they were able to harvest 25 to 30 percent of the trees. Much earlier, in 1955, the Henderson sisters donated land for a green area to Huron Township. This land was at the northeast corner of the 6th Concession and Gordon St. There is now a plaque there identifying this green space as the Pearl Elizabeth Memorial Park.

The South Bruce Beach Cottagers Association was incorporated in 2006. Unlike most of Bruce Beach, but in common with some other parts of the beach, they have a double row of buildings. These are divided by a paved road and at least nine of the 31 buildings are year-round houses. However, in common with other beachers, they have a tennis court, protected green spaces, and a desire for a quiet summer vacation spot.



Dances at the Clubhouse (*Frances Stewart - 2017*)

Bruce Beachers have danced at the clubhouse over the years but there are very few records (excuse the un) of these dances. Therefore, this year's note is based mainly on oral histories from numerous people. Because this is almost the only source of information, I thought these events should be documented before memories of them are lost.

There is a written source for what was probably the first dance. In *The History of Bruce Beach* (1983:56), Margorie Dobson (#4) wrote: "but I never shall forget the masquerade party in the new golf clubhouse when Mrs. Walden (#138) came dressed up as Tom Tom the Piper's Son, carrying a piglet she had borrowed from a farmer at the 8th Concession". Presumably, there was dancing at this party, which most likely was in August, 1933, when the clubhouse was built. Mary King Spears (#46) remembered her parents talking about this grand opening and the pig, and that youth dances were not held there in the 30s.

The tradition of square dancing in the clubhouse began in 1947 (most informants) or perhaps a year or two earlier. These first square dances were held on Wednesday, Thursday or Saturday nights with Dick Huff (#51) as the really good caller (mentioned by several people), and a fiddler. Occasionally, both caller and fiddler were from town, according to Dick Huff and David Yates (#21), who, like many of us, learned to square dance there. These continued until 1952, according to Nancy Huff Allen (#51-2) and my sister, Sally Thompson (#34).

According to my other sister, Jill Parker (#34), in the mid-fifties, dances resumed with “a piano player and a fiddler. The floor was crowded, and the dances were square dancing, heel-toe polka, schottische, and Gay Gordon. Clark Benson’s mother (#6a) held lessons to teach the young people to dance. We all had a great time and were sorry when an evening ended”.

The 1958 Yearbook’s inner cover has announcements of Golf Club activities, including “Wednesday evenings – Square Dances – Children 10 to 16 – Kay Fallis” (#10a). These are the dances my gang attended. Music was no longer live; it was recorded and usually the calls were given on the records. David Wilson (#7a) and I remember Marg Sedgewick (#13a) instructing us. These continued for at least three years.

Concurrent with the last of these square dances were rock and roll dances on Friday nights. Roger Crysler (#42) would carry a large number of his 45s down to the clubhouse on a broom stick. These were played on a portable Seabreeze which Roger thought belonged to the Murrays (#9a). When the church upgraded their sound system, the old one was moved to the clubhouse. When the microphone was placed in front of the Seabreeze, the amplified sound could be heard in the gazebo. (Probably our parents noticed the volume too!) But as Andy Wilson Jr. (#37) related, the speakers did not last long. Several of the guys played the Beach Boys’ 409 at full volume, went out to the parking lot to listen, and blew out the speakers, in 1961 or 62.

Up until this time, the dances involved no alcohol, drugs, or food. But one of the reasons mentioned for their being discontinued in the early 60s was that boys from town began attending and often they had been drinking. We teenagers, at least the girls, welcomed these boys! With easy transportation, Bruce Beach teens were drawn to dances in Kincardine and Port Elgin, as Northenders had been to “The Booth” at the 10th, and so the clubhouse dances died out. But maybe it was just a matter of time passing and our getting old enough for summer jobs away from the beach.

I could collect no information for dances in the 70s or the first half of the 80s. But in the Yearbook for 1986, there is the heading “Beach Bum Dance” followed by information about a gathering at the clubhouse for a get together which might include dancing, on Saturday night of the August long weekend, beginning at 10 pm. Party goers were asked to bring tape cassettes of their favourite music. It was a BYOB event with mixers provided and there was a nominal fee to cover costs. This notice begins with “each year” so presumably there was at least one prior to 1986. A similar announcement appeared in 1987 and 1988, but not after that. Beachers of appropriate ages were asked about these Beach Bum Dances but memories were vague, perhaps due to these occurring only once a summer or maybe due to the alcohol consumed. These were a forerunner to the dances of our August long weekend events.

In 1991, MaryAnne Maxwell Reid (#28) and I revived weekly dances for teens. These were on Thursday nights from 8 to 11 pm. Heather Corneil McKay (#19) and Leslie Hogg Coulter (#32) remembered getting ready for the dance by cleaning and decorating the clubhouse, beautifying themselves, and baking

treats. Phil Mullin (#43) recalled that in the beginning, Chris Wright (#3a) brought his CD player and acted as the DJ. These dances continued in 1992. Yes, there were chaperones, but we tried to be inconspicuous in the kitchen. These were the last weekly dances at the clubhouse.

But there were other clubhouse dances, such as the BBCA President's Ball. The 1981 annual minutes for the Bruce Beach Golf Club announced the first ball for September 5, 1981. It included a pork roast and was organized by Carol and Dale Baier (#38). The 1984 minutes record that although the ball was intended to be a biennial fundraiser, due to Golf Club expenses, it was decided to have a ball on Labour Day weekend that year. These balls, like the weekly teenage dances, were discontinued. Maybe it is time to revive dancing in the clubhouse.

Thanks to those who provided good and often amusing anecdotes about clubhouse dances. You made it fun to recall this bit of Bruce Beach history.



Milk Delivery at the Beach – August 1957

Bruce Beach History 1980 to the Present (*Frances Stewart - 2016*)

This past year, I was asked to submit an article on Bruce Beach history since 1985 for the book *Families & Farms of Huron & Ripley Township 1985-2014*. Assuming that many of you did not purchase it, what follows is based on that article, "Bruce Beach: 1985 to the Present", with a few additions.

In the early 1980s, Beachers were drawn out of the "simple and quiet life" (one purpose of the Bruce Beach Campers' Association, formed in 1910) by two proposals. One, by the Ontario Municipal Board, changed the designation of land in Blair's Grove from green space to residential, despite our objections. Then in 1982, Beachers objected to a proposed Huron Township by-law concerning lot requirements which would have made many of our cottages non-conforming. History was repeated from 2005 to 2008 with another proposed Township by-law based on the Dynamic Beach shoreline study. Again, our concerns were considered. The Huron-Kinloss Council reduced the building setback from 45 to 30 metres above the high water mark along Bruce Beach.

Environmental protection has been a constant concern and since 1985, there have been many issues. The high water level of the lake in 1985 and 1986 washed boat houses, decks, and steps away and exposed sand point wells. But water levels are cyclical and in 2014, the Great Lakes were only 175.57 metres above sea level, the lowest since records began in 1918. Low levels produce wide beaches and warm water for swimming but also provide good conditions for mussels. By 1990, invasive Zebra mussels had expanded into all the Great Lakes. Later, a second species, the Quagga mussel, invaded. Both these mussels filter out various algae, affecting the food chain. This results in clearer lake water but fewer fish and an increase in *Cladophora* algae. Bruce Beach first experienced large amounts of *Cladophora* algae in 2007. Rotting accumulations make swimming and walking the beach so unpleasant that the Township has been harvesting algae from the shoreline for the past six years.

Invasive plants have impacted the beach also. *Phragmites australis* spread to the Great Lakes by mid-1980s. It has been at Bruce Beach for about ten years, spreading northward. Similarly, other weeds, grasses and even trees, such as willows and birches, are encroaching onto the sand beach down to the shoreline.

While Beachers can do little about the mussels, we are trying to protect our locale. In 2007, the Township initiated a septic tank inspection program and found only a few septic systems that needed replacing at Bruce Beach. Our Association urges cottagers to keep the beach clean, pump out septic tanks regularly, limit pesticides and fertilizers, recycle garbage and take hazardous waste to designated repositories. These practices are a huge change from when we used outhouses, dug garbage pits, and disposed of old appliances in the lake.

