

## DUNANY ROAD

*The road to Dunany runs north from Route 158 on the eastern outskirts of Lachute opposite the Lachute Protestant Cemetery. The road twists and turns and sometimes there are pot-holes, but it is a lovely drive in all seasons. As you turn off 158 and cross the North River, the ancient Laurentian Mountains rise up ahead. The hardwood trees are starkly barren of leaves in the winter, vividly green in the summer and brilliantly coloured in all shades of red, yellow and orange in the fall. In the winter, the snow is piled high along the roadside and you can see the tracks of the cross-country skiers, for the Canadian Ski Marathon from Lachute to Ottawa passes over the Dunany Road.*

*The snow and ice linger long in the woods, but soon the wild cherry trees begin to blossom and there are patches of trilliums. If you are lucky, you may find some fiddle-heads along the banks of a stream. In spring the North River floods its banks and rises almost to the level of the bridge. This flooding explains the absence of houses along the south bank of the river at this point. The silt makes a fertile field which is harvested twice a year. In late summer the sight of the stooks of hay are a reminder that the beautiful days of summer will soon be gone.*

*Mother Nature is bountiful in the Dunany area. There are many birds, and in the deepest days of winter the bird-feeders are alive with colourful jays, chickadees, woodpeckers and grosbeaks amongst others. Almost every cottage has a hummingbird-feeder which brings the busy ruby-throated male and his less colourful mate. In spring, the wild geese, searching for open water, land on the lakes as soon as the ice has gone. The shy loons are constant visitors. Small animals abound. Raccoons, beaver, chipmunks, rabbits, and foxes and some larger animals such as moose, deer and even bear are found in the Dunany area. There are wild strawberries, raspberries and blueberries. The road-sides in summer are a riot of colour as hundreds of varieties of wild-flowers come into bloom. By late August the fields one passes have a golden look and the leaves are beginning to turn. In glorious September, when the colour of the leaves is at its peak, the road to Dunany is truly magnificent.*

*For many years, there were few houses along the road, but recently some attractive residences have been built, particularly near the North River. Development is coming ever closer to Dunany, which causes some anxiety, but concerned citizens are making every effort to maintain the unique quality of life which Dunanyites have come to expect.*

*Climbing steadily uphill from Lachute on the Dunany Road you finally reach The Four Corners, where MacDougall Road branches off to the other side of Clear Lake. A little further on, the signposts of the first cottages appear and soon you will come over the brow of the hill and see the Church on your right. Through the trees on your left you will catch glimpses of Clear Lake. People visiting the area for the first time look in vain for some sign of a village, but there is none, just the Church, the Golf Course and the Store, widely separated. As you drive through the Community for about five miles, Dunany Road carries you past them all. Branch roads are clearly marked and roads into individual residences have mailboxes to indicate their owners. Boyd and Black Lakes may be visible from the road, but Curran Lake is hidden. Eventually you will come to a crossroads which marks the end of the \_\_\_\_\_ area. The road to the left leads to Lake Louisa and Dalesville. If you continue straight ahead you will come to The Glen and Shrewsbury.*

## DUNANY'S DISTANT PAST

After the British Conquest of French Canada in 1759 and the gradual subjugation of the Indians, settlers moved westward up the St. Lawrence and the Ottawa Rivers, looking for good farm land. Once the lands had been surveyed, townships sprang up around the old seigniorial holdings and the settlers poured in.

The county of Argenteuil was created in 1855 and included the Township of Chatham, founded in 1799, Wentworth (1855) and the Gore (1840). The Parish of St. Jerusalem was created from the old Sir John Johnson Seignior and was incorporated into the County in 1855. The lines of these four townships meet in Clear Lake.

In 1832, Joseph Bouchette, Esq., Surveyor General of Lower Canada, described the area in "The British Dominions in North America A Topographical and Statistical Description of Upper and Lower Canada, 1832." (Reference: 1594, Lande Collection, McGill University).

