

Dipping into the past...

150 YEARS AGO

Thursday, November 3, 1864

From The Sun, Orangeville, compliments of Dufferin County Museum and Archives:

A meeting of our townspeople favorable to the organization of a Curling and Skating Club, was held at Bell's Hall, on Monday evening last, when the necessary steps were taken to organize a Club, and a Committee appointed to take up subscriptions to construct a rink. We understand that a liberal sum has already been subscribed, and that the rink will be constructed in a few days.

Orangeville has at length acquired that most desirable and necessary acquisitions to any village, town or city a barber shop long flowing locks, and luxuriant beards have disappeared in our midst like snow before a southern breeze. Mr. Jones is taken over for Mr. Smith, though 20 years his senior, and the belles nod to and wink Mr. Brown, who has reached his two score years and ten, as they used to do at Mr. Robinson.

THE TRAMWAY COMMENCED: We are rejoiced to learn that the Tram Survey has at length been commenced, and that a few weeks more will determine the practicability of this great project.

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. The New York Herald's correspondent writing on the 25th, says: Our men are enjoying a respite after the late battle in the Shenandoah Valley.

125 YEARS AGO

Thursday, November 7, 1864

The trial of Henry Atkinson, charged with the murder of James Scott in Mono on the morning of last May 20, was commenced last Wednesday morning before Mr. Justice Falconbridge. Mr. J. K. Kerr, Q.C., represented the Crown and the prisoner was defended by Mr. Elgin Myers and Mr. W. L. Walsh. Great public interest was excited over the trial, partly in consequence of the happy immunity from crimes of so serious a nature with which this county has been so long blessed, and partly because of the fact that the prisoner is a man of standing in the community and a man of substance. There was but little trouble experienced in getting a jury, the Crown merely asking the jurors called from Mono to stand aside, and the defence peremptorily challenging four. Mr. Kerr opened the case to the jury by concisely stating the facts which he intended to prove before them.

The Markles, father and son, were the main witnesses for the prosecution. Evidence was also given by Dr. Carbert and Dr. Henry, the medical attendants of the deceased, who afterwards held a post-mortem examination.

The defence called quite a large number of witnesses. The evidence of Carson, the companion of Atkinson on the day of unfortunate fishing excursion, was not shaken in the long and searching cross-examination to which he was subjected by Mr. Kerr. Witnesses were called to show that the evidence given by the Markles was not to be replied upon. In reply the Crown called evidence to show that the deceased was of a quiet and inoffensive disposition, and recalled the Markles to clear up some portions of the evidence that had been damaged by witnesses for the defence. Counsel then addressed the jury. It was strongly urged on behalf of the prisoner that he had acted in self-defense.

The next morning, His Lordship reviewed the evidence concisely and clearly explained the law relating to murder and manslaughter, advising them there was no evidence to support the charge of murder. The jurors were out for only a few minutes, returning a verdict of acquittal. The prisoner was consequently discharged.

Melancthon Station: Last Thursday, Mr. James Sawden had a cow struck by a freight train going north. The cow was pasturing in a field adjoining the railway and got through a wire fence that was out of repair. Last week a neighbour had a mare valued at \$100, killed, and this week a cow valued at \$40 was injured so badly it may die. If this is the way the CPR is going to kill and destroy livestock, we would have been better off if it had never been constructed through this part of the province.

100 YEARS AGO

Thursday, November 5, 1914

Says the Dufferin Post: Good roads are essential to the profitable production of any commodity. Production must cease when transportation costs wipe out the profits. Every citizen, whether rural or urban, has an individual responsibility in good roads. The profit to the farmer is determined by the difference between the production and transportation cost of a commodity and the selling price. The value of a commodity fluctuates in proportion to the facility with which it may be carried to the place where it is in the greatest demand. The loss to the farmers of Dufferin County on account of inaccessible primary markets at certain seasons and the abnormal expense of transportation due to bad roads, must be considered one of the leading causes of the high cost of living. Good

roads socialize rural mail delivery, lessen the distance between the field and the market, lengthen the lives of the horses, increase their efficiency and encourage a higher moral life in the communities in which they are built.

? The Canadian Army of nearly 33,000 men, 7500 horses and 70 pieces of artillery, is the largest military force that ever crossed the Atlantic. Not only is it the first great force that ever went back from the New World, it is larger than any force that ever came over from Europe in war times from Great Britain or France, Spain or Holland. The first Expeditionary Force from Canada, now in England, is numerically greater than that entire British force in North America opposed to Washington in the War of Independence. The British force in that war was at its highest 30,000 men in 1775.

75 YEARS AGO

Wednesday, November 9, 1939

? The Annual Veterans' Banquet will be held in Orangeville on Monday next, under auspices of Orangeville Branch No. 233 of the Canadian Legion, to which all returned soldiers of the district are invited.

? A meeting under the auspices of the North Dufferin Branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society was held in Shelburne Town Hall Tuesday night, branch president Capt. Robert Kerr Lambert, of Horning's Mills, occupying the chair. Capt. C. C. Innes, representative of the provincial Red Cross Society, gave a talk on the wartime Red Cross work. He said the moment war is declared the Red Cross becomes a part of the Army in conjunction with the Army Medical Service Corps. With four million men in arms in France and one million in Britain, as well as the large numbers of refugees to be taken care of, the Red Cross facilities of Britain and France are taxed to the utmost, and it is up to the rest of us to come to the rescue. Our responsibility is not only to our Canadian forces, but to our allies.

50 YEARS AGO

Wednesday, November 2, 1964

? Ontario farmers shipping concentrated milk used for skim milk powder and butter, began receiving a raise of 10 cents per hundred weight for their product as of November 1. The new price is a result of an award from the Milk Industry Board of Ontario after negotiations broke down between the concentrated milk manufacturers and farm groups.

? Six cars, 25 tons of metal and a carload of coal were used to weigh down the forward end of the car ferry Norisle so its stern would ride high enough to float safely to the drydock of Collingwood Shipyards for needed repair work. Low water in the Great Lakes was the cause of the unusual operation.

10 YEARS AGO

Friday, November 5, 2004

? Orangeville Council was told Monday night that if it is willing to promote public transit, the Town could be getting up to \$130,000 from the Provincial gas tax revenues, as part of a programme to assist municipalities with transit services.

?oe Edmonds, of London, who lost his 23-year-old son Jason in a road-rage accident that also killed two other passengers and injured four others, will bring his story to Westside Secondary School on November 13. He is visiting high schools around the province in hopes that raising awareness of the awful consequence of road rage will make drivers think twice before giving vent to it.