

PRIMROSE

Since 1850

Early settlers: Dean, Graham,
Dodds, Henderson & McCutcheon.

By 1870, an important settlement
on Prince of Wales Road with hotel,
post office, school, flour mill, stores
and two churches.

Site of early cattle fairs

1851



2001

PRIMROSE

Primrose grew rapidly because of its prime location at the junction of what is now Highways # 89 & # 10, Mono/Mulmur townline and Concession # 1, west of Mulmur. The name appears to have been derived from the flowers that grew on Primrose Hill in London.

An early settler was Colwell Graham, an Irishman, who arrived about 1850, cleared the land and built a home for his family. They eventually grew to number 8, 5 sons and 3 daughters. In 1860, the Prince of Wales Road was completed from Orangeville to Primrose. In due course the Post Office was opened by C. McCutcheon in 1860 on October the 1st. This brought a little general store which was welcomed by the settlers. This was run by George Dean who had arrived in Primrose in 1858. The long trip to Mono Centre for supplies was no longer necessary.

James Dodds arrived and built a fine new store and took over the duties of the Post Master. The Dodds raised a family of seven, 4 sons and 3 daughters. James soon became a Justice of the Peace and was reputed to be a fine Conveyancer. The family were all devoted members of the Whitfield Presbyterian Church. 1869 brought the Ponton Mill to the banks of the Upper Boyne River just north of Primrose. Mr. George Shepherd undertook the task of moving his mill through the bush from Horning's Mills to its southern location.

The village population grew to about 350 by 1871.

Mr. Edward (Ned) Henderson obtained a licence for his new hotel, The Prince of Wales Hotel, in 1873 and continued to operate it until 1880 when it passed to George Dean. A new hotel was built in 1886 and survived until the 1980's as a lodging and eating place.

Primrose hosted a monthly cattle fair and farmers for miles around brought their livestock for sale. Buyers came from Orangeville and as far away as Brampton.