

House History - 42 Fuhr Street, Tavistock



Plan 307 - Lot 103,
West Side of Fuhr
Street

Construction date of
the house is believed
to be circa 1901

Property records related to 42 Fuhr Street date back to when this property was part of Lot 36 in the 13th Concession of East Zorra. The first record was a Patent - a grant of land from the Crown - dated 1836 of the entire lot to Anson H. Groul (could be Grout as the handwriting is difficult to read). Groul started selling off small parcels of land in 1840 to various individuals including George Beyer, Henry Schaefer, Alexander Mitchell and William B. Hendershot. There are several recorded transactions regarding the railroad.

The Fuhr name, specifically Henry Fuhr, first appears in the records in 1867 and then appears several times in the years following both as seller and buyer. The many transactions of varying size lots makes it very difficult to track this particular lot, now known as Lot 103 West Side of Fuhr, during the very early years.

Events and transactions start coming more into focus in 1908 with records showing:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Seller and Buyer</u>	<u>Price</u>
1908	John Roth, administrator for the estate of Henry Fuhr, deceased, to Edward Roth 3/10 (part of the original road allowance)	\$110
1929	Edward Roth and wife to James V. Field	\$3,500
1953	James V. Field and wife to George K. Brown	\$7,500
1964	Executors George K. Brown to Elizabeth Brown	\$1
1964	Elizabeth H. Brown to Kenneth and Roberta Sommers	\$8,000
2004	Kenneth and Roberta Sommers to current owners	not disclosed

Without question, many of these names have a well-deserved place in the history of Tavistock.

From the Fuhr family we have Fuhr Street.

Edward A. Roth was well-known and well-respected in Tavistock having served as Clerk and Treasurer for the Village of Tavistock, Secretary of the Tavistock Public Utilities Commission, Secretary of both the School Board and Library Board and President of the Tavistock Arena Company Ltd.

James V. Field was the son of James G. Field, founder of the woollen mill that employed hundreds of local people during its long operation. James V. worked for a period as an agent for the CPR before taking over the operations of the JG Field & Co. Ltd. He continued in that role until 1953.

George K. Brown had printer's ink in his blood ... in this case Tavistock Gazette ink. George took over as publisher of the paper in 1929: entered into partnership with his son, K. Hartford Brown, in 1939: and in 1958 relinquished his interest in the newspaper.

Ken Sommers, who bought the property at 42 Fuhr in 1964, grew up just around the corner on Hope Street. Ken's dad, Wes Sommers, started a generator sales and service company at the Hope Street property. The family business grew such that Sommers Motor Generator Sales Ltd. served all of North America before it was sold in 2016.

No doubt over the years many a deal was done and many a story was told around the kitchen table at 42 Fuhr.

Might you be interested in doing a history of your house?

The history of 42 Fuhr Street is a sample of a property / house history. There is no right way or wrong way to write one. You simply have to get started. Histories can be short or long; focus on one family or provide detailed descriptions of every family who ever lived on the property; include or not include pictures or extracts of official records; be penned in story form or simply a listing of the facts. The choice is yours. Information can be found in many places. At the museum / archives we have material that will help in your research ... e.g. Registry Office records to determine property owners, family histories, obituaries, old Tavistock Gazette newspapers and, of course, lots of local lore in our heads. Just ask.

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