



Little Claybelt Homesteaders Museum

Box 1718, B-883356 Highway 65
New Liskeard, ON P0J 1P0

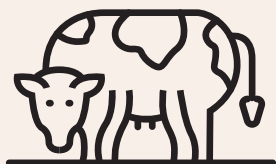
Phone: 705-647-9575
claybeltmuseum.ca

Fall 2022

Claybelt Spreader

Spreading the news...

***Preserving the history of
the southern Little Claybelt
Region 1880s to 1950s.***



The Little Claybelt Homesteaders Museum is dedicated to preserving the cultural heritage of South Temiskaming through the collection of artifacts and documentation that focuses on the settlement history of the Little Claybelt.

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Box 1718, 883356 Highway 65 East
New Liskeard, ON P0J 1P0
Phone: 705-647-9575
Email: lchmuse@gmail.com

Charitable #0583526-50-19

Member of the Ontario Museums Association
Member of the Ontario Historical Society
Member of the Temiskaming Shores & Area
Chamber of Commerce



Like us on Facebook
@claybeltmuseum



Bake Sale and Gift Shop Open

**Saturday, November 19, 2022
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

*Pick up some baking and get your
Christmas shopping done early.*

*A variety of local history books are
available to purchase and make the
perfect Christmas gift.*

Platinum Jubilee



On February 6, 2022, Her Majesty the Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the people

of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth.

The Little Claybelt Homesteaders Museum was pleased to receive funding from the Government of Canada to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Queen Elizabeth II was a very large part of our Canadian Heritage before she passed away on September 8, 2022.

Over the summer our museum took part in celebrating Her Majesty's 70 years as Monarch through a display of memorabilia that captures her life and ties to our pioneers and current residents of the Little Claybelt area.



On August 12, 2022 Margaret Villneff, the Vice-President of the Little Claybelt Homesteaders Museum, was awarded the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

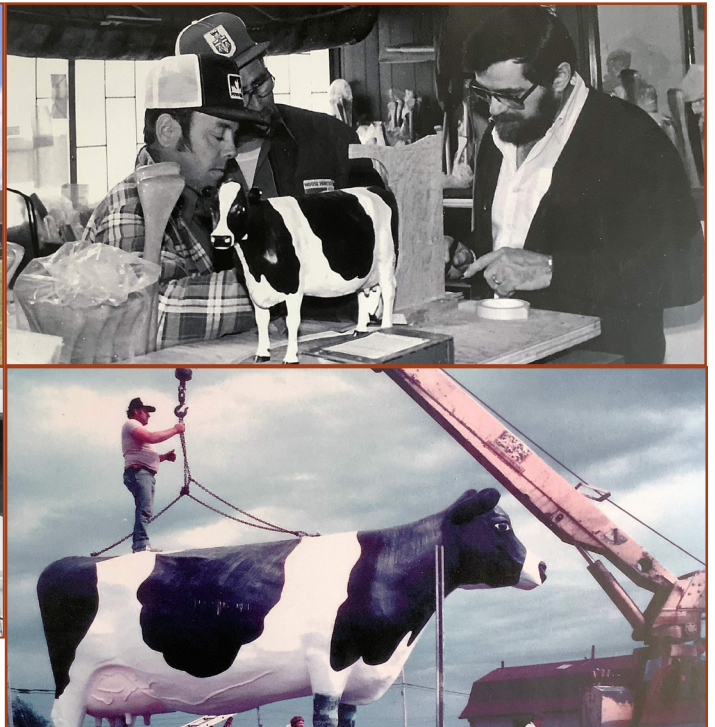
award in recognition of her contributions to our community.



In an award ceremony at City Hall, Honourable Anthony Rota, MP for Nipissing-Timiskaming and Speaker of the House of Commons, presented Margaret with a Platinum Jubilee pin and certificate. Congratulations Marg!

Margaret was a dedicated teacher to local school children for more than thirty-six years. She was a member of the Hillview United Church, Sunday School, and Young Peoples; member and leader of the 4H Homemaking Club, the 4H Calf Club and Junior Farmers; Director of the New Liskeard Fall Fair; member of both Rockley Women's Institute and Hudson Women's Institute for over 40 years; involved with the Riverside Farmers Market; member of the Grumblin Grannies and Hudson Young at Heart Seniors Club.

Since 1999, Margaret has been a Director of the Little Claybelt Homesteaders Museum serving in the positions of President, Vice-President and Secretary.



Ms. Claybelt

Dymond Township Council decided in 1982 that they wanted to salute the agricultural base of their township. Their choice was a large replica of a Holstein cow to be located in a park at the junction of Highways 11 and 11B on the north side of New Liskeard. Also in this park, the newly constructed New Liskeard and Area Tourist Booth was located.

