



### #1 The starting point is east of Hwy 11 at Exit 175 (Doe Lk. Rd) **"Pinwheel Parade"**

Just east of the intersection of Gravenhurst Parkway and Taverner Road, on Doe Lake Road you will find the quilt Pinwheel Parade mounted on a granite outcropping. This is the beginning or the other end of "The Road to Ryde" which was officially opened on May 3, 2014. Celebrations of 135 years of Ryde Township took place on August 16, 2014.



### #2 1155 Doe Lake Road Lot 8, 4, Muskoka Township, **"Cockscomb"**

Land was registered on May 22, 1882 as sold to Samuel B. Crossfield. Registered date until July 12, 1891; all pine, spruce and other to be sold. (Company is unnamed). The barn has a stone wall and was built with barn board in the early 1900s.. Private residence without access to property. (This quilt square has faded and will be repainted.)



### #3 1605 Doe Lake Road Lot 2, Conc. 2, Muskoka Township, **"Wild Goose Chase"**

Property in date at the Registry Office indicates November 9, 1880. In 1871 George Morrison came to Canada at the young age of 19. In 1878 he married Margaret McLean of Sparrow Lake and brought his bride directly to the farm bordering on Doe Lake. At the time there was no sign of a road, merely a trail from Reay a distance of three and a



half miles. They began life in the bush with oxen their only farm animals. The scythe, the hoe and the grain cradle composed the farm implements and it was a hard struggle to overcome the forest so that even those tools could be used. It was not until 1882 that the road was opened so that Gravenhurst could be reached with a wheeled vehicle. Early in the 1890s a two story frame house was built and it is suspected that the original log house was then used as the barn. Later in the 1890s a 40 x 60 bank barn with a stone foundation was built to house the horses and cattle. This replaced the log structure. The stone foundation was built by Mr. Niklaus Speicher with Albert Speicher working as an apprentice learning the trade. In October 1901, Mr. Morrison was seriously injured while working a stumping machine at the farm. His son John traveled on horseback some seven miles to Gravenhurst via the trail through Reay to fetch Dr. McLeay. Unfortunately, Mr. Morrison succumbed to his injuries. Mrs. Morrison and the family continued to operate the farm until 1912 when it was sold to John ("Jack") White. Subsequent owners until 1964 were Ortwein, Donahay, Norman, Melbourne, and White. Private property without public access.

### #4 1758 Doe Lake Road Lot 1, Conc. 1, Draper Township, **"Saw Blade"**

The owner of the property found a 32" blade, evidence of a saw mill on the lowland behind the building near Fawn Lake. The mill was likely used in the late 1800's or early 1900's. The present building was built in 2011 and is the home base for a sawmill operation with the lumber being milled from other locations. This location is primarily a woodworking base where furniture is made from pine, oak, hemlock, ash, maple and ironwood.



### #5 1966 Doe Lake Road Lot 23, Conc. 13, **"Double T"**



Land was registered from the Crown to Nicholas May on April 1, 1884. Teddy Taverner cut the logs for the timbers in Lewisham for this barn. Art Tingey bought the barn from Mr. Taverner, dismantled and moved it to this property in the 1920's. Marshall Davy framed the barn at that time. The stone basement of this bank barn is part of the original house that was built on the land. The property was farmed for many years. In the 1980s, during a wind storm, the west side of

the barn was blown in. Lloyd Tingey hired Cliff Fitchett to straighten and brace the structure. In 1994, Peter Tingey put the cement wall under the north and west sides of the building. The cement cow mangers were put in at the same time. 1999, the cattle were sold from this location. Today the farm is a private residence without access to the property.





