



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

## **Our Cultural Moment for October celebrates the Hamlet of Conn From the past to the future....**



**Hwy 89 looking westward toward Wellington Road 14**

Conn humbly started from a 200-acre parcel of land in Arthur Township, at the corner of present-day Hwy 89 and Wellington Road 14, in 1865. The owner, George Palmer, sold the land to Robert W. Conn in 1866.

Conn was not always known by this name. The first settlers were named Evans and called the settlement Evansville. Joseph Evans owned and operated the first hotel. The village then became Bell's Corners, named after Alex Bell who had the hotel across the street. When establishing a Post Office in 1872, they couldn't use the name 'Bell's Corners', as there was another one with the same name. So, they used the name 'Conn' after the first Postmaster, Robert Conn, who also had the general

store. This post office was in operation until 1992.

Conn became the largest hamlet in West Luther and was one of the earliest parts of the Township to be established. By 1897, Conn with a thriving population of 85, consisted of a hotel, 2 general stores, 1 Grocer's store, a blacksmith shop, a sawmill, and a wagon maker. The first doctor, Dr. John Barber, arrived in 1885 and over the years there was a succession of 12 doctors in town. One of the most notable was Dr. A. Rutherford Perry who brought the Conn Telephone Company to Conn in 1903, building a 'stub' line from Conn to Cedarville for his own use.

By 1906 the population had grown to approximately 400 and the village also contained 2 churches, a school, sawmill, cheese factory, chopping mill, and an Orange Hall. At its best, Conn had 2 blacksmith shops, four stores, several hotels, and a garage. The livery stable which was on the north side of Hwy 89 was removed and still stands just north of the northwest corner on the McQueen farm. One of the best-known residents is Lieutenant Samuel Honey who was a decorated war hero.

Over the years Conn had an active horticultural society and was known as 'The Flower Village of Ontario'. Modernization hit the small village with street lights in 1953 and the flashing light in approximately 1976.

What happened? The hamlet no longer has any of the above businesses except for the garage on the corner and Misty Meadows which started as a business selling vegetables on the side of the road, has grown to be a store on the northwest corner. And now...the store is expanding, and a large new structure is being built. There are hopes again for a more prosperous hamlet.



**Conn's future? The soon-to-be new Misty Meadows**

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