

## PORT HOPE GUIDE

The history of the Town of Port Hope can be traced back as far as 1778 when Peter Smith established a fur trade post there. This post was located on the site of an Indian village known as Pemetscutiane - also Cochingomink - founded by the Cayuga tribe of the Iroquois Confederacy. The earliest English name, given for the fur trader Smith, was Smith's Creek (the 'Creek' referring to the present-day Ganaraska River flowing through the site). The locality also received the names Ganaraske or Ganaraski. Another early settler here, some claim the first, was Myndert Harris. In the early years of the nineteenth century the locale was called Toronto, but in 1819 G.S. Boulton suggested 'Port Hope' to commemorate Col. Henry Hope, Lieutenant-Governor of Lower Canada (1785-1789). This locality received incorporation as a Police Village by Act of Parliament of Upper Canada in 1834, and as a Town in 1849 effective 1850. The Grand Trunk Railway was built through here in 1856 (Montreal to Toronto) and the Midland Railway (Port Hope, Lindsay and Beaverton) was built in 1858. Trinity College School was established here in 1868, having had its beginnings at Weston, Ont., in 1862. (Its official date of opening is 1 May 1865.) Eldorado Mining and Refining Company began its activities at Port Hope in 1944.

The press of Port Hope began with the Telegraph and Newcastle Advertiser, founded 5 April 1831 by John A. Vail. William Furby, prominently to be associated with the early press here, and one Woodhouse, took over the Telegraph very soon after its beginning. Woodhouse died the same year. Furby changed its name in June 1833 to the Warder and Constitutional Advocate, and it clearly began to assume a Conservative slant. In 1835 Furby yet again changed the paper's name to the Gazette and Upper Canada Independent Examiner. Murdoch McDonnell was its editor.

That same year William B. Gowan, brother of the famed Orange politician and journalist Ogle Gowan, assumed control of the paper. It only lasted until 1838.

Furby again became the proprietor of a newspaper here. He established a second Gazette: the Port Hope Gazette and Durham Advertiser, in 1843. (There seems to have been a hiatus in journalism here in the years between 1838 and 1843.) In 1847 this paper changed its name to the Durham Commercial Advertiser, and later in the year to the Port Hope Commercial Advertiser. In 1850 it too became extinct. Furby's office began 10 January that same year to publish the Port Hope Watchman and Durham and Northumberland Advertiser. It was run by John Steele and one Corbier. In 1854 the British Ensign was founded and it was edited by J.W. James. Very soon after its establishment it joined the Watchman under J.W. James and Edwin Vincent to become the British Ensign and Port Hope Watchman. This paper was Conservative in politics. It came out semi-weekly (the others all having been weeklies).

In the meantime in 1851 the Echo and Protestant Episcopal Recorder was established at Port Hope as an evangelical and Anglican weekly, founded by William Furby, and in opposition to the main Anglican newspaper published in Canada West, the Church - subsequently the Canadian Churchman for a short time and then again the Church. (The latter had initially been published at Cobourg from 1837 to 1840.) The Echo was edited by Rev. Jonathan Shortt of Port Hope until October or November 1853. A Committee of Management had been formed to run the paper and Edwin Vincent was its printer. Around 1854 it moved to Toronto (as had the Church by this time) and was published for the Committee there by Maclear and Company. At this point the Committee was headed by Rev. H.C. Cooper of Etobicoke. In July 1857 while still at Toronto, the publishers of the Echo became Sellar and Judge. It was advertised as 'the only Church of England religious newspaper published in Canada'. By April 1859 the publishers had become Sellar and Halse, and in September of

that year Thomas Sellar alone was publisher and proprietor. The paper had moved to Montreal around November 1862, still published by Thomas Sellar, with Rev. John Irwin as editor. Sellar carried its publication through most probably until its termination in 1867.

