

BOYNE MILL

Since 1866

Built by Edward McMulkin to
grind local wheat into flour.

In 1893 John Plewes changed it to a
chopping mill for animal feed. The
Sawyers family, James and his son
Harry, operated it from 1919 to 1968

It is now a private residence

1851



2001

IT'S THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FRESHWATER
AND THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY HAS
COMED HOME TO THE HEADWATER REGION

MILLS OF CANADA - Carol Priamo

Mill at Stanton, Ontario, on the Boyne River. This picturesque frame structure, once a thriving gristmill, has been restored and now serves as a private country house.





BOYNE MILL

The mill was located on the sixth line of Mulmur (now known as Airport Road) where it crosses the Boyne River. The first Irish settlers formed an attachment for the Boyne because it reminded them of the Boyne back in Ireland and also because water was a source of power.

One of the first needs of the settler in the 1800's was flour. To alleviate the necessity to travel many miles to the Sheldon Mill, Mr. Edward McMulkin had the grist mill built around 1866, by John Sindalls, carpenter. In 1867, the mill was purchased by Mr. David Gemlo. He was listed in the 1881 Atlas of Canada as a miller, a farmer and the postmaster at Stanton. He owned 235 acres of land. 1876, Dalton McCarthy, M.P. for South Simcoe purchased the site but never lived there. It had a succession of tenant millers.

The mill had three mill stones in use. One of the tenants, Dixon by name, installed rollers for making flour but this proved to be unsuccessful and the stones were again in use the next year. During the years from 1876 to 1893 the mill fell into disrepair. Large mills were beginning to take over and the small ones gradually closed.

Boyne Mill was spared when purchased by Mr. John Plewes in 1893. He was a hard working and progressive man becoming a very popular citizen of the community. Mr. Plewes was a beekeeper and bred poultry as a hobby. John Plewes and his three sons renovated the mill, built a new flume, cleared out the raceway and the old mill gained a new lease on life. Originally from Kimberley in Grey County he returned there in 1903 to spend his remaining years.

The mill, in 1903, then passed into the ownership of Mr. Thomas Sterling, who was the miller at Shepherd's Mill at Primrose.

Due to the ill health of the Sterlings, Boyne Mill was sold to James Sawyers, a native son of Mulmur township, in November 1920. An oat roller was installed and the open flume replaced by a barrel flume.

2. BRYNE MILL

In 1940 James Sawyers turned the mill over to his son Harry. In 1945 the spring floods washed away the dam completely. Harry replaced the dam with a modern cement one. In the 1940's, storage bins and extra elevators were installed.

The mill is currently maintained as a private residence with beautiful gardens and a wonderful landscaped woodland setting.