

3. THE SPECIAL PLACES

THE BACK FORTY

The south-east corner of the camp was one of the first reforested. Long used for hiking and wide games, it was used by Dundurn Scouts during the 1994-95 Scouting season to develop the Camp Conservation Plan.

THE BIRD RESERVE

Located on what is now known as campfire hill, this area of the camp was set aside as a sanctuary for birds. During the winter season, bird feeding stations were set up throughout the area. No camping was allowed on the hill, nor in the area around the base of the hill.

B. P. CHAPEL

Located near Campfire Hill, this was built by the 22nd Rover Crew. Time and erosion of the hill upon which it was built led to its being dismantled in the late 1970's.

B. P. HIGHWAY

This was the name given to the main road into camp from the entrance to the parking lot. In order to reduce the speed of cars entering the camp a sign which read "Speed Electrically Timed" was once posted. Over the years, the road became known for its many potholes, now known as "natural speed bumps". The road is constantly being repaired. These notes were taken from the 1969 annual report: "Everyone knows that the condition of the roads at Nemo has not been the best in the past; however, with the addition of over 200 tons of gravel there should be no more trouble in this area, except for the people who still think the colour of the roads is grass green".

BYPASS POND

Located between Pod 1 and Pod 2 in the lower valley, the pond was dug out to provide flood control by allowing the runoff in Nemo Creek a place to back up. It froze over in winter and provided a place for skating. The pond eventually silted in.

SCOUT COUNCIL FIRE CIRCLE (CAMPFIRE HILL)

Originally built in 1949 by the 22nd Rover Crew, the original campfire area was adorned by numerous totem poles built by various groups. Over the years, the area fell into disrepair and it was all rebuilt by Scouters from the former King's Forest Division in 1979. It is now maintained by the Hamilton Gilwell Club.



Entrance to Campfire Hill

CROW'S NEST

Crow's Nest is the camping area at the top of the hill across Nemo Creek from the bottom of the tractor road beside Gordon Williams Lodge. A tractor road once crossed the face of the hill and provided access to the south-west fields and to this popular campsite. The area is also used as the top of the aerial runway used at many large events.

THE CUB JUNGLE

This is the area in the valley behind Apple Day Lodge from the base of the tractor road to the western fence line.

COLONEL DUBURGH CHAPEL

This chapel was located on the side of the hill just north of Panabode "A". It was built in 1957 by the 43rd Hamilton and 2nd Aldershot Rover Crews. It was named after the first appointed commissioner for Rover Scouts of the World. It was officially opened and dedicated at the Hamilton Rover Moot by John Hencher, Assistant Provincial Commissioner for Training and Robert Foster, Commissioner for Rover Scouts for Hamilton. It was dismantled in the late 1970's when it fell into disrepair.



Colonel Duburgh Chapel - 1957

EXPLOSION HUT

Located between the Factor's Lodge and Stockade and painted red, this building was where the camp supply of oil and gas was stored.

FLAG CIRCLE

A main flag circle was once located in front of B. P. Lodge. It contained three flag poles, the main one for the camp flag and two others for visiting groups. It was replaced by a tall steel pole which could hold 3 flags and eventually taken down as being unserviceable. Now each building has its own flagpole.

FLEUR-DE-LIS HILL

Long a focal point of Mount Nemo Scout Camp, the symbol was originally created on a sloping hill using field stones. When it was first built, there were little or no trees in the camp, and so the symbol could be seen from the B.P. Field and Cub Jungle.



Fleur-De-Lis Hill - 1967

At a later date, the stones were replaced by cement blocks placed level with the ground surface to allow for grass cutting. A total of 328 blocks and 11 diamond shaped blocks were used for the head stone and the two stars in the side wings. The blocks were donated by Cook Cement Company in Aldershot and the diamond blocks were made in wooden forms by Walt Simmons. It was built and maintained by Walt Simmons and the 12th Hamilton Rover Crew.

Some of the original field stones were later used to build the Memorial Bell Cairn in front of the Factors Lodge. A locomotive bell was mounted on the cairn.

The hill and campfire area have been maintained by numerous volunteers over the years, including Walt Simmons, Scouters from King's Forest Division during the 1970's and 1980's, and more recently, the Hamilton Gilwell Club.

THE IRON BRIDGE

The bridge over Bronte Creek on No. 2 Side Road was a popular place in summer to get to the swimming hole and to the property on the east bank of Bronte Creek. The bridge was built of iron and wood and was often the target of vandals who would set fire to the wooden deck on Halloween. It was destroyed by ice in the spring of 1978. After a few years, the bridge was replaced by a modern structure

KING'S ARMS

One of the fanciest K.Y.B.O.'s ever built at Camp Nemo, this 4-holer was located at the south-east corner of B.P. Field.

MEMORIAL CAIRN

Built by the 12th Rover Crew in 1958 out of stones from the original Fleur-de-lis Hill, this commemorated 50 years of World Scouting.