Our grandparents collectively bought land behind the cottages to prevent a second row of cottages, to maintain our golf course, and to preserve wild spaces. We now have 'managed woodlots' and try to limit the spreading of garlic mustard, poison ivy and, more recently, poison hemlock. In 1986/7, several Beachers led in the formation of the Huron Township branch of The Men of the Trees, the first branch in Canada. The Branch planted trees on our land and, with the Township, along township roads. Similarly, we have been involved with and donated funds to the Pine River Watershed Initiative, established in 2000, to improve the water quality of the river and so reduce the run-off of nutrients into the lake.

Our conservation efforts have brought us out of our "simple and quiet life". Our Association's executive has been working closely with Huron-Kinloss Township Council for over ten years and since at least 2006, we have forged ties with the associations of Lurgan Beach/Blair's Grove, Boiler Beach, and Point Clark. Factory pig farms in the late 1990s/early 2000s and more recently, wind farms and nuclear waste facilities have made us more political. In 2010, it became possible to vote electronically in the municipal township elections.

We still maintain our founders' ideals for a friendly community, probably because many of us are descended from those first Ripley campers of 1894 or the ministers who arrived after 1904. Most Beachers know the members of others' families, living and deceased. We are rooted here as nowhere else. There is the physical beauty of the location but just as important are the long-term relationships among us.

These were manifested in 1994. On that August long weekend, centennial celebrations brought us together for a variety of activities: a teen dance in the Club House, the Saturday morning Sports Day, a

family picnic with races and games for all ages, a dinner/dance in the Ripley Arena, the Sunday baseball game with north enders versus south enders, a church service with the dedication of the Centennial Rock in the Church Grove, and finally, Beachers performed in an evening concert.

More than a decade later, there was another major community activity. The Bruce Beach Golf Club House needed major repairs. After two years of fund-raising activities, restoration was completed in 2010. The course, too, was improved and several tournaments were revived. Also in 2010, a display in the Walker House Museum, Kincardine, included a room for Bruce Beach. Exhibited were many historic photographs and old items from our cottages.

Last summer, the old golf course shed (originally Rev. Bradley's garage) was removed and a new one was erected in its place, near the third tee. As well, 2015 saw the revival of tennis tournaments on the courts next to the clubhouse and children's tennis lessons were re-introduced in 1995. Since 2011, there have been golf lessons for children and some adults as well.

Surely the future will bring as much friendship along the beach and with the neighbouring communities as in the past. As well, it is anticipated that we will continue to protect the beautiful environment of Bruce Beach.

The Snowdons (*Frances Stewart & Ken Taylor - 2015*)

When I decided to write a history of Snowdon Grove for this year, I emailed Dick MacKenzie (#59) who told me that his wife, Claire, had gathered together information on this and suggested I contact Ken Taylor (#60), the current Grove President, for it. I did, he did, and he offered to write the history note! I thank all three of these people and also Deb Sturdevant, Archival Assistant at the Bruce County Museum, who helped my husband and me locate information on the Snowdon family. Thus, this brief history is a joint effort, exemplifying Bruce Beacher cooperation.

Snowdon Grove extends from behind cottages 54 to 64, and includes the hill and, unlike the other groves, the lot above the hill where the Snowdon farmhouse stood. This land was acquired from Dawson Snowdon, a descendent of early settlers in the area.

The first Snowdons in Bruce County were John (1815-1881) and Mary S. Cochrane (1817-1893) who both emigrated from Ireland. They met and married in Brockville, Ontario and took up farming on Lots 37 and 38, Concession A, Bruce County in 1851. They had four sons: Edward (1852-1923) who was Dawson's father, William John, who like Edward, continued to work the farm, and James and Johnston M. who both became ministers, with Johnston eventually becoming a Venerable Archdeacon in Ottawa.

John died tragically. He and Mary were driving to Kincardine when they met a farmer with his pigs. Some ran under the horses, spooking them. The buggy crashed; the couple was thrown over the bridge on Queen Street, and John died of his injuries within hours. Mary survived with many broken bones (*Lucknow Sentinel*, Oct. 21, 1881; *1850-1950 Scrapbooks of J. F. Yemen*, p. 61).

Edward Snowdon and his second wife, Jane Dawson, had four sons in the following order: James, Johnston L., Dawson Clarence (1898-1985), and Albert. James died in 1923, the same year as his father; Johnston was killed in the war, August 1918; and Albert died in 1924, leaving Jane and Dawson with the farm. Dawson became the sole owner in 1949.

Lot 37, consisting of 118 acres, was granted by the Crown to John Snowdon in May 1874 and it remained in the Snowdon family until 1904. As recorded in a previous history note (2007), eventually part of Lot 37 was bought by Sid Huff (#51) and Bea Clark (#50) who built their ball diamond on it.

Lot 38, consisting of 115 acres, was granted to Jas. Cattnach in 1868. He sold it to Frederick Tilley in 1870 and, in 1877, Tilley sold it to John Snowdon, less 25 acres previously purchased by John Thomson. The lot was mortgaged and changed hands but in 1882, son William John owned 90 acres of it. In 1884, after his death, it passed from his widow to his brother Edward. After Edward died in 1923, Dawson and his mother continued to live on the farm.

During the 1930s and 1940s, the children of nearby cottagers would trek up the hill each morning to visit kindly Mrs. Snowdon, outfitted in a long dress and apron, to collect milk in their tin pails. They remember her large porch ringed by colorful geraniums. She died in 1946. Dawson ("Daws"), the sole surviving child, was not inclined to farm the land, so rented it out to nearby farmers. He had no children to inherit the farm, and through the 1950s and 60s, the farmhouse and barn on the west side of Lake Range Drive gradually deteriorated, so much so that beach children imagined it was a haunted house.

Snow-Don Grove Limited

Snow-Don Grove was created following the tradition of Bruce Beach cottagers purchasing the land behind their cottages to protect the environs of the Beach and control development. Another major reason for arranging the sale was that the cottagers had to drive across Snowdon land to reach their properties. During the late 1950s and early 1960s, several beachers spoke to Daws about his selling his property west of Lake Range Drive to the adjacent cottage group.

Acting on behalf of this group, in October 1967, several cottagers led by Huntley Farrow (#54) and Don MacLennan (#52) convinced Daws to sell, on the understanding that the property would be held by a Beach corporation. On May 30, 1968, Effie Eaton (#61), Jane Scorgie (#58), John Wadland (#62) and Huntley Farrow (#54), as the first trustees, with other grove cottagers purchased the land for \$12,100 plus legal and survey fees. On October 23, 1970, the owners of cottages 54 to 64 incorporated Snow-Don Grove Limited (the unhyphenated Snowdon Grove name was not available for registration), with one shareholder right being assigned to each registered cottage owner. The formal transfer of the land to Snow-Don Grove Limited occurred on August 18, 1971.

From the beginning, the shareholders of Snow-Don Grove intended to manage the property primarily as a natural reserve with limited personal use by cottagers (other than access laneways) and for group recreation. Therefore, hundreds of White Pine, White Spruce, White Cedar and Black Walnut seedlings were planted on the property in May planting bees. A total of 1200 seedlings were planted in 1978, another 650 in 1980, 400 in 1984, and 130 in 1999. Decades later, the results are evident in the mixed forest slowly maturing across the property.

Because the Snowdon barn and farmhouse were in poor shape, in 1970 the corporation asked the Ripley Fire Department to use the house for practice, after which the remains were bulldozed and buried.

In 1973, the Corporation approved the formation of the Snow-Don Grove Tennis Club. Membership was to be primarily from Snow-Don Grove cottages, but not exclusively, and several nearby cottagers also

were members. A court was constructed in the summer of 1974. Over the decades, the Lawsons (#63) and the Mackenzies (#59) have taken leading roles in the maintenance and improvement of the court.

Beginning in 2000, Snow-Don Grove began developing a Land Use Management Strategy and Guidelines, which was formally adopted in 2013. The Strategy commits Snow-Don Grove to preserve, maintain, and enhance its property through management for nature appreciation, and as a refuge for vegetation and wildlife. Grove shareholders are pleased that the Snow-Don Lane and footpath have become an integral part of the walking and jogging trails through the forests of the Bruce Beach, enjoyed by so many.

Those interested in reading more about the Snowdon family can find a very interesting chapter on them in the 1983 publication, *1850-1950. Scrapbooks of J.F. Yemen*, available in our Bruce Beach Archives.

Individual Cottage Histories - (Frances Stewart - 2014)

“And now for something completely different.” This year’s history note is radically different from any of the previous ones. Instead of presenting information on a topic of general historical interest to Bruce Beachers, I am asking you to provide the history of your cottage. Let me explain.

