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Township of
Tecumseth



**OFFICIAL
OPENING**



**THURSDAY
DECEMBER 13, 1951**

A Message from the Reeve . . .

The Township of Tecumseth, since its incorporation just around the century mark, has grown with Canada and the Province of Ontario and now, on the occasion of the opening of its second municipal office building, displays tangibly the progressiveness of the people.

As we look back on the history of our township, which is outlined elsewhere in this book, we realize that those who have gone before, passed on to us a heritage of which we can be justly proud. For their work and foresight, we as township officials and citizens, are sincerely grateful.

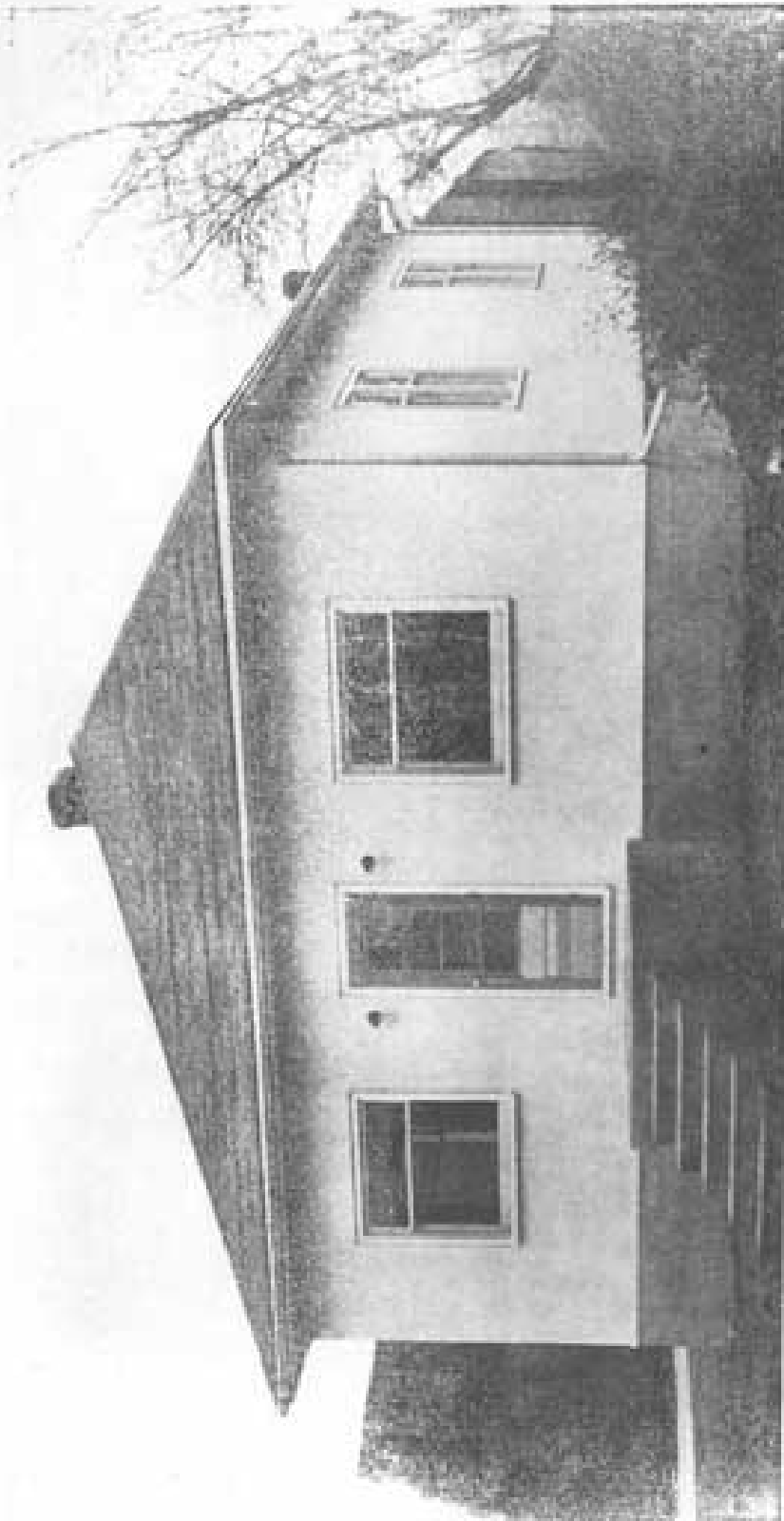
We trust the new township office will be considered by our residents as *their* building erected for *their* convenience and service. We hope too, that the new building, along with our two machine buildings, as well as being a living monument to the progress and faith of those who have served in the past, will stand as an incentive to the rising generation to take up the torch of active service in, and for, the municipality.