### THE SEIGNIORY OF ARGENTEUIL

'The Seignior of Argenteuil is on the north bank of the Ottawa in the County of York. It adjoins the Seignior of the Lac des Deux Montagnes on the eastward, the Township of Chatham on the westward, and a tract of Crown Lands on the northward. Its front extends two leagues along the river, by four in depth. It was granted March 7, 1725 to Monsieur Daillebout. The present proprietor is Sir John Johnson, Bart. Perhaps through all the upper part of the district of Montreal no tract of equal extent will be found of greater fertility, or possessing more capabilities of being converted within a few years into a most valuable property.

"The settlements that are already forged in Argenteuil, hardly amount to a third part of the whole. There are two grist mills, two sawmills and a paper mill, the only one I believe in the province, where a large manufacture of that article in all its different qualities is carried on under the direction of the proprietor, Mr. Brown, of Montreal. (Mr. Brown, the founder of Brownsburg, began the first paper mill at St. Andrews East. He is an ancestor of Alex MacGibbon of Curran Lake).



### CHATHAM

"Chatham is situated on the north side of the Ottawa River in the County of York, bounded on the east by the Seignior of Argenteuil, on the west by Grenville, and in the rear by Wentworth. It has been surveyed, divided into farm lots and all granted. In **the rear, the surface is broken and uneven, the land inferior in quality and choked with rocks and other impediments to cultivation.** (Range No. 11 and 12, land taken up by the MacArthur-s, MacDougalls and MacVicars). The timber, in general, is of the best sorts, with much valuable pine and oak, fit for naval purposes.

"By the side of the Ottawa, there is a good road, the main route from Montreal to the upper townships on the bank of the river.

***This photograph shows Mrs. Oscar MacDougall with a sampling of Chatham farm land, ca. 1925***

## WENTWORTH

“Wentworth is situated in the rear of Chatham and has the full dimensions of an inland township, about one quarter of which is subdivided and granted. The greater part is mountainous and rocky and very inapplicable to arable purposes, but on the first three ranges, (Range No. 1 & 2, Dunany, William Smith), all that has hitherto been surveyed, the land is found to be of a tolerable good quality, but not any part of it is yet settled upon. Although there are no very strong inducements to attempt cultivation, this township produces most excellent timber for naval purposes”.

## THE GORE

In 1829, the Gore was surveyed by Joseph Bouchette, and he gave his name to CLEAR LAKE, describing it thus ‘The waters of Lake Bouchette are clear as a diamond and afford abundance of fine salmon-trout. It is bounded by Chatham, Wentworth and the Gore. These lakes, when the country becomes more clear of timber, with the fine diversified hill and dale scenery, will afford one of the most picturesque and romantic spots in the province’. What a lovely description of Dunany!

## THE FIRST SETTLERS

Earlier, in 1815, Joseph Bouchette had produced a Topographical Map of Lower Canada, showing divisions, i.e., Districts, Counties, Seigniories, etc. (Reference No. 1589, Lande Collection, McGill Univ.) It is possible to think that William Smith, Dunany’s first settler, helped with this mapping, for he was granted Lot 1, Range 1, in Wentworth, for marking out a road by blazing trees from Sir John’s Lake to Clear Lake, and he and his family settled there in 1816.

Another early settler was Samuel Campbell, ancestor of Betty Campbell Gordon, of Curran Lake. He settled, in 1823, on 100 acres of uncleared lot in Gore on the shore of Clear Lake. Due to his wife’s continuing illness, and untimely death, he lived here on and off for 25 years, finally moving to Dalesville. Part of the foundation of his house can still be seen behind Violet Gain Townsend’s cottage.

James Stephenson settled nearby on Lot No. 2, Range 1, in the Gore, land on which St. Paul’s Church now stands.

A band of Scottish settlers centered themselves around their Baptist Church in Dalesville. Amongst them were the MacArthurs and MacDougalk, who were granted lands in the Twelfth Range of Chatham. Others settled along the banks of the stream which runs from Dunany to Dalesville. The road they built is now choked with debris, but it was once well-travelled by Dummy residents going to Church in Dalesville. The last horse and wagon came through on this road in 1903.