Forgetting for a moment the Port Hope Guide, the history of the press of Port Hope continues with the establishment on 10 May 1855 of the Port Hope Pilot by William and John Steele, the sons of the John Steele who founded the Port Hope Watchman (see above). The Pilot shortly joined the above mentioned British Ensign and Port Hope Watchman run by James and Vincent to become the British Ensign and Pilot, and continuing to be run by the two Steele brothers William and John. Its date of demise would perhaps have been shortly thereafter, for another Conservative paper, the British Standard, appeared in 1856, edited by one of the former editors of the British Ensign, J.W. James. In 1857 the British Standard became the Atlas, under the direction of Charles Rogers. It probably also did not last more than a year. Still another attempt to found a Conservative paper occurred in 1859 or 60 with the establishment of the Conservative Messenger, run by Alfred E. Hayter. This paper was moved to Millbrook by Hayter in 1862 or 63, to become the Millbrook Messenger, continuing as such until the late 1880's, at which point it became the Millbrook Reporter under Thomas W. Whalley and William H. Kennedy (see introduction to Ontario Archives microfilm of Millbrook Messenger etc.).

The next attempt to establish a Conservative paper at Port Hope occurred when Hugh Cameron founded the British Canadian in 1862. In 1867 J.H. Delamere was in charge. On 7 April 1870, the paper's name was changed to the Port Hope Times. This publication was destined to become the longest lasting Conservative newspaper in Port Hope's history to date (1988). John B. Traves had by 1868 become an early editor. The paper's masthead name was initially the Port Hope Times and County

of Durham British Canadian. On 12 August a daily edition alongside first the weekly and later the semi-weekly versions appeared. In the mid 1890's John B. Traves relinquished control to William F. Traves and F.T. Harris. By 1901 W. Swaisland and Company were its publishers. By 1905 E.G. Rooke was the publisher. He in turn around 1909 was succeeded by William Cameron Grant. By 1911 M.G.W. Purser was the Times' publisher. A Company was formed in the period before 1920: Port Hope Times Publishers. Wright Plummer took over publication. He was succeeded around 1922, by George C. Scott. P.L. Brown Limited were the publishers in 1923. Amalgamated Publishers took over in 1924, and by 1926 the weekly edition had been dropped (the semi-weekly having disappeared early in the century). P.L. Brown was Managing editor in 1927. By 1930 the Times had ceased publication.

Following the establishment of the British Canadian in 1862, other newspapers came and went in Port Hope. Alfred Hayter published a monthly, the Advertiser, between 1863 and 1864 with free circulation. The Valuator and Farmers' Reporter appeared in the mid 1860's published by Thomas Galbraith. In 1869 there appeared the Port Hope Mercury and Northumberland and Durham Commercial Advertiser. It was published by Robert Romaine with Daniel Perry as Manager, and lasted about a year. The Port Hope News, the first of three papers of this name appeared in 1880, published by Joseph Harris and William T.R. Preston. The Guide absorbed this paper around 1883 to become for a short period the Guide and News.

The next appearance of a novel newspaper masthead does not appear to have taken place until 1928 with the appearance on 30 June of the Canada News, appearing as a weekly under Managing Editor Peter Brown. Its appearance was also brief, not seeming to have lasted beyond 1930. The second Port Hope News was published as an independent weekly commencing in 1935. By 1939 it had ceased publication. The third Port Hope News was a monthly published in 1979. The Port Hope Independent,

a weekly, appeared in May 1981, and was published by John James of the James Publishing Company. It passed into the hands of Northumberland Independent Incorporated on 31 March 1988, under the ownership of James Hoffman.

The principal Port Hope newspaper, the Port Hope Guide, subject of the present microfilm, began as a weekly, and was founded by William Furby. It was to assume a Reform and later Liberal Party stance. Its immediate lineal predecessor was the Port Hope Gazette and Durham Commercial Advertiser (see above). On 5 January 1856, William Furby turned the paper over to his son George Manning Furby and Hugh Crea. A tri-weekly edition began in 1856. By 20 February 1858 Hugh Crea was the publisher. In the early 1860's W.S. and J.S. Johnston were the paper's publishers. In 1870 C. Blackett Robinson was publishing the paper, and he in turn 1871 was succeeded by R.C. Grant and Company, but the latter arrangement lasted only six months. In June 1871 C. Blackett Robinson resumed control, to be succeeded in turn at the end of September of that year by A. Fleming. By November 1873 C. Blackett Robinson returned for the third time. H.M. Moody took over in February 1874, and on 13 March 1875 George Wilson purchased the Guide. The Wilson family were destined to manage the affairs of the Guide for over 80 years. A daily version appeared in 1878, and has continued to this day (1988). From 2 January 1880 George Wilson ran the paper in conjunction with his two sons George H. Wilson and Frederick W. Wilson. From 12 January 1883 George H. Wilson dropped out, and 'George Wilson and Son' now meant George Wilson and Frederick W. Wilson. In 1928 Donald Wilson, grandson of George Wilson \* commenced to publish the paper until his death in 1934. At that time Ralph Choate Wilson, brother of Donald Wilson, took over the paper. (The style 'George Wilson and Son' continued to appear on the ownership credits.) The Managing Editor in the 1940's was Mrs. Ralph C. Wilson. The paper finally departed from the control of the Wilson family in 1963 or 4 when Albert B. Schultz Jr. purchased it, but Ralph C. Wilson remained on as Associate Publisher. By 1973 David L. McCormick was the editor.