### #6 Harmony United Church, Doe Lake Road and Waters Road, Draper Township, "Eight Point Star"

*Condensed version of a report prepared by Heather Coupland and Helen Waters for the hundredth anniversary which was celebrated on July 16, 1995. For full version, see website.*



On November 22, 1894 The Trustees of the Harmony Congregation of the Methodist Church purchased the southwest corner of Lot 6, Conc. 1 of Draper Township from the Woollings. It is believed that the organ came from the Uffington Church. The young male pastoral students would board at one of the homes in Uffington or Barkway, often at the home of Wes and Florence Rebman. They would travel the gravel country roads by bicycle from church to church each Sunday. Fond memories of Mrs. Rosie (Fred) Seehaver linger, the ever faithful organist. In the 1950's the church was painted by members. In 1954 Rosie would be the moving force to organize bake sales to pay for the replacement of the roof with aluminum for \$104. In the 1960's Shad Tingey (Dawn) donated several loads of gravel for the parking area. In 1974 ceramic plates with a sketch of Harmony Church were sold to raise money to repair the chimney, foundation and roof. The art work was donated by Jack Ralston. During the 60s, 70s and 80s the church was painted by Marvin and Helen Waters and family. Paint was donated by Larry Dawson (June). This church was decommissioned in 2015. It is now privately owned without access to the property.



### #7A 1064 Barkway Road "Maple Leaf"

This is a newer barn quilt location on our Road to Ryde. The history of this property is as **1083 Barkway Road** and was originally part of the same property and owned by the same family. This is a private residence without public access to the property.



### #7B 1083 Barkway Road Lot 15, Conc. 13, "Pines and Maples"

Godfrey Speicher registered this land on August 12, 1898. He and his wife Elizabeth raised nine children. They owned both sides of Conc. 13 at this site, thus the house on one side and the barn on the other. (It now has two separate owners.) The bank barn 40 x 80 was built in approximately 1900 by Richard Rusk. The wooden structure was lifted and a new wall was built underneath by Godfrey Speicher, a stonemason and a farmer.



His father Niklaus with his brother Albert likely completed it in 1909. The Speicher family kept cows, sheep, a few pigs and hens. They made crocks of butter and later sold cream by shipping in cream cans. In the summer Mrs. Speicher made cheese for their own use and some was sold. The sheep were clipped every spring and the wool was taken to Bird's Woollen Mills in Bracebridge and exchanged for cloth, blankets, yarn and some cash.

They, as did other settlers in the area, took logs to 'Weismillers Mill' in Germania and hemlock bark to the Tanneries in Bracebridge. They also took wood to Gravenhurst in winter for the price of \$2.50, \$3.00 or \$4.00 per cord. Mr. Speicher doctored animals in the community as veterinarians were scarce at that time. He built chimneys, cellar walls, fireplaces, some culverts and abutments for small bridges. On July 5, 1940, the property was transferred to his son Charles, who also raised his family there. Members of the Speicher family still reside in Ryde.

From 1975 to 2006 this barn and surrounding buildings were the home of South Meadow Farm Antiques. Today this property is a private residence with no public access to the property.



### #8 1144 Barkway Road Lot 16 Conc. 12, "Goose Tracks"

Crown land granted to Samuel McCord on March 19, 1881. There were various owners after this time and on October 25, 1910 the Heffern family sold to William Lowe. The Lowe family first resided in Lewisham and then moved to Barkway. They built this house around 1900. It was the first brick home in this community and was called 'The Willows'. William Lowe and his son Jack built it and hauled all the bricks by horse and cart from Bracebridge,



17 miles away. William Lowe devoted a good deal of time to township affairs. He did much to improve roads, removing the old wooden bridges and replacing them with cement bridges. Those wooden structures were low and often floated away when the water was high in the spring. He later became a Colonization Roads Inspector and later took over as the Superintendent of bridge building, just as roads were being built throughout Muskoka in the 1920s.

Jack, his son, purchased the property from his Father and Mother on July 17, 1942 and lived here most of his life with his wife Maude and children. Jack's daughter Mildred Rowe says that she remembers "when we would have at least two squares at a time for square dances in our house. We had a lot of fun."

A five acre and a two acre lot were sold for residences from the NE and SE sections of the 100 acre property in the 1970s. The Kilbournes used the property to grow Christmas trees – hence the plentiful Scotch Pines on the property." This is a private residence without public access.



#### #9 1235 Barkway Road, Lot 15, Conc. 11, "Morningstar"

Property was originally part of the farm of John Rebman, a pioneer here in Ryde. The house was built in 1973. This is a private residence without access to the property. (This quilt square has faded and is difficult to see.)



