

BOBCAYGEON

The word "Bobcaygeon," which sounds somewhat strange to those who are not familiar with the history of the country, is derived from a French word, "Beaucage," meaning "Beautiful Wood." Some of the older settlers, however, maintain that it is an Indian name, and means "Rapids," or "Running Water."

One thing is certain, that the village is most picturesquely situated, and is one of the handiworks of God. It is surrounded by water, and nestles snugly in one corner of the Township of Verulam, in the County of Victoria.

It was laid out by Mr. Thos. Need, in the year 1832. Its present population is 1,000 inhabitants.

Of late years it has become famous as a Summer resort, and its beauties attract visitors from every part of Canada and the United States. They find the climate invigorating, its quietude restful, and the waters surrounding it supply them with an abundance of bass and lunge.

Methodism began here sixty-three years ago, and has played a prominent part in the religious life of the community.

Many tales of devout life and heroic conduct could be told of these early settlers, who, travelling miles on foot to Church, contributed to its support to the point of sacrifice.

Only three of the first members of Bobcaygeon Methodism survive. These are—Mrs. William Kennedy, of Lindsay; Mr. Samuel McLelland, of Sault Ste. Marie, and Mrs. Irvine Junkin, of Bobcaygeon, who, in her 81st year, is hale and hearty, and a faithful worshipper at the Church of her youth.

In addition to this trio of members, the following adherents of the early days are still associated with the Church—Wm. Robertson, J. T. Robinson, James Wright, and Mrs. James Humphries.

Throughout the years, amid changing conditions, the cause has persisted, and at present is in a flourishing condition, having one hundred and forty-seven families, and one hundred and twenty-nine members.

Among the officials who laid the early foundations were: Brothers Geo. Bick, first Recording Steward and Class Leader; Samuel McLelland, Superintendent of the Sunday School, and Thos. Taylor, first local preacher, and also a Class Leader.

Other early Class Leaders were: Brothers John McFetters, John Junkin, and William Cosh.

May the devotion of these men, who, with sparse opportunity, accomplished so much, inspire our hearts and ever be a challenge to us to hold high the torch which they threw to us from falling hands.