

# RANDWICK

*Since 1865*

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Originally the site of worker's cottages for the surrounding sawmills. A post office opened in 1874 with Parkhill and Henry as first postmasters. Only the school built in 1880 remains.

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1851



2001

## **RANDWICK**

**Randwick was a workers' village located at the corner of the 6th line and the 25th sideroad. This community grew because of the abundance of forests and the lumber mills that were built there by Parkhill and Smith. When the pine ran out the mills moved and much of the settlement along with them.**

**In the late 60's, houses were built to accommodate the workers at the mills. At one time there were 32 and a small hotel. Mrs. Dickinson operated a boarding house. The abundance of trees provided free fuel for every family.**

**A Post Office was opened in January 1874 at the request of Mr. Parkhill and he was appointed the first Post Master. Four years later he passed the job to William Henry. Mrs. Park, John Bridal, John G. Jones, J.A. Creech, John Walker and lastly Mrs. Lavina Smalley held the position until the office closed in October 1915.**

**Mr. Parkhill served the community well and rose to be the office of Reeve of Mulmur. He served on council for many years and was in office when Dufferin County came into existence.**

**There was a crown deed issued to Elizabeth Markle for Lot # 29, Concession 6 in March 1835. This was then in Simcoe County. The land was not cleared but sold several times until purchased by John Pengelly. The log house he built for his family still stands and is still owned by his descendants. The Pengelly family consisted of 4 sons and 7 daughters. In 1918, young John bought the farm from his father and built a fine cement residence.**

**A Scottish gentleman, John Fraser arrived in 1865, from Toronto, secured 100 acres and built a shanty of green logs. He then moved his wife and family of 4 from Toronto and they arrived in December, coming from Essa by sleigh. Ten days later young David, their fifth child was born. Although they cleared the land they found the soil was very poor. Most of their neighbours were Irish and English. Mrs. Fraser missed hearing the Gaelic language and thus walked 12 miles regularly**

to the East Nottawasaga Church to hear it spoken. She lived to be 84.

A school was built in 1865 but burnt down and was replaced in 1890 by a building on Lot # 24. In 1899, it was moved back to Lot # 25 by Jonathan Doner using rollers drawn by horses. The water was better and the location more central to the homes.

The school house and the Post Office building still exist, one currently being used as a residence.

Randwick was not a commercial village. Banda, about 1 & 1/2 miles away, provided the supplies, blacksmith shop and carpenters etc.

Some of the other family names familiar to the area are Carson, Grainger and Weir.