## THE COMING OF THE IRISH

After the survey, many settlers, fleeing the poverty of Ireland, took the boat up to St. Andrews and walked overland with their few possessions. One young woman even gave birth enroute. Most of these Irish were members of the Church of Ireland, part of the Anglican Church. To meet their needs, the Churches of St. Paul’s, Dunany; St. John’s, Shrewsbury; and St. Aidan’s, Louisa, were eventually built.

Methodism had made inroads into Ireland, after John Wesley’s visits there and a Methodist Circuit Rider, James McNally, has described his life of snow, cold, cholera and smallpox, while carrying the Christian Gospel to this area, preaching in Gore Schoolhouses in the 1820’s.

## LAND TENURE

Some of these settlers were squatters, others received a “ticket of location” from the Crown Land Agent, Thomas Barron, and were granted half-lots of about one hundred acres each. Each half-lot, was 4 acres wide, and 25 acres long. They had to immediately clear twenty feet on the road on which their half-lot was situated, and to clear the entire front of their half-lot within two years.

The early settlers had a difficult task. It is sad for us today to see the way nature has reclaimed the farmland wrested from the rocky fields. Records of their reminiscences tell of having to use hoes and spades instead of a plough. It was a long time before any of them could afford horses, in any case. The roads were rough and muddy and it was a relief when the snow came and travelling became easier.

## LIVING CONDITIONS

The first houses were built of logs, cut and hewn by the settlers. They were usually just one room, with a loft where the children slept. These houses were far apart and life must often have been very lonely. Wolves came in the night in droves, and they had to lock up their sheep. The eerie howling of the wolves disturbed their rest and increased their feeling of isolation.

It was certainly a hard life and the settlers had to have remarkable stamina and good health, mental and physical. Many raised remarkably large families in the absence of medical care, and a no-doubt inadequate diet. A typical meal, according to a visiting clergyman, was fried salt-pork, potatoes, bread and butter, and milk. There was also plenty of game and the lakes teemed with fish.

There was very little income at first. One local farmer expressed his respect for his forefathers when he recalled that in one year only \$5.00 in cash had passed through the household. One source of income was potash, used in making soap. Trees were cut down and burned to ash. Ultimately, there were several potash factories in the Clear Lake area, but Bouchette reported in 1832 that the men had to transport the potash 65 miles to Montreal for sale.

Many of the men journeyed to Grenville and Carillon to work on the canals in the summer. Many were employed by the Seales at Louisa and the McGibbons in Montford in the sawmills and in cutting timber. There was a large grist mill and sawmill at Lakefield. There being no mill in the Dunany area in the early days, the settlers were obliged to take their grain and timber to the Argenteuil Seigniorial mills, six or seven miles away.

The money earned was used to buy seeds, flocks of sheep, and herds of cows. The women used the wool and flax to make clothes for all the family. One lady is recorded as having spun one hundred pounds of wool in a year.

## HARD WORK ENSURED PROGRESS

By 1842, the families had established themselves in relative plenty with an average of 10 acres cleared and were growing substantial crops of oats and potatoes. Some sweet was provided by tapping the maple trees.

Many of the families had settled close to relatives in the area, and being a naturally happy people, they soon had a lively social life, particularly around the local Orange Lodges.

## MILITARY SERVICE

Another obligation of early settlers was for Military Service. Lowell's Gazetteer of British North America, published in 1881 says: “The men of Gore are a sturdy loyal class, mostly descendants of settlers from the North of Ireland. They are nearly all Orangemen, and are famous for the fine appearance they made, when as part of the Argenteuil Rangers, they hastened to the front to repel the Fenian Invasion in 1866.” Two of the Volunteer Companies were led by Captain William Smith and Captain George McKnight of Gore West.