#### #10 1326 Barkway Road Lot 16, Conc. 10, "Crossroads"

Land was registered from the Crown to John Farley on September 30, 1875. Mr. Farley sold all pine to Georgian Bay Lumber Company for five years. This amount was registered on title on September 5, 1880. Mr. Farley sold all lands to Horace Yeoman and it was registered on February 25, 1885 for \$2,000. (After this time various owners of all or part of Lot 16: Martin Clement, Marshall Davy, Samuel Downey, James Post, John Boon, Ella Thompson, Walden Clement,



Stephen Dart and Phyletus Brace.)

On October 9, 1920, Phyletus Brace sold to Jacob (& Elizabeth) Rebman for \$2,000. In 1936 Jacob passed away while driving horses. Albert Duggan was with him at the time and was able to take control of the team. Wes Rebman, their son and his wife Florence acquired the farm property at that time. They had been residing on a farm on Merkley Road but moved to this location at the four corners of Barkway to live with his widowed Mother. Wes Rebman with the help of others raised the barn and put in a foundation at that time.

The original bank barn was 36 x 50 and made mostly of pine, built to house cattle and horses. Both cream and milk were sold. Aubrey Rebman, son of Wes states that Mr. Plewis picked up the milk with horses. He had a coal oil heater to help keep him warm. After that time Lorne McWade picked up the milk in cans.

Eileen Taverner (Rebman) daughter of Wes and Florence told of "lots of chores to be done on the farm but we had fun too. I remember the home-made skis I had and the sleigh rides in the winter. We had Christmas concerts and Friday night dances at the Orange Hall across from our house. My Mother would bring over a big pot of tea and put it on the wood stove at the hall. Candy bars were a nickel, there was lots of penny candy. Coke was the big drink for about 10 cents. Postage stamps were 1-2 cents each for post cards and 3 cents for a letter, and coal oil was 50 cents a gallon." Mrs. Taverner still resides in the village of Barkway. On May 15, 1987 the Rebman family sold the farm. There have been other owners since that time. This is a private residence without access to the property.



#### #11 1006 Ben Lake Road East, Holy Manger Church, Lot 16, Conc. 11, "Day and Night Star"

Originally a Methodist church built in 1890. On May 4, 1964 title was registered as being purchased for \$600 by the Society of Saint John the Evangelist (SSJE) from Harold Cooper, William Goheen and Ray Brunson as trustees of the Barkway Methodist Church. The Cowley Fathers of the SSJE who resided in Bracebridge, had begun their work in the remote community of Lewisham, and were continuing their services here in Barkway. Today Lewisham is a ghost town. The original Church of the Holy Manger of Barkway had its beginnings from a re-constructed hewn pine log building that had been a



log building that had been a homestead, hay barn and a sheepfold. (This building is now gone.) With this background it was appropriate that the church including the present day one, would be called the Holy Manger. The name of the small church at Barkway is unique, as is the altar which is in the shape of a manger. On January 26, 1965 title was transferred from the Society of Saint John the Evangelist to the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Algoma (Anglican) for \$1.00. Holy Manger Anglican church continues today under the mission church of St. James Church, Gravenhurst. Services are the first and third Sunday of each month during the summer months and the first Sunday of the month during the winter.





**#12 1005 Merkley Road, Lot 16, Conc. 1, "Northern Lights"**  
(quilt on barn, viewed from Barkway Road)

Samuel Downey registered from the Crown on March 19, 1881 and built the house and bank barn around 1905. (Since this time there have been various owners: John May, Charles Peterson, Freeman Plewis, James Shepherd, John Rebman (Feb.28, 1905), James Long, Wm. Semple and Harold Taverner.) Sandford Edwards owned a mill where the barn now stands. The spring by the



barn was used by neighbours and the school children across the road. When the house burned, the Rebman family was housed in the town hall which stood beside the old school house on the corner. The house was rebuilt as it stands today. The original wood shed is attached to the house as it was saved from the fire, as was the barn. John Rebman raised his seven children here. Of the children Pearl and Lawrence Rebman stayed in the area but the rest of their children moved out West. Part of the Rebman family still live in Muskoka. This is a private residence without access to the property.