Memorial Cairn

MEMORIALS

A Bible kept in the Factor's Lodge was donated by the 27th Group in memory of Donald Norton, killed when struck by a car as he cycled to Mount Nemo on a Forestry Weekend May 6, 1951, and in memory of Ralph Brook who died December 20, 1952.

The painting of Baden Powell in B.P. Lodge was donated by the members of the 42nd Rover Crew in memory of Allan Sandiford who died in 1968.

The flagpole at Confederation Lodge was built by the 81st Venturer Company in memory of Patrick Forestall who died in a car accident while on his way to a canoe trip in 1971.

MOUNT BALDY

This constantly eroding feature located between Nemo and Bronte Creeks at the Training Field has been by far one of the most popular camp play areas for young children. It's a great place to get muddy, even when the rest of the camp is dry. Efforts to stop erosion on the hill have proven fruitless.



Mount Baldy

PAT MULLIGAN MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Located on the southern end of the Bird Sanctuary, the chapel was built in 1980 by members of the Hamilton Gilwell Club in memory of long time Scouter and Trainer, Pat Mulligan.

The chapel replaced the former Wolf Cub Chapel, which had been located on the east side of the campfire circle, and the Colonel DuBurgh Chapel, located on the hill behind Panabode A. Both chapels had been dismantled during the late 1970's when they had deteriorated to the state that they could not be repaired.



Pat Mulligan Memorial Chapel

THE NATURE GATE

This gate was located on No. 2 Side Road on the east side of the bridge. It allowed access to the property on the east side of Bronte Creek.

NEMO CREEK

The creek meanders from the western camp boundary, close to the southern boundary and then across the camp to Bronte Creek. Many fish travel upstream in the spring to lay eggs. The stream can be a raging torrent during heavy rains, and almost dry in the summer months.



OAK GROVE

After the 1983 World Jamboree at Kananaskis, Alberta, Hamilton Wentworth hosted 2 Troops of 77 English Scouts and leaders from Avon and Essex Counties in England to a week of home hospitality. To commemorate the event, an oak grove was planted in B.P. Field at Mount Nemo, while Maple Trees were planted at Woodhouse Park, Avon and Skreens Park (on Hamilton Avenue), Essex, England.

THE PINES

This reforested area west of Apple Day Lodge is one of the most popular camping areas at Camp Nemo.

THE PIPELINE

In 1974, an easement over .94 acres at the 2 southern corners was granted to Interprovincial Pipe Line Limited for \$3,500 for the construction of an oil pipeline. The pipeline stretches 520 miles from Sarnia to Montreal.

RACCOON EYE TRAIL

This was the name given to the trail which runs from the end of the Training Site, around the Bird Sanctuary, passing all the Adirondaks, to the tractor crossing near Hencher Den.

REST-AND-BE-THANKFUL

The hill to the Training Field beside B.P. Lodge is named after what one does once one has made it to the top. Rumour has it that an additional foot is added to the hill every year !

THE ROVER GATE

In the very early years of the camp, this gate was located on No. 2 Side Road at what was next referred to as the Training gate. It is now simply referred to as the lower gate.

SPORTS FIELD

Originally, all sporting activities were conducted in this field now referred to as the Confed field. There was a baseball backstop where Confederation Lodge is now located and basketball nets in the field.

SUICIDE HILL

This former toboggan run was built with the use of a bulldozer in the early years of the camp and runs from the top of the Bird Sanctuary down into the valley. It is no longer used for tobogganing as it is too steep and dangerous, due to the trees in the valley.

THE SWIMMING HOLE

Every year a dam was constructed in Bronte Creek. Every year it was washed out by ice and high water. In 1951, a sandbag dam was used to raise the water level to 48". In 1956 a dam was built which created a swimming pool 100 feet by 5' 6" in depth at the dam. Gordon Williams would recruit Rolph Barnes to bulldoze the dam into place in the later years. Construction finally ceased in the mid 1960's.



The Swimming Hole - date unknown

TRACTOR ROAD

Started in 1981, it was hoped to run the road from the Training Field, around Campfire Hill to the hill beside Gordon Williams Lodge. Two gabion mat crossings are now in place. One was seriously damaged by heavy rains in July 1995. The road is used to allow for tractor access to the Adirondak Pods. In many places, it follows the route of the original farm trail around the property. The original route also had roads up the face of Crow's Nest to the south-west field, and up from Pod 4 to the Back Forty.

TRAINING FIELD

The field in the valley at the end of the lower camp road was the home of the Adult Training Lodge until the lodge was dismantled in 1981. A sign over the road at the gate once stated, "As you have learned, so shall you teach."

TRUMAN-REID TRAIL



1957

This trail went from the south-east corner of B. P. Field (once called Headquarters Field), along the side of the hill behind what is now Panabode "A", behind Gibson Lodge, and wound down the hill to the entrance to the Training Site. The trail was named in memory of a former Rover Leader of the 11th Hamilton Rover Crew.