## THE NAMING OF **DUNANY**

A Post-Office was established in 1853 and given the name of Dunany. William Smith became the first Post-Master. Many people wonder how Dunany received its name. Sydney Bellingham, the son of Sir Allan Bell&ham of Castle Bell&&am, County Louth, Ireland was born in 1808, educated in Ireland and emigrated to Canada, where he was called to the Bar of Lower Canada in 1841. He was elected to the &radian Assembly in 1854 and sat until 1861. He was a Colonel of the Argenteuil Rangers and participated in the Rebellion of 1837-8. He built a house on the north brow of Mount Royal and gave his name to Bellingham Avenue. His name is also remembered on a street in Lachute. Sydney Bellingham gave Dunany its lovely name, recalling a point of land from his childhood north of Dublin on the Irish Sea.

## THE MUNICIPALITY OF **DUNANY**

The first record of Dunany as a Municipality is an early meeting of the Dunany School Board in July, 1894, when a letter was sent to the Superintendent of Education with the names of local Commissioners. (See Dunany School No. 1). Those who paid School Taxes at that time included: John Neill, John Evans, W. J. Gain, Joseph McCluskey, Mrs. John McClusky, William Thompson, John Murphy, Duncan MacDougall, Richard Stephenson, William Proudlock, William MacVicar, James Curran, George Smith, R. S. Boyd, Archibald MacDougall and Joseph Boyd.

Clarence Neill says that essentially the Municipality of Dunany was a School District set up for collection of taxes to support the school, and thus it remained until the School closed and was absorbed into the Lachute School system. We all now pay School Taxes to the Laurentian Regional School Board in Lachute. Chir property taxes are paid to the Township in which we reside, Chatham, Gore and Wentworth.. The Parish of St. Jerusalem has become part of the City of Lachute.

## PROPOSED MUNICIPALITY OF **DUNANY**

There was an attempt in 1942, spearheaded by Dick Richardson, to make Dunany into a municipality separate from the Townships. A group of citizens made considerable effort in this regard, marking out boundaries, measuring roads. etc. They wrote a letter to Wendell Laidley (later Q.C.) to this effect (see below). Clarence Neill, a member of the Committee, now says, "It all came to nothing".

June 24,1942.

*Re: Proposed Municipality of Dunany*

*Dear Sir:*

*At Mr. C.E. Richardson's home at Dunany, Quebec, the following committee has held three meetings, ie. May 24, June 7, and June 21, and a further meeting of the committee will be held July 5th next.*

*I am enclosing herewith eight sheets, first, showing roads and miles re the proposed Municipality of Dunany, Second, sheets showing the total valuation of Chatham, St. Jerusalem, Gore and Wentworth. Also the approximate part that the proposed Municipality of Dunany will take from these four municipalities, and showing as well if any of the municipalities are in debt and the amount. The last sheet shows in detail the suggested boundary of the proposed Municipality of Dunany, scale approximately one mile to an inch, under date of June 23rd.*

*The committee has asked me to place this information before you so that you would have a chance to Study same and express an opinion, so that we would have this information at our next meeting.*

*MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE: C. E. Richardson Oscar MacDougall Leonard Gain  
Clarence R. E. Raguin C. G. Brown*

The following submission of Dunany Roads gives some idea of the boundaries of the proposed Municipality. (From D. Gauley's notes).

Flat Rock to Four Corners (Undermount Farm)	1.20 miles
Four Corners to Church Corner (Dunany Road)	1.55 miles
Church Corner to Boyd's Corner in the Gore (Gore W.Rd.)	1.95 miles
Tomalty Cheese Factory to School-house Corner	2.75 miles
School-House Corner to Church Corner	1.00 miles
Four Corners to School-house Corner (MacDougall Road)	2.10 miles
Curran Lake South Side, and part of Davidson Road and part of Boyd Road	1.25 miles
Curran Lake North Side	.50 miles
Total length of Dunany roads:	12.30 miles

#### SUMMARY FOR PROPOSED TOWN OF DUNANY

AREA:	4,275 acres, or 6 3/4 square miles
POPULATION:	Winter, 33; Summer, 140, Total 173
PROPERTY OWNERS:	Winter, 32; Summer, 191, Total 223.
REAL ESTATE VALUE	\$543,631

