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# David A. Jones made 'Beetown' famous

David Allanson Jones is credited as the founder of Beeton. He was the first commercial bee man in North America and made the community famous for its honey.

Honey bees were not native to North America and were brought in by the first settlers. Jones capitalized on the industry and won prizes and awards for his honey in fairs all over the world.

In 1876, Clarkville was renamed Beeton in recognition of Mr. Jones' work. The name has since become Beeton but the signs at the entrances to the village still use the beehive symbol in memory of Jones, who died in 1910.

Seneca Centre MPP B. Arthur Evans was born in Beeton.

Probably the most famous person to call Beeton her home was Canadian radio star, Kate Aiken, who passed away last year. Mrs. Aiken remembered her childhood so fondly she often commented about Beeton in her radio shows. The history of the community is set down in her book, "Never A Day Too Bright".

Mrs. Aiken organized the first Women's Institute in Beeton in 1920 and was its first president. Mrs. Caroline Henry, curator of the Institute's Three-Dollar History Book, said the first meeting was held in a building on the north-east corner of Main and Centre Sts. Each of the ladies donated a rug and saucer and at the second meeting, each donated a chair. To keep the place warm and cozy through the winter months, another lady donated a coal of firewood.

The Institute celebrated its 50th anniversary in Oc-

tober 1970. 174 ladies have belonged to the organization since it began.

Each of the three churches in town has its wealth of history in the forming of the community.

Trinity United Church was built in 1878 with the congregation led by John MacDonnell, M.P. There was probably another church on Main St. before the approved church of the main block of stores (Jones' block) on the north side.

Mrs. Jack Campbell recalls the church was always filled for two services each Sunday, and the holders of potted peas had to be in their seats ten minutes before the service other wise others were allowed to use the seats.

Rev. J. Cross has been the pastor at the church for the past five years.

St. Paul's Anglican Church was built in 1879 for \$4,500 on land donated by the Hammell family.

The opening service was preached by Bishop Sweetman on Feb. 10, 1880 and consecrated on Dec. 14, 1906 after becoming debt-free. The church seats 200 people and has a congregation of 100 families.

Church records indicate a congregation existed as early as 1861. Rev. William Davis has been the minister for the past five years.

Mrs. Basil Das of 109-1288am is the minister of the Presbyterian Church which was completed in 1890 and debt-free at its opening. It celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1940.

The original church, Seppia United Presbyterian Congregation of Foxamoth was started in 1859 and located on the south side of Main St.

The Beeton Telephone Co. is now a part of the history of the community. In 1958 the company was sold to Bell Telephone when the dial system became widely used. Dr. McKelvey, the last president, said the company was formed in 1906 and owned the territory surrounding Bradford, Cookstown, Alliston, Rosemont and Tulicaham.

Beeton was the first community in Ontario to have a covered ice rink. The old town hall was condemned and subsequently sold in 1947 for \$5,500 and the money used to build the rink.

Dr. McKelvey, who was mayor at the time, said the arena didn't cost the taxpayers a nickel. The entire cost was raised through donations and social events.



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