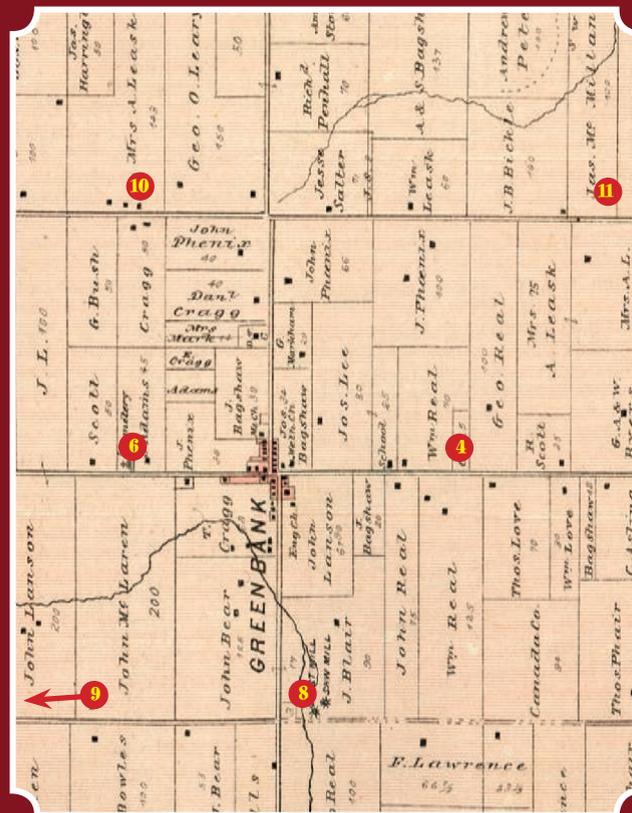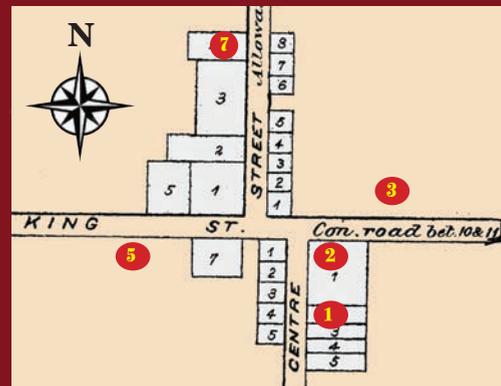# GREENBANK DRIVING TOUR

Our Story

Greenbank and area was surveyed by Samuel Wilmot in 1809 but settlers did not arrive until about 1833. The original location of Greenbank was on the 12th concession of Reach on the Old Brock Road. It was called Gimlet Town and located near the Presbyterian Cemetery called "The Pines".

When the Post Office moved to the 11th Concession to locate on the new Centre Road in the late 1860s this settlement was renamed as Greenbank. Early settlers included: Isaac Cragg, Robert Baird, John Beare, John Ianson, Joseph Lee, John Phoenix, Edward Bassingthwaite. This small community was home to the a very large Temperance membership of over 300 members as well as 5 churches at one time Baptists, Anglicans, Presbyterians and 2 branches of Methodists.

The Tornado of 1850

The " Great Storm" of 1850 hit the west side of Greenbank Village with extreme force and tragic circumstances. On that July 5th afternoon the Ianson farm and family suffered great loss, including two members of their family, a son and Mrs. Ianson's sister Mrs. Hunter, as well as blowing the roof off their sawmill and blowing their cattle into the millpond.

The Hornes on the Joseph Ward homestead had their house lifted from the foundation and scattered far and wide. There was even a story recounted of a small lamb found safe under a very large potash kettle that had overturned. Reports of this storm described clothing, harness, hens, and trees being carried off as far as Scugog Island. Fences were levelled and many trees lost. This area of Scugog was the hardest hit that day as the Tornado tracked toward Prince Albert, Borelia and Port Perry and south towards Lake Ontario.

1. St. Agnes Church / Hall
2. Greenbank Methodist Church
3. Presbyterian Church
4. Greenbank Public School
5. Greenbank Baptist Church
6. Bethel Church/Cemetery
7. Bassingthwaite House
8. Beare Mill & House
9. Bethesda Plaque
10. The Pines Cemetery
11. Wm. McMillan Residence