## THE DUNANY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

### The Incorporation of the Dunany Community Association

The Dunany Community Association grew in response to citizens' concerns. The idea of forming this Association was the brainchild of three residents, Gavin Walker, Ian MacAskill and Wels Marshall in about 1963. Their concern, at that time, was the pick-up and disposal of garbage in the area. After several meetings, they organ&d a membership drive and the Association began. It came of age, legally, about 1967, when letters patent were taken out. A minute book outlining the bylaws of the Dunany Community Association, Incorporated, was drawn up with limited liability for the new directorship. Since its formation, there have been ten presidents. Peter Palmer gave a summary of the Association's aims and achievements at the Annual Meeting in 1983, which honoured the contributions of Weh Ma&all. He said, "I have reviewed these accomplishments, because, of the original civic-minded people who founded this Association, two, Ian MacAskill and Gavin Walker, unfortunately have passed away. One remains,who is very much with us, our first President, Wels Marshall. Wels has been the driving force on a lot of these projects, particularly the Pure Water Committee, C.P.R., Fire Protection and the Numbering of the Houses."

Amongst the achievements of the Dunany Community Ass'n have been the following:

### **Mapping the Area**

An area map was prepared of the four lakes showing all the properties. Peter Palmer edited this map and has maintained it to date. To assist the Fire Department and Ambulance Services in getting to homes in an emergency, a small group was formed to name the roads and assign numbers to properties in Dunany.

### **Hydro-Power, Roads and Telephone Charges**

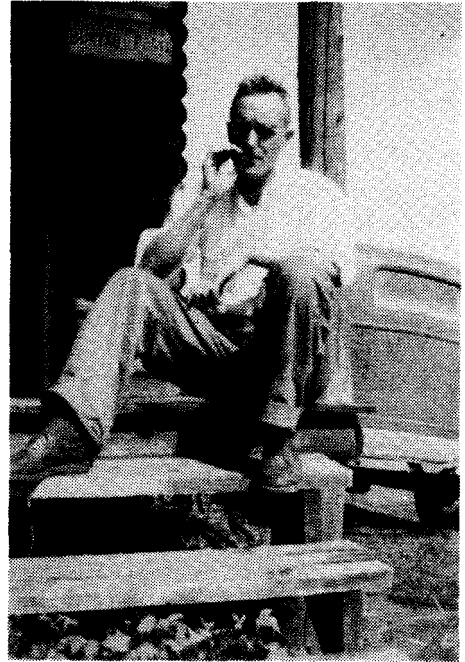
As a result of the efforts of Peter Palmer, Hydro-Quebec has extended its powerline from Lachute to Clear Lake and beyond The Dunany Road has been levelled, graded, and paved. A repeater station for the telephone network was built on Mr. Jim Wilson's property and extra mileage charges that residents had to pay were eliminated.

## THE DUNANY POST-OFFICE

William Smith became the first Post-Master when the **Post-Office** opened in 1853 with the name of Dunany. The Office of Post-Master was always held by a Smith William, Samuel and George, until the latter's death in 1922. The Post-Office was then moved to Stewart Boyd's home. Eventually Leonard Gain took over the Office. He built a Post-Office and small store behind where the old Smith house had stood. His assistants were his wife, Minnie, and his sister, Violet. The store was a meeting place for young people through the years. It has been dismantled, the path has disappeared, and the area is now completely overgrown.

Memories of the Post-Office and the excitement of picking up the mail are vivid in the minds of early settlers and early cottagers. They remember, too, the goodness of the men who took the rural run from Shrewsbury to Lachute three *times* a week through all kinds of weather, George Robinson of Shrewsbury drove the mail for 38 years and there is a wonderful poem about him in the St. John's Church (Shrewsbury) Anniversary (1983) Booklet. He evidently carried out all kinds of personal errands for the people along his route, as well as giving people rides and picking up the milk for the cheese factory.

Eventually, the Post Office was closed and mail was delivered directly to individual boxes at driveways. The first rural mail route was laid out by Nelson Morrison and Alec Bothwell. The first driver was Charlie Connelly (Dorothy Gauley's notes). Through the 1980's the driver was Brenda Crooks Moncrieff.



