

THE SUMMERSIDE GUARDIAN

and PRINCE COUNTY CHRONICLE

Town Council Celebrates Sixtieth Anniversary

A Memorable Event In The History Of Prince County Capital

Historic Incidents Reviewed In Anniversary Address Last Night By Mr. A. Sterling MacKay.

Over a half century of progress and achievement in municipal affairs were brought vividly before citizens of the Prince County Capital last night in an address by Mr. Sterling MacKay at a memorable meeting of the Summerside Town Council, the occasion being the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the Council's first meeting.

Mr. MacKay spoke as follows: Your Worship, Fellow Members Town Council and Citizens of Summerside.

On the 2nd of October 1875, the Wardens of this Town met for the first time and selected the late David Rogers, a prominent business man for their chairman and on the 11th of the same month a second meeting was held and William B. Ramsay, the father of our illustrious writer the late Mrs. Nell MacLeod was appointed Clerk. The following names appear as Wardens on that occasion—David Rogers, Chairman, John Gaffney, Thomas Crabbe, R. McC. Staver, John R. Calhoun. And although they have all passed beyond the Great Divide, the immortality of their influence lives on.

An Interesting Past

The early history of the town contains many interesting items of adventure and achievement and while Summerside has a future, it also has an interesting past.

The land on which this town is built belongs to Daniel Green, a Loyalist, who obtained the grant from Governor Fanning in 1795. Tare's Directory, published almost sixty years ago, states that ship building was begun here as early as 1818 and was carried on by the sons of the late Daniel Green, the earliest English speaking settler of whom there is any record. Although local traditions would lead the writer to believe that the Linkletter and another Loyalist family, arrived here about 1785 and located the present ice pond is located and the following year removed to Lot 11, where there was a small English settlement and a little later they received a grant of land from George III. out along the shore in the Linkletter settlement, where the worthy descendants remain until this day as faithful tillers of the soil. The same Directory states that the first place of business was opened in 1833 by Peter DeBrisay of Charlottetown, in a building belonging to Daniel Green, Junior, and that ship-building was the leading industry.

At first the place was known as Green's Shore, then Green's Wharf and then simply as The Wharf and since that time as Summerside. The story told now the latter name is associated with the town is that one year when spring was near but yet the cold, northerly winds were blowing, a resident from the northern slope of Richmond Bay where the icy blasts were still blowing came over to the south side and finding the temperature more mild, owing to the heat of the sun which was now climbing he exclaimed to the first person he met at The Wharf "Why you have summer side here."

It is affirmed that this remark to old Joseph Green and the latter was so taken with it that he had the name placed over the door of his inn.

Patrick Power was the first post master of Summerside and tradition states that he it was who was

RESERVE TUESDAY.

Oct. 29th, for hot chicken dinner. Central Bedeque hall, by ladies Baptist Church. Supper 4 to 8. L-2084

DON'T FORGET

the Chicken Supper in Basement of the United Church, Kensington, Wednesday, October 23rd. L-2070-10-22-11

CARD PARTY.

The C. Y. M. L. A. auction forty five card parties are increasing steadily in popularity. Last Friday night's attendance surpassed any night up to date. The prize winners were: Ladies: Misses Mrs. Fred Richard, ladies consolation, Mrs. Amos Cormier; men's first, Elmer Pineau; men's consolation, Bennie Grady; freeze-out, Ben Richards.

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instrumental in having the name of the place changed from "The Wharf" to Summerside, by requesting the postal authorities in Charlottetown to mark the mail bags for here "Summerside" and led the way by despatching his mail "per Summerside." The first post office was in a small building on the north side of Water street, a short distance to the west of the Clifton House and the people received their mail through a wicket in the window paying 1s for each letter, while standing on the street. Power was succeeded by Thomas Crabbe as post master and in 1871 Harry C. Green was appointed post master and the Union Bank Building, next door to the Clifton House was the post office, until it was burnt in 1878. The office was then removed to the site now occupied by Mr. Harry P. Lee's shop and the next move was to the present brick structure, situated in one of the nicest parts of the town. Mr. Green was succeeded by Richard Hunt, one of the untiring workers in everything that was of interest in Summerside, and for many years the honored chairman of the Town Council. He was succeeded by his son, the late lamented Louis B. Hunt, one of the most efficient and obliging officials and on his death Arthur Allen, the present popular post master was appointed.