In September of 1983, Dymond Council chose Mid-Canada Fiberglass Ltd., a local business, to build the giant cow. The winner of the contest to name the cow was eight-year-old Shauna McClacherty of New Liskeard who chose the name Ms. Claybelt. She was given a model of the cow and a watch for her effort.

On June 8, 1984, Ms. Claybelt was unveiled as part of the annual meeting of the Canadian Holstein Association. The model for Ms. Claybelt was a small statue of the true Holstein type from the Canadian Holstein Association. The model was 12 inches (30 cm) by 18 inches (45cm) so proportionally, Ms. Claybelt is 12 feet high (3.7m) by 18 feet long (5.5m).

She was constructed with a frame of 4 inches (10cm) square steel tubing which was also used for the legs

and backbone. Her ribs are made of plywood with wooden strips nailed to the ribs. She stands on a concrete base which is 16 feet (4.9m) by 7.5 feet (2.3m) by 3 inches (7.5cm) deep.

Six or seven craftsman from Mid-Canada Fiberglass Ltd. worked on Ms. Claybelt and both the application of the fiberglass and the painting were supervised by Gerald Shepherdson.

After the unveiling, visitors to the tourist booth increased dramatically. Many stopped to have their pictures taken with Ms. Claybelt and to have a picnic lunch at the tables nearby. A milking stool was added to add realism to the cow. She has withstood the elements well and has been repainted in 1995 and 2012.

Ms. Claybelt is a local landmark. Directions are often given in relation to her location. "At the big cow by Highway 11." They know exactly where you mean.

Pete's Dam

In 1906, the Town of New Liskeard made a deal with Kalil "Pete" Farah to build a steam generating plant to supply electricity to the town. Shortly after, Pete made a deal with Tom Chester to buy the site of Chester's Falls on the south branch of the Wabi River in Dymond Township for \$6,000. This location had been the site of small temporary dams built by logging companies to raise the water level high enough to get the logs over the rocks in the river so they could float to the mouth of the Wabi and into Lake Temiskaming. The cost of developing this site to generate electricity was estimated to be about \$30,000.

Mr. Farah hired the contractor who had done the bridge at Calamity Gulch to build the generating plant. Meanwhile, on November 5, 1906, John Armstrong flipped the switch to put the steam plant into service. This plant was a valuable backup system when problems affected the one at Chester's Falls. By the spring of 1907, the dam on the south Wabi was nearing completion. This dam was 200 feet long, 24 feet wide at the centre, tapering to 16 feet at each end and was 24 feet high.

The dam was made of timber cribs, filled with rock. The side of the dam facing the river was strengthened with two layers of two-inch planks with off-set joints. The downstream side was covered with clay to prevent

leaks. The bottom square timbers were anchored to the bedrock with rock bolts. The powerhouse was a cottage roofed, log building, 30 feet by 40 feet. The penstock, the 2,000-foot pipe which brought the water down to the turbine, was 36 inches in diameter. The penstock was in a trench dug on the west side of the river.

Delays in receiving the pipe, turbine and generator, meant that the plant was not opened until October 28, 1907. Electricity flowed to New Liskeard on a transmission line built along the west road, now Highway 65 West. Pete's Dam had its problems. Beavers dammed the river above the plant cutting off the flow of water and a pile driver at work on the new bridge in New Liskeard touched the line and shorted it out. In 1908, the dam broke and on all these occasions, the steam plant was put back into service.

In 1910, Pete Farah sold his dam to the Northern Ontario Light and Power Company which had opened a hydro facility on the Matabitchuan River and shortly after, Fountain Falls on the Montreal River. The Pete's Dam site was taken out of service sometime in the 1920s. In 1981, the Township of Dymond purchased thirty-three acres from Ontario Hydro for parkland where visitors can hike and picnic.

