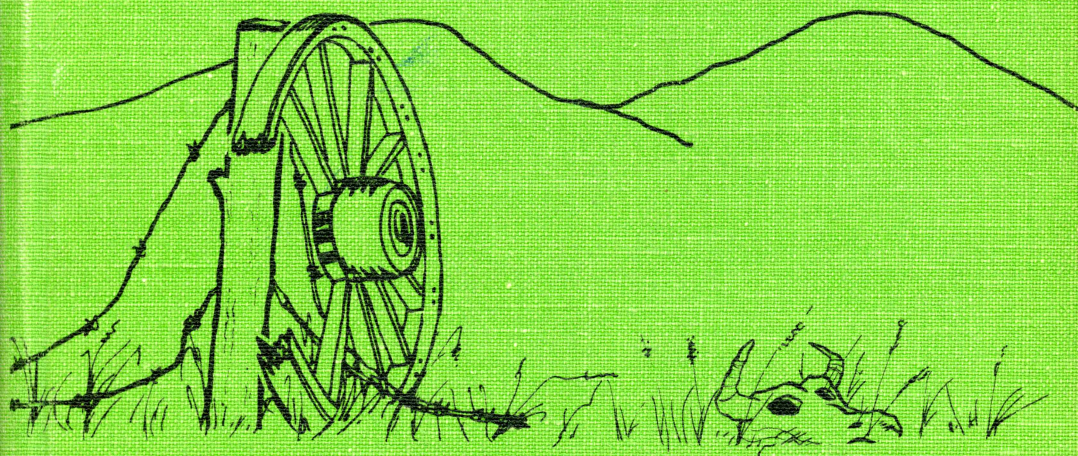


# **Snake valley**



**A HISTORY OF LAKE MCGREGOR AND AREA**



## THE HAMLET OF QUEENSTOWN

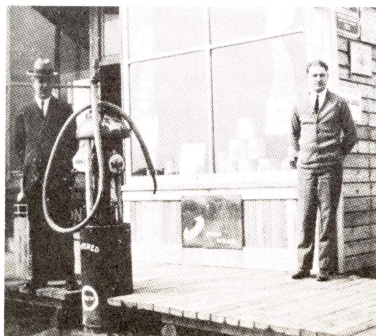
Queenstown, situated seventy-six miles Southeast of Calgary, was named in honor of Queen Victoria and it first came on the map in 1925 when it changed its site to move a few miles to the C.P.R. Railroad line.

In the year 1927 more than 900,000 bushels of wheat were shipped from Queenstown's five grain elevators. The first store in the hamlet was built by a fine English gentleman by the name of Frank Vickers. Soon other business places began to appear on the horizon. These included Jenning's store, later purchased by John Lawther, a



John Lawther's store at Queenstown.

very genial man who always had time for a joke or a story. This store was later owned by his son Alf Lawther, Jack Bushell, Ernie Heather, Mr. Hutchinson, and Jimmy Brown. A Board of Trade was organized with H. E. Waterbury as president. The secretary of the school board was H. B. Nelson, manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia in Queenstown at that time.



Phillips' Hardware Store at Queenstown.  
Eric Shore on corner.

The first hotel owner was Art Bremner. He was followed by Harry White, Wally McLean, Jack Harley, Mr. Spence and George Long. A poolroom and barber shop, butcher store, two hardware

stores, and a fine restaurant, drug store, community hall, a Massey Harris machine agency, and Crown Lumber Company all appeared on the main street. Other business places were also thriving, including a garage, boardinghouse and service station, International Machine Agency and three oil agencies. Wilbur Clark operated the billiard parlor and barber shop, followed by Gus Hegland. Alex Lamb had a fine butcher shop which was later taken over by Mrs. J. O'Leary. Later this building was occupied by Mr. Cann, a very cultured gentleman who taught music and singing and had a lending library. There were two large and very fine hardware stores, one of which was owned by L. H. Phillips and Sons and the other by Sloan and Burke. Dan Wong was owner of the cafe. In later years he discontinued the serving of meals and operated a fine grocery and dry goods store.

Reg Campbell had a thriving Massey Harris and motor car agency, and insurance and real-estate business, until the building was purchased by Paul Lecuyer, a general blacksmith and all-around handy-man. The Drug Store owned by H. E. Waterbury thrived for a few years until it was burned. It was never replaced. The Crown Lumber Company's manager was Mr. Johnston.

The boarding house was capably operated by Mrs. Crum for a few years until it too was destroyed by fire. The original owners of the Queenstown garage were Frank and Lloyd Durston, and subsequently E. Parker and C. Ferguson, Ralph Salter, Jack Bushell, Tom Daw and others. Martin Lahd had an implement agency and Art Soli a service station. The dray man, Mr. Eller, hauled and delivered freight and mail from the train. He also did numerous other tasks which required a team of horses. Frank Schultz later took over, and some of his extra duties were the ploughing of the town gardens and hauling barrels of soft-water to the housewives for the family wash. There was plenty of water of the hard type available in Queenstown and for a number of years irrigation water became available from the canal. More trees were planted and the hamlet took on a new look until the cessation of this service.

In the thirties, business places were hard pressed to keep in operation. The grocery stores were glutted with farm produce which the farmers' wives bartered for other necessary commodities. Eggs sold for five cents per dozen and butter was ten cents a pound. With the absence of refrigeration and the slow transportation to town, the butter wasn't always in good condition on arrival at the stores on a hot summer's day.

During these depression years a number of business places folded up and went in search of greener pastures. With the advent of World War II, money began to flow again and the business places that were still operating began to prosper once more. The hamlet had a very welcome addition of a freezing plant owned by Mr. Ostergaard, later by Ed. Kingsmith and Leo Conklin respectively.

When the County of Vulcan was formed, a new consolidated school was built in Milo and the Queenstown school was closed. Business drifted more or less to the school centre and one by one the Queenstown places of business were forced to close their doors. The main street buildings resembled a ghost town and became in such a condition as to create a hazard. The Women's Institute petitioned the County to demolish these structures. This was accomplished by burning and bull-dozing.

The Community Hall is the only public building left. It is in good condition, a mute reminder of former years when the rafters rang with the music of many dances and social activities.

There are, at present, a number of residential homes left. With the passing of the business section, it has left one with many nostalgic memories of former years.

#### QUEENSTOWN ELEVATOR AGENTS

Queenstown's elevator agents were the following, and we are not certain of some of the companies they worked for. Any errors or omissions were not intentional.

Pioneer: Art Soli, Don Yuill, Jim Taylor, Joe Hough, W. Murray, Jack Parfett, Del Gullickson, Marvin Winch, Ron McMeachen, Ray Parker, J. Lawrence, G. Riswold, A. McConnell.

Federal: Art "Dusty" Miller.

Alberta Pacific: Baldy Parsons, Charlie Lunde, Don McCord.  
U.G.G. — R. Asselstine, Maurice Edwards, Slim Saunders.

Wheat Pool: C. Costin, J. Souter, E. G. Varndell, A. Hagstrom, D. Cofell, J. N. Truman, S. Hagg, E. Jans, R. Vert, N. Chilton.

#### SHOULDICE

Shouldice is one of those little hamlets which dot the countryside: small when it began, and no larger today. But that in no way interfered with the friendliness of its people.



Shouldice, 1942.

The main road which runs east and west through the town separates the five grain elevators which are on the south side of the road from the business and residential section.