Last year when talking with David Wilson (#7A) about the beach and its history, we realized that much information and the original cottagers’ stories would soon be lost because many of the current owners are among the last people who knew the original builders. We have stories from our parents and grandparents that could perish with us. Assuming that the history of the beach will continue to be of interest to our children and grandchildren, we thought that the history of each cottage should be recorded. Bradley’s *Souvenir History of Bruce Beach* records the early Beachers and their cottages but only until 1937. Many more cottages have been added since then, while some of the original cottages have been altered or torn down and new structures built. Thus, there is a need for updating our cottage histories.

Obviously, collecting and writing the histories of all the cottages would be too daunting task for one person, so I decided to distribute the work. But first I thought it would be useful to run a “pilot project” in Tout’s Grove to see if the project was even feasible. Tout’s Grove was selected not only because I am a member of that grove but also because it is made up of a relatively small number of cottages and the annual meeting is held early in July, allowing a prompt start for this endeavor. At last year’s Tout’s Grove Annual Meeting, I asked the members if they were interested in this project. It was enthusiastically endorsed. At the meeting, some people asked for guidelines outlining what type of information they should include in their histories, how long these should be, when they should be submitted, and what would be done with them.

The first two of these questions are related. The answer to length is easy – as long as you want. Any information that you think would be of interest to other Beachers could be included. To help people started on their histories, I drew up a list of possible topics. With the disclaimer that this list is neither comprehensive nor obligatory in any way, I include it here:

Topics to Include in Cottage Histories:

- Cottage Number

- Present owner
- When built? By whom?
- How are you related to the original owner?
- How did your family learn about the beach as a place to summer?
- Was your family at another cottage previously?
- Who has owned your cottage over the years?
- Is the original building still standing? Are there any major changes, such as when was hydro or indoor plumbing installed?
- Any stories of interest about the cottage and its inhabitants, e.g., interconnections with other Beachers
- Anything else you think should be included.

Photos

Photographs of the building and the dates taken if you know or can estimate them.

Caution

Remember what you submit will be public in our archives and eventually, I hope, put on the Bruce Beach Cottagers Association website and/or published in some form. So, if you consider something private, like fights between siblings over inheritance, for example, keep it that way.

The other questions are more difficult to answer. Regarding a date for completion, various suggestions were made at the Tout's Grove meeting. The more optimistic among us suggested that they be written over the summer when people could talk to their neighbours to clarify things. Other people said maybe a Thanksgiving weekend deadline would allow sufficient time. In the end, we did not set a date. Furthermore, at any time after sending in your submission, more could be added, or changes could be made if you learned more later. However, a deadline will eventually have to be imposed, if we decide to publish the histories which brings us to the last question. What will we do with this material? At a minimum, it will be stored both electronically and as a hard copy in our archives. Depending on the response to this call for cottage histories and the wishes of Bruce Beachers, it could be added to our Bruce Beach website or published. We will decide collectively on this at a later date. Any historic cottage photos will be added to our photo archives.

If you have difficulty with remembering dates of construction or changes in ownership, Bradley's *Souvenir History of Bruce Beach*, Ian MacEachern's *A History of Bruce Beach*, and the Bruce Beach Yearbooks might help and our archive has an almost complete series of the Yearbooks, dating back to 1925-26. We are still missing Yearbooks for 1927-28, 1928-29, 1929-30, 1930-31, 1945, and 1948. If anyone has extras for those years, please consider donating them to our archives which you can always consult during the summer months at my cottage (#34). Please send any questions and your histories to frances.stewart@mail.mcgill.ca. To those of you who have already submitted your cottage histories, I thank you!

The Cameron Family (*Frances Stewart - 2013*)

The first Cameron settlers in the Bruce Beach region were Hugh and his wife Ann McArthur. According to his tombstone in the Kincardine Cemetery, Hugh was born in Argyllshire, Scotland, in 1815. I could not

find records of when they came to Canada nor when they married. However, the 1861 census shows their third child was born in Scotland in 1846 whereas their fourth was born in Canada in 1848. Land records show that the Crown granted Hugh the eastern halves of Lots 39 and 40 on July 6, 1868. However, a table in Robertson's 1906 *The History of the County of Bruce* lists Hugh Cameron on Lot 39 with a "Date of Settlement" of Sept. 1850 and "Clearings" of 10 acres. No buildings are recorded, and Lots 40-42 were vacant. The 1852 Census describes Hugh as a Presbyterian farmer and boat builder. Unlike most settlers who stayed close to the lake, Hugh Sr. and Annie farmed the eastern halves of Lots 39 and 40 first. An 1880 county map shows only one building on the eastern half of Lot 40, close to the North Branch of Pine River. Land transfer records reveal that the western halves of Lots 39 and 40 only became Cameron property in 1899 (Lot 40) and 1923 (Lot 39). Apparently, Hugh Sr. and Annie, like Alexander and Margaret McCosh, valued being inland and close to Pine River more than being on the lakeshore, possibly because it was easier to get the children to school from there.

Hugh Sr. and Annie had many children: John (1841), Margaret (1843), Isabella (1846), Alexander (1848), James (1852), Hugh (1855), Jessie (1857), Mary (1860), and William John (1862). Hugh Sr. died (August 4, 1887) at age 73 after being thrown out of a wagon. The attending physician was Kincardine's famous Dr. Secord. Hugh's great granddaughter, Isabel Cameron McConnell, wrote in *Families and Farms of Huron with its Hub Ripley*: "In 1890 the youngest son, William John ... took over the family farm" and then in turn, in 1919, their son "William Hugh ...took over the farm".

Of greater importance was Hugh Sr.'s acquisition of lots slightly further north because it is from these that land was sold to Bruce Beachers. Hugh Sr. bought the 103 acres of Lot 45 for \$500 in 1874 and Lot 46 was granted to him by the Crown that year too. Ten years later, 100 acres of Lot 45 went to his son James and 100 acres of Lot 46 went to his son Alex with the stipulation that both sons give Hugh Sr. and Annie \$50 a month for life. James sold Lot 45 in 1896, but his son, Hugh M., bought it back in 1920.

Hugh M. married his neighbour Mabel Emmerton, and interestingly, in 1946 they sold part of Lot 45 to the Director of the Veteran's Land Act for \$4800 and then bought it back for only \$1.00. A newspaper article on their 60th wedding anniversary in 1976 states "The couple farmed lots 45 and 46, Concession A, Huron Township until 1945 when their son Mervin took over the operation" and that Hugh M. "was an assessor, a building inspector and also issued building permits in Huron Township after he had finished farming". Mervin owned Lot 45 from Dec. 1950 until 1957.

Lot 46 passed between brothers Alex and James several times. In 1918, Alex transferred the northern half to his son, Hugh Alex and this half went out of Cameron hands when Hugh Alex sold it in 1925. But Hugh M. still held part of the southern half of the lot and significantly for us, in 1947, he and Mabel sold the lakeshore portions of Lots 45 and 46 to the Cameron Syndicate. This land became Cameron Grove, behind cottages 121 to 136.

There are some interesting facts about other Cameron properties. First, Lot 47 was farmed by a French settler before the Crown granted it to a *woman* (Joanna Berthune) in 1877. She and her husband sold it to John Gentles who, *less than a month later*, sold it to Hugh Sr. like Lot 46, Alex got Lot 47 from his father and later turned it over to his son Hugh Alex who sold it in 1925. Second, much of Lot 48 was acquired by James in 1912 and 1924. In 1941, Hugh M., as executor for his father James, acquired this land for only \$1.00. Third, *in the 1950s*, Hugh M. and Mabel sold part for a road allowance and building lots along the western side of the road. Finally, Hugh M. acquired Lot 57 where the Aintree Trailer Camp is now but he held this lot for four years only, selling it in 1920.

The land from Lots 45 and 46 severed for Cameron Grove was officially transferred on August 7, 1947.

There were several reasons for purchasing this property. An important one was access to the cottages. In 1943, the road from the south came only to cottage 117 and from the north, there was only a path from the 10th Concession. According to Ruth Wright (cottage #136) and Marion Dyer Bond (formerly #113), Hugh M. had a cattle path to the lake and cottagers used it to go to the Cameron farm for milk and eggs and to get phone messages. But Hugh M. charged each family that assessed their cottage through his

land. Secondly, Barry McPherson (#122) recalled that talk in 1941 of a road going through from the 8th to the 10th raised concerns that another row of cottages might be built along it or even worse, a Wasaga Beach situation could develop. Road dust and greater public access throughout the year were also concerns.