I am proud to have had the honour of serving as Reeve at the time the new township office was built and would feel remiss if I did not take this opportunity to say "THANK YOU" to the Council, Officials and Ratepayers, whose whole-hearted co-operation made this fine building possible.



LEONARD J. RANSOM

LEONARD J. RANSOM
Reeve



THE NEW TECUMSETH TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING, MAIN STREET, BEETON

Tecumseth Since 1819 . . .



THOS. ROBINSON
Clerk

The township secured its name from the great Indian Chief Tecumseh, who did effective service on the side of the British in the War of 1812-15. Being one of the southern townships of Simcoe County, it has West Gwillimbury on the east, Adjala on the west, Essa on the north with King and Albion to the south. In shape it is a parallelogram with sides nine and 13 miles respectively, and contains about 68,500 acres, including the villages of Beeton and Tottenham.

The instructions to Gabriel Lount, dated June 15th, 1819, for the survey of the township were elaborate, being described as a township in the rear of King and Albion. He was to measure a distance of nine miles along the northern boundary of King township to establish the south-east angle of the township he was to survey. Minute details followed these instructions as to the staking out of roads and lots. The survey was not completed until 1823, when George and Samuel Lount finished the work for their father in that year and for which they obtained patents for 2,368 acres of land.

According to the Historical Sketch in an Illustrated Atlas, the first settlers located in 1822 were Robert Martin and G. Williams in the south-west part of the township just north of the King and Albion townline. About the same time, two others settled near what is now the Village of Beeton. In 1823, James

Tegart located a couple of miles north of Martin and Williams and in the same year, George Ramsay took up lot 19, concession 8, the present home of Councillor George Lisk. Ramsay being a bachelor, did not settle on his land until 1825, when he took to his forest home his young wife and other household tools among them a small coffee mill which afterwards ground many a grist for the settlers at seasons when the Holland River could not be crossed to get to the mill at the Holland Landing. About this time three families of Walkers, the Clarks, Cerswells, Coffeys, Penfields, Fletchers, McDermotts, Semples and Hammell's had located near the centre of the township to the east. Tecumseth appears to have excelled all other townships so far as progress in settlers is concerned, the population in 1829 is given as 546 and in 1950 — 3,612.



W. E. KING
Treasurer

Unfortunately time nor space will permit reference to but a few of the early settlers who gave their time and talents for the welfare of their township and its inhabitants.

When Municipal government was first established in 1842, a Mr. Garbutt was sent to the Home District Council Meeting at Toronto, as a representative of the township. In the following year, 1843, the Simcoe District was created and John Cerswell and William Hammell were chosen to represent the township until about 1845; William Agnew and William Walker were also District Councillors as were Irwin Jared and Fred S. Stephens. These gentlemen served as District Councillors until

Township of Tecumseth

1850 when it appears that the township was represented by the Reeve and Deputy-Reeve from this time on.

In February 1858, a petition signed by Josiah B. Rogers and 120 others praying that a Town Hall be erected at Pen-ville to be paid for by the interest arising from the Clergy Reserve Fund.

It was moved by Mr. Gaviller, seconded by Mr. McGoey: "Whereas it is advisable to erect a Township Hall within this township, be it resolved and it is hereby resolved by this Council that the interest from the money invested arising from the Clergy Reserve Fund to an amount not exceeding One Hundred and Fifty Pounds, shall be applied to building a Township Hall within this township during the present year."

Tenders were accordingly called for and at the meeting in June following, 10 tenders were received ranging in price from \$450 to \$900 for the building of a Hall 45 x 40 feet with



BARRY JEBB
Reeve 1926-28 — 1931-34



NORVAL W. BRAWLEY
Reeve 1935-40

14-foot posts. The contract was awarded to Job Hughes and Levi Dennis, the lowest tender, namely \$450. The building was completed by November and an order issued for the payment of the contractors.

Mr. Isaac Stone gave a deed for the land on which the Hall was erected, which, by the way, was lost and when Mr. Stone and his wife were asked to sign another deed, his answer was yes on payment of \$50 which the Council accordingly paid.



