

2. THE BUILDINGS

The following is the story of the buildings that have been and continue to be a part of the history of the camp. The buildings are listed in the order they appeared and, in some cases, disappeared from the property.

ORIGINAL FARM BARN

This building consisted of a large barn with a shed which housed a Blacksmith's forge. The basement of the barn had been used for pigs and cows. The loft was filled with hay. It apparently was built around 1900. The foundation only went 1 foot into the ground and rested on stones. Some camping took place in it during the first winter. After the first winter, the local building inspector recommended that the barn be torn down as it was a hazard with Scouts swinging from beam to beam.

Wood from the barn was used to build the Headquarters building, Gibson Rover Den and to complete Hencher Rover Den. The foundation remained for many years and was only uncovered when the parking lot was expanded in the early 1980's. Some of the rock from the barn can be found piled up by the Wood Shed.

RAM INN



Sketch by Tom Rogerson of Ram Inn - 1946

The former chicken coop, less the chickens and their by-products, became the first Scout Lodge. Originally, the windows were lined along the bottom of the building to give the birds light. A work party in 1946 was able to clean out the remnants of chicken in order to make the building barely liveable. Some improvements

were made in 1947. It wasn't until 1949 that work crews installed new walls, installed a new floor and reversed the walls bringing the windows up to "human" height. The inside was lined with "insulation boards" and the outside with log siding.

During construction, Gord Williams and 2nd Hamilton Sea Scout Leader Phil Sharp were busy shovelling the accumulated corruption from the coop when a curious old ram wandered over. Every time they tried to open the door, the ram would butt it shut. They finally enticed him to the far end of the coop and Phil escaped to get help. He returned with the farmer who simply tied a rope around the ram's neck and threw the other end on the ground. "You're O.K. now fellows", announced the farmer. "What do you mean?", they replied, "he's not tied to anything!" The farmer smiled and said, "I know that, and you know that, but that ram thinks he is, and he won't budge until I come back to untie him". True to the farmer's word, the ram did not move. When Gord told the story to his secretary Marg Stanton (nee Flurry) back at the Scout office, Marg said, "We should call the place Ram Inn". The name stuck.

The building was 14' x 30' and was located on the west side of the road to B.P. Lodge. It contained two wood stoves, two ice boxes, eight bunks, a sink and coal oil lamps. It also featured the "King's Arms", a nearby 4-holed outhouse or K.Y.B.O.

The building was well used until the winter of 1969 when a Troop went to camp for the weekend. The building was gone, with only the corner of a bunk bed sticking out of the snow. It had burned during the week, probably as a result of hot embers from the wood stove being left too close to the wood pile.



Ram Inn - 1949

TETONKA LODGE

This is actually two buildings, and represents the camping history of the council. The back of the building is a 12' x 20' hut which was moved from the camp at Sulphur Springs. It was originally called the HDQ Hut and was used as a tool shed when it first arrived at Camp Nemo. It was moved to its present location south of the parking lot, placed on foundations and converted into a patrol cabin. It was named after the council's first camp on Lake Erie, Camp Tetonkah.

In 1960, a 12' x 30' construction hut was donated by Baldasaro and MacGregor Contractors and was added to Tetonka as a second room. The building was used as a Scout Lodge until the completion of Gordon Williams Lodge in 1970. It then reverted to a storage building for activity supplies.

In the early 1980's, the building was refurbished by Scouters from Dundas. A garage door was installed, which was replaced in 1995.



Tetonka - 1961



Tetonka - 1997

HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

Located on the site of the present B.P. Lodge, this building was built in 1947 from Quonset huts donated by the City of Hamilton with the help of Controller, and active Scouter, Andy Frame. Wood was also salvaged from the barn for use in construction. The building was used for leader training and as a home for the Camp Factor.

