

Joanne Werth

From: Marissa Schroder
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 11:11 PM
To: Joanne Werth; Tomasz Wierzba
Cc:
Subject: Heritage Committee
Attachments: Tollendal History (1).pdf

Hi Joanne and Tomasz,

Hope you're both well and that you can help me out. I am the president of the Tollendal Woods Homeowner's Association. About a year ago, during major construction in our neighbourhood, we asked the Heritage Committee to consider a request to install the black "historical" street signs in our neighbourhood. We were told that we didn't have any heritage standing and when we went to follow up, were advised that the committee had been disbanded after the recent election.

I was wondering if the new committee has been established and if so, what the process would be for us to be heard and/or to present some historical data to support our request. For your information, I have attached to this email a detailed history of our neighbourhood (I do have another document regarding the history of a particular home as well – I just have to track it down!). I hope that there is enough here for some consideration on this matter?

Any information on next steps would be tremendously appreciated.

Marissa Schroder
President
Tollendal Woods Homeowners Association

EARLY TOLLENDAL AND ITS CITIZENS

Tollendal had its origin with the erection of a sawmill – the first in Innisfil Township— in '29 or '30, by George McMullen. He got George Emes, a man of some experience in mill construction, who came from Roache's Point, in North Gwillimbury, for the purpose of building it. The mill was soon purchased by Admiral Robert O'Brien (cousin to Lieut. Governor) who in turn disposed of it to Mr. Edmund S. Lally. The latter gentleman became, therefore, one of the first residents of Tollendal.

Mr. Lally had come to Canada in 1835, with letters of introduction to Sir John Colborne, the Lieut.-Governor, and had joined his brother, Meyrick Lally, at Shanty Bay, who had preceded him by three or four years. Shortly afterward he purchased from admiral O'Brien the mill property at Tollendal, and resided there until 1845. Being unaccustomed to the conditions of life in a new country, he, at times, in common with all pioneers, had difficulty in providing for his family; but with time all these difficulties were overcome. He was appointed County Treasurer in 1845, and thereupon moved to Barrie.

His sawmill at Tollendal was then leased and carried on by Alex. Sibbald. A grist mill had been erected in 1835 beside the sawmill by three men who had united their efforts for that purpose. The water power at this place was good, and its proximity to Kempenfeldt Bay rendered it easily accessible by water to a large number of settlers. This was the first grist mill in the township, the settlers up to that time having been obliged to carry their grists to the Red Mills at Holland Landing. This early grist mill at Tollendal was rented and operated by Jas. Priest, who was a resident of the place for a number of years.

It was from Mr. Lally that Tollendal received its musical name.

At an early date when the County of Simcoe was about to be severed from the Home District, Tollendal partook in the strife to become the county town, it being at that time as large a place as Barrie. An agitation had been previously started to make Kempenfeldt the county seat; thereupon Tollendal also became a competitor for the honor. Mr. Lally decided that the capital should be located at the head of the bay, which was about midway between the two rival villages. And thus was determined the fate of all three places. Sometime after, Mr. Lally moved to Barrie. He held conjointly with the County Treasurer ship, the agency of the Bank of Upper Canada. Upon the failure of that bank, in 1866, he was instrumental in establishing a branch of the Bank of Commerce at Barrie, of which he was manager for a long time. Mr. Lally retired from banking, and died at Barrie, June 17th, 1889, at the age of 83. During his life he was commissioned Lieut.-Col. of the Simcoe Battalion.

Amongst the early figures of Tollendal was John Chantler, who was born in England in 1816, and was at first a member of the Society of Friends. He emigrated in 1832 and settled in Newmarket, but removed to Tollendal in 1839. For a time he

operated the grist mills at the latter place; and with him resided his sister, Elizabeth, who was united in marriage on Jan. 10th, 1842, to Rev. George McDougall, the Methodist missionary to the Indians of the North-west, sketches of whose life have appeared from the pens of Rev. Dr. John McLean, and his son, Rev. Dr. John McDougall. Shortly after her marriage, and at the time when Barrie was experiencing a boom consequent upon its selection as the county town, John Chantler removed thither and became one of its first merchants. At a later time he left Barrie, and was for many years a resident of Stroud.

Other early residents of Tollendal were the Sibbalds. John came with his wife and family of small children to Canada in 1832. They arrived at Kempenfeldt, in November, when the weather was too rough for the steamer "Colborne" to land at Tollendal, so they had to cross the bay in a small boat to their destination after the storm had abated. They came from Edinburgh, although Mr. Sibbald was a native of Roxburgh, and his wife a native of Fifeshire, the two having met and married in the Scottish capital. Mr. Sibbald died, Sept. 26th, 1865, aged 65 years.

Alexander Sibbald, as we have said, was for some time the tenant of the Lally sawmill. John Sibbald, his brother, was also for many years a resident of Tollendal. Andrew, another son, of the same family, followed the teaching profession, and in 1875, when Rev. George McDougall, the North-west missionary, was on a visit to his friends in Innisfil, Andrew Sibbald accompanied him to the far North-west, where he has been a teacher of the Indians since that time. The father of this family, John Sibbald, was the proprietor of the earliest public-house in Tollendal.

Robert Simpson, in 1841, built a brewery at Tollendal, but it was destroyed by fire Jan. 1st, 1848. Inducements were then held out to him to locate his business at the county town, which he did. Thirft Meldrum also had a distillery at Tollendal, in its balmy days, which was also destroyed by fire.

Among the later arrivals in the northern portion of Innisfil was William C. Little, a native of Gloucestershire, England. He had received an education as a surveyor, in which calling he served for some time in Australia, and was also in India, where he was engaged as a young man's private tutor. He came to Innisfil in 1847 and settled on lot 6, concession 13. In 1853 he became a member of the Innisfil Council and in 1856 was chosen one of Innisfil's representatives to the County Council. He served the township at the County Council for many years, retiring at the end of 1879. He was first elected M.P. for South Simcoe in 1867, and continued to represent that constituency in the House of Commons until his death, December 31st, 1881. Of his sons, E.A. Little represented Cardwell in the Ontario Legislature from 1894 to 1906, and became registrar of the Surrogate Court for this County. Another son, Alfred T. Little, joined the medical profession, and is Medical Health Officer in the county town.