For more Greenbank & Area History visit our website at: www.scugogheritage.com or contact us at: lakescugoghistoricalsociety@gmail.com
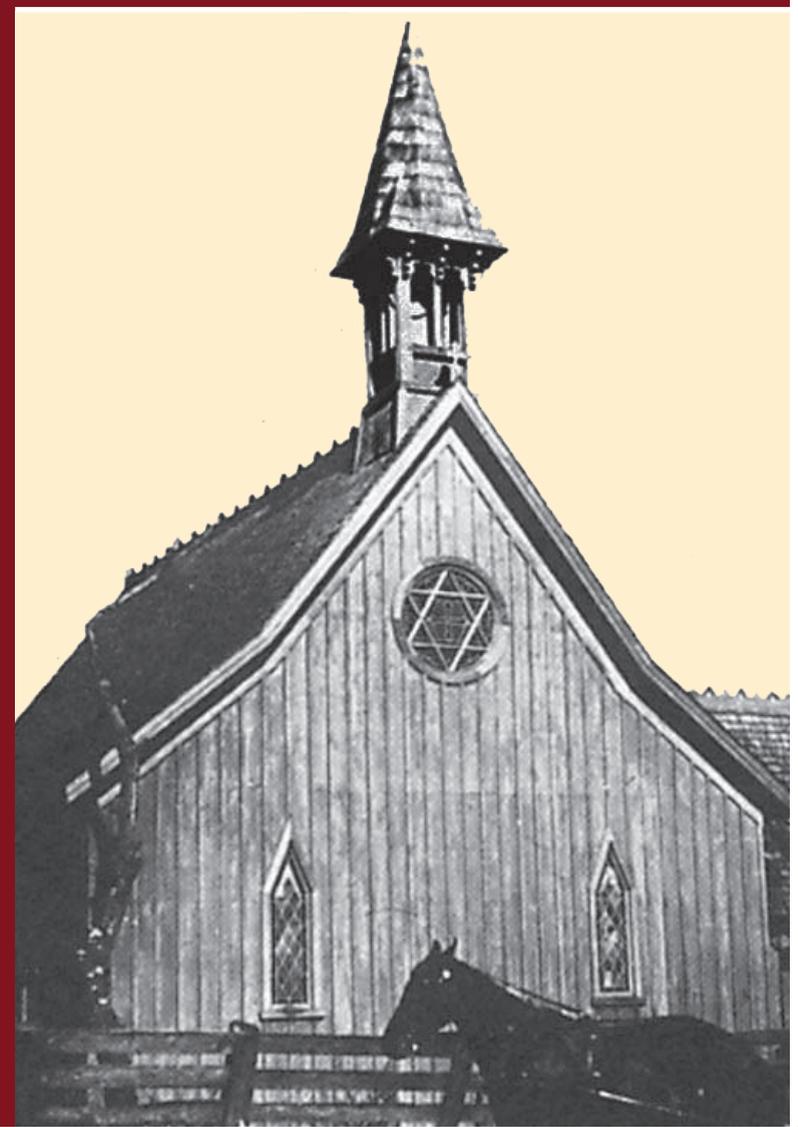
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HERITAGE DRIVING TOURS…

GREENBANK & AREA

Lake Scugog Historical Society

HERITAGE DRIVING TOURS ...

GREENBANK & AREA

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3   Presbyterian Church

1237 Cragg Road

Established here in 1849 near the Pines Cemetery. Moved to the village in 1878. It was one of five churches in this small village. This church closed in 1922. Today all that remains is the cornerstone prominently displayed in a garden on the front yard of a private residence.

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6   Bethel Church/Cemetery

1055 Cragg Road

The first Methodist church a white frame building was built here in 1848 but abandoned in 1866. In 1942 a new chapel was built with parts of the Marsh Hill Church being dismantled and reassembled here. Many of the earliest settlers to Greenbank are buried here.

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9   Bethesda Plaque

625 Concession #8

The Bethesda School opened in 1876 and was officially closed in 1963 when this school was consolidated into Greenbank Public School. In 1893 there were 47 students and one teacher at this location. The Church stood across the road and operated from 1876-1963.

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1   St. Agnes Church / Hall

19965 Highway #12

Built in 1868 and featured a gothic style, lancet windows, and a belfry. It was built on the corner of John Ianson farm south of the United Church . Closed in 1887. In 1925 the steeple was transferred to the Port Perry Anglican Church (where it still stands today).

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4   Greenbank Public School

1325 Cragg Road

The first school was built in 1865. In 1874 a new board and batten school was built. In 1909 separate boys and girls entrances were added. In 1960 a single storey yellow building was added closing several area schools including Bethesda, Marsh Hill, Saintfield, Seagrave and Victoria Corners.

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7   Bassingthwaite House

20036 Highway #12

This small brick home built in 1852 is considered the oldest home in Greenbank. The first baby in the village was born here. John Phoenix married a Bassingthwaite and a 6th generation Phoenix family member still lives here today. It is a private residence.

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10   The Pines Cemetery

1081 Concession #12

In 1848 a small framed Free Presbyterian Church was built here. A Presbyterian Cemetery was established in 1849 . Many of the internments were immigrants from Scotland and Northern England. It was named The Pines because of the 39 pines growing here.

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2   Greenbank Methodist Church

19991 Highway #12

This red-brick church was built in 1896. Became the Greenbank United Church through the church union in 1925. Rumour has it that the stones at the front walk are constantly " Unbalanced" because the temperance-minded folks built the church on the site of the former Cottage Hotel.

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5   Greenbank Baptist Church

1178 Cragg Road

West of the four corners is a small brick building that was the original Greenbank Baptist Church founded in 1899. The plaque is still visible at the top of the church building. There were 31 members in the congregation when it opened. It closed in 1927 . Private residence.

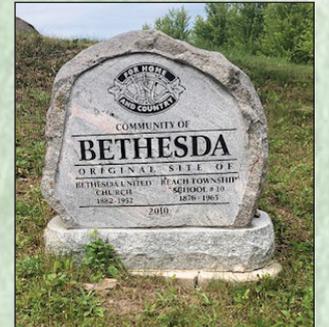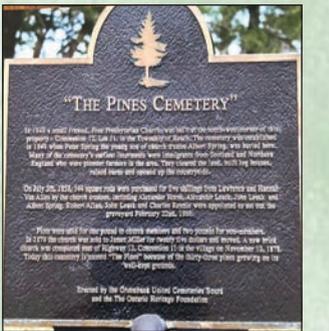### 8   Beare Mill & House

19251 Highway #12

A small mill was first built here in 1840, a larger four storey one in 1858. The two storey brick house was built in 1880. The mill was sold in 1899 and was destroyed in a sudden storm in 1925. Ruins of the mill still exist on site. Private residence.

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11   Wm. McMillan Residence

1735 Concession #12

This stone house dates to the 1870s. In 1954 Neil Hunter bought the farm and later rejoined the complete farm site. His son Bob restored the home. This farm house represents a distinctive use of larger stones usually seen in Reach and Uxbridge Township. This is a private home.