

PAQUETTE CORNERS

Paquette Corners is described best by its name. The community is located on the crossroads of Walker Road and the Colchester North-Anderdon and Sandwich South Townline, (known only as Townline Road), and was entitled after an early French settler named Paquette. The name of Paquette holds firm in the history of Sandwich South as one of the area's earliest settlers, and is a grand example of French influence in the region. In fact it is a good reminder to historians and local residents alike, that indeed we should not undermine the contribution made by the French to the historic development of the township.

Much like their Irish counterparts, the Roman Catholic French settlers

of the Paquette area have passed their land down generation upon generation to their present descendents. Paquette, Lounsborough, and Dufault are examples of this continuing line of French prominence.

The first business venture in the area was started by Joseph Harshaw, who bought and moved the old frame No. 4 schoolhouse to Paquette in 1894, and transformed it into a Blacksmith shop. More recently, Dan Paquette started up the first gas station at 'the corner' and this was later transferred to the ownership of Henry Thrasher, who added a general store and a repair shop to the service station.

Hydro came to the community in December of 1925.

The two churches serving the majority of Paquette residents are the Redeemer Anglican Church and St. Clement's Roman Catholic Church in McGregor, further south on Walker Road.

Recreational festivities generally occur in the Orange Lodge No. 552 built originally in 1894, and located on the sixth concession just south of the Anderson-Sandwich South townline. And the schoolchildren of Paquette were once served by the SS No. 10 and SS No. 4 on the Townline Road.

The first telephone line in Sandwich South was installed in 1896, or 1897, by a Dr. Jenner of Essex, and ran from Essex to Paquette Corners. The doctor desired a private line on which people could call for his assistance with speed and dependability. The line had two phones, one at his house and the other at Cyril Paquette's residence on the other end. This telephone system was in existence until 1910, disappearing with the advent of Municipal lines.

In 1957, the community of Paquette Corners was extended with the 'Sunnybrook Development' creating ten new homes in two years. Lawrence Shepley was behind this development and thus the new homes have since been termed the 'Shepley Subdivision'.