As the first newly constructed building in camp, a great deal of pride was taken in its construction. During 1949 and 1950, the Scouter's Club members built a large stone fireplace using stones from the old barn. In 1949, a kitchen was built, a window and door added and a drainage system installed. In 1950, new floors were laid, and propane stoves were installed. The District Ladies' Auxiliary was responsible for making the lodge a "homier" place by adding curtains and furniture. They also provided cooking and eating supplies and catered many of the functions which took place in the building. In 1951 the kitchen was updated and a new road was built to the building. A museum was located in the building

The Headquarters Building burned down on December 28, 1952. The fire was well reported in the local newspapers including an article in the December 29 edition of the Globe and Mail. There are 2 versions of what happened. Some say it was the work of a disgruntled leader. Others say that it was the result of a practical joke that went very wrong. In any event, the building's loss was a great setback for the District and its new camp. The Factor's Lodge, Stockade and the building which eventually became known as B.P. Lodge were built in 1953 to replace it.



Headquarters building - date unknown

HENCHER ROVER DEN

Built in 1947 by the 7th, 27th, 40th and 43rd Rover Crews, this building was named after John Hencher, a former Assistant District Commissioner for Rovers. Peter Walker advises that the 22nd Rover Crew built the building. It was built from the bunkie used at the Sulphur Springs site and wood from the barn. It was located on the north side of the Rover Field. A fire door was added to the rear in 1959. It was heated by a wood stove, had a table, four folding chairs, four oil lamps for lighting, an ice box and 2 double bunk beds

The Annual Report for 1951 indicates that Hencher Hut was completed. Perhaps the building was refurbished during the year.

In 1964, a Troop camping in both Hencher and Gibson Rover Dens stoked the fire in Hencher prior to going to Gibson for supper. Shortly afterwards, the building was in flames. It burned to the ground.

There is evidence of the location of Hencher Rover Den. The pipe from its water tank is still visible in the north tree line in the Rover Field.



Hencher Rover Den

GIBSON ROVER DEN

The scrap wood from the barn was used by the 2nd Stoney Creek, 9th, 27th and 40th Rover Crews to build this building in 1947. It was located just over the hill at the north-east corner of the Rover Field. It was named

after Robert Gibson, a former Rover Leader of the 40th Hamilton Rover Crew, District Rover Leader and Skipper of most of the Crews in Hamilton at the time.

The lodge was 14' x 22', and had a sink, four oil lamps, a wood stove, an ice box, two bunks, one table and two benches.

The building was rebuilt inside in 1950. In 1951, it was lined, painted, had a veranda added and movable bunks and a new stove installed.

The building was being repaired on October 15, 1954 when Hurricane Hazel blew it over the side of the hill. It was rebuilt in 1957, and after a small fire was remodelled in 1958 with the addition of the kitchen. The building was taken down in the late 1960's.

You can still see where the building sat by taking the trail down the hill from the north-east corner of the Rover Field. The hill was excavated to create a small plateau for the building to sit on. If you look nearby, there is still a sign on a tree pointing the way to the "Swimming Pool" that we know as Bronte Creek.

APPLE DAY LODGE

The Cub Lair, as it was originally called, was built in 1950 at a cost of \$5,500. It was originally the size of today's main room with a small kitchen area behind a large stone fireplace. An addition was built by Rovers in 1958 at a cost of \$900. Upon completion of the addition, the building had a large main room with six tables, twelve benches and twelve oil lamps. The bedroom had two double bunks with an indoor "bucket" toilet. The kitchen had a gas stove, double sinks and an ice box.

The building was eventually named Apple Day Lodge when other Cub Lairs were built.

It was insulated in 1971 to help provide facilities for winter Cub camping. Although structurally sound, the building gradually fell into disrepair. During the summer of 1991, the building was completely renovated. Electricity was added in May and during the Canada Day weekend, the building was completely gutted. During the summer and into the fall, the building was made level, insulated, drywalled, panelled, new windows and doors were installed, and the exterior was painted. The total cost was over \$14,000. A new deck was added the following summer. The building was officially reopened by a representative from each

Wolf Cub Pack present at Cub Fun Day on October 5, 1991.