Shipping Activities

On the completion of Queen's Wharf in 1840, the importance of Summerside as a shipping port was recognized and the carrying trade between Summerside and the mainland was begun by Captain Simpson of P. de Chene with a small packet called the "Dolphin", making occasional trips and taking passengers and produce from time to time. After the "Dolphin" was wrecked a line of sailing packets was established by James and George Walsh with the 45 ton sailing vessel called the "Oregon" in 1841. Summerside and Shediac. The first steamer to enter the harbor and dock at the new Queen's Wharf was the "Saint George" in 1842 from Charlottetown and in the early 50's the "Westmoreland" was placed on this route.

Mr. Birch Bayster in his book "Progress and Prospects of Prince Edward Island" states that in 1866 there were 55 vessels inwards at Bedeque and 65 cleared out; in 1870 there were 1,000 and exports over \$9,000. He further states that "the fixed light seen here near seven miles away, is a lantern on a pole, at Summerside wharf" This was the first mention of anything in the way of a light-house and would go to show that the spirit of improvement had steadily worked its way along.

Shipbuilding on a large scale was begun by the Hon. J. C. Pope in 1851 at Summerside and the first barque built by him was named "The Paxton" and the launching of this barque was the occasion of bringing together the largest number of people that had ever assembled in town and in a real sense Mr. Pope was the pioneer founder of Summerside. He was not only a great statesman but was one of the adventurous spirits who sailed on the brig "Fanny" around Cape Horn when the gold fever was raging, in search of gold and after his return from this trip he located for several years in this town and was one of its most prominent citizens. Ship building grew rapidly and by 1860 as many as 19 large vessels were on the stocks at one time, along the waterfront in Summerside and the booms of these ships extended across Water street in these days. Some of the large ship builders were J. C. Pope, William Richards, John Lefurgey, Angus MacMillan, John and Hugh Ramsay, and J. R. Calhoun. The last barque launched in Summerside was a large one built for Captain William Richards by Mr. John Ramsay in 1868 called the "Swordfish."

The Customs House

The Customs House was originally established at Bedeque and removed to Summerside in 1853 and the same year a steamer began to make weekly trips between here and Shediac and a few years later two trip per week and at a later date, daily communication was established between Summerside and the mainland and one of the most important items of export was oysters.

In 1857 William Hurd of Charlottetown received the contract for carrying the mail with the "Rosebud" and in 1864 the steam navigation company was organized and placed on this route, a side-paddle boat called the "St. Lawrence," followed in turn by the "Princess,"

so little that required their attention. On Tuesday evening, the Grand Jury was discharged, the Court was adjourned to meet in the new Court House at Summerside and was officially opened on Wednesday morning June 21st., 1876.

First Public School

The Western District School was the first public school, built in 1863. The first teacher was Miss Stewart. The grammar school was opened in 1863, on the corner where Captain Allen's residence now stands. The first teacher was William Monk, a graduate of Glasgow University, Scotland. The Island's famous historian and statesman, the Hon. A. B. Warburton, was a graduate of this school, and John L. McKinnon, founder of the Pioneer, was another.

Early Mercantile History

The first store built along Water Street was owned by William Taylor of Dorchester. New Brunswick and Andrew Baker of Bedeque and was located where Harding's Garage now stands. This firm carried on business for a few years but being overstocked with black made an assignment to Black Brothers of Halifax.

consisting of 24 members, met there for a banquet that year and the motto over the dining room table was "The Pen is Mightier Than the Sword" and 46 years ago the weekly press association was founded for their annual meeting, when they were royally entertained in the Agricultural Hall. The Pioneer's report of the burning of this hotel, December 4th, 1904, is as follows:

"With a distinct feeling of sadness and personal loss, the citizens last Wednesday evening watched that old and almost historic landmark, the Island Park Hotel, go up in flames and smoke. Fire caught, it is supposed, either from a defective flue or from an overheated stove in the caretaker's quarters in the old cell. Always a veritable beauty spot, the last scene was truly beautiful, the citizens will long remember their last glimpse of the old hotel as the flames lit up the surrounding grove, the harbor, the town and miles of surrounding country."

The first house erected within the confines of the town was the Green residence near the present high school and the second the Read home, built by the late Joseph Green and now occupied as the Nurses Home.

The earliest paper published in the town was the "Bullfrog" under the editorship of two local merchants. "The Summerside Journal" was established in 1865 by Joseph Bertram and in 1872 George S. Brennan became the owners. On the death of McMurty in 1875, W. A. Brennan secured a half interest in the company and in 1880 became sole owner and on his death in 1910, his son A. R. Brennan succeeded him. The Summerside "Progress" was started in 1896 by Thomas Kinwin of Tryon and for three years was ably edited by him, when he left to join the staff of the Boston Herald and the paper passed to the hands of Mr. Henry Lawson, then to Thomas P. Gorman and finally was amalgamated with the "Journal."