Another precondition supporting purchase was the local playground and tennis courts which had existed since the 1920s. According to Gordon Lane (#130), for about 20 years prior to the formation of Cameron Grove, the land these occupied was leased from Hugh M. Buying this land would ensure continuation of these sport facilities and eliminate the yearly rental costs. Finally, Hugh M. was getting out of farming at this time so his traditional arrangements with the cottagers might change. These preconditions resulted in an Articles of Agreement between Hugh M. Cameron and the Cameron Syndicate in August of 1944. The five members of the Cameron Syndicate were: William M. MacKay (#124), James A. Hay (#127), Andrew. Lane (#130), E. William Jewitt (#133), and J. T. Thomas (#136). What they agreed to purchase was “the West Part of the Lot Number Forty-five and the South half of Lot Number Forty-six ... being situated below the hill, consisting of five acres of land ... more or less including the Sport Field”. The total cost was \$850, \$550 being paid with the signing of the agreement. When the final payment was made three years later, including interest at three percent, the land title document of August 7, 1947, records the transfer of the land to the Cameron Syndicate with a right of way allowance for Hugh’s son Mervin and his heirs to allow access to Lake Huron. Thanks to Gordon Lane copies of both these documents have been added to our archives.

In 1952, Cameron Grove was established as an undeveloped green belt and on August 17, 2009, it was incorporated as the Cameron Grove Cottagers Association. By-Law 1 lists the purposes of this association. These are to protect the undeveloped land, serving as stewards of the forest and greenbelt for future generations and to advance the cultural, recreational and social interests and activities of the owners, in part by owning facilities (2 tennis courts, a softball field and a picnic meeting area) for the members and their visitors but also for others along Bruce Beach. Another purpose is to continue the system of private lanes and roadways for members and their guests. Finally, membership in Cameron Grove goes with the cottage not the individuals occupying it. Thus, the formation of Cameron Grove with its protectionist environmental practices and its social purposes has not only benefitted those people in cottages 121 to 136 and Division 4 but also the Bruce Beach community as whole.

The McCosh Family (*Frances Stewart - 2012*)

Whyte’s 1986 *A Dictionary of Scottish Emigrants to Canada before Confederation* records the McCoshes coming from Ayrshire, Scotland where William McCosh married Elizabeth Strathom who gave birth to Alexander, on August 29, 1806. Alexander’s first wife was Elizabeth Gemmel and they had five children. Their first was William and their second was our Robert W. McCosh Sr., born Feb. 19, 1832. Their last child, Alexander “Sandy” G. was born in 1839 and that same year, his mother died. Still in Scotland, Alexander Sr. remarried Margaret Brown. Alexander Sr. was a Justice of the Peace in Scotland and William was a miner.

Alexander, his children, Margaret and her three children all immigrated to Canada in 1853. After a brief stay in Toronto and Ayr, they settled in Huron. According to *Jane Fyfe Yemen’s Scrapbook*, in 1853 “Mr. McCosh his two sons and our father had walked from Ayr to Pine River and secured their land. Mr. Robert McCosh, so well-known and well thought of by Bruce Beach people, is that Mr. McCosh’s son who now [in 1854] came with his oxen and sleigh” to pick up the Yemen family who had travelled to Pine

River from Goderich in a sailing vessel (p. 174). Yemen also noted that the men often walked from Pine River to Goderich to procure provisions.

According to an undated newspaper clipping in the Ripley Library, "Huron was a wilderness when Wm. McCosh settled on lots 33 and 34 Huron. Ripley could boast of having one log house at that time (1853). He cut wood in the winter and went about 100 miles south [to] the township of Dumfries to work in harvest, it took him 3 days to walk the distance." Apparently McCoshes were great walkers, and they were able to purchase oxen and a wagon at Ayr in 1854 to move to Huron where they acquired much land. Land title records show that by 1889, the McCosh family owned much or all of lots 31 to 34 inclusive.

The first McCosh house was a frame structure built by themselves. In *Families & Farms of Huron*, Gladys McCosh Arnold wrote "The men were carpenters and brought their tools and built a frame house – never lived in a log shanty (p. 15)." This first house was west of Highway 21, north of the 6th Concession, just before the bridge over Pine River and on the west side of the river. In addition to clearing land, building their house, and farming, Alexander was elected President of the newly formed Huron Township Agricultural Society in 1866.

Robert W.'s first house was built on the flats near the clubhouse where the southern tennis court is now. Their pump and water trough, used by the first Bruce Beachers, still stands. In 1915, he built the red brick house on top of the hill near the golf course fourth tee. Robert W. was very successful at raising and selling fine cattle. He and his family erected large barns, one of which still stands.

On Valentine's Day in 1862, Robert W. married Ann Turnbull of Ayr and they had seven children. The oldest was Alexander D who farmed lot 31. The second was Mary Ellen who took over the running of the household at age 12 when her mother died in 1876. Her aunt, Mrs. Wm. McCosh, came by each week to help with washing and baking bread (*Families & Farms*, p. 16). The third child was John, known as Jack, and the fourth was Elizabeth, known as Lizzie, followed by Janet who died unmarried at age 22, and then Agnes. Agnes married in 1884 and had three children. She returned to the McCosh farm when her husband died in 1911 but presumably moved out again by 1926 when she remarried. The youngest child was Robert Thomas, known as Bob. Bob was 13 months old when their mother died and Lizzie, who was 8, went to live with the Wm. McCosh family who raised her.

The last McCoshes to live in the red brick farmhouse were Robert W., Jack, Lizzie and Bob. These three unmarried siblings and their father were great friends to Beachers. "During the time of their annual holiday upon the Beach, these campers were visited almost every day by Mr. Robert McCosh, Sr., whose farm fronted on the lake, and who jokingly called them 'The White Indians'. Mr. McCosh was a man with a fine sense of humour and his daily visit was eagerly looked for by his camping friends" (*Souvenir History of Bruce Beach*, p. 7). In addition to welcoming the first Beachers and letting them use his well, his flats were used for evening church services and the annual concerts until 1918 (pp. 8, 14, and 56). As well, two holes of the first golf course (p. 20) and our first tennis court were on his property (pp. 20, 24). Robert W.'s son, Bob T., continued in his father's footsteps. The Dobson's (#4) hired Jack and Bob in 1910 to sink a 30 to 40 foot steel pipe for water. In 1913, Bob was paid \$1.50 for work on the golf course and \$2.00 for use of his flats (p. 29). More significantly, in 1925 Bob sold his "property between the road and the lakefront, comprising some 40 acres, for \$3000 for golf purposes [to David E. Kennedy (#1A) and Gerald A. Wilson (#2A)]. Mr. McCosh expressed a desire that the cottagers behind his property should be owners of the property sold" (p. 32). This occurred in 1926 when the cottagers established McCosh

Grove, Limited. Thus the McCoshes were crucial to the beginnings of Bruce Beach, to our golf and tennis clubs, and to the formation of McCosh Grove.

Friendly relations continued after the sale. The McCoshes had a right of way over the road to the lake, use of the well, orchard fruit, pastureland, and fallen timber in return for cutting the hay and grass each year to June 1st (p. 94). In 1927, Alex was “engaged as caretaker of the grounds”. (p.97). The 1930 McCosh Grove, Limited minutes record that Bob was authorized to eject people playing golf on Sunday or otherwise misbehaving. In addition, the McCoshes sold wood, kerosene, and food, particularly milk, butter and eggs but also other produce to Beachers. Jack rented out his horse and buggy so cottagers could go shopping or pick up people from the train in Ripley or Kincardine. Ian MacEachern (#32) recalled that Bob lent the Bruce Beach Association \$300 which was used to publish Bradley’s *Souvenir History of Bruce Beach*. Beyond these financial interactions, cottagers went to the McCosh farm for their mail prior to delivery along the beach, which began in 1937, for furniture deliveries, to pick up and leave cottage keys and just to visit.

