



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

## Our Cultural Moment for September celebrates Farewell

Farewell is a small hamlet southwest of Mount Forest which could be overlooked when driving through. It's hard to imagine that it was vibrant at one time, and that the demographics have drastically changed. It was a farming community as of 1867 with a store (front room of a house) as its centre. When family members moved to other locations, there were so many farewells to friends, that Farewell became its official name. It was connected to other areas as the supplies and mail came into Kenilworth by train and then were taken to the Farewell store by horseback, horse and cart, or cutter.

There were 20 years when Farewell did not have a store until 1939 when a house, 2 lots, and a barn were bought for a grand sum of \$70.00. A store, including a post office, was added to the house. This store closed in 1983. A grist mill was made from the barn and is still standing, though in poor condition. Through the years, Farewell could also boast of a sawmill and planeing mill, a blacksmith shop, a wagon maker, a shoemaker, 2 churches, a school, and an Orange Hall.



Farewell Mill - 1958



The remains of the Mill - 2019



Siding of the Mill

The Allen's and Morrisons were 2 prominent and pioneer families in the community. Population started to wane from 105 residents in 1872 to 85 residents in 1877. The Anglican Church had been situated on the east side of Concession 11, several lots south of Concession 5. It was demolished shortly after closing in 1973 and in 1974, the first parochial school in Mount Forest area was built on this site. In 1979, the present Farewell Church was erected. The demographic change began in 1964 when Old Order Mennonites from Waterloo County purchased farms and began settling in 1967. They moved to this locale as a result of urban expansion of Waterloo County into their Old Order community and the rising cost of land there. In 1978 the church purchased a parcel of land and the Farewell meetinghouse was erected in 1979

In 2004, the number of Mennonite families in the Farewell district was just over 40. There is a shoe/repair store just north of the 5<sup>th</sup> Concession, and Shady Lawn, a dry good store, approximately 2 km south of the 5<sup>th</sup> Concession on the east side, and a bike store on the west side of Concession 11. The community is still definitely rural with the majority of the community being Mennonites.



Present Farewell School

Pioneer School  
SS. No. 7. 1899  
Now a private  
residence

