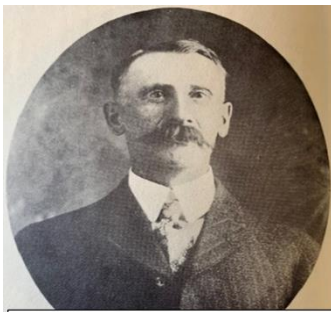




Preserving, promoting, and developing Wellington North's unique cultural resources to build a vibrant community and a prosperous economy.

CULTURAL MOMENT FOR JUNE 19TH CELEBRATES, WILLIAM G GORVETT

Mr. William Gorvett was born in Devonshire England and came to Canada in 1854, settling in Markham, Ontario. One of his sons, William G. Gorvett, was born there on December 11, 1861. He farmed in Arthur Township for 3 years around 1880 and then moved to Arthur Village, becoming a carpenter and was in the building business. He married Elizabeth A. Leith on April 19, 1883.



William G Gorvett

In 1890, he purchased the first planing mill erected in Arthur Village, on Frederick Street West. He sold the business 4 years later but then repurchased it and ran it successfully.

Mr. Gorvett was elected to the council in 1897, and then served for another 3 terms. In 1905, he was elected as Reeve of the Village.

On July 14, 1921, the Enterprise News reported that shortly before 5 p.m., the mill was struck by lightning. The lightning seemed to have struck the hydro electric wires and followed them into the mill building, which was soon enveloped in flames. The damage was estimated at \$12,000 to \$15,000 but Mr. Gorvett had no insurance. In 1905, this mill's predecessor and a large quantity of lumber were destroyed by fire as well, but he replaced them at that time. This time, he was of the opinion that he would not rebuild the mill. As the mill was one of the town's best industries and drew a large business from neighbouring towns, it was a decided loss to Arthur.

William had multi-interests such as building outside of his planing mill, was more or less interested in real estate, and owned a lumber yard in connection with the mill. He was a self-made man and owed his successes to his own efforts. The community considered him a first-class businessman and he was prominent both socially and commercially.



Gorvetts Lumber and Planing Mill. Mr. G. on right

His brother John also settled in the Arthur area and became a successful farmer with mixed farming on Lot 24, Concession 1.

Submitted by Councillor Penny Renken on behalf of the Wellington North Cultural Roundtable

Resources: Historical Atlas of Wellington County 1906 and Arthur & Area Historical Society