

## Overview

The Arva Flour Mill north of London is the last remaining mill of its type in the Thames watershed. Starting with Mahlon Burwell's survey of the mill site in the early 1800s, the first article by Hilary Bates Neary unravels the extremely complicated legal history that characterized the early ownership of this property. For those who, today, often frequent the mill a careful reading of her extensively documented material will, no doubt, enhance your appreciation of this extremely noteworthy historical structure.

The second article by Dan Brock not only reveals considerable information about Joshua Applegarth, the first European settler in London, his article also discloses a highly interesting but little known fact. Much of what is now a large area in west London was intended by Applegarth to serve as a cultivated plot dedicated to the production of hemp for use by the British navy in the early 19th century. As you travel along a portion of Wharncliffe Road north of the main branch of the Thames toward Oxford Street, with a bit of imagination together with knowledge of Dan's material, if you look to the west you might be able to visualize Applegarth's dream of a hemp operation that, unfortunately, never fully materialized.

Unlike the first two articles which focus on the 19th century, the third article by Marvin L. Simner deals with an important set of circumstances that took place around the middle of the 20th century. Between 1955 and 1972, through the passage of a series of bills, the Ontario Legislature was able to launch the Ontario Health Insurance Plan. Aside from discussing the highly acrimonious debates that accompanied each of the steps that eventually led to OHIP, Marvin's report also discusses a series of largely forgotten municipal benefits that also accrued to London itself from the approval of OHIP. Without giving away too much of this material, during the debates credit was given to the accomplishments of one of London's most prominent early figures, Sir Adam Beck, to justify what appeared to be by the Liberal Opposition, a move by the Conservative Party toward an endorsement of socialism. Of greatest importance though, the passage of OHIP produced a marked reduction in the city's annual tax expenditures that previously had been devoted to the hospital care of London's indigent population. To understand how this occurred, the report contains an historical review of indigent care provided by the London community between the 1870s and the mid-1950s.