

of former floods; the spread of settlement and lumbering with the cutting of the forests which these involved; the retreat of wildlife as the clearings spread; the development of milling on the rivers; the rise and decay of village settlements; the steady growth of larger urban centres; the decline of rural population; and the phases of agricultural development, must all be studied in detail. The various general factors which influenced these developments must also be taken into account. The movement from the farms and the disappearance of small industries, for example, are not always due solely to the cutting of the forests and the exhaustion of the soil. Changed markets and methods, improvements in transportation, the opening of new areas, the concentration of industry must all be considered in their connection with their effect on conservation.

Conservation history thus furnishes the starting point for each separate division of the work and must be studied from several different points of view. It naturally deals chiefly with economic development and is concerned with local events. The general history of the country—the wars and constitutional struggles, the political, religious and educational development—affect it only indirectly and occasionally. World events are of interest only in so far as they hasten or retard the development of the countryside and the exploitation of its resources.

The first conservation reports on watershed areas contain among their introductory material sections dealing with the history of the area reported on. They were issued at a time of revived interest in local history and these history sections proved acceptable to many readers because they approached the subjects from a different angle from the majority of the local histories then available. This point of view coincided with the growing public interest in social and economic history. A wider public were becoming aware that Ontario possessed a considerable number of survivals from different periods and that these were valuable as illustrations and mementos of its history. It was obvious that these relics were inevitably threatened by modern conditions.

At that time almost no government agencies were interesting themselves in this kind of historical conservation. The efforts of private individuals or groups were achieving only a limited success. It was felt that this form of conservation might be a suitable activity for the Conservation Authorities. These sometimes obtain control of historic sites or buildings included in areas purchased for conservation purposes. It was felt that the former might be marked and the latter preserved if possible and even restored and made accessible to the public.

Early buildings worthy of preservation were often found on sites that could not be included in a conservation area. The desire to preserve these has led some Authorities to undertake or assist the setting up of outdoor museum areas of the kind initiated in the Scandinavian countries at the beginning of this century and copied on a much greater scale in the United States and elsewhere. These outdoor museums, small or larger, are included in conservation parks and at first the Authorities were permitted to include the cost of historical activities in the estimates for recreation. This meant that a share of the cost was contributed by the provincial government. Later it was pointed out that such activities were not mentioned in The Conservation Authorities Act and government contributions were discontinued. The Authorities were permitted to continue historical conservation out of the general revenue collected from the member municipalities. This has meant in many cases that Authorities have limited themselves to continuing the projects to which they were already committed, without initiating new ones. One or two, however, have shown some willingness to expand their programs. Most others would