

lives were lost, though 83 buildings were destroyed, including 50 places of business, the public school and the Anglican Church. The Presbyterian manse was not affected by the fire.

Gravenhurst During the Bethunes' Stay

When Malcolm, Elizabeth and Janet Bethune moved into the Presbyterian manse in June of 1889, many of the businesses that had been lost in the fire had been re-established, and a few new enterprises had moved in. Among the listings under Gravenhurst in the 1890 Dominion of Canada Directory were: a restaurant, 2 barbers, a vendor of "wines and liquors," a photographer, a powder manufacturing company, 5 grocers, 8 dressmakers, a taxidermist, an architect, a civil engineer, a boilermaker and a confectionary.

The Gravenhurst municipal council sanctioned the following description of its town in 1890:

A thriving town at the foot of the Muskoka Lakes about midway between Toronto and North Bay at the junction of the GTR and Northern Pacific Junction railways. Incorporated. Population over 2,000. Steamers leave twice daily in summer for the principal points on Lake Muskoka, Joseph and Rosseau and return meeting trains. Has a park, 6 churches, high school, 2 public schools, 4 large and commodious hotels, foundry, carriage works, 7 large sawmills, 3 shingle mills, planing mill, newspaper, steam fire engine, etc.