\* George Wilson died 7 Aug 1905.

He was succeeded by 1977 by Paul L. Bailey. The paper was sold by the Publisher in 1970 to Hugh Murray, and the latter in turn sold it in 1972 to Dr. James Johnston. In 1983 the Standard Publishing Company of St. Catharines bought the paper, and the Guide along with other local papers became part of Northumberland Publishers Limited. William J. Poirier was the Publisher. Other newspapers owned by Northumberland Publishers were the Cobourg Daily Star, the Campbellford Herald, the Newcastle Reporter and the Colborne Chronicle. Noteworthy Editors of the Port Hope Evening Guide (\*) in the 1970's were Jack White, Suzanne Stickley, Mandy Martin, Margaret Cavan-Day, and in the 1980's James Cutting, Susan Noakes, Penny Poole, Katherine Sedgewick, J.T. Grossmith, Cameron Christie, Darach MacDonald, Jeb Blount, Frank Geofreda, and David Cobain.

Other publications appearing in Port Hope over the years included special interest periodicals. In the 1880's the Canadian Craftsman and Masonic Record appeared. It lasted as a monthly through the decade and was published by John B. Trayes, Publisher of the Port Hope Times. It was an organ of the Masonic Fraternity of the Dominion. In 1892 the Harness Journal was founded to serve the interests of the harness and saddlery trade. Its Publisher was V.A. Coleman. The Canadian Bee Journal was also founded here in 1892.

Trinity College School established the student publication the Trinity College School Record in 1898 as a monthly. The original Editor-in-Chief was E.M. Watson. The students also published during at least the 1920's the Trinity University Review, also a monthly.

For the information appearing in the above introduction, the writer wishes to acknowledge the following sources: Place Names of Ontario, Volume 1, by Floreen E. Carter, London, Ont, 1984 (the references appearing under 'Ganaraska' - 'Ganaraski'); Places in Ontario Part III, by Nick and Helma Mika, Belleville, 1983; Port Hope Historical Sketches, by Arnot Craick, Port Hope, 1911; The School on the Hill, Tri-

\* The Port Hope Daily Guide became the Port Hope Evening Guide between 1885 and 1887, keeping this masthead to the present (1988).

nity College School, 1865-1965, by A.H. Humble, Port Hope, 1965; A Question of Privelege, Canada's Independent Schools, by Carolyn Gossage, Toronto, 1977; Inventory of Ontario Newspapers, 1793-1986, by J. Brian Gilchrist, Toronto, 1987. In addition, the Provincial, County and Town Directories (for Ontario, Durham County and Port Hope) for the years between 1851 and 1911, and the McKim Newspaper Guides between 1892 and 1942 were consulted. Two Port Hope Evening Guide Editors were most helpful on the paper's recent history: Cameron Christie and Margaret Cavan-Day.

The Archives of Ontario wishes to acknowledge the kind assistance of Mr. William J. Poirier, Publisher of the Northumberland Publishers Limited for the loan of the issues of the Guide appearing on this film from 1901 to 1930. The originals are held by the publishing firm. An earlier microfilm by the Archives of Ontario covers earlier issues of Port Hope newspapers including the Telegraph, Warder, Gazette, Durham Commercial Advertiser, Echo and Protestant Episcopal Recorder, British Canadian, the Port Hope Times, and the Port Hope Guide, the latter from 1852 to 1900. There follows a table of contents of the issues of the Guide appearing on this film.

8 September 1988

William H. Cooper