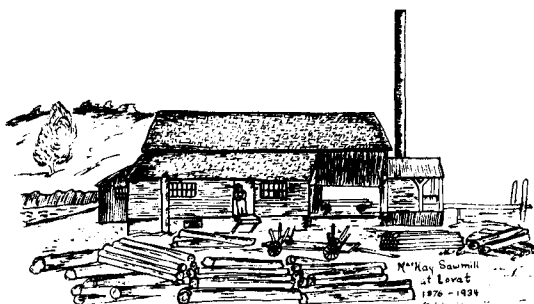


LOVAT



MacKay Sawmill



1876 - 1934

To obtain further information see
"Bruce Township Tales and Trails"
and the
"Township of Greenock
History 1856 - 1981"

In 1993 a plaque was placed
by the
Township of Bruce Historical Society
and the
Township of Greenock
with the assistance of the
Ontario Heritage Foundation.

Lovat

The hamlet of Lovat is situated on the boundary where the 20th concession Greenock Township meets the east end of concession 8, Bruce Township, in Bruce County.

Early pioneers were likely attracted to settle at Lovat due to the availability of water from Willow Creek that meandered nearby.

Records show that two acres of Lot 11, Concession 20, Greenock Township, was taken out of the Crown in 1864 by Hector Campbell.

In 1877, this land, along with part of Lot 35, Concession 8, Bruce Township, was surveyed into a plan, #186, having four streets and thirty-two lots. However, this remained an unfulfilled dream as only a few lots were built on.

Lovat's Post-Office was opened in 1864 with Thomas Allen as the first Postmaster. In subsequent years, other Postmasters were:

James McArthur - 1876 - 1877

Donald Aiken - 1878 - 1891

Thomas Ross - 1892 - 1894

Wm. John Ross - 1894 - 1899

John MacKay - 1899 - 1904

David Metcalfe - 1904 - 1913

John Metcalfe - 1913 - closure.

It was closed in 1913 when rural delivery started as "R.R.#2 Paisley". In 1929, Rob Roy McGregor and his wife purchased this place for a home. In 1969, Mr. and Mrs. Locking of Mississauga purchased the home. In 1978, it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. James Britton, who still reside there, the one home left in the hamlet of Lovat.

In 1871, a blacksmith shop was operated by Donald Aikens, followed by James Moir, and lastly by John Metcalfe. It closed in 1915.

The Lovat Hotel, known as the King Edward Hotel, 1875, was situated on the Greenock side of the boundary. It had several owners. In 1902, John Cayley sold it to Duncan and Catherine McArthur. After Mr. McArthur passed away in 1937, his son Cecil inherited the building and part of the 2 acre lot. In 1939, R.R. McGregor bought this property, dismantled the hotel, and used some of the material to remodel his home, the former post-office.

Prior to 1900, a general store was operated by Duncan McGillivray and his sisters, Christina and Mary, on the Greenock side.

In 1876, Angus MacKay erected a sawmill on part of lot 35, Concession 8, 5.9 acres, purchased from Thomas Allen. He and his brother John operated this sawmill using water power from Willow Creek. Later this was converted to a steam-powered sawmill. John married Anne Brown in 1878 and took over the sawmill. When John built the front part of the house on this same property he used the lumber from his sawmill, sawn, planed, tongue and grooved! Fine lumber for many nearby homes and barns was sawn here as well. From 1878 to 1914, John MacKay operated the mill, then, son John George took it over, as well as the farm. The sawmill ceased operation in 1934 when it was severely damaged by a wind storm. In 1944, Revis, son of John George, married Janet Gilchrist and took over the farm. Today, this site is owned by Todd and Connie Zadow.

In 1889, Robert Mawhinney, a brickmaker, purchased 17 acres of land from Donald Aiken for \$600. It was north of the sawmill and part of Lot 35, Concession 8. He started making buffcoloured brick and tile. The brick was pressed on the start, and later changed to a die cast system. In 1914, the business was sold to Edgar and George Brownscombe. In 5 years it was sold to Samuel Wilson of Toronto. He and his two sons operated the business until it closed in 1926. Brick homes in the area are all that are left to remind us of this once thriving industry. James Pace bought this property on which there was a gravel pit. Later it was sold to Revis MacKay.

Lovat Cemetery commenced when one acre of land on Lot 35, was set aside for a public cemetery. Peter MacGregor laid out the first plots in 1859 and more sections were added when needed. In 1876, Thomas Brown, one of the first trustees, secured from the Crown, the right to proclaim this piece of land as a burial place. More land was purchased in later years from the MacKay's. In 1935, a perpetual care fund was established. Memorial gate posts were erected in 1944, in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Duncan MacGillivray, by their family. This cemetery is still in use, as of 1993.

Over the years the roads have been built up, straightened and paved.

Today it is somewhat difficult to visualize this once lively little hamlet.