

The bar attracted many customers but even so the place frequently changed hands. Then came local option and for a time the hotel was closed. At length both Cook and Cox had a try at running it, and there were many others. But none were successful. The barn-like place was always cold, sometimes the food was poor, sometimes it was a bootlegging joint but always the commercial travellers avoided it if possible. So it wasn't with any regret that the townsfolk saw it torn down and rebuilt by the Pentecostals at Manhattan Beach. What they did regret was the empty lot being such an eyesore. This condition was only remedied when the Legion bought the Overend Hall, moved it onto the lot and converted it into the fine hall the community enjoys today.

Of course there was another place for the travellers to stay. By 1900 the ROSS BOARDING HOUSE was here. Before the days of automobiles the Commercial Travellers arrived by train and stayed all night. A traveller would require a display room where he could lay out his samples for the storekeepers' inspection. The big square house just across the street from the Hamiltons provided just such accommodation, and allowed the Rosses and the Hamiltons to continue the friendship established when they were on their farms. In no time at all Sadie and Ettie Hughes were bosom friends as well.

THE BURNETTS moved to town in 1907. Their white frame house away up in the bush on Grove Street a whole block from the school seemed quite isolated. From here each day Frances and Enid Houghton emerged to attend school. Their very English accent sounded indeed strange to the children of Ontario parents.

A second town picture portrays the village of 1907 as seen from the west hill. By that time there were lots of trees. Just left of the newly built Anglican Church and a bit beyond it, appearing most prominently is the Overend Hall. One can distinguish two houses running west from the livery barn. One, the present Mac Woods house, was the first J. G. Murray built in the village and the other, the Chas. Stinton house, the one he built to live in when he sold the first one. One sees the school and the Bell house but there is no Davreux house nor Presbyterian church. There is, however, the little Deacon place.

1908 - THE BIG BUILDING YEAR

When James Overend in 1908 moved his frame store one lot to the south and replaced it with the fine red brick structure we are so familiar with, main street took on a more imposing appearance.

That year WILLIAM COULTHARD erected his two storey red brick store also but he did not live long to enjoy his new venture.