In *A History of Bruce Beach*, the daily trip for milk and other supplies and the friendly welcome from Lizzie and her brothers were mentioned by several people. She would let children try to crank the cream separator and taste the cream and the milk. She would take us to collect eggs or to see piglets and calves or watch the milking. Barb Methereil (#1A) remembered the McCosh’s allowed children to play in the hay lofts, ride the wagons, and pick rhubarb. Florence Roulston (#45) recalled that her father kept his horse in their pasture. Mildred Parker wrote about going fishing in Pine River at the old McCosh farm. Tom Walsh (#159), a grandson of Robert McCosh Sr., remembered helping to make the “greens” for the first golf holes, cutting the grass, providing wood and straw for mattress to the first campers, and helping to build the first tennis courts. Marjorie Dobson’s comment “since the beginning the McCosh family always extended a helping hand to the cottagers” (p. 55) echoes Andrew Wilson’s (#7A), who wrote: “Robert McCosh Sr. was the true ‘Godfather’ of Bruce Beach and his mantle was inherited by his son Bob who, together with Jack and Lizzie, carried on as the patrons of Bruce Beach. ... Bob epitomized the friendly concern and generous attitude by patiently introducing small children to the wonders of farm life...” (p. 40). These glimpses into farming by such nice people were a huge asset to our holidays. Even as Bob and Lizzie aged, they continued to invite visitors in for a cup of tea and biscuits. This family was ever kind to Beachers.

Two Historic Events in 2010 (*Frances Stewart - 2011*)

Restoration of the clubhouse was the most important event at Bruce Beach in 2010 but a museum display in Kincardine was also significant. Following Rev. Bradley’s (1938) precedent of recording yearly events in his *Souvenir History of Bruce Beach* and relying on it for information on the beginnings of golf at Bruce Beach, this year’s note gives a slice of the history of golfing at the beach and a peak into our museum display.

One afternoon in 1903, during a game of horseshoes involving most of the “white Indians”, Margaret McInnis asked Rev. Robert Martin to demonstrate the game of golf. He went for his “sticks” and they all walked up to our second hole. Martin took out his “mashie” and sent the first ball driven at Bruce Beach soaring over the heads of people positioned in the field to catch the ball. (For young readers, “mashie” is a wooden shafted golf club with an iron head, most similar to the modern five iron.) Apparently, interest soared too; that summer Martin laid out a six hole course with one hole at each end of Frank Tout’s property and one at each end of the two sections of the McCosh property. Four years later, the Bruce

Beach Golf Club was formed. Membership was 25 cents per person, beginning the enduring tradition of paying very little to golf at Bruce Beach.

The golf club flourished but by 1923 there was dissension in the ranks. The female members split off and formed their own Ladies Golf Club. They debated withholding their fees from the male-dominated club where only one female (Margaret McInnes) had been on the executive but decided to relinquish half their fees and to co-operate with the executive of the Men's Club, men who were after all their husbands, fathers and/or brothers. In 1926, the women returned to the original club having won some concessions, particularly equal representation for women on the executive and special tee off times for children under 12 years of age.

The club's response to the latter is first recorded in the 1935 Bruce Beach Association flyer. (Folded, single sheet, flyers were fore runners to our Yearbook, first so named in 1960.) In 1935, the children's tee off time was between 1 and 2:30 pm on Tuesdays and Fridays. By 1964, the opening time was set back to 12:30 and in addition, 10 and 11 year old's could tee off between 12 and 1 on all the other week days as well. In 1973, golf lessons were offered on Tuesdays at 1 and by 1974, children could use the course at any time. Thus, for over 75 years children have been encouraged to learn and play golf at Bruce Beach.

Twenty-two years after Martin's demonstration, on August 17, 1925, Robert McCosh Sr. sold 35 acres for \$3000 to Mr. David Kennedy (#1A/8) and Dr. Gerald Wilson (#2A) for a golf course. The following year, reflecting McCosh's wishes, these two men sold the land to the newly formed McCosh Grove, Limited (incorporated on October 9, 1926) and cottagers adjoining the property as well as some others bought shares.

Having established the club and the course, brothers Fred and Charles Yates (#21) suggested building a clubhouse at a meeting in July 1933. Plans were drawn by Charlie and, impressively, the club house was built by the cottagers that August. The building lacked the fireplace, kitchen and storeroom which were added in 1937. The outhouse located across the road from the first tee was superseded by the bathroom in 1982 for \$975 with funds raised by two "potty" parties and BBQs. The opening in the wall between the main room and the kitchen was cut in 1987.

By 2009, major repairs were needed. The walls were budging making the roof cave inwards while the substructure was rotting, especially in the southwest corner where water had been drained from a pop cooler on the verandah over many summers. Par for the course, generous responses to fund raising begun in 2009 under the direction of Susan Yates Johnston (#21) allowed repairs to be completed by mid-summer, 2010. Now the building has a new foundation, new floors, and a reinforced, newly shingled roof. Iron rods hold the walls together and most of the west wall is new as is the widened bathroom door. All the windows and the glass doors have been beautifully restored. Wiring and plumbing were upgraded before the installation of new kitchen cupboards, counters and appliances and new bathroom facilities. Outside, the verandah floor, pillars and the chimney were repaired while a new fence and eaves troughs were added, and the building was painted. According to Anne Wright (#3A), our BBGC treasurer, the cost for all this was just over \$91,450.00.

This restoration project was under the supervision of David Wilson (#7A). Other members of the committee were: Dave Gregoris (#14), Gail Pool (#34) and Al Prang (#15). Sincere thanks are extended to

them and to all the donors and volunteers involved in preserving the clubhouse which while it belongs to the Bruce Beach Golf Club functions as our community centre, making maintaining it important to us all.

Less enduring was a museum display on the history of Bruce Beach. In October 2009, Graham Mahood of the Walker House executive approached BBKA president Keith MacDonald about mounting a display in Walker House on the origins of vacationing in the Kincardine region. The Bruce Beach executive embraced this idea and Keith asked me to coordinate the Bruce Beach efforts for this exhibit.

Rick Clarke, Administrator for Walker House, was tasked by their Board to produce "Gone to the Beach: A History of Vacationing in the Kincardine Area". Rick was concerned about accessing enough material for the exhibit in a short time but fortunately about 100 photographs had been scanned from the Bruce Beach Camera Club albums (1919 to 1921). As well, Bradley's history is available online at our website and there were the annual history notes in our Yearbooks. Photos and information from these sources, combined with additional photos and objects lent by numerous cottagers resulted in a room devoted to Bruce Beach alone, an addition to a general display on vacationing in the region on the ground floor. The topics emphasized in our room were: the first cottagers, including the Ripley campers and the many ministers; interaction with local peoples, including the farmers and the Saugeen First Nation; our strong interests in sports and in our history, and building and maintaining our structures. The exhibit ran between the May 24th and the Thanksgiving weekends.

Our participation yielded many positive outcomes. Preparing for the exhibit resulted in more photos being added to our archives. Old things stored in our cottages were displayed for others to view and we relocated old trophies. In town, good media coverage, an official opening, and a talk on the history of Bruce Beach resulted in many learning more about our history. Finally, this project enhanced relations between seasonal and permanent residents. Therefore, this year's note ends with many thanks to all the Walker House executive members, especially Rick and Marilyn Clarke, and to all of you who offered ideas and lent photographs or objects for the exhibit.

The Tennis Courts of Bruce Beach (*Frances Stewart - 2010*)

The first history of tennis courts at Bruce Beach is found in Rev. W.A. Bradley's *Historical Sketch of the Bruce Beach Summer Resort*. His last entry was for 1938 and new courts have been added along the beach since that time.

According to Bradley, "the Bruce Beach Tennis Club had its inception in 1914 as a subsidiary to the Golf Club" when two courts were laid out on Steve Tout's Property, one at the south end of Tout's property and another in the central part, but only the latter was used. Photographs in a Bruce Beach Photography Club album confirm this court was located in our present church yard. I remember my mother recounting how sheep would interrupt games played here.

This one court was soon insufficient for the increasing number of cottagers and so in 1920, the Bruce Beach Association decided that each Division should have a court. As a result, in Division I a clay court was built north of the pump at the foot of McCosh Hill. In 1926, this court was abandoned, and two cinder courts were built at the top of the hill, still on Robert McCosh's property. Wet conditions exacerbated by flooding in the spring of 1926, caused the Division II cottagers to abandon their court and join Division I on the higher ground. These courts were used by the Division I and II cottagers until

1934 when they resurveyed the area of the original Division I court and decided to build two tennis courts and a badminton court there. Two tarvia (a kind of asphalt) tennis courts were ready for use when cottagers returned the next summer. "Division III laid out their first court (grass) in 1922 in Mr. Pollock's field, at the foot of the 8th Concession hill". Two years later, the court was relocated across the road but water runoff from the hill made it difficult to maintain this clay court. By 1929, a cement court was built to the north, at the foot of Hugh Cameron's hill. Even further north, as more cottages were erected, two clay courts were built in the newly created Division IV. Thus, from Bradley's account, there were five, active tennis courts at Bruce Beach in 1938.