**#13 1007 Merkley Road, Barkway United Church, Pt. Lot 15, Conc. 11, "Spider Legs"**

The church structure is much the same it was over one 100 years ago. Archival records indicate that there was a congregation in Barkway ("appointment #1" of the Uffington Circuit) in the 1870's. A missionary in 1880 reported in the Christian Guardian that he had four appointments in Ryde, and that the Free Methodists were his most persistent rival. The



church was originally a log church. In a newspaper article dated March 31, 1949, Florence Rebman noted that the Barkway Church was built in 1882 and that Chief John Bigwin attended when he was at his trapping cabin at the Gartersnake River. The church has window sills that are approximately a foot in depth. At a later date shiplap siding was added to the exterior, and the interior shows planed lumber which may have been put on when the original structure was built. The interior boards are horizontal with vertical wainscoting. The lumber used inside and out probably came from Samuel Downey's Mill which was at the pond behind the church.

On June 24, 1899, the trustees of the Barkway Congregation of the Methodist Church [John Rusk, William Merkley, Henry Long, Jacob Rebman and Samuel Downey] acquired the church property from Samuel Downey for one dollar. The oil lamps, the Windsor back chairs, the organ and the stove were all part of the original furnishings. Pews from the Presbyterian Church in Gravenhurst were added when the Presbyterians renovated their church. The Barkway United Church celebrated its 115th anniversary in July 1997. Many who attended were descendants of those family names that appeared on the Circuit Register in 1886 – Long, Hacking, Fielding, Heffern, McWade, Downey, Rusk, Ruttan, Rebman, Merkley and others who joined later. The people of Barkway are to be commended for their efforts to maintain the architectural heritage of one of the oldest buildings in the community. This church was decommissioned in 2015. It is now privately owned without access to the property.

**#14 1217 Merkley Road, Lot 10, Conc. 11, "Sunflower"**

The farm was bought by the Merkley family in 1906 and is retained by the same family. Henry Merkley raised seven children here. He was a lumberman and a farmer. In 1932 one of his sons, Ernie took over the farm. In 1950 hydro came to the farm and the same year tractors started to replace horses. In 1952 milking machines replaced hand milking. In the 1950's they began to ship milk to the local dairies; before that, only cream had been sold. In 1978, Ernie's son Ernest took over the dairy farm and continued shipping milk until 1988. The clay bank barn is post and beam



frame with wooden boards. The present foundation was built in 1946. The farm continues to pasture horses and hay is harvested each year. This is a private residence without access to the property. (At present the barn quilt has been taken down for repair.)



### #15 1312 Merkley Road, Lot 7, Conc. 10, "Snail's Trail"

The land was registered to Robert Fielding from the Crown on March 19, 1881. On May 11, 1906, the land was sold to Henry Merkley. Upon his death the land was transferred on October 24, 1921 to his widow Mary Merkley and then to one of their sons Ernie O. F. Merkley on July 3, 1945. The land was farmed by the same family with other parcels up until the late 1980s. This consisted of dairy cattle and crops of hay and oats. This is a private residence without access to the public.



### #16 1440 Barkway Road, Lot 16, Conc. 9, "Log Cabin"

This property was registered to Faldien Metz on September 22, 1880. The land was later sold to Diana Plewis and registered on May 1, 1888. There were other owners until Albert Taylor bought on December 21, 1959. The original house (close to the present location) was built by Freeman Plewis, the son of James Plewis. The barn was built by his son Leslie in a classic mortise and tenon

construction with round wooden pegs holding the main joints together. Most of the beams are hemlock. In the 1950s the Plewis family often provided board for the local school teacher at Barkway.

Albert and Marguerite Taylor moved from Toronto and raised purebred Hereford beef cattle on this farm.

Mrs. Taylor tended a large vegetable garden while Mr. Taylor was busy with his farm duties: ploughing, seeding, harvesting, and cutting wood for their large fireplace and kitchen woodstove. Albert was appointed to the South Muskoka Hospital Board. For two years he was a member of the advisory committee as well as participating in local farm meetings. After Mr. and Mrs. Taylor sold the farm to move into town, the property was used to breed and raise prize-winning Limousin cattle. At that time the barn was renovated to include automated stall equipment in the stable.