*Leonard Gain on the Post-Office Steps.*

## DUNANY INDUSTRY

There was never much industry in Dunany and, as families increased in number and tilling the land became less profitable, many of the settlers left for greener pastures. The young, in particular, sought work outside the community.

No specific potasheries are mentioned in the Dunany area, although there is an account in the 1891 Census of a potashery in the Gore which made 100 bushels of ashes. This brought in revenue of \$30.00.

The two cheese factories employed very few, the mine a few others, and the lumber mill a steady procession of young employees, but not many at a time. As the cottagers came to Dunany, many of the heads of families turned to building. They were very adept at many trades: carpentry, plumbing, and electricity, and the sturdiness of the Dunany cottages attests to their ability.

## THE CHEESE FACTORIES

There were once two cheese factories in Dunany. One was on the waterfront between Gain's farm and Clear Lake. At one time it was owned by Alex Dupuis, who worked in Lachute, and who owned and rented out the little log cabin next to the Church. The other was on the corner of Dunany and Louisa Roads on land owned by the Tomalty's.

The Tomalty Cheese Factory was a cooperative effort, shares being owned by local farmers who paid a small amount to have the milk processed there. A man was hired to make the cheese. The Rural Mail Delivery Man, George Robinson, picked the milk up from the farmers along the road to Shrewsbury and brought it to the factory. Once it had been processed, the cheese was either sold, or returned to the farmers. Clarence Neill says it was "awfully good cheese".

#### THE GRAPHITE MINE ON THE GAFFNEY FARM

It is hard to believe that there was once a mine in the Dunany area, but there was one, indeed, on the old Gaffney Farm, now part of the ballpark in Grace Park. The mine was backed by some people with early Dunany connections, including James Smith and Jim Campbell (who owned the fii fishing camp on Boyd Lake).

A large hole was bored into the mountain, and Stanley Holt, Clarence Neill's brother-in-law, was hired to drill small holes in the walls. He did this by hand. Each hole was then filled with dynamite and blasted to determine how far the veins went into the rock. Costs were considerable. They included dynamite, labour and a track and tram-car. Many of the local men worked there, including Oscar MacDougall.

Unfortunately, water got into the mine and it was forced to close. Clarence does not think that any profit could have been made from this mine, since the processing of the Graphite proved too costly.

#### THE SAWMILL ON MACDOUGALL ROAD

The Chapmans land was across the road from Kerr's farm near Lakefield. They were related to the Neills, but it was after Joe Chapman married Kate Gain that he bought land from Oscar's mother, Mrs. Archibald MacDougall and built the mill. This was in 1912. Oscar MacDougall built the house beside the mill.

The actual saw machinery was moved from Shrewsbury (Dorothy Gauley's notes). Joe's mother gave him the water wheel. Joe operated the mill until 1919 when he sold out and moved to Northern Ontario. It is possible that Joe did not find this business profitable since he left before the great influx of cottagers made the sawmill a very busy little industry. (See Jessie Morrison's memories for a more thorough account of the Sawmill).



***The dam behind the sawmill. The wooden pipe on the left carried in the water power which drove the mill.***



## HOW ELECTRIC POWER CAME TO DUNANY

Unless one had a private generator, as Clarence Neill and Nelson Morrison did, one did not have power till after 1950. The old cottages all contain oil lamps, very useful when the power lines are down.

Some of the cottagers, and the Directors of the Golf Club, were very anxious to have a power line brought in, but it posed enormous problems. Some residents “wouldn’t put their name” on a petition to Gatineau Power, and the Gatineau Representative in Lachute, Leo Gosselin, was definitely against bringing a power line into Dunany, saying the land was too rocky and had too many trees.

George Templeman, of Black Lake, took on the bringing of electricity to Dummy as a personal crusade. Clarence says he deserves a tremendous amount of credit. He and Clarence prepared blueprints with the location of all the houses and cottages. With them, George Templeman went right to the top of Gatineau Power, and managed to get a pledge to bring power in from Brownsburg, via Dalesville, (residents there being in favour), and over the Neill farm to Hunter’s store.