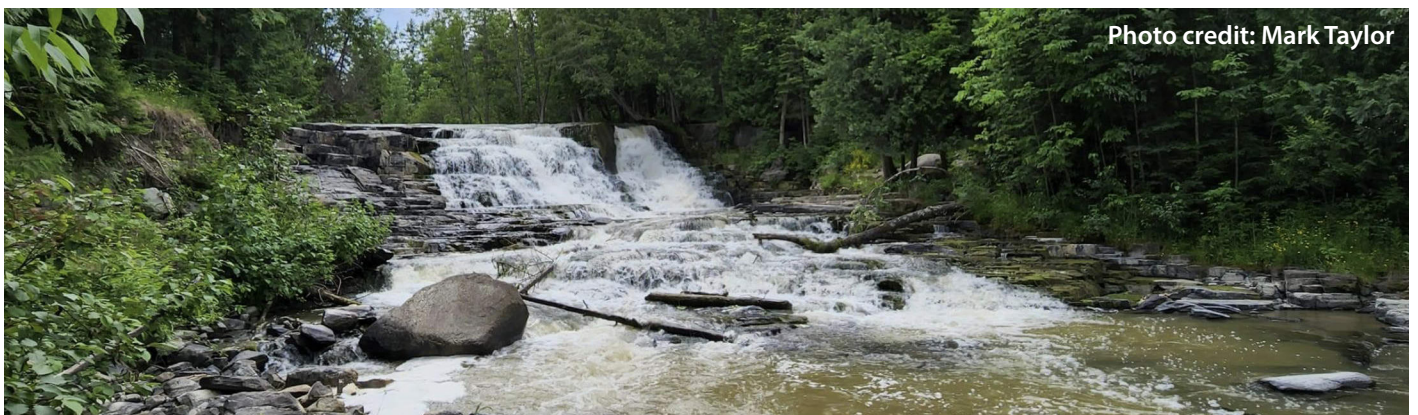


Photo credit: Mark Taylor

A War Story

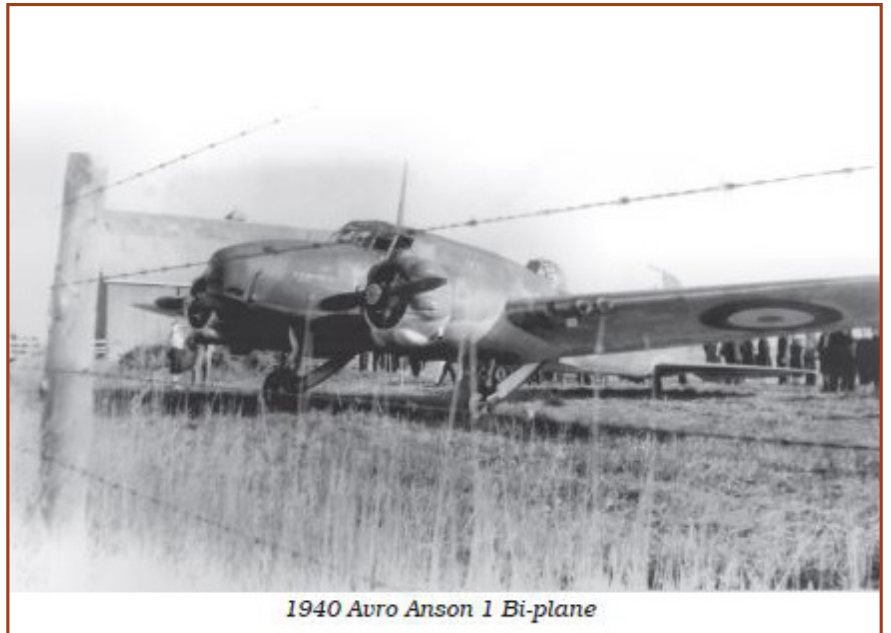
As told by Jean Robert of Earlton, Ontario.

September 25, 1940 was a very foggy day in the Earlton area. Six small Anson bi-planes were making their way across the country on the way to Manitoba from Halifax, where they had been assembled after being shipped from Great Britain. They all had a very light shell made of wood and two radial engines.

One of the six planes became disoriented, circled and finally ran out of fuel. Instead of landing on the strip at the Earlton Airport, it came to an abrupt halt in a field about two hundred feet behind the barn on the farm of Ernest Robert. The pilot was shaken up but unhurt. The plane was not as fortunate. It hit a barbed wire fence where solid cedar posts tore off the fragile wings.

They attempted to haul it to the Earlton Airport for repairs but the narrow concession road proved to be too narrow and they were forced to take it back to the Robert farm. Because of the war, tight security was required and the R.C.A.F. was on hand twenty-four hours a day. News had spread and curious onlookers had to be controlled.

Air Force mechanics came to repair the fuselage and check over the rest of the plane. The undercarriage was fine and the engines were fine once the barbed wire was untangled from the



1940 Avro Anson 1 Bi-plane

propellers. After repairs were completed, the plane was taken to an adjacent pasture field where there was a half-mile take-off space. With a roar, the plane headed west, circled and landed at the airport to be rechecked and fuelled.

Jean Robert went to the Archives in Ottawa and found the serial number of the plane by using a photo of the plane showing its I.D. number on the wings. Difficulties existed because the original serial number was from Britain but it was given a second serial number in Canada. The pilot could not be found to be interviewed at that time in 2008.

TB Christmas Seals

Einar Holboell, a Danish postal worker, was working late in December 1903 at a post office on the outskirts of Copenhagen. He was busy sorting Christmas mail and as he glanced out the window, he saw two small poorly dressed children and he had an idea. If every letter or parcel at Christmas time carried an extra stamp, the money from the sale of these stamps could be used to help unfortunate children.