Currently, the most northerly courts are the "Area 8 to 11 Cottage Owners' Tennis Courts". These two courts are located behind cottage 125, in Cameron's Grove, on land purchased from Hugh Cameron in 1944. The Article of Agreement for this sale is dated August 31, 1944 but the deed was not registered until August 7, 1947 after the final payment was made. For about 20 years prior to this purchase, the same land was leased from H. Cameron for two tennis courts and a playing field. Gordon Lane (#130) provided much information about this, including that, according to the late Don Currie (#124), the courts were first installed in 1924 or 1925. An interesting situation unfolded. When the sale agreement was drawn up, it stipulated that the courts were for all Division IV cottagers (#104 to 177). This is many more than those comprising Cameron's Grove (#121 to 136), and it was the Cameron's Grove cottagers who bought the land. A recipe for disaster one might think. However, in a spirit typical of Bruce Beachers throughout our history, it was decided that even though the courts were on Cameron Grove property, in fact occupying about a quarter of that land, all Division IV people could play on them and that the Division rather than merely the Grove families would maintain them. This solution mirrors that in Division I where two courts are located on McCosh Grove land but all Bruce Beachers are welcome to use them.

Between 1938 and 2010, the increase in cottagers resulted in more tennis courts being constructed, including two private ones. Our most southerly court is located just south of the 6th Concession and east of Gordon Street and it is restricted to shareholders in that area. As was true earlier, the impetus for creating this facility was crowding on the Division I courts. According to Sandy Henderson (124 Gordon St.), his late aunts Liz and Pearl Henderson (110 Gordon St.) donated the land with the stipulation that there be no Sunday tennis. According to Archie Blandford (128 Gordon St.), the posts for the backstops and for the net were obtained by George Johnson (146 Gordon St.) with the help of the Elliot's, from their farm woodlot. Dave Grant (139 Gordon St.) remembered that the benches were built from wood from an old barn on the 4th Concession. Because the late Ernie Marshall (142 Gordon St) was instrumental in promoting this court, it was named the "Ernie Marshall Tennis Court" in his memory, when it opened in 1962, according to Pat McFarlane (148 Gordon St.).

The second new court was built behind cottages 62 and 63. Like the Marshall court, this is a private one for families in 13 cottages in the immediate vicinity who comprise the "SnowDon Grove Tennis Club". (Why the hyphen was inserted into Snowdon in the club's name is a mystery.) Peggy Goodenow Felton (#52), the club's secretary, provided details on its history. She wrote: "In July a group of avid tennis players, headed by Peggy Lawson (#63), decided that they would like to have a tennis court on the Snow-Don Grove property. The Snow-Don Grove shareholders approved the plan in August of '73 and construction began the next year." Ten cottages housed the charter members of this club but since then three more families have joined. Peggy recalled in the early years, a mixed doubles tournament was held for the Lawson Dawson trophy. This was a broken tennis racket with some dirty tennis balls mounted on a piece of wood. It was so ugly that no one really wanted to win it! The creation of this most recent club brought the total number of courts at Bruce Beach to seven.

As this review shows, tennis has been a part of Bruce Beach since 1914. Playing on courts of various surfaces, in various locations, whether for beautiful silver cups or ugly trophies, we have united along the beach to create and maintain courts from south of the 6th to the 10th Concession. Finally, over the years, Bruce Beach-Kincardine tournaments have enhanced relationships with Kincardine residents and we should remember that the local farmers helped us to establish our tennis tradition at Bruce Beach.

Louis Bellemore and the French Settlement of Huron Township (*Frances Stewart - 2009*)

While researching the Tout family history for the 2007 Yearbook, I noted that a Frenchman named Louis Bellemore settled on Concession A, lot 36 almost a quarter century before William Tout. (Lot 36 is currently Grant and Carol Collins' farm.) The little recorded about Monsieur Bellemore is very interesting.

The first land survey in Huron Township was undertaken in 1847 to encourage settlement. E.R. Jones, P.L.S., compiled a list of all the people along Lake Range, as it was called even then, and also recorded when the settlers had first arrived and what improvements they had made to their lands. Using Jones' 1851 report, Robertson found the names of the settlers here for his book, *The History of the County of Bruce*, published in 1906.

In August of 1848, the government offered free, 50 acre farm lots to settlers in Huron Township and this offer was renewed in June of 1849. This practice encouraged numerous French-Canadian settlers. For example, Louis Lizars, settled on lots 47 and 48, halfway between the 8th and the 10th concessions, in October 1848. So many French Canadians located in the area, particularly in what would become the north end of Bruce Beach, that it was known as the "French Settlement".

"Louis Bellemore, a French-Canadian, was the first [European] to locate in Huron. The summer of 1848 is given as the time when he 'squatted' on lot 19, beside Pine River, where he made some improvements and kept a tavern" (Robertson 1906:30). This was on the north side of the river, at its mouth.

"In the following spring, Bellemore sold his squatter's rights ... and moved to lot 36, and at the time of E.R. Jones' report, he had made a clearing thereon of thirteen acres in extent" (*ibid.*). Clearing 26% of his 50 acres in three years is an impressive feat. He also built a 22 by 18 foot log house and he again had a tavern. "The sign of the tavern which he kept had painted thereon, in rather crude artistic style, a bottle and a glass, with the motto, 'A French Tavern'" (*ibid.*). Thus, drinking at the Golf Course Round House follows a long forgotten precedent.

In a footnote, Robertson added that Bellemore had worked for the Hudson's Bay Company. His name is not included in the list of Company employees in their on-line archives. However, *From Jane Fyfe Yemen's Scrapbook*, published in 1983, there is a note written in 1939 by William Welsh, an old Bellemore neighbour. Welsh remembered him as a Hudson Bay trader "who knew all about the West even out by Hudson's Bay", who still hunted and fished. His "son, Larry, drove a dog team on the ice to supply the few wants of the very early settlers for several winters" (1983:28).

The same footnote also states that Bellemore married the daughter of an Indian chief. Who was this Indian wife? Early settlers remembered her as "an industrious, sensible woman who could give

assistance in time of illness" (Yemen 1983:51). Welsh referred to her as an Indian doctor known for her great success in curing disease with herbs so much so that she was called upon in preference to the licensed physician. Her children with Louis were: Lou, Larry, Joe, Charlie, Peter and Mary and Mr. Bellemore was described as "gifted with much good nature and good sense" (*ibid.*).

Some of these children are included in the 1852 Census from which we learn more about Louis. He is listed as a 49 year old, Roman Catholic farmer, born in "Canada Fr". He was married to Julia, 42, who was born in Canada. Louis had more than one wife and Julia appears to be his second. There were five children in their home: three boys (Louis who was 20 and listed as a mariner, Charles, 8 and Philimon, almost 2) and two girls (Mary 11 and Julia who was less than a year old). I suspect Philimon and baby Julia are Julia's children and the others her step-children.

The more detailed 1871 Census reveals that Louis senior was born in Quebec and Julia in Ontario. His origin is given as French and hers as Irish. In their house at this time, there was a Mary Randall aged 12 and a Robert Beatty aged 28. Beatty was described as a blacksmith, an Episcopalian Methodist and of Irish origin. (The Beatty family was settled on what would later become McCosh's.) Also in residence was Philimon, now 21, and another Louis who was only one year old (a grandchild maybe?).

The next entry in the 1871 census is Louis' second son, Charles, who at 29 was a labourer and a head of household. Following his name is that of 28 year old Mary, who was born in Quebec. She must be Charles' wife. Four girls all under six, make up the rest of this household.

On 22 November 1872, lot 36 was under Crown Patent and by February 28, 1873 William Tout owned it. Apparently, the Bellemores and the other French-Canadian families moved away from our area and the French Settlement was forgotten.

Bruce Beach Kilties (*Frances Stewart - 2008*)

This year marks 100 years of the Kincardine Scottish Pipe Band and there are many events in 2008 to mark this centenary. The band was started by William Young, a Kincardine barber, in 1908 and the following year, it first preformed on the streets of Kincardine with five pipers, four drummers and a drum major, wearing the McKenzie tartan. To commemorate this anniversary, this year's historic note is on Bruce Beach connections to the band.

