

EARNSLIFFE

Since 1850

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with a log schoolhouse.
A post office existed from
1891 through to 1915.

1851



2001



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Earnscliffe was located on the 4th line of Mulmur, lot # 4, concession 4. Unlike most of the communities in Mulmur it did not possess a mill. It would appear to have been a farming community. Stories tell that it was named after the new residence of Sir John A. Macdonald in Ottawa (Eagles' Cliff). History records that Macdonald changed the name of his home from Reynold's House to Earnscliffe in 1883. One is left to wonder which had its name first the Mulmur settlement or the Ottawa house.

S.S. # 16, a log school, was built on lot # 5. It was replaced by a second school in 1873 to accommodate the growing families in the area.

Mr. Land was the first teacher with 60 or more pupils. The school closed for a period of five years and then reopened. The exact date is not known but the school was moved to concession # 3, one road to the west where it existed until 1954.

The records shows the following were teachers at S.S.# 16: Ed. Halbert, Edna Halbert, Eleanore Guthrie, Donna Betcheson, Tom Allison, Grace Krauter, Mrs. A. Myers, Mrs. Bessie McCutcheon, Margaret Bailey, Barbara Lougheed, Barbara Gallagher and Yvonne Beaton.

Earnscliffe did, however, become a post office in 1891 with Mrs. Eliza Robinson as its first postmistress. This office closed in September 1914 but the school remained.

The 1872-73 Directory lists residents as A. Bradley, Richard Bradley, John Fletcher, William McAlroy and George Rutledge. The Farmer's Directory, 1894, showed that the population had grown to include: The Bradleys, John Fletcher, Thomas Armstrong, James Creary, Thomas Dudgeon, Benjamin Hill, E.G. Hill, Thomas Irwin, Alex Johnston, R. McMaster, G. Moore, Nixon Rutledge, Walter Thistle and Richard Weir. The Rutledge farm stayed in the family for over 100 years.