

probably be willing to co-operate with other public or private agencies in preserving sites or buildings contained in areas suitable for conservation parks or which have been condemned as liable to flooding.

The first example of historical conservation was the acquisition of the O'Hara Conservation Area, in Madoc Township, Hastings County, by the Moira Conservation Authority. This contained the sawmill built by James O'Hara about 1846-47 and operated by the family until 1908. The upright saw of the muley type and most of the machinery of the mill were intact and are believed to be the only examples of their kind in Ontario still in position. The mill and pond have been carefully restored and were officially opened to the public in 1958 with the surrounding area. The O'Hara house and farm buildings of various dates between 1840 and 1900 are also included in the area and it is proposed to extend the restoration to some of these.

Another example of an historic mill was acquired as part of an extensive conservation area by the Big Creek Region Authority. The John Backhouse grist mill, in Walsingham Township, Norfolk County, was built in 1798 and operated by the family until sold to the Authority with the surrounding estate in 1955. A plaque erected by the Ontario Archaeological and Historic Sites Board was unveiled here in 1957.

More ambitious projects are the "pioneer villages" established by the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, the Upper Thames Conservation Authority, and at Doon, on the Grand River, where the Grand River Conservation Authority has furnished a site in a conservation area to a privately organized body, the Ontario Pioneer Community Foundation.

The Humber Conservation Authority acquired part of a property in Vaughan Township from the Dalziel family who had owned it since 1828. This property was situated just outside Metropolitan Toronto on Black Creek, a branch of the Humber River. It included the pond site of a sawmill built by John Smith (or Schmidt), a Pennsylvania settler, before 1817 and operated by the Dalziels until about 1870. Near the pond stands a large dressed-log barn with the Pennsylvania type of overhang, built by Smith about 1808. This was restored to house collections of pioneer objects made available to the Authority and was opened in 1954 as a summer museum. In 1957 The Metropolitan Toronto and Region Authority acquired, through Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, another property on Black Creek at Jane Street and Steele's Avenue which contained the buildings of the Stong family homestead. These consisted of a dressed-log cabin of 1816, a larger house of about 1830, a dressed-log barn of the same type as the Dalziel barn and some other log farm buildings. The property is just within Metropolitan Toronto, across Steele's Avenue from the Dalziel farm.

It was decided to make these buildings the nucleus of an outdoor museum of the pioneer village type. The Stong buildings were restored, two frame houses, a smithy, and a village store were added before the Black Creek Conservation Area was opened and the Pioneer Village dedicated by the Honourable J. Keiller Mackay, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, on June 2, 1960. A frame church, a brick school house and a small cider mill have since been moved to the village. It is planned to add a number of other buildings before 1967, when it is hoped to complete the village as a fully representative picture of life in York County before 1867.

The Upper Thames Conservation Authority formally opened their pioneer village in Fanshawe Park, near London, Ontario, on June 26, 1959. It then contained a fully furnished log cabin, log barn, blacksmith shop, carriage shop and community hall. It is planned to add a church, school, general store, and other buildings. The Fanshawe Pioneer Village is intended to represent a village of the 1830's.