

## 100 YEARS AGO IN CHAPPLE (1925)

The year is 1925 and Chapple council consists of Reeve George Hughes and councilors C. Shannon, Malcolm Gillies, George Lindsell and Laughlin McKenzie. This year's election was not without its small drama. Joseph Elviage had been reeve in 1916 replacing George Hughes, who was away from the area at this time. In 1917 George had returned and ran against Joe Elviage, defeating him. Joseph ran for council again in 1923 and was successful and served on council in 1923 and 1924.

In 1925 Joe decided to again run against George Hughes for position of Chapple reeve. Before the election took place, Laughlin McKenzie offered his seat on council to Joe to avoid an election, but Joe decided he would once again challenge George Hughes. He was defeated in a vote of 226 – 80.

*JOSEPH EVIAGE – arrived in the district about 1901 and purchased two properties in Mather Township. He is shown on 1901 census as a 'carpenter'. By 1911 his occupation is listed as farmer. He also operated a saw mill on one of his properties. He was also a government road representative In 1916 he was Reeve of Chapple for one year and also served on recruiting committee for WW1. His obituary says he retired from farming due to ill health. It is not certain when Joe left Chapple but he moved back to eastern Ontario to live with his brother, where he passed away in 1935 and is interred in Lambeth Cemetery in Delaware Township, ON. He was 70 years old.*

*The Chapple museum has one of his log books from his days as road inspector and also the 'Mayor's Chair'.*

*The story goes that Joe was a bit of a brawler and on one incident at the Roseberry Hotel, two chairs were broken. Joe had to make good for them, so he took them and made one chair out*



*of the two. The legs are footed with telephone insulators. (\*chair owned by James Gibson and on display in museum).*

Active organizations in Chapple in 1925 – At least three branches of the Women's Institute, Barwick, Shenston and Dobie and probably others as well; there was a sewing and knitting club; a choral society for singing; a teen girls sewing group called the 'Nighthawks'; the 'Busy Bee Club' for girls 6 – 13 to learn needle work.

"January 1, 1925 - The Barwick 'Trail Rangers' organized a hockey team. Members included Arthur Choquette (captain), Clarence Matthews, Clifford Henry, George Potter, Ray Cathcart, Ralph McGauley, Robert McGauley, Albert Kehl and Arthur Dowson. They cleaned off a part of the good old Rainy River for a hockey and skating rink and they intend to erect a snow fence around the rink and a small waiting room. The Live Wires would like to take the opportunity to thank the people of Barwick for assistance they have given them, especially the Orangemen who kindly gave them the use of their hall for their mid-week meetings

On January 15 they decided to hold a competition this month. The Rangers that win the most games will receive a prize. This month's prize is a watch. They intend to follow this program the rest of the winter months.

April 1925 – George Both opened an ice cream parlor on the west side of Main Street in the village. His step-son Harry Anger later operated this store until 1957; followed by Sam Huculiak until 1964; Andy Konc in 1964. The building was lastly the home of Fred and Shirley Brown.

June 1925 – Arthur Brown purchased a butcher shop in 1923 from Frank Beninger. He sold his butcher shop to H. Cross in 1925. Herb then built a family home on this lot – Lt. 18, SM 84 on the east side of Main Street, using blocks from the former Dobie #4 Block School. The butcher shop was a small building attached to the northwest corner of the home. Sometime between 1930 and 1937 he did some upstairs renovations to make small bedrooms and converted a portion of the block building into the Barwick Hotel. He moved a part of the former Cathcart home, from the east side of Main Street to attach to the block building and his family lived in this part until 1937.

Bob Brown of Stratton says Herb Cross used to go around buying cattle hides from local farmers for 50 cents apiece. He would then re-sell them. He also purchased beef for his butcher shop from local farmers. Bob says his father John and his brother Henry used to help Herb at times. He recalls his father helping Herb kill and pluck turkeys. *“Then they had a few nips and his father ended up falling down and coming up covered in turkey blood and feathers.”*

The hotel had a number of owners and operators over the years, including William McLean, Nat Coughlin, Frank Strain & Sam Gallo, Edward Landry, Pete Krawchuk, Bruno and Trudy Bohl and Wes and Marie Brown. Fred and Joan Buttazoni operated it for a couple of years.

In 1984 the hotel property was purchased by Oltsher Automotive.



Ina Wilson worked for the Cross family about 1928 – 29 while it was still a family home and butcher shop.”



The Barwick Hotel was torn down in 2003 and blocks were salvaged to form the base of the Chapple lighthouse at the waterfront.

July 1925 – Nels Christensen completed his harness shop on east side of Main Street. This shop was later Bob Gibson’s Store; Frank Gamsby Store and Post Office; Fred and Joan Buttazoni Grocery and Confectionary; and Tony Richards had a taxidermy business there in 1999. The building partially burned c. 2013 while the Richards lived there. It was later purchased and renovated to become a private home.