W. A. APPERLEY
Reeve 1941-44

The first Reeve was Robt. Cross, George Dinwoody was Deputy-Reeve, and Councillors were: Fred S. Stephens, John Cerswell and Joseph McGirr. Since 1850, there have been 26 reeves: Robert Cross was reeve 1850 to 1855; Alex Gaviller, 1856 to 1857; James Manning, 1857 to 1859; William Collamhan, 1859 to 1861; Thomas Saunders, 1861 to 1863; John McManners, 1863 to 1868; William McDermott, 1868 to 1870 and again in 1874 to 1880 and still again in 1884 to 1885; George A. Nolan, 1870 to 1874 and again in 1881 to 1884; Christopher Cook, 1885 to 1886; Robert Calhoun, 1886 to 1894 and again in 1900; William Kearns, 1894 to 1896; James Banting from 1896 to 1900; Richard M. Ellison, 1901 to 1904; George Hayes, 1904 to 1908; Joseph Pierson, 1908 to 1912; Freeman G. Campbell, 1912 to June 1914; Harry W. Carter, July 1914 to 1919; Thomas Fleming, 1919 to 1921 and again in 1923 and 1924; Frank Wilcox from 1921 to 1923 and again in 1925 and in 1929 to 1931; Barry Jebb, 1926, 1927, 1928 and again in 1931 to 1934; Norval W. Brawley, 1935 to 1940; W. A. Apperley, 1941 to 1944; D. K. Harvey, 1945 to 1947; Fred Hunter, 1948 to 1949, and Leonard Ransom, 1950 and 1951.

Township of Tecumseth

Four of the above reeves have had the honor of being elected Warden of the County — Mr. McDermott in 1878; Mr. Cook in 1885; Mr. Carter in 1918, and Mr. Harvey in 1947.

In 1862, the township was formed into Five Wards or what is known as Sub-divisions and it appears that township meetings or what now is called nominations were held each year, and the candidates for councillors were named at this meeting. Votes were recorded for these candidates some days after this meeting then at the first meeting in the following January of the elected Councillors, the Reeve and Deputy-Reeves were selected by the Councillors and not by popular vote until 1868 or 1869.

The Records of the township have been well kept and neatly written by the several Clerks who have served the municipality since 1850. David Evans was clerk in 1850 to 1860; David Haldiday in 1861; Joseph Hipwell, 1862 to 1864; Henry Stone, 1865 to 1900; William Lilly, 1901 to 1926; and Thos. Robinscn, 1927 to 1952. There have also been six Treasurers: John Austin,



D. K. HARVEY
Reeve 1945-47



FRED HUNTER
Reeve 1948-49



W. E. KEARNS
Road Supervisor

Thomas Phillips, John McMannus, William McDermott, Thos. Robinson and W. E. King.

Religion and education has not been neglected, there being about 12 churches and 24 schools, eight of these formed part of Union sections with urban and rural municipalities. Tecumseth was one of the first to form a School Area and perhaps first to form the whole township into one School Area and was the first to endorse the forming of Alliston High School District. The Tecumseth Township School Area Board and the Alliston District

High School Board are to be complimented for the very efficient manner in which the duties of both these organizations are being carried on.

Tecumseth is well supplied by a number of streams that form the head waters of the Nottawasaga River and have afforded excellent water power. Quite a number of Grist and Saw Mills were built and, owing to the valuable timber which almost covered the whole township, these mills continued to do a good business for many years. Perhaps two sections may be pointed out on which the most valuable timber grew. The section not far from Bond Head for splendid white oak and rock elm, and the north-west corner known as Sand Hook for the wonderful white pine, much of which was made into squared timber and shipped to the Old Country, and we are still proud of the 100-acre lot of this pine owned and being protected by Mr. Beattie.

As we have already mentioned that these streams are the head waters of the Nottawasaga River and that they have

Township of Tecumseth

afforded excellent water power, they have also caused the building of many large and costly bridges, where they cross the concession lines and sideroads. These bridges, of course, were wooden structures when first constructed, and now when this kind of material is not to be had, are now being replaced by permanent and modern structures of cement and steel of beautiful designs.

The large area which at one time was known as the Big Swamp of Tecumseth has been drained by municipal drainage schemes and brought under cultivation, thousands of acres of the best farming land in the County, while the section on which the pine referred to grew, has of late years become an exceedingly rich tobacco growing section, mostly owned by the Notawasaga Valley Plantation Limited, and has increased the population and also added to the revenue of the township.

For the most part, the township is level and slightly rolling and maintains more or less a soil of the loamy nature. A generally contented and satisfied class of citizens occupy the unusual number of good farms and excellent buildings and have many good herds of pure-bred stock.