Work could not proceed at once, however, for there was no large transformer available, due to shortages caused by the recent World War. George Templeman said, “I’ll check this out.” He found that one large transformer had been sent to the Naval Yards in Halifax during the War for “their protection”. He managed to get the Government to release it and arranged for it to be transported to Brownsburg.

The next difficulty was in finding small transformers. “Templeman kept after them”, sending names of local residents to keep the pressure on. One small transformer, when it finally arrived, was labelled “Ernest Trott”. George Templeman had sent in his name.

By Christmas, 1949, power was in as far as Hunter’s store and by January, 1950, Clarence had it in his house. At this time, a lot of people who had previously been reluctant, became anxious to have the power line extended right through Dummy.

Mr. Gosselin was still a stumbling block, as he felt Dunany had had “enough”. The Golf Club gave Clarence time off to pursue the matter, and Gatineau finally agreed that if the people of Dunany got the poles cut, they would put up the wires. Clarence was given a contract to cut the poles according to very strict specifications.

They had to be thirty to thirty-five feet. No twenty-five footers were allowed. They had to be absolutely straight. However, as Clarence explained, “If the top of the pole were eight inches wide, a curve in the pole of eight inches was allowed”. The logs had to be peeled, except for four feet from the bottom where the bark was left on. Clarence cut over one hundred trees, on land owned by a Campbell in the Grace Park area. He was paid \$5.00 for a thirty foot pole and \$6.00 for a thirty-five foot pole.

In the fall, Mr. Templeman came to see Clarence. They had never heard from Gatineau over the summer. “Did they pay you yet?” he asked. When Clarence said they hadn’t, he said “Well, I’ll go after them and get them to pay you. They’ve spent money, now they’ll want to make money!”

Clarence went with the surveyors to settle pole locations. The poles were ready, but the holes had to be dug. Joe Gosselin wanted Clarence to dig the holes. “We’ll pay you \$3.00 for a four foot hole, with a leeway up to three feet either way, in case you hit a rock.” Clarence asked him, “Will I get paid if I have to dig three holes and can only get down two feet in each?”

Clarence was too shrewd to get caught in that situation and eventually Gatineau sent servicemen to dig the holes and to put up the lines.

Hydro-Quebec has now taken over the service.

## TELEPHONE SERVICE

In 1930, Nelson Morrison called a meeting to see about getting telephone service brought into Dunany. A line had already been brought along the Dunany Road as far as Browns on Rogers (or Elder) Road. Clarence Neill was all for it and he told Bob Gain and Arthur Tomalty that they had better come down if they were interested. Fred Gain and James Parkes, living on Boyd Lake at that time, were also there.

There was a lot of discussion as to which route the line should follow around Clear Lake. To make sure, both routes were measured. Eventually it was decided to come in past Fred Gain's, and Fred and Albert Gain were given the contract to dig the holes for the poles.

In the fall of 1930, Nelson Morrison built the first phone line, which only extended as far as James Parks cottage. Mr. Parkes placed a call to Montreal. When Gordon Pollock, down the Dunany Road, got his bill, he found he had been charged with the Parkes' call. This must have caused quite a to-do. Something was faulty and eventually the line from the Lachute Cemetery to Rogers Road had to be replaced.

In 1946, Bruce Hunter called Clarence to see if they could get a group together to work on bringing the phone-line out further. Because of his handicap, he particularly needed a phone to place his orders for the store. Bruce and Clarence canvassed the residents, and receiving a good response, they went to Bell Telephone. It was arranged for Bell to tap in a new line from the Parkes cottage. Eventually Bell took over service in the whole Dunany area.

Some of us still have party-lines. They have caused all kinds of grief and a few good laughs over the years. One new cottager was warned by a Dunany native to be very careful what she said over the phone as "SOMEONE" might be listening!



***Bev Neill on the steps of Hunter's Store.  
Ida Greening Hunter is in the doorway***