Apple Day Lodge - 1950

Tragedy was averted in the early morning of November 3, 1996. The previous night, a carelessly thrown cigarette dropped between the porch and front wall. It smoldered on a wooden beam while the group inside slept. Flames erupted up the front exterior around 3 a.m. Due to the fact the building was air tight, the smoke detectors did not sound the alarm. Quick thinking leaders got all the youth out of the building and the Factor managed to keep the fire under control until the Fire Department arrived. The building suffered a loss of about \$7,000 which was covered by insurance.

B.P. LODGE



B.P. Lodge - 1953

Originally known as the Leader's Training Lodge, this building rose from the ashes of the Headquarters Building in 1953. It was built at the same time as the Factor's Lodge and the Stockade from panels made from a new material from Switzerland called "Durisol". The same material was used at Scout House and later at

Harvester Lodge. The cost of the three new buildings was \$11,400.

The building is 30' x 50'. It originally consisted of a main hall with a solid maple floor, and a kitchen and leader's bedroom located off of a hallway from the northern entrance. The building was named after the Founder when the Adult Training Lodge was built in the lower valley in 1958.

The building was heated by a wood fireplace and oil stove. Unfortunately the heat rarely made it to the leader's bedroom in the winter!

Despite a new roof being installed in 1977 at a cost of \$900, the building fell into disrepair over time. The walls began to spread at the base, with the result that you could see outside through the south-east corner. The fireplace also became unusable. The greatest problem however, was caused when the floor joists shifted off their footings, causing the maple floor to take on a ripple effect. Many a night a leader would trip over the floor while checking on his young charges!

Renovations began in the fall of 1981 when the building was gutted. The wooden floor joists found their way into the Stockade when it was rebuilt in 1982. Eventually water and electricity were added, the walls tied in, a new insulated cement floor installed, and the building was insulated, and completely refurbished. A mud room was added to the front. The building was completed and open for business in early 1984 at a total cost of about \$25,000. The electrical heating was removed and a new forced air propane furnace installed in 1996.



B.P. Lodge - late 1980's

FACTORS LODGE

Built in 1953, this building originally consisted of only the area from the kitchen wall back to the bedrooms. There was no indoor plumbing. A 10' addition was added across the front in 1963 at a cost of \$3,000. Water and electricity were added in 1964, and at the same time a small addition was built on to the east side to house the washroom and pumping facilities. A hot water heater was added in 1978. The building was insulated and wood siding was added in November 1980. To make the Factor's life a quieter one, the pump and tank were moved to the former shower shack in 1982.



Factor's Lodge - 1953

The lodge is used only by the Factor and family. The district is fortunate to have a full team of factors who manage the camp during the weekend. Factors are selected and trained by the Property Committee. A Factor's manual is updated at the annual Factors meeting in January when a schedule is drawn for Factor's assignments during the upcoming year.



Factor's Lodge - 1993

STOCKADE

The first Stockade was built in 1953. It held District equipment, refrigerators and the telephone. The "Explosion Hut" used to be located to the west of the Stockade. Painted red, all fuel used in stoves and lamps was kept here. It was eventually dismantled.



Stockade - 1950's

Electricity was added in 1970 and 10 used refrigerators were purchased for \$35 each in May 1971 as ice was no longer available in Burlington for the ice boxes which had been located in the buildings until this time. A new cement foundation was installed in 1979. Wooden siding was added in November 1980.

The lumber from the former Adult Training Lodge was also stored here when the building was dismantled. On Easter Monday, 1981, it is believed that children playing with matches in the straw stored beside the stockade caused the fire that destroyed the building. A spent fire extinguisher was found in Nemo Creek so it appears that the fire was an accident.

The Stockade was rebuilt during 1982 as a two storey building. Much of the wood used was donated from Dofasco from planks used during a furnace reline. The camp purchased a table saw to cut the planks to the proper size. Lumber was also salvaged from B.P. Lodge during its renovation.

The building holds training equipment, refrigerators, a freezer, and the District's tents and other camping equipment. It also houses the "Tuck Shop" during special events.

The camp phone is located at the front of the building to this day .