"Northumberland" and "Empress" and this splendid service continued until the car ferry was put on between Port Borden and Cape Tormentine.

In 1870 Mr. J. C. Pope was returned by the Bedeque District and became the head of the Coalition government. Later he visited Ottawa with Messrs. Eavil's and Howland and obtained from the Dominion what is known as "The Better Terms" in connection with the Island's union. He was the first federal representative for Prince County and afterwards held the important portfolio of Minister of Marine and Fisheries for Canada.

The most historic building in town is the Kirk Church in the eastern section of the town. It is the Joseph Pope home, built at Bedeque in 1818 and was the birthplace of J. C. and Thomas Pope, the latter who was the most intimate friend of Newman at Oxford (who was afterwards the beloved Cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church) and author of the immortal hymn "Lead Kindly Light" which is sung in every church the world over.

It is my intention to introduce a resolution requesting that we name the new street north of the Summerside Academy "Pope Street" after the noted statesman, the late Hon. J. C. Pope. The former extension of Beaver Street, which was closed to provide room for the new school was given in lieu of the street shown on the original plan of Summerside as "Pope Street." Water Street and Central Street were surveyed in 1852 by Alexander Anderson and the old leases give the name of Water street as Broadway. Great advances have been made from the early days as the "Islander" of 1866 has the following report:

"The important Town of Summerside is now nearly submerged. Its streets are knee deep in mud and there is every prospect that the local doctors will do a good business, with no provision for drainage, and stagnant waters in the cellars."

While the writer well remembers in the 80's when a well known Baptist Deacon a school mate of Sir Charles Tupper, was driving into town and greeted his own pastor with a cordial "good morning and its a nice day overhead." The worthy pastor, who was a witty Irishman replied—"Yes, Deacon, but there are not many of us going that way" and at that time the mud on the streets was up to the top of the travellers' boots, and now we have the joy of modern streets with perfect drainage. What an advance and how much we have to be grateful for.

First Street Lighting

The first move made for lighting streets was at a wardens' meeting November 13th, 1876, when it was agreed to place a lamp in front of the police station and furnish oil for one in front of Gourlie's Drug Store, the owner furnishing the lamp and equipment and until 1894 the method of lighting the streets was with oil lamps on posts and the only recreation furnished the policemen was an umbrella, can of oil and a rope ladder to reach up to the top of the post so that the lamps could be lighted and the umbrella was used if there was a gale of wind, to prevent the lamps from being blown out until the door of the lamp case was closed. However, on Thursday, October 22th, 1894 an electric light company was organized with Mr. T. B. Grady as the efficient president and manager and at an early date many of the streets were lighted by electricity, but this town had to advance and in 1920 they purchased the plant of the electric light company and the present electric lines owned by the town and there is no department giving more satisfactory returns. The streets and parks are well lighted.

In 1875 the railroad was opened and this was another milestone in the development of Summerside and as a result St. Eleanors, which was the County seat, gradually began to wane and the business houses removed from there to Summerside and on the completion of the new Court House in Summerside in 1875 at a cost of \$35,000 the last important link was snapped between the old County Seat and the Town of Summerside. The Supreme Court met for its last session in St. Eleanors on Tuesday, June 20th 1876. The Grand Jury was composed of the following gentlemen:

Hon. Wm. G. Strong, foreman, Murdoch MacKinnon, Alexander Howat, Douglas S. MacNutt, John D. Reid, Donald Taylor, F. W. Strong, James Brazil, James Ramsay, Arthur Irving, Alexander Hooper, Albert Craig, Charles MacNeill, James A. Sharp, James Barclay, George Clark, Joseph MacIn, re, Artermas Hooper.

In addressing the Grand Jury, His Lordship said it was a matter of regret that the names of the members of the Grand Jury were not recorded in the minutes of the proceedings.

THANKSGIVING COST-U-LESS GROCERIES



We ordered these specials expressly for this great occasion. You Save Money on All You Buy. May Your Thanksgiving Dinner be the "Best on Record."

