

# Newton Robinson's Centennial Celebration Successful Community Effort — Interesting Past Recalled

At 2 p.m., on Saturday, October 7, a weekend which will long be remembered, began for the residents of Newton Robinson and the Newton Robinson community, when friends of former years came to celebrate the village's Pioneer Family Days.

The activities for the celebration were introduced with a parade, which assembled at Poole's garage, and was led by two pipers, Paul and Marilyn Moir of Cookstown, up the hill and into Lloyd Coborn's orchard, which was prepared in readiness for celebrating the occasion.

The parade was an interesting one, with many attractive floats and other entries, from among which the Boy Scout float was chosen to receive first prize. Fisher's Corners W.I. entry, "The Church in the Wildwood" was placed second, with the third going to the donkey drawn covered wagon, accompanied by its two gun-toting men on foot, which was an entry from Bond Head. Other interesting entries in the parade included the Tec-We-Gwilll W.I. school room, representing Wilcox school, No. 11 Tecumseth, with Mrs. Stewart Langford impersonating Ira Doan, school master 1857 to 1868; Mr. and Mrs. N. Bosomworth and Jamie, all in period costume, and riding in a one-seater "democrat"; Township of West Gwillimbury float, which drew attention to the fact that West Gwillimbury is 25 years older than Confederation, and has had six county wardens, the first being Wm. Armson 1847 to 1852; Cookstown Curling Club with its practical stove for chilly days; Bond Head Hi-C's "Winter Fun" displayed cutter, sled, snow shoes and old gray

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mare; "Book Now For Your 1968 Threshing" was the sign on John Robinson's float, which demonstrated threshing in the old way, with a flail; and Russell Copeland's fine new truck was preceded by a couple of well laden ponies, led by two girls. Also in the parade were decorated bicycles and tricycles. In this group Lorne Connell won first, with bicycle and trailer; Ricky Hollingshead was second and Louise Harvey third. In the decorated doll carriage group, Sylvia Harvey won first and Elaine Jebb second.

From among eleven lovely young girls on a float, Robyn Reid was chosen Miss Newton Robinson. Robyn's Centennial costume of fuschia toned silk, with a black silk, deeply fringed Spanish shawl, and wearing a large cameo brooch, had a special significance to the wearer, the shawl having been a precious possession of one grandmother, and the brooch of another.

A sports program, providing entertainment for all ages, included a log-sawing contest, in which Bruce Jackson and Bob Matthews were first; John Robinson and Harold Andrews second, and Tom and Bill Robinson third. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Andrews were edged out as winners by only a few seconds. Other activities included a shoe kicking contest; rolling pin throwing, walking a string while wearing binoculars, in reverse, tug-of-war, etc.

The Pinkerton W.A. provided a tent in the Coborn orchard as a rest spot for visitors and while there old pictures, on display provided entertainment. One of these was of the pupils of Newton Robinson school in 1907, and among the pupils, interested friends located the now Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and his wife, Hon. W. Earl Rowe and Mrs. Rowe.

The afternoon concluded with a pork chop barbeque, which was enjoyed by some 500 persons.

Evening activities began with the arrival of Ontario Lieut. Governor, Hon. Earl Rowe and Mrs. Rowe, at 7 p.m. and the planting of the Centennial tree by the former, before proceeding indoors, where the visitors were received. Mr. John Rob-

inson, in an introductory speech to that of the Lieutenant Governor, recalled some of the history of Newton Robinson. His Honour spoke briefly, mentioning names of former residents of the district and recalling events of the past. D. Chantler expressed the thanks of the people of the neighbourhood to their most honoured resident.

The presentation of gifts included, to visitor coming the greatest distance, Mr. T. Coffin from Workingham, England; oldest person present, Mrs. N. Groombridge, 90, from Alliston, while all over 75 years were given a rose; lucky numbers in the registration book brought dolls to Ian Reid of Bradford and Mrs. Otto Chantler of Toronto.

The program by local talent was well received.

Allen Horner, with loud speaker, did a wonderful job of master of ceremonies keeping all well informed about happenings.

The Saturday celebration concluded with cards and dancing.

## Sunday Service

The church at Newton Robinson was filled to overflowing long before the service was due to begin on Sunday.

Rev. H. W. Dahlin was assisted in the service by Rev. J. A. Howard of St. Luke's Anglican Church, Pinkerton, the latter taking as a subject for his sermon, "Spiritual Corn Fields." Mr. Grant Mayor now of Barrie and formerly store keeper in Newton Robinson, was soloist, and the choir was filled with former members.

After the service a cup of tea was served in the basement where many gathered to renew acquaintance.

The celebration days provided a happy and wonderful experience in the lives of the residents of the Newton Robinson district and the committee is very grateful to everyone who in any way helped to make the days such a success.

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