Generations of Bruce Beachers have headed into town on Saturday nights to follow the band down the main street and back again to Victoria Park for a concert. Basil McCarthy (see below) has written that the idea for a parade down the main street originated during WWII when band members began playing on corners to raise money by a can and a sign which read "Buy smokes for the boys overseas". The parade became institutionalized in 1948. But these original parades involved only the band members marching up and down the road while local policemen stopped all traffic on the only north south highway along the lake shore. Both David Wilson (12A) and Mary Savage (64) independently recounted to me that it was children from Bruce Beach who started the tradition of marching behind the band in the early 50s. A photo in Ian MacEachern's 1983 *A History of Bruce Beach* supports this, showing a preteen Dawn MacEachern (then 32) and Liz and Carol Finlayson (then 39) walking immediately behind the drummers.

Some of this cohort never gave up following the band and now people of all ages, some with family members on their shoulders, join the parade.

But some Beachers have done more than merely walk behind or watch the band from the sidewalks; many have joined it or been welcomed as guest drummers and pipers when they are vacationing here. For the record, these kilties are named here. If you know of any others, please send me their names so they can be added to a list which will be filed in our archives. My apologies if I have overlooked anyone.

Our most high-ranking Bruce Beach bagpiper, and rank is very important in a pipe band, is Watson Morris (165). Around 1980, Watson started taking lessons from the then Kincardine Pipe Major Henry Lamont. A few years after joining the band, Watson served as its Pipe Major in 1992-1993.

Our most distinguished family in terms of numbers is the Wilson clan. Ian Wilson (2A/11A) played the pipes with the band at least as early as 1956 and his nephew, David (12A), like Watson, took lessons from Henry Lamont in 1983 and is now one of the longest standing members of the band. As well, David has been instrumental in the origin "Band Room" in the Walker House. Later, Sharon Wilson, David's wife, took up the tenor drum and since 2002, she too has marched up and down Queen Street on Saturday nights.

We have many other contributors to this Saturday night ritual. Both the Roulston twins (45), with Peter on the pipes and Philip on the drums, played with the band. Our association past-president, Bob Cunningham (109) has marched with the band as have John Goodenow (53), Bob Jamieson (74), George Johnston (17A), Bob McFarlane (148 Gordon St.), David Marshall (138 Gordon St.), Jim Murray (62), Amy Sled (159), and Graeme Henderson (124 Gordon St.). Stretching things only slightly, we can add Leslie Ray. She spent her summers at Bruce Beach where her parents rented cottage number 5 for about 35 years and she continues to live in the area and to play with the band.

In addition to helping to make the music, a few Beachers have danced the Highland fling in full dress to the pipes in Victoria Park. Peggy and Kathy Goodenow (53) come to mind in this regard.

The inclusion of Beachers in this Kincardine tradition has often been reciprocated by Kincardine band members. They have performing both formally and informally at many beach functions, including: the Bruce Beach BBQ, Canada Day parties, chivarees, milestone birthdays, and dedications at the golf course and groves functions, and at weddings. In addition, Beachers have enjoyed, or endured depending on your taste, many informal solo and small group concerts with pipers and drummers playing along the beach or on the road behind the cottages. These unscheduled musical interludes are provided by both Beachers and band members from the surrounding areas.

It is to be hoped that the good relations and good times engendered by the Kincardine Scottish Pipe Band and its Bruce Beach connections will continue for the next 100 years.

Those wishing to learn more about the band and to see some very interesting historic photographs could read former Pipe Major Basil McCarthy's commemorative volume, *The Kincardine Scottish Pipe Band: The First Century*, published in 2007.

The Tout Family (*Frances Stewart - 2007*)

Many of us know about the McCosh family and how helpful they were to Bruce Beachers but, in general, we know less about other pioneering farming families in the area. For this reason, this year's note is on the Tout family who farmed the land currently owned by the Collins, immediately above our Church yard and beyond. Conversations with Grant Collins, old newspaper clippings and reunion publications in the Ripley Library, and primary documents in the Bruce County Archives, Southampton, yielded information on the Tout Family.

The earliest date I could find for any Touts in the area was in the *Directory of the County of Bruce, Canada West*, published in 1867, which records William Tout (b.1839-d.1919) on Concession A, Lot 36. This date is supported by Census records. No Touts were included in the 1861 census but by 1871, William, his wife Mary (née Walsh) and six children are listed. William is described as a farmer and a Methodist, who was born in England whereas Mary was born in Ontario in 1839 too but of Irish origin. Their first house was built below the hill when the only road ran along the lakeshore, but they farmed above the hill as well and that is where they built their barns.

Mary and William had nine children. Of these, Stephen (1873-1939), Ellen (1875-1952), and Francis (1878-1948), known as Frank, are the most interesting to us because Stephen and Ellen remained on the homestead and Frank settled just south of it. The first house on this southern property was built on the hill terrace, south of the second green of the Bruce Beach Golf Course. Later, the beautiful cobblestone house now belonging to Eugene Schweitzer (#14A) was built above the hill. William Tout bought this land, Lot 31, from Alex McCosh in 1907 and then Frank obtained it from his father in 1912. Stephen never married and neither did Ellen who "kept house for him" in the new yellow brick house which Grant and Carol Collins now occupy. Stephen paid \$1.00 for this house to his siblings, George and Charles, as the executors of their father's will, with the proviso that he reserves one bedroom for Ellen.

Over the years, Steve aided the first Bruce Beachers in many ways. He marked the lots claimed by some by constructing their cellars and he built the cobblestone fireplaces still in use in some cottages. Before there were horse-drawn deliveries from town, Steve sold basic commodities to the summer residents. My mother, then Eleanor Sedgewick, (#34), remembered walking up a path on the hill regularly to get milk, butter and eggs and sometimes fruits and vegetables. Cottagers' mail could be delivered to his address too. The first beach tennis courts were constructed on Steve's property below the hill, known as "the Flats" (now our church yard), where the clay was exposed by the grazing of his sheep. Stephen farmed here until his death in December 1939. In 1941, Stephen's executors and his sister Ellen sold 14 and 9/10 acres of the "Flats" in Lots 35 and 36 to Donald McKerroll, Richard Davidson, and Norman MacEachern for \$1500 and thus, the seeds of Touts Grove were planted.

Frank is of significance to us too, not only because he farmed in the immediate vicinity of the beach but also because he and his wife, Matilda Smith, had one child named Wm. Robert Leonard (1909-1976), who was known as Leonard, who farmed just north of the Tout's Hill Road. In 1942, Ellen sold 7.9 acres of the old family farm to Leonard and his wife Mary Farrell. Seven days later, they sold this same parcel of land to Sidney W. Huff Jr. and Beatrice Clark. These transactions created space for the baseball diamond which is a very significant spot in Bruce Beach life.

Kincardine Cemetery records show that William, Mary, and their children, except a daughter who died young, are interred there as is Leonard. However, searching the graveyard on a suitably stormy,

November weekend did not result in the location of their plots. Perhaps on a nicer day, I will find them or perhaps they have no markers. But there is a memorial plaque to Stephen on the altar in our church yard. This will help us to remember this pioneering family and their generosity towards our grandparents/parents, their direct and indirect contributions to sports at Bruce Beach and to the church, and for their having erected three beautiful houses for us to admire on Lake Range Road.

The First Bruce Beach Sunset Watchers (*Frances Stewart - 2006*)

I am pretender to this role of Bruce Beach historian. As many of you know, I am really an archaeologist. I do use historical records, whenever possible, to flesh out the information provided by the archaeological remains, but for this year's subject such written records do not exist. That is because my topic is the first people living in southern Ontario, particularly along the shores of what is now Lake Huron. They are known only by their stone tools, quarries sites, and the soil stains where they once camped.

The first people to watch our famous sunsets did so around 11,000 years ago (BP). But they did not do this from our beach. Our current beach was covered with lake water which extended up and over the top of the hill. Thus, the first peoples to enjoy the sunsets were looking at them from on top of the hill, several kilometers inland from the present shoreline. Furthermore, at that time, the sun set into a large glacial lake named Lake Algonquin.

Lake Algonquin was formed of icy melt waters from the last major glaciation. Between 13,000 and 12,000 BP, glacial ice covered most of Ontario, much of Northern Michigan and part of northeastern Wisconsin. By around 11,500 BP, the Lake Huron basin was ice free and the lake water level was at its highest. With land exposed, with the Huron basin filled with water, and with the streams and rivers beginning to erode their routes to the lake, the scene was set for the first human inhabitants.