SPECIALS for TUE. & WED. Only

- Carrots LB. 2c
- Turnips LB. 1c
- Lettuce HEAD 22c
- Parsnips LB. 3c
- Cabbages LB. 3c
- Celery Bunch 19c

White Sugar 10 LBS. 53c

DAIRY "Choice Quality" BUTTER 1 LB. PRINT 20c

RADIO Peas Size 2 TIN 2 for 23c

- DUCKS
- CHICKENS
- GEESE
- FOWL
- LIBBY'S 14-1-4 ozs. net Tomato Juice 2 TINS 17c
- Fresh Beef 1 LB. Tall Tin 17c
- ASSORTED REG. Chocolates 30c LB. 19c
- SUMMER SAVORY EXTRA SPECIAL 5c

HOLMAN'S SUMMERSIDE

The firm of R. T. Holman Ltd. was founded by the late R. T. Holman in 1857 in a small building about 15 x 20 on the north side of Water Street where the James A. McNeill & Son building now stands and business was continued there until 1896, when the present brick block was completed and in 1917 another section was added giving a total frontage on Water Street of 270 ft. This important business has now developed into the large departmental store of R. T. Holman Limited with branches at Charlottetown and Montague, and conducted efficiently with Harry T. Holman as President.

F. W. Strong Limited was established in 1873 as a branch of the Central Bedeque business and was carried on by the late Frederick W.

The Western Guardian

This column is reserved for news of local interest but advertising of a novel nature may be inserted at 2 cents a word strictly payable in advance.

MEAT GRINDERS and extra parts in stock at Brace's. L-1857-10-18-21.

HEAVY DUTY new stock auto and radio storage batteries, just received at Brace's. L-1857-10-18-21.

THE DENTAL OFFICES of Prince County will continue to close on Wednesday afternoon up to December 1st. L-1048-10-1-91

BUILD YOURSELF UP with our Cod Liver Oil. Taylor Drug Co., Kensington. 21-61.

REGULAR MEETING of K. of C. Tuesday night, Oct. 22nd, at 8.15. L-2089

EXCHANGED PULPITS—Ven Archdeacon, C. de W. White, D.D., rector of St. Mary's and St. John's Churches, exchanged pulpits with Rev. Mr. Bridgewater of the Anglican Church, Crapaud, on Sunday. S.

RETURNED TO WEST PRINCE—Miss Freda Bowness and Mr. Calvin Bowness returned to West Prince after spending the fall vacation with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. George A. Bowness, Summerside. S.

POLICE COURT—One drunk had his bail of \$10.00 estreated when he did not appear in the Summerside Police Court on Monday morning. S.

ANNUAL MEETING of the North Shore Hockey League will be held in the Town Hall, Kensington, Friday, Oct. 25, 1935 at 8 p.m. W. L. Delaney, Secretary. L-2091

TURKEY SHOOT in the Kensington rink Wednesday, Oct. 23, at 8 p.m. Also indoor circus. Door prize a 50 lb. bag of sugar given to the lucky ticket holder. Admission 10c. L-2090

S. S. GASPESIA—The S. S. Gaspesia sailed early Monday morning from Summerside carrying a full cargo of potatoes for the Montreal market. She made her usual fortnightly call arriving Sunday bringing a miscellaneous cargo. There were four passengers on the trip. S.

RETURNED HOME—Mrs. L. E. Dunsfield and her daughter, who were brought to the Prince County Hospital on Sunday suffering slight injuries received when their automobile and another car collided near Springfield, were able to return to their home in Tryon on Monday afternoon. Although severely shaken up their injuries were not serious. S.

VISITED SUMMERSIDE—Mr. Wm. Wade of Rockland, Mass., visited Summerside on Saturday in company with Mr. Messervy, City Engineer of Charlottetown. Mr. Wade was very much impressed with the town and remarked upon the well kept lawns and gardens and the number of paved streets. S.

PERSONALS

Miss Addie McMurdo, Kelvin, who has been visiting her sister, Mrs. McNeill of Saskatchewan, returned home recently.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hogg of Wilnot Valley, Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Clark, North Bedeque, have returned from an enjoyable tour of Nova Scotia. During their visit they attended the Halifax Exhibition. S.

Miss Dorothy Hogg, Wilnot Valley, was a recent visitor to Charlottetown. S.

Friends will be pleased to learn that Miss Eunice MacCarville, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ollie MacCarville, Free town, is making a good recovery from her recent operation. S.

Patients in the Prince County Hospital are Daniel Bernard, Richmond; Jack Arsenault, Kinkora; Mrs. Frank C. Gallant, Howland; Miss Alice Maddicks, Wellington; Mrs. Humphrey Oulton, O'Leary; Ernest Mollison and Master Ralph Burns, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Burns, Free town. S.

Keeping pace with commercial progress in Kensington, Messrs M. P. Schurman and Co. have Mr. Russell Champlin, architect busy fitting a new surface of moulded finish on their stock rooms and office in Kensington. This is another evidence of industrial progress in this ambitious town. When completed and daintily touched with paint, the whole plant will display a scene similar to that across the street operated by Messrs. J. W. Warren & Co.

SUNGLO
Fall-Furring Ration and Summer