The Township Hall came into disuse quite a number of years ago and the officials of the township have been obliged to use their homes as offices. However, in July of the present year, 1951, the Council came to the conclusion that a permanent Municipal Office and Council Chamber was very much needed. They at once proceeded with construction of this building which, along with the machine and garage



W. L. JACKSON
Assessor

buildings, makes a very desirable home for the township, being as it is located in this grand village (Beeton), and almost in the very centre of the township.

A great deal more could and perhaps should be written about the ups and downs of the early settlers, also of the men who served as reeves, deputy-reeves and councillors all of whom without exception were men of good judgment and gave excellent service and fair administration to all parts and sections of the township.

The present council, with Leonard Ransom as reeve; Albert Gilroy, deputy-reeve; George Lisk, Edgar Piercey and



JOHN BARTLETT, Chairman Township School Area Board



J. F. HOUGHTON, Sec-Treas. Township School Area Board



JACKSON GLASSFORD Twp. School Area Board

Township of Tecumseth

William Nevils, councillors; W. E. King, treasurer; W. E. Kearns, road superintendent, and Tom Robinson, clerk, are deserving of a great deal of credit and praise. Their foresight, the energetic way in which they undertook the construction of this splendid office, although not so elaborate as some within our County, it is very comfortable, well adapted to the purposes for which it has been erected and no doubt will be enjoyed not only by the officials but by any and all of our rate-payers who may have occasion to attend the meetings.



MAXWELL MITCHELL
Township School Area Board

As we have now come to the finish of this sketch, the writers feel that mention must be made of at least some of the families who settled prior to 1837, the descendants of whom at the present time still reside on the original homestead or in



IRA MATSON
Tp. School Area Bd.

nearby sections of the township: John Austin, John Abernethy, George Baycroft, John Beatty, Jonathan Brooks, William Calhoun, Andrew and John Cerswell, Robert Clark, Gilbert Coffey, George, John and Thomas Dale, John Dillane, several Doyle families, Joseph Dunham, Daniel and James Ellison, Patrick Feehely, William Gilroy, William Hammell and William Hammell, Jr., George and Thomas Hayes, Peter Keogh, Neil McDermott, Daniel McCurdy (Mr. McCurdy lived to be 100 years old), and John Rogers. There

Township of Tecumseth



THOS. ROBINSON, Clerk



EDGAR PIERCEY
Councillor



JAS. V.
Cont



LEONARD J. RANSOM
Reeve



GEORGE LISK, Councillor



TOWNSHIP of
COUNCIL &

1 - 9 -

Township of Tecumseth



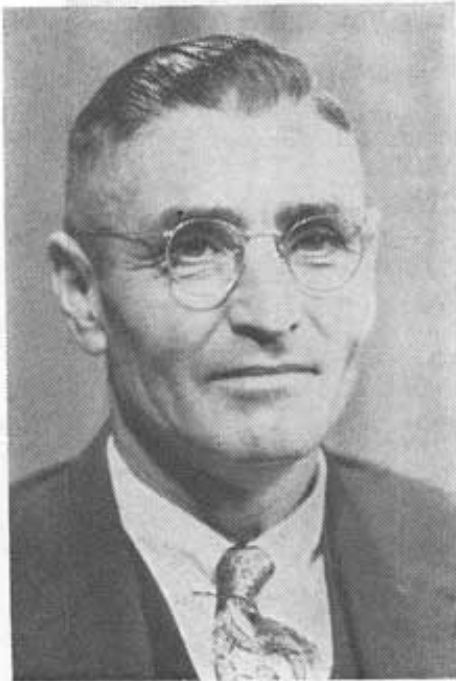
WATSON
Tractor



WM. NEVILS
Councillor



W.E. KING, Treasurer



ALBERT W. GILROY
Deputy-Reeve



W.S. KEARNS
Road Supervisor

**TECUMSETH
OFFICIALS**

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Township of Tecumseth

were quite a number who arrived early in the Fourties who deserve mention but space will not permit, and we hope the advantages and prosperity will continue to be a blessing to our people, not only to those of Tecumseth, but to all of our beloved Canada and that future Municipal History of our municipalities, rural and urban, may be carefully recorded and preserved.