The present owners purchased the farm in 1986, and continue to grow hay on the original fields. In 1988, 17,000 white pine seedlings were planted in various agriculturally unproductive areas under an Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources sponsored program of Managed Forests. The barn abuts the Gartnersnake Creek (named after its shape), which is part of the Severn River watershed and downstream is a protected area for pickerel spawning in early spring. This is private property without access to the public.



### #17 1586 Barkway Road, 1586 Barkway Road, "Tree Everlasting"

This bank barn was built likely in the early 1920's. It is built with mostly hemlock, especially in the beams, with elm and poplar throughout. Adolph Pilger farmed it during this time and unfortunately passed while taking hay into the barn; the bundle of hay was too big for the opening and caught on the round log scaffolding; it in turn fell on him.

Harold Cooper took over the farm at this time in 1937 and lived as a bachelor for nine years. It is said that the men helping him were amazed that he could come in from the fields, get the wood stove hot and put on a good meal so quickly. Maurice Cook was one of the ones that worked for him, likely starting out by driving the horses on the hay wagon.

In 1946 Harold married Willa Goheen and they had six children together. On this farm they had dairy cattle and horses. Today this is still a productive horse farm harvesting hay each year and remains in the Cooper family. This is a private residence without access to the property.



### #18 1624 Barkway Road, Schools and Ryde Community Centre, "Schoolhouse in the Pines" & "Home"

Families arriving in Ryde Township in the 1870s required schooling for their children. In 1874 Ryde had two school sections formed and one school in operation, S.S. # 6 in union with Draper, located at Allen's Corners. It was in use until 1949.



In the mid-1870s a log schoolhouse was built on the southeast corner of what would soon become officially designated as Barkway. This building was of log construction, and abandoned in favour of a more comfortable and modern structure built in 1902 but remained in use as a woodshed. The new Barkway School held classes for 60 years and was then used as a municipal office, Women's Institute Hall and is now a private residence without access to the public. (See below for the thriving community centre from the two room school house built in 1962 at 1624 Barkway Rd.)



**Schools** In 1875 SS#2 (Housey's Rapids) was organized and a log school house was built on property owned by Thomas Brooks at the intersection of what is now Walker Rd and Muskoka Rd 6. This was generally called "the Brooks School". In 1904, a new site was chosen, farther north, and a frame building with separate boys and girls entrances was erected and served until 1962. Often called Sunny Brae School It still stands today in use as a private residence, without access to the public.



SS#3 was at Lewisham, where in 1879 a log school building was erected. In 1898 a frame schoolhouse was built to replace the old log structure which had burned. This school was in use until 1949. One other school in east Ryde was S.S. No. 4 at Tryon's Corners, two and a half miles east of Barkway. This school ceased before 1911, and the building was for a time a family residence until it was destroyed by fire.



In west Ryde a log school house SS#5 at Buck Lake was opened in 1880 but the next year the building was burned in the bush fire which swept across much of Muskoka. A log home was used for the school classes until a frame building was put up in 1890. The Buck Lake school closed in June 1961, and the pupils were transported to Barkway or Housey's Rapids until the new Ryde Central School was opened a year later. The former Buck Lake School is now a private residence, without access to the public.



The school section boards were merged into the Ryde Township School Area Board in 1938, Ryde being among the earliest townships of Muskoka District to make this move. The community schools provided instruction up to the high school level. In order to complete their education, some students were able to board in town in order to attend Gravenhurst High School. From 1949-1972, Carl Break transported Ryde high school students to and from G.H.S. each day.

In 1962 a new brick school, Ryde Central School was opened and elementary students from throughout Ryde were bused to the new location between Barkway and Housey's Rapids. In 1969, all local school boards were dissolved and District School Boards were established, putting Ryde under the responsibility of the Muskoka District Board of Education. In 1975, Ryde Central was 'twinning' with Muskoka Beechgrove in Gravenhurst. Starting in 1990, Grade 7 and 8 students were bused to Beechgrove. In March 1998, with the amalgamation of the Victoria County, Haliburton County, and Muskoka District Boards of Education, Trillium Lakelands District School Board was formed. Ryde Central School was closed in June of 2000, but lives on as an active community centre offering educational and social events.