The first stamps went on sale for a penny each in time for Christmas in 1904. At that time, tuberculosis (TB) was the leading cause of death in the world. It was decided that the funds from the sales of the stamps would be used to treat children

with tuberculosis. The funds from the sales of the seals in 1904 and 1905 were sufficient to begin the construction of two hospitals for the treatment of children and the first sanatorium was opened in 1911.

The idea of the stamps with the double-barred cross quickly spread to other Scandinavian countries and to the U.S.A. in 1907. In 1908 interested people in Toronto and Hamilton began TB seal campaigns to help tuberculosis patients. More and more cities began to use the seals to spread the idea that the building of

sanatoriums would help control the spread of the disease.

Locally tuberculosis infected and killed many. Providence Hospital in Haileybury burned in 1922 and a large vacant house was used for a few years by the Red Cross to provide health care there. Finally in 1928 the Sisters of Misericordia from Montreal began the construction of



a new hospital in Haileybury. It opened in 1930 and immediately plans were made to add more space to the hospital for an area to treat tuberculosis patients. This addition opened in 1932. It had 105 beds and was called St. Mary's by the Lake Sanatorium. In 1934, 101 patients were admitted.

Clinics were held between Cobalt and Englehart in Temiskaming and also one was held in Timmins every two months. The number of TB patients declined and by the early 1960's St. Mary's by the Lake was no longer treating TB patients. The TB Christmas



Seal campaign still continues each year and the money raised is looked after by the Canadian Lung Association.

Little Claybelt Homesteaders Museum Fund

The Temiskaming Foundation

The Little Claybelt Homesteaders Museum Fund is a fund administered by the Temiskaming Foundation. Income from the fund is used to support the programs and operations of the museum. If you care about and want to help sustain the work of the Little Claybelt Homesteaders Museum, consider planned giving as an option. A bequest in your Will can provide your estate with tax benefits while continuing to support this museum. Please contact The Temiskaming Foundation at 705-647-1055.



For the Temiskaming Foundation, community vitality has been their purpose, promise and passion since 1994 when they started connecting donors to community needs and

opportunities. Together, they help build strong and resilient places to live, work and play. They do this by identifying long-term needs and opportunities and investing in sustainable solutions, helping our communities become resilient, resourceful, and ready for the future.

Planning for long-term needs takes long-term resources, so they work with donors to build perpetual endowment funds that ensure vital

futures for our communities. They receive funds in trust from private and public sources, then invest them with professional fund managers. The interest generated from the endowed funds is granted to community organizations and non-profit organizations.

By donating to the Temiskaming Foundation, you are ensuring that your support goes to and stays in our community, and it keeps giving back year after year. In their vision, our community is inclusive and provides opportunities to all. The Temiskaming Foundation wants to ensure that all our citizens are able to benefit from the best our community can offer: the arts, recreation, health care, education, safe and inclusive neighbourhoods and a healthy environment.

Visit our website to see our Virtual Museum Display: A Northern Ontario Prairie circa 1910 featuring 191 photos of our farming past. Visit online year round at claybeltmuseum.ca.

Catch the Ace 4 History

... is a lottery supporting several local museums including the Little Claybelt Homesteaders Museum in New Liskeard.

Get your tickets today!

Tickets can be purchased in New Liskeard at Amber's, Clean Scene Dry Cleaners and Pop-It. Tickets are also available at several locations in Haileybury, Cobalt and Latchford.



Thank you!

Thank you goes to our volunteer gardener, Maureen Goddard,

who has been taking care of the flower beds around the museum for many years.

Our appreciation goes out to her for her continued volunteer work at our museum.

Membership

The Little Claybelt Homesteaders Museum is a small heritage and homesteaders museum located in New Liskeard, Ontario. The museum is a not-for-profit organization. We have virtually no funding from the municipality and have been marginally self-sufficient over the years.

We rely on donations from the visitors, memberships, and fundraisers to operate the museum and to keep it open. We need your support. Membership in the museum, attendance at fundraisers, the purchase of books, and the purchase of items from the gift shop all go a long way to help.

2023 Membership Form

Below is the 2023 Little Claybelt Homesteaders Museum membership form. Please complete the form and mail it to us at **Box 1718, New Liskeard, Ontario, P0J 1P0**.

Donations are appreciated and charitable receipts will be issued for all donations. It is your museum and we cannot do it without your help. Thank you for your continued support.

Date paid _____ Cheque # _____

Charitable #0583526-50-19

*(Keep this top portion for your records
and mail the completed form below
with your cheque or money order.)*

Little Claybelt Homesteaders Museum 2023 Membership Form

☐ Individual Membership (\$15.00)

☐ Family Membership (\$25.00)

Also, please consider
donations to the Museum:

☐ \$20

☐ \$50

☐ \$100

☐ Other

☐ Please tell me how I
can volunteer.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town/City: _____ Province: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mail to: Little Claybelt Homesteaders Museum, Box 1718, New Liskeard, Ontario, P0J 1P0