Your Obedient Servants,

TOM ROBINSON

W. E. KING



COUNCIL CHAMBER IN THE NEW BUILDING

HONOUR ROLL

"They Shall Not Die"

Men of Tecumseth Township who gave their lives
in the First and Second World Wars

1914 - 1918

ARNOLD, Alvin
AVERALL, Leonard
CHICCONNEY, Henry
RANKIN, Frank
THOMAS, Walter
WARDLOW, Wm. J.
HENRY, Norman

1939 - 1945

BATTERS, Fred R.
KEOGH, William
PARDY, Francis N.
ROBINSON, Edgar Ross
RUTHERFORD, Ross
SNEDDON, A. A.
WILLIAMSON, Ward



GORDON B. MALLION
Township Solicitor

Congratulations . . .

TO THE TOWNSHIP OF TECUMSETH

The County of Simcoe wishes to commend Tecumseth Township on its latest progressive project, the building of a spacious township office.

The growing importance of municipal government makes it more and more imperative that municipalities maintain a proper building where records may be preserved and municipal business transacted.

The County congratulates you on your initiative and progress!

G. H. SHEPHERD, Warden

FRED HUNTER, Clerk

D. H. COLEMAN, Treasurer

E. W. JONES, Engineer

ERIC SIMPSON, Assessor

TO THE TOWNSHIP OF TECUMSETH

The official opening of your new office building affords us the opportunity of saying "WELL DONE" to all those who in any way were responsible for the erection of such a fine and modern building. It certainly is another symbol of continued progress.

We consider it a privilege to have Tecumseth Township as a valued customer of this branch.

THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA

Beeton, Ontario

F. A. Lee, Manager

TO REEVE, MEMBERS OF COUNCIL and OFFICIALS CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF TECUMSETH

The Corporation of the Village of Beeton wish to extend to you felicitations and best wishes on this, the official opening of your new township offices and council chambers.

Township of Tecumseth

You have supplied a long needed want to your ratepayers and officials and your progress in public administration facilities is a credit to your foresight and also an asset to the Village of Beeton.

May you, your children and your children's children enjoy what has been accomplished by you this day.

W. E. KING, Reeve

W. S. ROBINSON, Clerk



Clerk's Office in the New Building—W. E. King at the desk

Congratulations . . .

TO THE TOWNSHIP OF TECUMSETH

It is a great pleasure for us to have the opportunity of offering our felicitations to the Reeve, Council and Officials of the Township of Tecumseth and through them to all the rate-payers of the municipality.

It is good to see your Township in the van of those erecting fine public buildings, an art that for a time we seemed to have lost. Fine buildings enhance the office of your elected representatives, promote self respect of the citizens and place the responsibility of public office in the honoured position it deserves.

Congratulations to you who have again pioneered and may your sons aspire to the seats of government in this fine new building, and do their share in carrying on your work of creating a greater municipality and so a finer and better Canada.

FRANK COWAN AGENCY



WILMOT HAYES
School Attendance and
Welfare Officer



OLIVER PETTIT
Twp. School Area Maintenance
Official

Message from Provincial Member



Heartiest Congratulations to the people of the Township of Tecumseth on the erection of their fine new Municipal Building.

May the years to come be years of peace, progress and prosperity for its citizens.