### **#19 1667 Housey's Rapids Road, Ryde Centennial Free Methodist Church, "Heavenly Stars"**

The Free Methodist church in Ryde Township was started in 1882 by two ladies. Meetings were held in a school house south of the present location and later at Brace's General store in the village. The first church (across from the present location) was built in the summer of 1892 and is now privately owned. The parsonage was built under Rev. Emerson Snider who

was the pastor and also a carpenter. Mrs. Snider collected the necessary funds and the church officials co-operated with their teams of horses. The lot had to be cleared of logs and stumps, the cellar dug and lumber brought from Bracebridge. To complete the work, Mrs. Snider sawed the boards while her husband did the fitting and nailing.

In 1977 the new and present church was built to keep up with the needs of the community. Dedication of the current building was on Sunday, September 10, 1978 still under the name of Housey's Rapids Free Methodist Church. In 1979, 100 years after the founding of Ryde Township, the name was changed to Ryde Centennial Free Methodist Church. On November 2, 1998, the antique school bell which had previously called children to the Sunny Brae School in Housey's Rapids (1901-1962) was hoisted into its new position on the church. Rev. Sterling Cooper a member of one of our pioneer families, retired in 2017 with the longest period of service as pastor of this church. (The picture above on the left is of the old church, across from 1667 Housey's Rapids Road.)







### #20 1670 Housey Rapids Road, "Crossed Canoes"

The first SS#2 Housey's Rapids log school house was built in 1875. The first teacher was Anne McPhee and she married Ed Housey. In 1904 the Sunny Brae school house was framed and built north of the old log school by Marshall Davy. It was one of the few rural schools in Muskoka that had separate entrances for

boys and girls. It was closed in 1962 when the new two room school house Ryde Central was built. Mrs. Iva Breaks recalls "We played baseball and football. I lit the fire in the morning as a custodian when I was eleven or twelve. I swept and washed the floors. Teachers that I remember were Misses Ruth Stanier, Myrtle Stephens and Miss D. Robinson. Miss Stanier was from Bala and it was her first school; she was just out of high school. Some of them boarded at John Hill's up on the hill. We used to skate and ski and the boys would bobsleigh. I also remember that Fred Pilger taught some of our children one year. The kids played tricks on him. I remember one time they locked him in the school after everyone had left."

Mr. Vern Taylor says "I enjoyed the Christmas concerts. You could go up to Grade 10, but I had to go to Gravenhurst. Osborne Bush used his car as transportation to town and then Jack Lowe took over from him. After that it was Carl Break. I also enjoyed skating Saturday nights on Bass Lake. The Sophers would come and the Goheen girls; there was ten or fifteen of us." This is a private residence without access to the property.



### #21 1003 Riley Lake Road, Part Lot 27, Conc. 5, "Bear's Paw"

Nine acres were secured from the Crown at a price of \$75 per acre. Summerland Dance Hall opened in the summer of 1948. It was not uncommon to have well over two hundred people attend: men, women and children, as told by Katherine McKinnon.

There were several different country dances performed at that time: square dance, round, waltz, barn dance, polka, two step, schottische and the Circassian circle. There was a violin, banjo, piano, guitar and sometimes two

fiddles. Amos Kett made up the band with Carl McIntosh playing the fiddle and Archie Fitchett calling the square dances. The dances continued through the early 1970s as Summerland Dance Hall with a full house every Saturday night.

*Gravenhurst News May 20, 1971: Coming Events: Summerland Dance Hall, Riley Lake. Opening dance - May 22nd.*

Admission \$1.25 per person. After the dance hall closed, it was not used for several years and then opened as a store. Don Scott bought the store from Ray Moore in 1985. He started a hunting contest during this time. Mr. Scott operated the store for approximately four years and then sold it. This is still an active neighbourhood store, serving food.



### #22 1622/1624 Housey's Rapids Road, Lot 28, Conc. 8, "Twisting Star" & "General Store"

*These properties are now under private ownership and the buildings they honour are gone. The commemorative quilt square is viewed from the bridge at the bottom of the hill, by the bridge and the second one at the top of the hill at the beginning of Sam Cook Road.*



**Post Office and Housey's Rapids Store:** postmasters from 1876 to 1957 have been James Housey, Phyletus J. Brace, Phyletus H. Brace, W.L. Runham, Mrs. Annie Brace, Henry Hill, and Alfred Taylor.