Unlike Bob McCosh's "white Indians" from Ripley and beyond, these first people were not attracted to the area because of its beautiful beach. They were in a very different environment – one that was like the present-day tundra and northern coniferous forests. The climate was both much cooler and moisture than today. Along the shores of Lake Algonquin, there was a narrow strip of tundra with some grasslands and further inland, forests of spruce and fir were spreading up from the south as temperatures warmed and the ice retreated ever farther northward. Animals living in these environments were very different from those we see here now. The first humans here encountered and hunted: mammoths, mastodons, giant beavers (six feet long!) elk, and barren-ground caribou. Several species of whales and even walrus swam in the glacial lakes. Some whales were still in the waters of the Lake Huron basin until about 8000 BP but by then, the mammoths, mastodons and giant beavers were disappearing whereas deer were moving up into the forests where pine trees were increasing in number. Birds typical of northern climes would have been seen flying over the lake. As the routes of the rivers became stabilized, more species of fish entered the lake.

The first people were few in number. They were very mobile and therefore carried very few material possessions with them. They would have moved their shelters frequently, following the game and ripening vegetation which sustained them. As a result, they have left very few traces of their activities.

Archaeologists call these first people Paleo-Indians and date their culture from about 11,500 to 9,500 BP. The early Paleo-Indians are the big game hunters believed to have migrated across the Bering Strait into

North America. Stone tools and sites made by their descendents, termed “late Paleo-Indians”, are the earliest bits of evidence found in Ontario. North of us, on Manitoulin Island, there is a large quarry site, dating back to about 10,000 years ago. There, with rudimentary stone tools, people extracted chunks of quartzite which they skillfully flaked into beautiful spear and dart heads to hunt the large game animals in the region. Examples of their points have been found in fields across southern Ontario. South of Grand Bend and inland from the present shoreline, there are several Paleo-Indian sites of the same age. At one of these, a small group of families camped in a rough circle around a common working area, for a short time. Also, near Grand Bend, at Kettle Point, there is an outcropping of chert which these later Paleo-Indians mined for raw material for making their stone tools. Tools made of Kettle Point chert have been found as far away as Collingwood. Some of the excavated sites are concentrations of flakes and a few broken tools where a group of people stopped to fashion their implements and probably to watch for migrating caribou or other game.

Thus, although their remains are few and very scattered, we do know that Paleo-Indians lived along the Lake Algonquin/Huron shore. Like many of us do each year, they traveled long distances with the changing seasons. They moved from the Collingwood area, past Bruce Beach, to south of Grand Bend. But unlike us, it is thought that they were in our region primarily in the winter months, when they moved away from the Georgian Bay snow belt. To date, no evidence of these early people has been unearthed immediately inland from Bruce Beach. There probably are some remains buried nearby and maybe one of us will be lucky enough to discover an ancient Indian point one day.

For those interested in learning more about these first sunset watchers and how archaeologists go about finding, excavating, and interpreting the archeological evidence of the Paleo-Indians, I recommend Peter L. Storck’s popular book, *Journey to the Ice Age*, published in 2004 by the ROM and UBC Press.

Andrew G. Wilson Sr. – Bruce Beach Historian from 1986 to 2004 (*Frances Stewart - 2005*)

Last summer Andy Wilson invited me to his cottage (#7a) for cocktails and the transfer of Dr. MacKenzie’s megaphone. It is now hanging over the front door in my cottage (#34) just as the task of preparing my first historical note has been hanging over me. Dr. Andrew Wilson Sr.’s contributions as the Bruce Beach Historian since 1986 are the topic of my inaugural presentation. In addition to honouring Andy, my intent is to show how his notes reveal a continuity of issues throughout our history. Two themes emerge. One is respect for the physical setting of Bruce Beach. The other is admiration for the people who have inhabited this environment, both Bruce Beachers and the neighbouring farmers.

For his first historical surveys, Andy relied heavily on a *Souvenir History of Bruce Beach* by Rev. W.A. Bradley, the first Bruce Beach historian. Andy summarized information from Bradley’s interesting account on the 1910 formation of the Bruce Beach Campers Association and reprinted the earliest, extant Constitution of the Bruce Beach Association. Interestingly, except for the “care of stables and outhouses” our “Purposes” remain the same as those listed in 1915. We continue to be concerned with new buildings on the beach, garbage disposal, year-round protection of our properties, good relations with permanent residents, preservation of a quiet life, promotion of health and recreation, and church services. In 1987, Andy outlined early responses to “property rights and responsibilities”. He recounted a concern of Bruce Beachers in the 1930s and 40s to take responsibility for maintaining the beauty of this special place themselves. Discussions with officials on issues such as sanitation, roads and incorporation formed the basis for Andy’s 1988 article. In these notes, the reader senses Andy’s great appreciation for

the efforts of our forebearers to preserve the local setting, even individual trees. Andy appended a list of the Past Presidents to his first submission and, likewise, a list of Presidents since 1985 follows this one.

Andy emphasized the environment in the following two years when he wrote about the oscillations in lake levels as a natural and recurring phenomenon, and urged care with bonfires to avoid harm to bare feet and cottages, both while the fires are being enjoyed and when they are extinguished. This is still important. He also correctly predicted that our becoming landowners, as opposed to squatting like Bob McCosh Sr.'s "White Indians" or leasing as was done for more than a generation, would greatly increase the monetary value of our lots and change ownership patterns. We have witnessed both these things since 1980 when individuals could buy beach property. While affording greater security, this privatization has resulted in increased alterations to the natural environment with more gardening and with barriers being planted or constructed along property lines. The old path immediately behind the cottages that followed the route of the even older Goderich Road has disappeared. Ownership has fostered more renovations, grander cottages, and increasing year-round occupations. The original "White Indians" were not wealthy people nor were the numerous Reverends who soon joined them. The inflated values of their original lots could force some of their descendants to sell the family cottage. Countering these threats to our interconnectness are the jointly owned grove properties behind the cottages and our tradition of working, playing sports, and socializing together.

Andy praised not only our ancestors but also living "movers and shakers". In 1991, he paid tribute to Carole Apsey (#157) for her *Historical Analysis: Bruce Beach – A Glance Back*. He also congratulated Mary Anne Maxwell Reid (# 28), who with her pleasant personality and clever mind was able to devise a cottage numbering and road naming system for the beach to comply with township regulations. In 1992, Andy lauded the generous spirit of the Clark-Huff family. Their ball diamond has been the setting for such good sport. Remembering George Fallis (#10a), as catcher, complaining about Sid Huff's (#51) calls, as umpire, raises a smile as does thinking of my father, Bill Stewart (#34) still playing when others had to run the bases for him. Similarly, after writing about the 1994 Centennial activities (1993 and 1994), water controversies (1995), and the quiet summer of 1995 (1996), Andy informed us about Eugene Schweitzer's (#14a) induction into Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame as well as his contributions to the beach (1997). Clearly, generosity has been an attribute of Bruce Beachers throughout our history.

Over the next six years, Andy's vignettes included various activities and environmental issues, such as the first tennis courts (1998) and the role of religion and the clergy on the beach (2000). In 1999, he combined his themes in his comments on the formation and the value of the Bruce Beach Association in protecting our environment and in supporting social activities. In 2001, low water levels resulted in exposed rocks and Andy gave us the names and locations of Gourlay's rock and McKerroll's rock. Are there more almost forgotten names of places or things that we should record in the Yearbook? In 2003, Andy explained seiches.

Last year, Andy returned to Dr. Bradley and his recording of the early history of Bruce Beach. I echo Andy's praise of Dr. Bradley. Thanks are also due to Andy for his interesting Yearbook entries, and particularly, for his emphasizing the importance of protecting our environment and the social aspects of our cottage culture. Many thanks, Andy.

Bruce Beach Cottagers Association Presidents Since 1985

1986-1987 John Kennedy, No. 8

1988-1989	Don Moffatt, No. 102
1990-1991	MaryAnne Reid, No. 28
1992-1993	Burt Matthews, No. 33
1994-1995	Dick Huff, No. 51
1996-1997	Ann Lichtenberg, No. 171
1998-1999	Pat McFarlane, No. 16a or 148 Gordon St.
2000-2001	Ross Klopp, No. 35
2002-2003	Don Cass, No. 18
2004-2005	Bob Cunningham, No. 109

In 1986, Andy noted that there had been only one female president since 1910. As you can see, things have improved somewhat with three female presidents between 1986 and now.