A. W. DOWNER, MLA
Dufferin-Simcoe

TO THE TOWNSHIP OF TECUMSETH

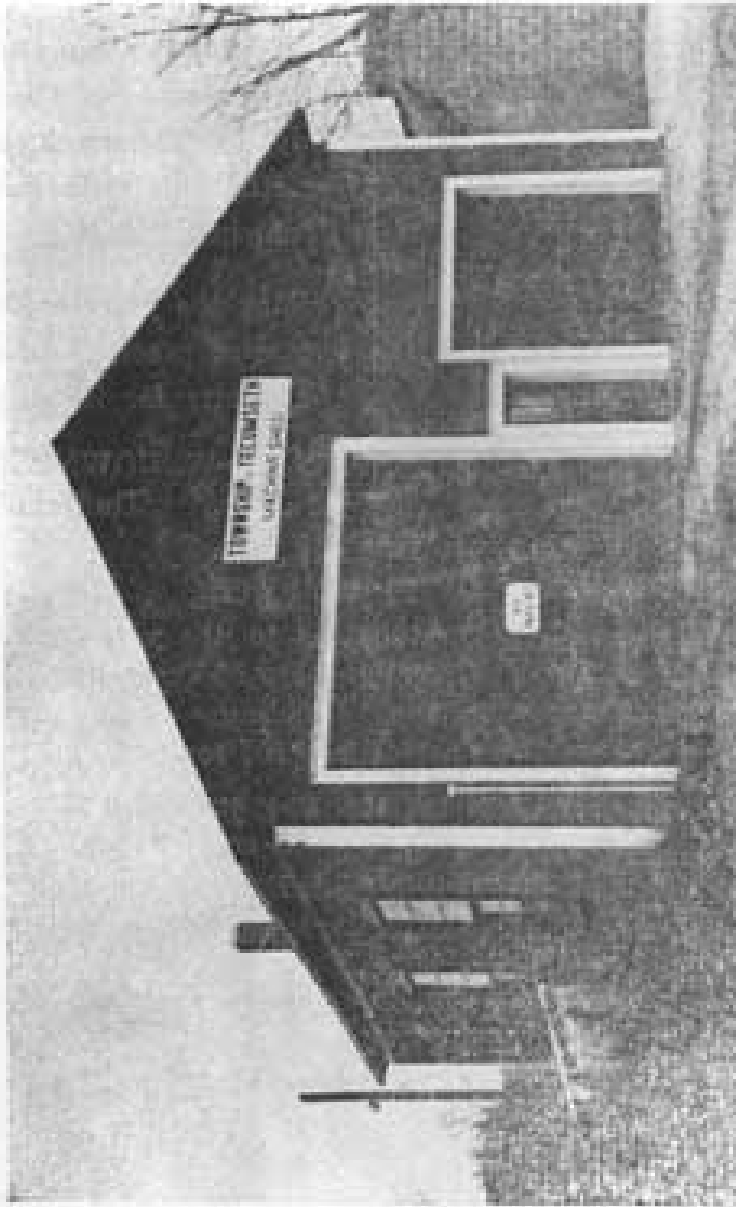
Greetings and Congratulations to the very progressive Council and residents of the Township of Tecumseth upon the opening of their fine Municipal Building — a building which leads the way for all townships in this Province.

The World appreciates the co-operation it has always received from members of the Council and Officials.

THE BEETON WORLD
K. J. Carleton, Editor and Publisher

C. J. CERSWELL
B.M.H.S. Representative





TECUMSETH TOWNSHIP MACHINE SHED, MAIN STREET, BEETON

A Message from the Warden...

Congratulations to the Township of Tecumseth, its Reeve, Deputy-Reeve, Councillors and Ratepayers.

On this your completion of your new Township Office and shed, I am very pleased to bring the congratulations of Simcoe County. You too have looked forward to the necessary requirements of advancement in providing adequate accommodation for your Council meetings, Officials and proper provision for the care of your township road equipment.

I quite realize the forethought that was exercised in the decision of your Council in making plans for this very important improvement, and again congratulate them on keeping Tecumseth Township well to the front in advancement of current trend in Municipal actions within the fair County of Simcoe.

I am very pleased, as the retiring Warden of Simcoe County for 1951, to extend my best wishes and heartfelt good-will for your continued prosperity and Municipal advancement in the future, as I can quite well understand, knowing your Council of today, that you need not fear for the future.

With very best wishes.

Sincerely,

G. H. SHEPHERD,

Warden Simcoe County



G. H. SHEPHERD
Warden Simcoe County



TECUMSETH TOWNSHIP MACHINE AND TOOL SHED, Main Street, Becton

...and from our Federal Member

The Township of Tecumseth has enjoyed more than one hundred years of prosperity and progress.

During this period, Canada as a whole, has experienced many changes but at no time has the County been as prosperous as at present and has developed from a pioneer settlement to take her place among the great Nations of the World.



HON. EARL W. ROWE, M.P.

The Township of Tecumseth has had her place in this development and is now one of the greatest producers of grain and cattle and also recently has become a great tobacco growing area.

To all those born of the old pioneer families and new residents, may I extend my best wishes and hope that we may continue to advance in peace, prosperity and happy relationship in the years that lie ahead.

W. EARL ROWE, PC., M.P.

OUR AUTOGRAPHS



The Township of Tecumseth is a beautiful and fertile region, rich in natural resources and historical significance. It is a place where the past meets the present, and where the future is bright with promise. The land is a treasure, and the people are its guardians. We are proud to be part of this great community, and we are committed to its growth and prosperity. Our history is our strength, and our future is our hope. We are one, and we are proud.

Our history is our strength, and our future is our hope. We are one, and we are proud. We are committed to the growth and prosperity of our community, and we are proud to be part of this great township. Our land is a treasure, and our people are its guardians. We are one, and we are proud.