\*From 1957 to 1968 there was postal service only in the summer.

Mrs. Iva Break said "I would walk to pick up the mail at the grocery store in Housey's Rapids by myself. I would wait and wait for the mail and it would be pitch black. It was scary by the bridge." The store at Housey's Rapids was also run by the above families. Vern Taylor, son of Alfred Taylor said that their family came



"because it was really bad in the depression. My Father was a professional pianist and he played for the silent movies. When the talkies came in, he lost his job. My parents saw the ad in the Toronto paper for the store. They came up to see it in March 1934 by train. Mr. Hill met them at the Kilworthy station and brought them up Kahshe Lake. My Mother was terrified because there was 3" of water on the ice. They bought and moved up in the spring of the same year. We sold ice, dynamite, and shells for guns, milk pails, brooms, and horseshoe nails. We sold dry goods: lots of canned goods and bins with rice, flour, dates, raisins and beans." Carl Break remembered "Mr. Taylor had a little truck and he would pick up 100 lb. bags of flour and sugar. After that, Lorne McWade would bring them in. Roads were not so good then."





### Women's Institute / Neighborhood Club (Was across from "General Store" quilt)

The building that was used for many years by the Housey's Rapids members was across the road from the store and had to be removed to widen the road. The organization was a group of dedicated women in the community. In 1948 the Housey's Rapids and Barkway Institutes held a meeting and decided they would help improve the cemeteries, as written by Florence Rebman in the Tweedsmuir History. These ladies accomplished many other

good deeds for the communities. Each year they hand-sewed a quilt as a fund raiser, and added to that by having a bake sale with homemade goodies each summer. They made delicious pies, butter tarts, cakes and cookies! This building no longer exists.



### #23 1007 Cooks Road, Lot 25, Conc 9, "Friendship Circle"

The land was registered to John Livingston Miller on November 6, 1883. Various owners after that time were John & Sarah Miller, Robert McNairney, Phylander Ruttan, and George Cook who obtained this property on April 5, 1916.

The bank barn was built in the late 1800's, consisting of hemlock, pine and tamarack. The barn was moved 50 feet east to west by horses in 1940 to build a stable under it. The stable was built into a rock face and the foundation consists of stones and cement. It was a dairy farm with milk shipped. They also had beef cattle. The upper part of the building was used for threshing in the fall. Logging was also done by the Cook family.

Maurice Cook stated "my parents Sam and Ettie had six of us including myself, Gerald, Lawrence, Carl, Olive and Audrey. We farmed. I met my wife Marjorie at Summerland; she was from Wood Lake. We worked hard." The farm is still owned by the Cook family and hay is harvested from it each year. This is a private residence without access to the property.



### #24 1458 Housey's Rapids Road, Teopoli, "Crown of Thorns"

Società Unita (The United Society) is a Roman Catholic mission comprised of families, priests and religious men and women, working to form a more compassionate and harmonious society. Situated on the Henry Cook farm, the original barn was built in 1914. It was purchased from George and Jessie Cook and opened as Servite Camp in 1962. Access with permission.



### #25 1401 Cooper's Falls Road - The End (or the other beginning) of the Ryde Barn Quilt Trail "Waterfall"

Thomas James Cooper (1836-1918) and his wife Emma (1837-1923) arrived from Kent, England in 1871 with three small children, to an isolated area south of Ryde and built a primitive cabin. They endured their share of hardships and in 1876 built a house and general store near a waterfall on the Black River. They built a cheese factory in what is now known as Cooper's Falls. Milk from farmers in the Ryde area was transported to the cheese factory for processing.



Frank Cooper, a grandson of Thomas and Emma, was well-known in Ryde for his many construction projects on area cottages and roads. On May 17, 2008, members of the Pine Ridge Rd. Gravenhurst Association Inc. held a party to honour Frank Cooper. The occasion marked the renaming of Westview Subdivision Rd. to Frank Cooper Trail. A plaque commemorating Frank's service to the Ryde Community was presented to Frank by District/Town Councillor Terry Pilger.

Frank Cooper passed away on Feb 23, 2019 in his 97th year.