

One of the best locations in the province for manufacturing, especially furniture, woodware etc. Unlimited quantities of timber available. Reasonable inducements given to new industries. Situated on the rising ground between Gull and Muskoka Lakes. The town is one of the healthiest in Canada and is surrounded by beautiful scenery. Excellent facilities for boating, bathing and fishing on the picturesque and charming lakes that border on either side of the town.

The number of manufacturing establishments in Gravenhurst rose from 29 in 1881 to 36 in 1891. The number of employees of these industries had more than tripled in the decade, increasing from 167 to 569.

The average yearly wage for these employees (in 1891) was \$372. The average wage for a farm labourer was between \$1 and \$1.25 a day, without board. A female domestic averaged between \$6 and \$9 per month, with board.⁸

These figures might not be very meaningful without some idea of the prices of a number of articles with which Gravenhurst residents might have equipped themselves. The following items and prices were advertised in Orillia and Bracebridge newspapers in the period the Bethunes lived in Gravenhurst.⁹

8 In 1891 Malcolm Bethune's stipend was \$800 per year, plus unfurnished manse. See other paper entitled "The Presbyterian manse, congregation and ministers" for further information.

9 Tragically, only about 3 single issues of pre-1900 Gravenhurst newspapers seem to have survived, and ^{only} one of them ~~were~~^{as} issued between 1889 and 1893.