

## Walk Traces Historical Roots

Dale Clifford, Peterborough Examiner

Monday, February 18, 2013

Keeping track of our historical roots was the theme during a cold winter's walk through a Peterborough neighborhood Sunday afternoon.

Led by Lakefield Heritage Research editor Gord Young, about 20 people braved the cool conditions to get a history lesson in an area called Auburn, today associated with land north of Parkhill Rd. and east of the Otonabee River.

For nearly two hours Young took the crew from the Auburn St./Dunlop St. corner north on a former rail line trail along the river's edge and along such roadways with names of Whitaker, Lisburn, Moir, Armour and Vinette, arguably the city's narrowest street.

There they got to see the connection to the Stewart and Reid families, including Thomas A. Stewart and his wife Frances and Robert Reid and his clan, who came from Ireland. Some homes still exist.

They were also told of the tie-in to the river for the area's energy, the generating station, the building of a large woolen mill and the importance of the railroad – to name only a few sites of significance. They saw many establishments, including homes of millworkers as well as other popular hotels and motels of another era.

There is a story on every street and there were churches, grocery stores, teachers and ministers' homes, many with strong family connections, often tied in to the street itself. Noted was the style and architecture and how the area has retained a certain rural feel.

"It gives you an overall sense of identity," said Young. "You see where you are and where you came from. People put puzzles together. We put historical puzzles together."

It was noted before the tour began that it would be called off if the weather was bad. The sun shone Sunday and there was no blizzard, no freezing rain. The only element was cold and people didn't seem to mind that much. They had their guide and information package put together by Louis Taylor and his wife Karen.

The Buckhorn area's Marilyn Twiss took in the tour for the first time and brought her sister Kate and niece Sarah Swan from Ottawa.

## Appendix A

“It is sad when you see we have lost so many old buildings,” said Marilyn. “I’m happy we are keeping track of our history. You see it all around. I have passed so many of these places but I didn’t know what they were. I would never have known if I hadn’t come out today. Now I know. I decided to come out because it was all part of Family Day weekend. We had an extra day and I was looking for something to do and it was a day to get out.”

Her sister added, “I appreciate it when you get to see things like this. It enriches your life.”

Support for the tour came from such groups as the Peterborough Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, lawyer Brendan J. Moher, Community Alternative Funeral and Cremation Services and the Peterborough Golf and Country Club.